

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

7 Cheshvan 5765

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

October 22, 2004

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Dershowitz to speak at Federation event

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — When asked what was one of the best pieces of advice he ever received, Alan Dershowitz thinks for a moment and says: "I went to a yeshiva in Brooklyn. I wasn't a great student, but my mother would tell me: 'Don't accept your teachers' assessments. You're smarter than your teachers think you are.'"

Mom was right — Dershowitz was on the Harvard faculty at age 25. He earned his undergraduate degree at Brooklyn College in 1959 and his law degree from Yale in 1962.

"My mom is 91 and still hanging in there. I still ask her

for advice," he said.

To thank donors to the 2005 Community Campaign, the Jewish Federation is hosting an evening with Dershowitz, the famed defense attorney and Harvard University Law Professor, on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El.

He will speak on *The Case for Israel*, published in 2003, and his upcoming book, *What Israel Means to Me* (written in longhand like all his books).

Dershowitz was the first person in his family to earn a college degree. The Depression took its toll on his first-generation parents. "I grew up in a hard-working, middle-class

family," he said. "My mother was a bookkeeper and my father had a small clothing store."

He interrupts the interview to take a phone call. When he comes back on the line, he apologizes. "That was the important phone call I've been waiting for — tickets to the Red Sox game tonight." The Brooklyn boy is an avid Red Sox fan.

The case for Israel

Dershowitz is a frequent visitor to Israel and has been in the West Bank and Gaza. He fully

See DERSHOWITZ, page 14



Alan Dershowitz

'Community Kollect' arrives in Providence

Four families move to RI to educate and do outreach



TORAH RECRUITS — Kollect members are David and Ellie Bielory, with son Mordechai (in arms) and Ayala, 3; Tichyeh and Rabbi Raphie Schochet, with Raaholi, 2, Chana, 5, and Shmuel Yehuda; David and Shani Schwartz, with Gavrielle, 1, and Yehuda, 3; and Melissa and Jonathan Beck, with Rachel.

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — A seed is being planted by members of the local Jewish community, with the hopes that its fruit that will quench the unmet educational and spiritual needs of Rhode Island Jews. This seed is the Providence Community Kollect, a new educational base of operations that will be located in the Jewish Community Center on Elm Grove Avenue.

The Kollect boasts a single asset — four young Jewish

couples aged 22 to 34, newly arrived from Baltimore and Israel, along with their children. The kollect, whose meaning alternatively means "inclusive," "embracing" and "community," will use the husband-wife teams as dynamic educational units who will bring learning into synagogues, offices, colleges and even people's living rooms. They want to show people the fulfillment and joy of Torah study. They want to take one-shot programs that have been successful and make them permanent, and to offer

subjects that individuals want to learn at the level that they need it.

Their moving and housing expenses have all been paid by a private individual and a New York philanthropy, so they can focus their full efforts towards giving Jewish Rhode Island "a boost."

"We want the kollect to be a spiritual center of the community," said Rabbi Raphie Schochet, the main administrator of the kollect and one of the Rosh

See KOLLEL, page 17

As of Oct. 20, the annual community campaign has raised \$2,426,411. Thank you to our donors for making a difference in the lives of Jews in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world!

Live generously.
It does a world of good.



Bureau, Women's Alliance plan annual events

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — Three large Jewish community events are coming your way.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island presents two events that highlight its 2005 Community Campaign, while the Bureau of Jewish Education presents its fifth annual Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance.

Oct. 23 Education sensation

The Bureau of Jewish Education brings back its popular Dr. James and Judge Marjorie Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance to the Jewish

See WEEKEND, page 15

The Jewish Voice & Herald

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

Oct. 22 5:34

Oct. 29 5:24

Nov. 5 4:16

Nov. 12 4:08



Community Calendar

Ongoing

Photography exhibit at Highland Court

Color photography by Dan Orfan in the Windsor Gallery, 110 Highland Ave., Providence. Landscapes on exhibit until Nov. 29

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 22 & 23

Ahavath Achim scholar weekend

Ahavath Achim Synagogue, 385 County St., New Bedford, Mass. Annual weekend in memory of Sydney L. Horvitz. Scholar-in-residence is Rachel Friedman, teacher, author and lecturer in Bible.

Fri., 5:15 p.m. Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6 p.m. family Shabbat dinner, \$10 adults, children under 10, \$5. 7:30 p.m. lecture: "Moral Ambiguity in the Book of Genesis."

Sat., 9 a.m., Shacharit services; noon, family Shabbat lunch (\$6); 12:30 p.m. lecture, "Creation, Separation & Evil." 5:30 p.m. Mincha/Maariv Havdalah. Patron \$70, Sponsor, \$60, includes dinner and Shabbat lunch for two. For more information, call (508) 994-1760.

Sat., Oct. 23

Renaissance Evening

7:30 p.m. JCC. Mini classes, workshops, marketplace. See page 1.

Sun., Oct. 24

Documentary film

1:30 p.m. at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove Ave., East Providence. See Community.

Ten Commandments lecture

7 p.m. JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Rabbi Gedalia Fleer will discuss the commandments. Admission \$5. See Community.

Am David yard sale

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St. in Warwick. Third annual yard sale, assortment of items from furniture and computers to televisions, radios, jewelry, toys, books, clothing and linen. Food, drinks. For more information, contact the temple at 463-7944.

Mon., Oct. 25

Federation board meetings

7:30 p.m. Sheldon Whitehouse will speak on separation of powers at Brown Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. To RSVP, call Aimee Gannon, 421-4111, ext.161, or email agannon@jfri.org. See Community.

Tues., Oct. 26

Tamarisk event

5:30-7 p.m. "Cocktails for a Cause," Wine and cheese fundraiser for Alzheimer's. Entertainment by Tony Carino at Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. RSVP to Gina at 732-0037. Open to the public.

Wed., Oct. 27

Judaic Studies lecture

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Professor Jeffrey L. Rubenstein of NYU will speak on "Argument for the Sake of Heaven: Law and Narrative in Early Judaism." Brown University Salomon Center, room 003, Main Green (between Waterman & George Sts.) Free, open to the public.

Pianists in Tiverton

6:30 p.m. "Moonlight Serenade," an evening with classical pianists Shand and Lowenstein. Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Road, Tiverton.

Tamarisk lecture

6:30 p.m. at Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence. William Sikov MD, a specialist in hematology and oncology, will speak on "Breast

Cancer, the newest Interventions." Open to the public. To RSVP, call Gina at 732-0037.

Ronald Florence to speak

7 p.m. Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit St. Florence, author of *Blood Libel*, the story of the 1840 massacre in Damascus and the events leading up to it, will speak. The event is free and open to the public.

Thurs., Oct. 28

R.I. AIPAC

Council Meeting

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Jeff Shulman will speak on "The Importance of the 2004 Vote for Israel" at the office of Richard Licht; Tillinghast Licht Perkins Smith & Cohen LLP; 10 Weybosset St., 10th floor, Providence. RSVP to Jillian Levovitz, at jlevovitz@aipac.org or (617) 457-8714.

Adoption Options panel discussion

6 p.m. Conference Center, United Way Bldg., 229 Waterman St., Providence. Program for people considering adoption. RSVP to (800)337-6513 by Tues., Oct. 26. For more info, call 331-5437 or email balper@adoptionoptions.org. See Community.

Fri., Oct. 29 - Sun., Oct. 31

Reform Biennial

8:15 p.m. Fri. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Shabbat service and oneg will welcome the Regional Biennial Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism. Robert Heller, president of the URJ Board of Trustees, will speak and Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, cantorial professor at Hebrew Union College, will be on the Bimah. The convention is being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. For more info, call Rona or Gloria at 331-6070

Sun., Oct. 31

JCC 'Kid's Stuff'

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kid's Stuff Sale at the JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Purchase toys, furniture, and clothing at the annual sale to benefit the early childhood program. Donations for the sale can be dropped off on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 29th and 30th. For more information, call 861-8800, ext. 130.

Jewish Historical Assoc. book reception

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Reception will celebrate the publication of *The Jews of Rhode Island*. The

Correction

In an article on the resurgence of Yiddish in Rhode Island, the title of Yiddish Shmooz member Herb Leshinsky was incorrect. He is a member and not the chair of the club's steering committee. Mildred Handler is the founder and facilitator of the group, which has been meeting for three years at the JCC.

Clarification

The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum is not affiliated with the Holocaust memorial project reported in the October 8th issue.

illustrated anthology commemorates the 50th anniversary of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes.

Wed., Nov 3

Cranston Senior Guild

1 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Rolf Hogfeldt, of Primetime Magazine, will be guest speaker. Raffle and refreshments to follow.

Thurs., Nov. 4

'The Sisters Rosenzweig'

"The Sisters Rosenzweig," performed by Jewish Theater Ensemble, will run through Nov. 14 at the JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Schedule: Thurs. at 7:30 p.m., Sats. at 8 p.m., Suns. at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 for seniors and students 13 and under.) For reservations, call 861-8800, ext. 189. This is a comedy/drama suitable for families.

Fri., Nov. 5

Torat to install new rabbi

7:30 pm. Temple Torat Yisrael installation of new spiritual leader, Rabbi Amy Levin. Festive Oneg Shabbat to follow. The Temple is located at 330 Park Ave., Cranston. (401) 785-1800.

Sat., Nov. 6

Lunch and learn

9:30 am. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston holds a special lunch-and-learn session after Shabbat morning services. Rabbi Neil Gillman of the Jewish Theological Seminary will speak on "Images of God in the Tanakh." Lunch fee \$5; RSVP by Oct. 25 to (401) 785-1800.

Sun., Nov. 7

Antique appraisal fair

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown, RI. Experts will be available in most areas of antique, estate, art and designer objects. Furniture must be hand carried. For larger items, call (401) 846-3099 or (508) 252-5729. Cost will be \$5 per item or three items for \$12.

Dershowitz at Beth-El

7:30 p.m., 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Alan Dershowitz will speak on "The Case for Israel." Book signing and dessert reception to follow. (Dietary laws will be observed.)

All donors to the 2005 annual campaign are invited. There will be no solicitation of funds.

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Tamarisk

Torat Yisrael Meal Site

Warwick Public Library

West Warwick:

Galaxy II

Museum workshops train volunteers to teach the Holocaust

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — William and Roberta McLaughlin of Burrillville are among a group training to be docents at the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum. Once fully trained, the docents will visit schools and speak to groups on the history of the Holocaust.

"I came out of concern for the current conditions in the world, mirroring those that happened in pre-war Germany," said McLaughlin, a realtor.

His wife, Roberta, a fulltime employee at Tyco, decided to come after the release of the controversial Mel Gibson film, "The Passion of the Christ."

"I didn't go to see it, but after the film came out last year, I realized there are so many people in the world who deny, or minimize the Holocaust. I wanted to do something," she said.

"The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum is living history," said co-president Selma Stanzler. "It's not a monument to visit." She said the museum reaches six thousand students in Rhode Island each year.

On Oct. 14, students from the Rhode Island College program of Social Work came to the museum to hear survivor Harold Reissner speak.

Frieda Soble, the museum's executive director, pointed to the power of survivor testimonials. "You will remember that Alice Goldstein's (a Warwick survivor) father was kicked off the soccer team in Nazi Germany more than you will remember all these facts," she said.

There are also camp liberators in the community; Stanzler said many are reluctant to tell their story.

Mark Schupack of Providence, a retired economics professor at Brown University, is a docent at the Rhode Island School of Design and decided to become one at the Holocaust museum. "We know the history," he said. "Many of us know survivors."

Sitting across from him is a Providence man who was in the *kindertransport* program, which helped Jewish children to flee to safer countries; most never saw their parents again.

The three training sessions met from 9:30 a.m. to noon over a three-week period, and were very ambitious. Last week, Soble gave a thorough review of the rise of the Nazis as a legal political party in Germany in the 1930s.

She also discussed the gradual emergence of laws against the Jews, which included being stripped of citizenship, and the expulsion of Jewish children



DOCENT TRAINING — Roberta and William McLaughlin of Burrillville review a text book used in the program. They are two of about 20 volunteers being trained as docents at the R.I. Holocaust Museum.

Photos by Mary Korr

from schools, as well as a prohibition against the use of public facilities.

She said the Nazis were aided by technology — an early computer system helped them keep databases of the Jewish population.

Soble mentioned some facts new to many: a "sub-races" program which killed German children who were handicapped. "Aryans were supposed to be this perfect race," she said. When the church interceded, the program was stopped. "Who interceded for the Jews?" she asked.

Soble said before Jews had to wear the yellow star on their clothing (1939), Germany enacted an identification law that required all Jews to change their middle names — the men to "Israel" and the women to "Sarah."

They also had to have a red "J" imprinted on their passport, as requested by Switzerland to make it easy for immigration officials to spot Jews and deny them entry.

Barbara Schwartz of East Providence, a former teacher, came because she wants to "give back to my community. I'm so proud to be Jewish." She said her 14-year-old granddaughter on Long Island told her she learned more about the Holocaust through visits to the Jewish Museum in New York than in her school.

Soble, who has a master's degree in Jewish studies and history, said the Holocaust is unique in that it was documented in the modern era by filmmakers, photographers, newspapers and government accounts, as well as by survivors. Last week, the group watched a grim documentary,



Frieda Soble, executive director of the R.I. Holocaust Museum, holds a yellow Jewish identification star donated to the museum by Donald Dwares.

"Genocide."

"This is only the beginning of my study of the Holocaust. I am going to go further," Roberta McLaughlin said, "even though I feel an overwhelming sense of

sadness as I read the textbook (*The World Must Know the History of the Holocaust* by Michael Berenbaum) and watch the films."

For more information, call 453-7860.

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Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Read between the headlines: Sharon's real deal

Wouldn't you just know it? The entire nation is mesmerized by an election campaign, a war in Iraq and the price of gasoline and meanwhile the biggest story of the year has completely escaped the attention of the American media.



Yehuda Lev

I refer, of course, to *l'affaire Weisglass* which for the past month has been dominating alarmed conversations in Israel and in certain Washington offices.

O.K., so maybe calling it the biggest story of the year is a bit of a stretch (although in an election year that seems to be an American political norm) but it has already threatened to bring down the Sharon government, to put a severe dent in Israel's relations with the United States, and to drill even more holes in the already leaky plans for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip settlements.

All this, amazingly enough for Israel, is occurring without even a whiff of sexual misconduct or financial corruption. This one, dear reader, is all

politics, 24/7 politics.

I quote from an article in *HaAretz* earlier this month.

"Ariel Sharon and Dov Weisglass are an odd couple. Sharon is a rancher from the western Negev, Weisglass a lawyer from Lilienblum Street in Tel Aviv... Sharon is flesh of the flesh of the fighting rooted land-settlement movement, Weisglass is the embodiment of the speculator, immigrant bourgeoisie. Sharon is brutal frontier Zionism, Weisglass is urban real estate Zionism."

What follows that quotation is an extended (16 downloaded pages) interview with Weisglass who has been Sharon's attorney, defender and close friend for many years, going back to the Sinai Campaign of 1956. The crux of his message, the words that brought anger to the Left and joy to the Right, is included in the following paragraph in which Weisglass explains why Sharon agreed to pull all Israeli settlers out of Gaza even without Palestinian cooperation. Weisglass represented Sharon at the negotiations in Washington which led to American and European acceptance of the plan.

"I found a device, in cooperation with the management of the world, to ensure that there will be no stopwatch here. That there will be no timetable

to implement the settler's nightmare. I have postponed that nightmare indefinitely. Because what I effectively agreed to with the Americans was that part of the (West Bank) settlements would not be dealt with at all, and the rest would not be dealt with until the Palestinians turn into Finns. That is the significance of what we did. The significance is the freezing of the political process. And when you freeze the process you prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and you prevent a discussion about the refugees, the borders and Jerusalem. Effectively, this whole package that is called the Palestinian state, with all that it entails, has been removed from our agenda indefinitely — all with a presidential blessing and the ratification of both houses of Congress. What more could have been anticipated? What more could have been given to the settlers?"

What more indeed? Shimon Peres, leader of what remains of the Labor Party, has said that his party will not join any government that goes along with what Weisglass claims. This greatly limits Sharon as he tries to regain a majority in the Knesset for approval of his plan. Half of his Likud Knesset members have already come out against a unilateral withdrawal. To whom else

can he turn for a majority?

The polls show that he stands a good chance of losing a general election if, in fact, he has to call one.

This also spits in the face of the Bush administration which has linked its support of Sharon to the so-called "road map to peace", a policy which will perish untested if Weisglass's words are prophetic.

As of this writing Weisglass has not offered the usual excuses given when political figures are quoted with unforeseen results, such as "My words were taken out of context" or "The interviewer misinterpreted what I said." Since neither Sharon nor Weisglass are given to misstatements, it is difficult to understand their reasoning other than the possibility that sacrificing the Gaza Strip settlements in order to save those in the West Bank was Sharon's intention from the very beginning. If so, it would be very much in character for both the rancher and the lawyer.

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

ALISON ON ALIYAH

The holiest day in the Holy Land

There is a lot one can say about Israel, both positive and negative, and just as many people to disagree with every statement. But one thing no one can deny is



Alison Golub

that this country really knows how to honor a holiday. I have lived in Israel for exactly one year now, and so I have had a chance, for the first time, to experience every holiday during that span of time. There was something very special about celebrating my second Sukkot in a row in the country, to see how my life and experiences here have come full-circle in the past 365 days. Truly, holidays here are a way of marking time and of closing and reopening cycles.

I have loved every holiday here in Jerusalem: the stockpiling of schach (palm fronds for the roofs of the sukkah) for Sukkot; dancing around the synagogues during Simchat Torah; the gaudy costumes and kids spraying silly string at everyone on Purim; even the city-wide burning of bread before Pesach. I was awed by how places of entertainment shut down and all television channels show only memorial programming on Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron. But never in my life have I experienced anything like Yom Kippur in Jerusalem.

There is a scene in the popular movie "Vanilla Sky," when Tom Cruise walks out into a major intersection in New York City in the middle of the day and looks around in amazement at the vast emptiness around him. Not a single car or other human being is on the streets, and one assumes that it must be the end of the world or something similarly catastrophic. I was immediately transported into a scene such as this when I left my house on Yom Kippur to take a walk through Jerusalem.

The major motorway on which my apartment is situated, normally a constant source of honking, squealing tires, and exhaust fumes, was like a wasteland. As far as I could look in every direction, not a single car could be seen. Traffic lights were actually switched off. People were walking in the middle of the streets with young children and baby carriages.

I have to admit, the whole scene was startling, and profoundly eerie. But after I got used to it, I fell in love with the city all over again. There was such a deep sense of serenity in an entire city so quiet, so wrapped up in the intensity of honoring the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar. Rumors have it that upwards of eighty percent of the population in Jerusalem honors Yom Kippur in the traditional ways, and even my least religious friends still went to synagogue and fasted. In a city so constantly wracked with disagreements and protests and uncertainty, it is truly

breath-taking to take part in a single day during which almost everyone agrees on something, and acts accordingly.

So I spent the day in the park with my dog, drinking in the quiet and the peace, and talking with other Jerusalemites passing through. I managed to find a few other dog-owners who happened to be as non-religious as I, and we talked about what the day was like for the minority of us here in the city.

One young woman laughingly mentioned that, earlier in the day, she had been hunched over by her third-floor apartment window, trying to eat a quick bowl of cereal as discreetly as possible, when she happened to catch the eye of an Orthodox Jew walking on the street below just as she brought another spoonful to her mouth. Another woman remembered a Yom Kippur a few years ago when she had seen a group of "anti-religious" Jewish boys having a barbeque in the middle of the public park in which we were sitting.

Afterwards, as I reflected on my first Yom Kippur in Eretz Yisrael, I realized that perhaps even on this sacred day, not all of us agree on how to behave and how to honor the holiest day of our year. Even as I ate my dinner and flicked on my living room light, I knew I had witnessed something great that day.

Even those of us who call ourselves non-religious cannot deny the intensity and spirituality of a day such as this. It is a truly powerful thing, and something I will feel deep inside for a long time to come. This was one day on which I realized how far Jerusalem can reach into my soul, and how changed I am because of it.

Alison Stern Golub was born and grew up in Seattle, Washington and is a graduate of Brown University. She welcomes correspondence (and advice!) in response to her articles and can be emailed at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com. You can also read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.

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.

The Jewish dimension of Columbus' voyage of discovery

By Morris Gastfreund

A note in Christopher Columbus' diary reads: "On August 2, 1492, three little vessels sailed out of the harbor near Seville, past the ships upon which Jewish exiles were embarking." In setting out on his epic voyage of discovery, Columbus noted the exile ships in his diary. One may well wonder what Columbus would have thought if it had been revealed to him that he was on the way to discover a new world in which the descendants of those exiles would find refuge. In fact, Columbus' voyage was more closely connected with the expulsion of the Jews, and with the events leading up to it, than he was ready to admit.

The life of Christopher Columbus in some respects is still a mystery. Some of his actions, such as hiding his ancestry and using strange symbols in his letters to his son, seem to point to a possible Marrano origin. Historian Salo Baron, writing in his book, "A Social and Religious History of the Jews" (Volume XIII), points to a sharp and long-lasting dispute between Italy and Spain over Columbus' nationality. Baron writes that Columbus' origin was a Marrano family from Spain who fled the Inquisition to settle in the more liberal Italy. Baron points out that of the 14 letters Columbus wrote to his son, Diego, on 13 of them he wrote the Hebrew symbols, "BH", which is an abbreviation for the Hebrew phrase, "Be'ezrat Hashem, meaning "with the help of God," now used mostly by religious Jews. The



14th letter did not contain these symbols because the son was instructed to deliver the letter to the king and Columbus was afraid that the Hebrew symbols would connect him to his Jewish roots.

In addition, Columbus designated in his will a sum of money for a Jew living in the ghetto of Lisbon. But regardless of whether he himself was of Jewish origin, it is a fact that those who helped him carry out his plan successfully were Jews and recent, unwilling converts from Judaism. Luis de Santanel, whose immediate family was condemned by the Inquisition, persuaded Queen Isabella to permit the voyage of discovery, and raised the money needed to outfit Columbus' vessels. Columbus sent the first report of his discoveries to him. His navigation charts were prepared by a Jewish scientist from Majorca, Abraham Zacuto. Some of Columbus' sailors have been identified with certainty as Marra-

See COLUMBUS, page 8

Letters to the editor Holocaust Museum's educational mission is community's asset

I was interested to read the article on David Newman's proposed Holocaust Memorial in the Oct. 8 issue of the *Jewish Voice & Herald*. I am dismayed that he is undertaking this project. Rhode Island already has two Holocaust memorials – one at the RI Holocaust Museum (funded by the city), and a second at Lincoln Park Cemetery. A third memorial, even one strategically placed along the Providence River in Memorial Park, seems superfluous.

More important, the fundraising efforts that Mr. Newman is undertaking may seriously affect the important fundraising initiatives by the museum itself. The museum's educational and outreach to the entire Rhode Island community are successful and dynamic programs that have a real and lasting impact on the participants. The four to five thousand school children and young adults who have participated in museum events each year have received meaningful and, in many cases, life-shaping experiences enhancing their respect for all peoples and their understanding of the importance of a civil, democratic society. A static memorial, no matter how well designed and situated, can never be as powerful.

Additionally, as a member of the RI

Holocaust Museum Board, I know that the majority of the state's Holocaust survivors do not agree with Mr. Newman's use of scarce community funds. His organization – the Holocaust Survivors of Rhode Island – represents only a fraction of all survivors in the State.

Finally, I take issue with his translation of Deuteronomy 18:11. The passage quoted in the *Voice & Herald* says, "Remember these souls ...", whereas the proper translation of the text is "Remember these words ...", and refers to the words that God spoke to Moses. It seems quite presumptuous to me that Mr. Newman has taken it upon himself to translate the Torah to suit his own purposes.

I certainly agree with Mr. Newman that the victims of the Holocaust and the lessons we can learn from their tragic experience must never be forgotten. But I hope that Mr. Newman will come to agree that scarce community resources had best be spent for projects that have the greatest impact on the most people.

Alice Goldstein
Warwick

Alice Goldstein is a Holocaust survivor and a member of the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum Board.

Letters to the editor

Why our Holocaust Museum works

The Holocaust Survivors who settled in Rhode Island realized the necessity for a Holocaust Museum to enhance the fabric of Jewish life in the state. They were joined by other members of the community who endorsed the concept and recognized the value of such an institution.

Since its conception, the Museum's board, officers and staff have worked tirelessly to fulfill the mission desired by the Survivors. The Survivors clearly stated and emphasized that they wanted an educational resource center. This center, which became our first and only Museum, is a living, vibrant, and proper memorial to the tragic history of the Survivors and struggles to make the world a better, kinder, more understanding place in which to live.

For the schools that we visit across the state from Westerly to Woonsocket, listening to the testimony of a Survivor is often a life altering experience for the students. The questions and discussions that follow the presentations are heart warming and gut wrenching. The visit enriches the classes' understanding of that period of history and of the tragedy that befell the Jewish population of Europe.

The Museum Board has been tirelessly working in establishing an endowment fund to ensure the life of the museum. Financial security is a prime issue for the Board, comprised of caring, dedicated Rhode Islanders.

The Museum endeavors to continue its assistance to educators for curricu-

lum development, classroom projects, and teaching techniques. Our files are filled with appreciative letters from educators, students and administrators from the public and private sector, as well as from the colleges and universities. We provide work experiences for interns from colleges and high schools which enhance their appreciation and understanding of Holocaust issues.

Not many people realize that the National Holocaust Museum has 70 percent of its budget paid for by our federal tax dollars. It is not an umbrella organization that helps support local Holocaust museums. The Rhode Island Museum depends on community generosity and an allocation from the Federation. In order to maintain our all important services to the community, to do more, teach more and influence more, we must constantly reach out to expand our donor base. Our growth is only hampered by tight financial constraints.

We are the best ambassadors to the entire community as we travel all over the state and southeastern Massachusetts. We also serve as an insurance policy so that "Never Again" is more than a catchy phrase.

The challenges are monumental, the rewards most gratifying and we thank the community for its continued and very vital support of our community agency.

Ellie Frank and Selma Stanzler
Co-Presidents of the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum.

Where are the Jewish students on campus?

After all the annoying questions about where I am attending college, and the agonizing pain of seeing all my friends leave before me, I am finally here. I'm at school and it feels great. I'm a good three and a half hours from home and I have some independence.

I love being here in New York, but there's something missing. Though the Jewish population is very strong here on the island, it's very different on campus. I grew up knowing that Judaism would always be a vital part of my life, but I think I took it for granted while still in Rhode Island because I had so many close Jewish friends.

I was called by Hillel to come to one of their meetings, something that I had been looking forward to. Hey, you never know, there could be a cute Jewish girl waiting for me. I arrived at the "interfaith center," and I walked into a room with one girl. I thought I was in the wrong place, but then Grace, the Hillel director, approached me with great enthusiasm. She informed me that there are only two hundred Jews on campus that she "knows of."

Two hundred? She couldn't be serious. And then I realized that these two

hundred Jews on campus don't place any value in their Judaism. I realized this when one of my Jewish suitmates made a Holocaust joke. He got upset that I was angry. Well, let's just say that after being on the grounds where the Holocaust took place, a joke like that will make you angry.

The "interfaith center" doesn't really do it for me. So, I guess what I'm trying to say here is that if you're a student looking for the right school, it might be a good idea to ensure that their Jewish population is strong, because it does matter. Coming home for the holidays made me realize something, and it's that there's nothing like a nice Yom Kippur service spent in the back of the synagogue talking about college girls with your best friend whom you've known since you were born. And that's the truth!

Zach Lichaa
Barrington

Zach Lichaa, 18, is a freshman communications major at C.W. Post, in Brookville, Long Island.

Federation

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Lions of Judah roar in our nation's capital

Twenty-one Jewish women activists sat in a long row, filling the dais at one session of the International Lion of Judah Conference held this week in Washington, D.C.



Janet Engelhart

The conference is held every other year, designed to motivate women who are philanthropic leaders in their communities.

This year, nine RI women joined 1,500 others at the largest conference ever. We came to learn and re-charge our batteries,

and to honor Mindy Wachtenheim, our community's nominee for the first national Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award, honoring philanthropic activists in 94 communities.

The dais held a Who's Who of women we've seen, read and heard from over the past 50 years, during the celebration of 350 years of Jewish contributions in North America. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Professor Deborah Lipstadt, Artist Judy Chicago, Actor Tovah Felsuh, Author Ruth Gruber, Rabbi Sally Priesant, Feminist Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Singer Debbie Friedman and RI's own food historian Joan Nathan all sat shoulder to shoulder. It was awesome to see these twenty-one powerful

women whose unique voices and actions have inspired a generation all together at once.

I'd like to share a few words from Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Professor Lipstadt that particularly resonated for me. I believe they commend our current efforts to proactively plan for our community's future strength, through our "Independent Commission of Change," The Partnership, and through reinvigorating our philanthropic and community relations efforts.

Justice Ginsburg told us how grateful she is that the table of opportunity was so well set for her by the generation before her.

She marveled that the daughter of a secretary was able to fulfill her dreams and ascend to the position of Associate Justice as a Jew and a woman, without having to justify her credentials, as Justice Brandeis had to do in the last generation. On the wall of her office, however, is a reminder to her from Deuteronomy of what she, and we, are obliged to do as Jews in our daily living, "Justice, Justice, Shall You Pursue."

Deborah Lipstadt, professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, did just that in her courageous six-year defense of a libel suit brought against her

in Britain by Holocaust denier, anti-Semite and racist David Irving.

Dr. Lipstadt related to us that she felt, for the first time, her concrete need for a strong Jewish community. During her fight for justice, we wrote notes and e-mails of encouragement, phoned her and raised money for legal fees so that she could fight at her greatest strength.

The ordeal was the first time that Dr. Lipstadt felt "enveloped by a community believing in me." But, she cautioned, "We never know when we'll be called to do what is right. We must always be prepared, as individuals and as a well-structured, bold community."

We are at a critical crossroad here in Rhode Island. Our forebears have built a community of strength and strong tradition for us. But we face what every Jewish community faces across this country — an aging population, diminished resources and less connected future generations.

That's where our challenge lies: to build the "well-structured, bold community" that Professor Lipstadt calls us to put into place. As Justice Ginsburg cautions, we must be prepared to leave our community better for our children and grandchildren

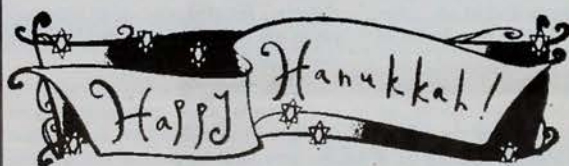
than it was given to us.

We must be energetic and creative and reach out to those who are alienated or not connecting. We must build a community of Jewish learning and connection, of caring for the most vulnerable among us. We must strengthen Jewish families, however they're shaped, wherever they live and however they connect with community.

We must inspire our next generation of philanthropic and service leaders to lead in new ways but with the vigor of our parents and grandparents. Only then will we pursue the "Justice, Justice" that Ruth Bader Ginsburg considers each day as a Jewish Supreme Court Justice.

We are so fortunate that the table of plenty and opportunity was set for us. Your Federation is assuming our responsibility to widen and bring new family members to the table, through our own "Independent Commission for Change" — The Partnership, through our strengthening of Philanthropic efforts and through our daily Community Relations efforts. Please join with us. Bring your passion, your questions and ideas and your financial support to build greater connections for the Jews of RI and with our worldwide Jewish family.

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Your gifts will go to teenage girls in need, including immigrants from Ethiopia, The Former Soviet Union, Uzbekistan and Kavkaz.

Help make their Hanukkah more festive by donating small gift items such as:

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FROM THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Stocks, bonds or cash can become 'pooled'

By Martin Feibish

The charitable pooled income fund is a special trust arrangement authorized by Congress to encourage the support of charitable organizations.

Individuals who irrevocably

transfer money or property to a pooled income fund can name one or more persons (including themselves) to receive the income earned by the fund for as long as the person lives.

Money or property given to

the fund will pass to the charity only after the death of the designated income beneficiaries. However, even though the charity will not receive the gift until some future time, the donor can usually claim an immediate income tax charitable deduction for the present value of the time-delayed gift.

The charity's pooled income fund trust agreement directs the trustee to accept gifts of cash or certain properties from persons who want to provide future support for the charitable organization. All gifts made to the fund are commingled and invested by the trustee. Units of participation are awarded to donors for each gift.

All the income earned by the pooled income fund trust is divided among the income participants in accordance with the number of units of participation

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Federation

FROM THE FEDERATION CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Relieving stress for children in a war-torn nation

What does Jewish Federation in Rhode Island have to do with pantomime in Israel?

In June 2002, a suicide bomber struck the quiet city of Herzliya. This attack was particularly troubling for many of the children at an elementary school situated in close proximity to the site of the attack. Fortunately, a unique form of conversation session was scheduled to take place at the school the next morning.

When Minna, the program professional, arrived for her morning's session, a crowd of students anxiously greeted her. Minna opened the session with a simple question: "How do you feel?" Using a special curriculum called BodyTalk, the children were given the opportunity to express their feelings non-verbally. They used costumes and musical instruments to express their feelings. They acted out

the fear, the rage and the sadness they were feeling. They split up into groups, and play-acted, taking on the roles of the terrorist and innocent bystanders and victims. After the "BodyTalk" session, students felt they were able to go on with the rest of the school day. The weekly sessions that followed are ensuring that they can go on with their week, their summer, their year.

"It was amazing to witness the children and their work," says program coordinator Esty Rozman. Educators and administrators recognize the importance of the program. "BodyTalk is succeeding where traditional forms of therapy and assistance have failed," explained one school principal.

The children who participate in BodyTalk are lucky. It is estimated that 70 percent of Israel's children have been touched either directly or indirectly by terror. Thanks to the dollars raised by local federations like ours, programs such as BodyTalk can help address the impacts of post traumatic stress on these youngsters in new and effective ways.

The American Jewish Joint

Distribution Committee (JDC) funds the BodyTalk program, which was specially designed to help with the rising occurrence of post-traumatic stress disorder appearing in children in Israel. That's where the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's annual campaign becomes crucially important. Twenty five percent

of the overseas dollars allocated through the annual campaign go to the JDC's programs, including its partnerships in Israel. Many of these programs help Israelis in two vital ways - by relieving isolation and by treating the symptoms of stress. Few anticipated that a JDC program developed to empower elementary school chil-

dren would be a critical tool that helps children affected by Israel's security crisis.

For more information about how you can help, please see the ad on page 7.

This article was written with material submitted from the JDC.

Stocks, bonds or cash can become 'pooled'

From page 6

awarded for the gift. Income is distributed to individual participants on a regular schedule and is never retained by the trust or paid to the charity.

Upon the death of the income beneficiary(ies) designated for each gift, the trustee is required to pay the then value of the gift (the value of the awarded units of participation) to the charity. The trust, of course, continues to hold, manage, and invest the trust funds for the benefit of the income beneficiaries of other gifts.

Many gifts to a pooled income fund are gifts of cash. An individual simply writes a check to the fund and designates the person or persons who are to receive the income for life. The

fund agrees to make income payments to the designated beneficiaries.

Stocks, bonds and mutual fund shares can also be transferred to a pooled income fund. The donor simply endorses the certificate (or executes a stock or bond power) to the fund. Important tax-benefits can be gained by transferring securities that have gone up in value - especially if the securities are providing a low-income yield. A pooled income fund is prohibited from accepting tax-exempt securities.

The fund may not agree to accept properties that will be difficult to sell, since it is important that gifts be invested quickly to produce income for designated

beneficiaries. Gifts of tangible personal property are not a suitable gift for a pooled income fund.

Transferring appreciated property to a pooled income fund can be advantageous. The gift does not result in a capital gains tax no matter how much the property may have increased in value. After the gift is made, the pooled income fund can sell the appreciated property again without incurring any tax on the appreciation.

For more information, call Meyer Goldstein at 421-411, ext. 174.

Martin Feibish, CLU, ChFC, is a real estate broker and a member of the Professional Advisory Council.

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RHODA supported a Casino bill that would have hurt Providence.

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RHODA voted against a modest 1% increase in pension contribution.

BARRY wants a pension system that's fair to both workers AND taxpayers.

RHODA voted to use the \$50 million tobacco win-fall as a one-time budget fix.

BARRY believes that short-term fixes and thinking are irresponsible.

RHODA has done nothing for education in her 14 years as a Legislator.

BARRY wants education to be our #1 priority.

RHODA has made no effort to control spiraling health care costs.

BARRY believes the current system is unfair to both consumers and doctors.

RHODA has not introduced ANY tax reform or job creation bills.

BARRY will address these areas so RI has a viable future.

RHODA has not introduced any ethics bills.

BARRY was an early proponent and advocate for Separation of Powers.

There are issues in education, healthcare, job creation and legislative ethics that must be addressed and we need a State Senator who's willing to break from unions and special interests and deliver what's best for Rhode Island's future. I feel my 30 years of business experience, community activism and charitable involvement will insure that the East Side gets representation that we can be proud of.



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Opinion

More letters

From page 5

Why a Jewish burial? Here's why

I was prompted to write after reading your Aug. 20 article about interfaith Jewish burials. It is important for Jewish people to be buried in a section of the cemetery reserved for Jews.

The reason for this is that when we leave this world and enter the next world, it is as though we are leaving the temporary world of our mother's womb, being born, and entering the true world, which is the next world. Our conception of the next world

is limited by our imagination, which is in turn limited by our own experience in this world.

Burial is compatible with the truth that the life of a person does not end. Life is eternal. Burial results in purification of the body, and the planting of the seeds in a person's soul through which he will grow at the time of the Revival of the Dead.

Passages in Prophets (Amos 2) and the Talmud (Sanhedrin daf 82) make it clear that burning

of the body in any way is a forbidden act. In Zohar Hakadosh, it is stated that a body must be buried in the ground until it decomposes completely and all of the impurity (tuma) goes into the ground. Only then is the remainder of the body fit for the Revival of the Dead.

Rabbi Yossi Laufer
Chabad CHAI Center of
West Bay

Columbus' voyage of discovery

From page 5

nos, who joined him, perhaps in the hope that they would really land in China, where they might live far from the Inquisition — and would be able to return to the practice of Judaism. Also, Luis de Torres, a Jew who went along as an interpreter because of his knowledge of the Oriental languages, was baptized just before boarding Columbus' ship. He was the first to set foot on the soil of the New World and the first white man to settle there.

As soon as it became clear that Columbus had discovered

new lands, Marranos of Portugal and Spain sought an opportunity to settle there and return to observing their Jewish religion. But the Inquisition followed them to the New World. The clergy sent from the homeland were ordered to keep their eyes open for any manifestation of Judaism. Many of these Marranos were burned at the stake for practicing Judaism in secret.

As the world celebrated the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America, we looked back on the Jewish dimension

of Columbus' voyage with pride on one hand, and with horror on the other. Pride in that Jews and those of Jewish origin, forced to convert to Christianity, were either at the center of or participated in the discovery of the New World. We look back with horror at the Christian persecutions, many centuries long. Is it any wonder that Hitler and the Nazis were able to annihilate six million Jews?

Morris Gastfreund, of Providence, is a Holocaust survivor.

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Nation

Like Ruth, like Golda: Women donors seek to balance devotion and strength



First Lady Laura Bush addresses Jewish women philanthropists at the UJC's International Lion of Judah Conference in Washington on Monday.

Photos by Robert A. Cumins

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Blessing a hall full of Jewish women, Susan Stern invoked a litany of matriarchs — Ruth for devotion, Naomi for dignity — and then threw out a less biblical name and concept: “Golda Meir for assertiveness.”

The 1,400 major Jewish women donors, packed Monday

into the Washington Hilton for the United Jewish Communities “Lion of Judah” conference, had been silent in shared prayer until that moment, but they laughed in agreement. Stern, the UJC’s national philanthropy chairwoman, had hit the nerve running under this gathering of Jewish women donors: Despite strides in recent decades,



Teresa Heinz Kerry addresses Jewish women philanthropists on Sunday.

Jewish women still have trouble making their voices heard.

“Show the world what determined women can achieve,” Carrie Rubin, a donor who spoke at the launch of the conference, said to wild applause.

The frustration bubbled under a conference bursting with accomplishment: the biggest turnout ever for such an event, and the ability to draw speakers like First Lady Laura Bush and Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of

presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).

The conference also featured top-level speakers associated with security and foreign policy issues, areas once confined to male-dominated groups.

“We could not help but be defined by defining issues,” said Michele Rosen, the conference co-chairwoman, listing terrorism in Israel, the Iraq war and homeland security, among others. “The debate they generate has spilled over into this conference.”

But it was the traditional women’s issues, and the difficulties in bringing them to the forefront of the American and

Jewish dialogues, that troubled women at the conference. Participants said driving factors in their activism and philanthropy included reproductive rights, health care and assistance for the poor and elderly. The candidates’ wives split their appeals: Laura Bush emphasized Israel and national security in her speech, stressing her husband’s commitment to Israel, while Heinz Kerry drew on her own experience as a philanthropist. Heinz Kerry cited statistics showing dramatic results in one of her projects aimed at early childhood education.

A measure of participants’ concern at the lack of a voice for women in policy making — and of the participants’ ambition — was the standing room only attendance at a workshop on “How women are changing the way we live and lead.”

“Women need to be engaged, and not just as volunteers,” said Joan Loewenstein, 47, who made the transition herself in Ann Arbor, Mich., from a volunteer for the Jewish community to a city councilor.

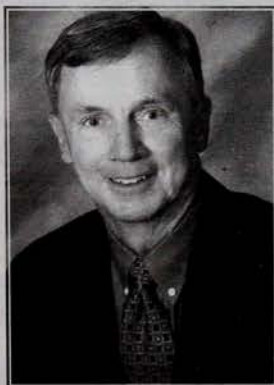
Women bring different emphases when they’re in control, said Carol Amster, also of Ann Arbor. Her own community chose to fund a battered women’s shelter in Israel, and made more local allocations to family services, she said.

A higher profile for women is likelier in a small community such as Ann Arbor, said Amster, 69, a former executive director of the local Jewish federation.

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Cranston – District 15

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Jews kvell as Israelis win first Nobel Prize for science

NEW YORK (JTA) — As Israel captured its first Nobel Prize in science this week, Jews worldwide kvelled over the recognition of excellence in a discipline that has long been a hallmark of the Jewish state.

The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to two Israelis, Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover of the Technion in Haifa, and an American, Irwin Rose of the University of California at Irvine, for a discovery that advances the fight against cancer.

The three share the \$1.3 million prize along with its international acclaim. At a news conference in Israel, Ciechanover, 57, accepted the prize in a uniquely Israeli tone: "The human brain is the only natural resource that Israel possesses."

"This is proof of the kinds of things Israeli scientists can achieve," Ciechanover said. His mentor, Hungarian-born Hershko, 67, also framed the win as a national triumph: "We're very excited, and very happy to bring good news to the people of Israel."

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the scientists found and named the protein ubiquitin, which marks other proteins for destruction once they have carried out their task, a process that regulates the body. Alternatively, unwanted

proteins that linger in the body can cause disease like cancer. The trio's discovery led to the creation of the cancer drug Velcade, approved last year in the United States, that targets sick cells. Previously, cancer treatments had a tendency to kill cells indiscriminately, a debilitating and potentially lethal complication for the patient. "We discovered the process by which the body exercises quality control," Ciechanover said.

Asked in a phone interview with JTA if the attention on Israel overshadowed his honor, Rose — who said that the Israelis worked in his lab at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia at different times between 1977 to 1996 — said, "absolutely not."

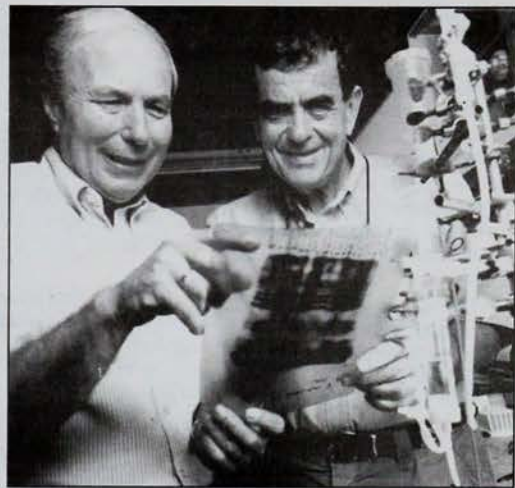
"They deserve this prize for the important observation" they made, he told JTA, stressing the "important contribution from the Technion." In fact, Rose said, he never thought he would win the Nobel, but "was confident" that Hershko would.

The news of Hershko's award was also making a big splash in Hungary, where his family survived the Holocaust. His family immigrated to Israel in 1950, when, he told JTA, it was "the last chance to leave before the Iron Curtain fell and closed the borders."

The award could also be a boon to

those fighting boycotts in academia against Israeli scholars — a phenomenon that has risen amid the intifada. "It certainly should help convince people in the world who might not be paying attention that there's a lot of great research going on in Israel, but people who are intending to be biased, if you will, may not be convinced by anything," said Andrew Marks, founder and president of the International Academic Friends of Israel and chairman of the physiology department at Columbia University.

Meanwhile, the scientists' discovery has major implications. "It is extremely significant because it showed that the destruction of the components of the cell is actually controlled," Richard Ikeda, health scientist administra-



NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS Avram Hershko, left, and Aaron Ciechanover celebrate.

Photo courtesy of Israel Cancer Research Fund

tor at the National Institutes of Health, told JTA. "Each of the pieces are there for a specific amount of time and they have to go away in a controlled fashion," or can become cancerous, he said.

Record day-school gift in Boston may set example around the country

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish educators hope one of the largest gifts ever for Jewish education in America will prompt other philanthropists to follow suit.

The \$45 million donation from a group of anonymous families is intended to improve Jewish day school education in Boston. The money will be spent over five years, with \$30 million divided equally among three schools and the remaining \$15 million designated for a tuition scholarship fund and grants for innovative educational projects.

Jewish community professionals hailed the move, announced two weeks ago, as a historic investment. Jewish educators say they hope other philanthropists will now step up to transform day school education across the country.

"We've been dreaming about days like this," Barry Schrage, president of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, said at a news conference Oct. 11th in Boston. "The grant truly represents a change in the way the American Jewish community understands education."

The pledge, called CJP's Peerless Excellence Project, was announced at the annual conference of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, held in Boston. The gift's primary beneficiaries will be the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, The Rashi School and Maimonides School. They are the Boston area's three largest Jewish day schools, representing the Conservative, Reform and Orthodox movements, respectively.

"It's not merely a gift; it's an investment," said Lisa Rosenbaum, a member of

Maimonides' executive committee. "We're being goaded to think bigger."

Maimonides, the oldest and largest of Boston's Jewish day schools, with approximately 625 students, is in the process of coming up with a plan to spend its \$10 million — an amount equal to the school's annual budget.

The executive director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, Rabbi Joshua Elkin, said the \$10 million grants constituted the largest-ever gifts for operational use in day-school education. The \$45 million total dwarfed even capital gifts and day-school endowments, he said.

"There's been nothing quite at this level," Elkin said. "It breaks the glass ceiling of how much it is possible to invest in a day school."

The money comes with some strings attached: Funds are not to be spent on capital improvements, and the goal is to use the money to institute permanent improvements at the schools, not merely give them a five-year boost, according to Gil Preuss, director of the Excellence Project.

"We've challenged the schools to think carefully about their vision and come up with a plan for implementing it," Preuss said. "The idea is not just to have excellent schools for five years, but to shift the line" and improve the schools permanently, he said. "This is really a vision for what the Jewish community can be around the country."

Officials would not say how many families were involved, only that they were local.

Barry Fain is telling half-truths, distorting Rhoda Perry's record on the proposed downtown hotel.

What Does an Expert Say?

Arthur Robbins is President of Robbins Properties, Inc., and has developed many Marriott Hotels.

September 14, 2004

Dear Rhoda:

I wanted to thank you on behalf of the hotel industry for the leadership that you demonstrated in killing the proposed \$20 million in tax credits for the so-called Mesolella hotel. I had a very frank discussion with you after the bill was passed on June 25th. I related to you the pitfalls of what this meant for the hotel community.

After reviewing same, you took it upon yourself to lead the charge that eventually killed the bill. You demonstrated a clear awareness of what this \$20 million tax credit bill would have done to create unfair competition in the hotel community. Thanks for your understanding and leadership.

With regards,

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President
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It's time for Barry Fain to stop distorting Senator Rhoda Perry's record.

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Israel

Women of the Wall see some gains

By Dina Kraft

(JTA) — The women's harmonized prayers grow steadily louder as the sun rises in the early morning Jerusalem sky.

They stand in prayer before the Western Wall as they do at the new moon of every month, their presence speaking as loudly as the liturgical words they sing: the Women of the Wall are here to stay.

But then a fervently Orthodox woman shakes her finger at the group — some of whom are wearing tallitot — and begins to shout. "It is forbidden. The men can hear your voices, you will disturb their prayer," she says, referring to the belief in some religious Jewish circles that it is immodest for a woman to pray out loud.

A group of policemen tries to separate the woman from the group and eventually threatens to kick her off the grounds of the Western Wall Plaza.

"This is a huge step," said Bonnie Haberman, one of the original founders of the group, which began in 1989, as she looks on. "In the past, it would have been the police telling us to be quiet, now they turn and face the people who are interfering with us."

For almost 15 years, Women of the Wall — a prayer group that includes women from all streams of Judaism — has been struggling to break the Orthodox hegemony at Judaism's holiest site, fighting for both legal and social acceptance, hoping to be able to read from the Torah, wear tallitot and pray out loud next to the venerable retaining wall of the Holy Temple.

Although their presence challenges an Orthodox tradition that only men are allowed to take part in these practices, the Women of the Wall insist there is no prohibition in Jewish law against what they are doing.

Anecdotal evidence appears to show that their struggle is beginning to bear fruit.

In addition to police threatening to remove the woman who scolded the group, Haberman notes another positive incident from this day of prayer, which included Reform rabbinical students and Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist women: a different fervently Orthodox woman passed by the ruckus and told the woman who was yelling, "Because of your shouting I could not pray, not because of their voices."

Still, the battle goes on. The

rabbi in charge of the Western Wall has ruled that the Women of the Wall are disrupting minhag hamakom, or the custom of the place. Some argue that their action do not respect the tradition of the holy site.

"It is a very, very great variance to the normative," said Shira Leibowitz Schmidt, a member of Voices of the Wall, a group of Orthodox women seeking to preserve what they call normative Jewish practices at the wall.

"When you start to come as a group, to sing out loud and wear tallitot and come with a Sefer Torah and start to read it, it is a great public disturbance."

"It is not minhag hamakom."

Schmidt said that even most liberal Orthodox rabbis say women's Torah reading groups should not gather in primary worship areas.

For Women of the Wall, the path has been a long one and has included court triumphs and defeats, as well as the fighting off of insults and blows.

Most recently, the Israeli government — under court order — completed work on an alternative prayer area for the group at the adjacent area known as Robinson's Arch.



WOMEN OF THE WALL, wearing prayer shawls and skull caps, pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Friday, Oct. 15.

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News Briefs



HOTEL RUBBLE — Israeli and Egyptian rescue workers search for survivors and bodies in the rubble of the Hilton Hotel on Oct. 9 in Tabá, Egypt. Car bombs ripped through the hotel and two other beach resorts packed with Israeli tourists on the Red Sea coast of Egypt's Sinai desert. According to reports, 33 people were killed, 13 of them Israelis, and some 120 wounded in the bomb attacks.

Brian Hendler/JTA

Cardinal goes to shul

A leading Vatican official will attend Shabbat services at Rome's main synagogue today. Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, will attend to mark the 30th anniversary of the Commission's establishment. Other commission members also will attend.

The commission, the Vatican's body for formal interreligious relations with Jews, was founded by Pope Paul VI on Oct. 22, 1974.

Teen diary like Anne Frank's

There seems to be another Holocaust-era diary similar to Anne Frank's. The diary and love letters written by Helga

Deen, a Jewish 18-year-old, to her Dutch boyfriend recently were donated to a Dutch archive. Archivists in the Dutch city of Tilburg on Tuesday announced the rare discovery. Deen kept the journal during the final month of her detainment from April-July 1943. She then was shipped off to a concentration camp in Sobibor, Poland, with her brother, father and mother. All four died there.

Harlem jobs program going to Israel

A jobs program from Harlem is coming to Israel. The STRIVE program and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee are collaborating to help Israel's unemployed.

The program, expected to begin operating in Israel next year, offers a simulated work program to help unemployed workers enter the job force. ADL blasts.

Jewish Internet radio launched

B'nai B'rith is launching a 24-hour, Jewish music station on the Internet. The Jewish group said the station, launched Monday at www.bnaibrithradio.org, is the first of its kind in the United States. B'nai B'rith plans to bring it to satellite stations, and to launch Spanish and French versions later this year. The station will broadcast Yiddish, Israeli, Jewish American, instrumental and Hasidic music, and will fea-

ture Saturday night sing-alongs.

Duke editorial

The Anti-Defamation League criticized an editorial in Duke University's campus newspaper. Philip Kurian's piece, which ran after Jewish groups organized programming to balance a pro-Palestinian student conference last weekend, "contains a number of classic stereotypes about Jews, including charges of excessive wealth, power and a lack of concern for anyone but themselves," the ADL said in a statement. Last weekend's conference at Duke, the fourth annual of the Palestine Solidarity Movement, drew 600 people and went off peacefully.

Save the date:

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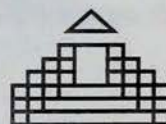
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Dershowitz to speak at Federation event

From page 1

supports the security barrier, but not in all of its current locations. The greatest obstacle to peace, he said, is Yasser Arafat. "Everybody is waiting for Arafat to die."

However, he believes Ariel Sharon can achieve peace with a final border established between Israel and Palestinian territory. In that event, he foresees a struggle for power among the divergent Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Hizbollah. "Iran will play a nasty and ugly role here," he predicts.

Dershowitz agreed anti-Semitism is one of the biggest threats Jews worldwide face today. He said France, England and Germany are using Israel as an excuse for its recurrence in those countries.

Election 2004

Turning to current events,

Dershowitz said the Supreme Court is high on his list of election issues — the next president may get to nominate four or more Supreme Court Justices, he said. "We need a president who believes in the separation of church and state."

When asked if he would ever

We looked up to Roosevelt and Truman."

He said the Jews also feel a biblical injunction to provide for strangers in the land, the poor — as they once were.

Conversely, when asked why polls showed more Israelis favor Bush over Kerry, he doesn't

Fortune." It was an adaptation of Dershowitz's book about his successful legal appeal of Claus von Bulow's conviction for the attempted murder of his wife, Martha "Sunny" von Bulow.

To relax, Dershowitz enjoys music and attends at least one performance a week; last week he saw the opera "The Magic Flute."

"I used to be a singer," he said. "Our synagogue had one of the greatest cantors."

Following Dershowitz's talk, there will be a book signing and dessert reception (dietary laws observed).

"We want this evening to be a big thank-you to all our donors who make a difference for our community," said Elisa Heath, Director of Campaign Operations. She heads a volunteer core of about a hundred for this year's campaign. There will be an honor roll of this year's contributors published for the event.

To make reservations, call Heath by Oct. 22 at 421-4111, ext. 171.

Temple Beth-El is located at 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

Election polls show most Jews vote for Democrats. When asked why, Dershowitz's answer was quick. "Memory."

consider elective office or even a nomination to the Supreme Court, his response was: "I'm too controversial."

Election polls show most Jews vote for Democrats. When asked why, Dershowitz's answer was quick. "Memory. We vote our memories, not our pocketbooks. The Democrats were always the party for the poor.

mince words. "Ignorance. Israelis see the election at a distance. They don't know John Kerry, who is a friend of Israel."

Dershowitz said that President Bush has created instability in the Middle East with fallout from the Iraq war. He said Israel's greatest danger is from Iran and their nuclear weapons program.

Dershowitz lives in Cambridge, Mass. He has three children; his daughter is a high school freshman. His eldest son is a filmmaker, and Dershowitz said he enjoyed collaborating with him on a film his son was co-producing, "Reversal of



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Community



The Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance will be held Saturday, Oct. 23. File photo

BJE, Federation plan weekend events

From page 1

Community Center in Providence. This event brings together dozens of Rhode Island professionals, from rabbis to doctors to Jewish educators to university professors, in two back-to-back mini-classes.

The event will be held from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Get there early — this event regularly attracts more than 300 people. Free.

"We have this enormous abundance of talent and scholarship right here in our community. We've got something for everybody," said program coordinator Robin Kauffman of the BJERI.

Idle Chatter

On Nov. 4, the Women's Alliance presents author Lori Palatnik, who will speak on "Gossip, Lies & Lessons" on the subject of Lashon Horah, or "the

evil tongue." The event will take place at Temple Emanu-El in Providence at 7:30 p.m.

All women who make a gift to the 2005 Annual Campaign are invited.

'The Case for Israel'

Harvard Professor and author Alan Dershowitz (see article page 1) will also speak on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El as the centerpiece of the Jewish Federations 2005 Campaign. 70 Orchard Avenue in Providence.

All donors to the 2005 Annual Campaign are invited.

For more information about these events, call Robin Kauffman at 401-331-0956 or email rkauffman@bjeri.org, or visit www.jfri.org and www.bjeri.org.

JCC sale to aid Ethiopian women

PROVIDENCE — Handicrafts from the Ethiopian community in Israel will be on sale at the Jewish Community Center in Providence from Nov. 7 - 30. The products — yarmulkes, tablecloths,

quilts and pillow covers and matzoth covers — are all decorated with traditional Ethiopian embroidery and are sold worldwide.

The Ethiopian community in Israel has had a hard time adjusting from a traditional, rural way of life to the modern, westernized society in which they now find themselves. The Embroidery Project was created to give the women a source of employment that uses their skills in creating the colorful and traditional embroidery.

The project is now in its second year. The group meets twice a week, led by a professional instructor.



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★ Prescription Drugs

Legislation allowing consumers to choose their own pharmacy and purchase re-imported drugs from Canada.

★ Economic Development

An amendment to the Jobs Development Act providing incentives for businesses that create new jobs, and requiring companies to provide evidence of job growth. Also, a law allowing researchers at public universities to enter into commercial ventures, encouraging job growth in biotechnology and research sectors.

★ Rochambeau Library Matching Funds

An amendment to the state budget providing Providence Public Library with matching funds to complete the Rochambeau branch library expansion.

★ Ethics Reform Legislation

Providing stricter guidelines for lobbyists, including the reporting of gifts. Also requiring that lobbyists report costs associated with advertising.

★ Responsible Hospital Expansion

Requiring Rhode Island Health Services Council to consider "community input" when considering hospital expansions similar to the one at Miriam Hospital.

★ Minimum wage increase

Increasing the state's minimum wage to \$6.75 per hour helping 10,000 hard working Rhode Islanders.

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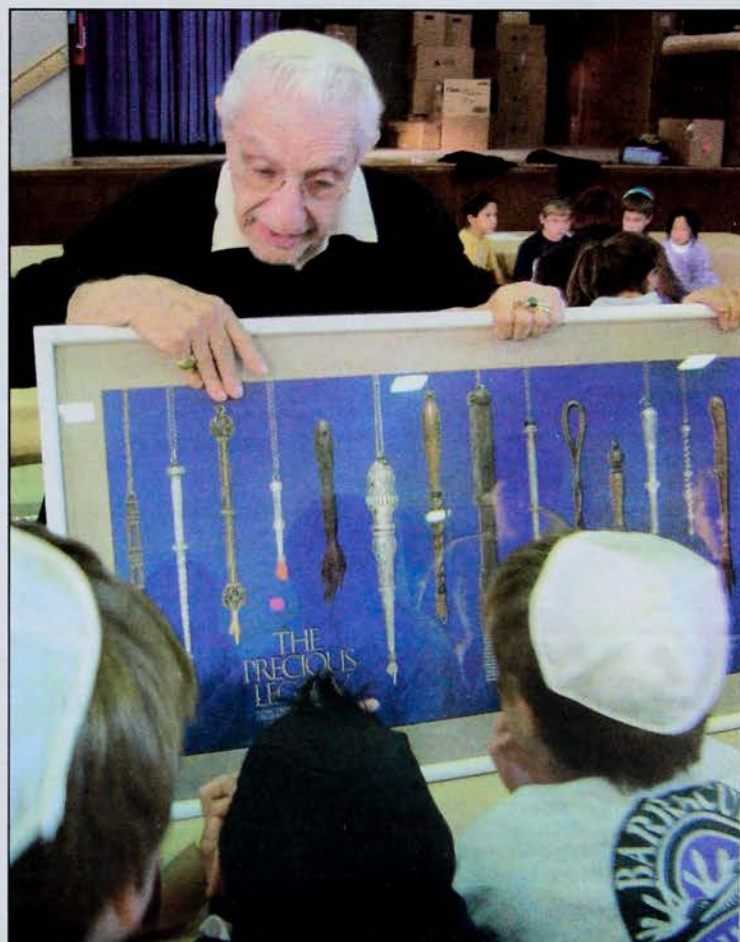
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Abe Gershman, of Providence, shows a picture of Yadim buried by Prague Jews during World War II.

Photos by Jonathan Rubin

Arts project 'keeps the place'

PROVIDENCE—For their upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, students at Temple Emanu-El's religious school can bring something else to the Bimah besides the knowledge of their Torah portions — they can also bring their very own yad (literally "hand") with which to read from the Torah scroll. The students were told

that oils from their hands can damage the scroll, and so Jews use the yad to keep the place. Besides making one for each student, they will also be making yadim for the residents at Tamarisk Assisted Living, and for the children in the Afula/Gilboa region in Israel, Rhode Island's sister area.



ALEXIS KUTENPLON, 8, of Providence, puts together pieces for her yad.

'Community Kollel' to rise in Providence

From page 1

Kollels, literally "heads"). "It is open to anybody and everybody...[because] everybody gains from studying Torah."

That's the essence of the kollel — to have young, dynamic families transplanted into a community to raise the general level of Jewish involvement. That's one of the main ways they judge if they are being successful — the more the love of Torah spreads through study, the "more people become involved with the JCC, the more likely people are to give to Federation, the more likely they are to join temples," said Schochet. "If other agencies succeed, we succeed."

The other four couples were handpicked by Schochet for their enthusiasm, outgoingness and strengths they bring to the table as a team. When he talks about the kollel, there is a twinkle of unshakable confidence in his eyes. "We want to show people the beauty of what Judaism can offer to everyday life, not just the high holidays."

"The kollel will change people...it will allow people to grow. We're willing to bring this message to people if they are ready to have us," he said.

Most of the programs will be free of cost, and the kollel is planning a cocktail party to meet the community in December. They will be handing out information about the kollel at the Bureau of Jewish Education's Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance on Oct. 23.

Despite being situated in the heart of Providence's Jewish community, the kollel wants

to spend a good deal of their introduction period in Cranston, Warwick and other centers of Jewish population. Schochet cites the recent Demographic

"The kollel will change people. It will allow people to grow...we're willing to bring this message to people if they are ready to have us."

— Rabbi Raphie Schochet

Study undertaken by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island: "People in outlying areas are less affiliated and yet have a strong thirst for more programming and varied programming." They'd like to have a monthly program at Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living, and to work with URI Hillel as well.

The kollel has rented two rooms at the JCC, an administrative office and a study room, both for the community as much as for the four husbands; besides being full-time teachers, they will also be full-time students — all of them possess the equivalent of a master's in Talmudic law from Ner Israel Rabbinical College in Baltimore.

The wives will be juggling their own programs as well as their kids.

"It's tough with children,"

said Tichyeh, Schochet's wife, who has five children. "You want to be at home with them all the time... but you want to work with other people as well."

She sees the kollel as a "family experience" because their houses become centers for Jewish community as well. "My kids are always asking who we will be bringing home for Shabbat next," she said.

Melissa and Jonathan Beck moved here from Israel with Rachel, their four-month old daughter. "We're excited to put what we've learned into practice," said Jonathan. "It's nice to have a Jewish Community Center around the corner," added Melissa.

According to Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, dean of the New England Rabbinical College, the talks for bringing a kollel into the community are about five years old.

"I feel there is a dearth of shiurim (informal learning sessions) [here]. Gibber picked Schochet to head the kollel, and he envisions a "sister relationship" between his college and Schochet's kollel.

Said Gibber: "We wanted to be a place where people could walk in various times during the day and do some studying and some learning and connect to our tradition."

"It's a wonderful thing for the community, and it brings with it the great potential for growth

in the Jewish community," said Rabbi Yechezkel Yudkowsky, rabbi at Congregation Mishkon Tefelah. "I wish the kollel much success and luck."

All *avreichim* (fellows) are on two-year contracts to live and work in Rhode Island, but the hope of all kollels is that the men and women will remain. Schochet also hopes to bring another

2 to 4 couples to Rhode Island in a few years.

Kollel programming begins Nov. 1, but they are already welcoming drop-ins, and hope to be able to start a regular afternoon minyan.

For more information on the Providence Community Kollel, email info@providencekollel.org or call 935-6867.

From Omaha to Oxford, Kollels stand tall

By Jonathan Rubin

Kollelim (the plural for kollel) are places where adults gather together to increase their knowledge of Judaism and to deepen their spiritual foundation. They are used by people who have lived observant lives since birth, and for people who want to learn more.

Many Kollels are brought into existence by synagogues, Yeshivas, consortia of various organizations, or by a group of dedicated individuals who desire to expand the scope of outreach in the city. Other reasons for the introduction of a kollel include insufficient rabbinic presence, no kosher restaurants or general malaise.

There are two types of Kol-

lelim — the 'traditional' Kollel, which provides an intensive learning environment for married men, and the 'outreach kollel' or 'community kollel' model, which offers a more varied and broad spectrum of education. Some are extremely pluralistic, and exist solely to support egalitarian and feminist Jewish movements.

Kollelim began to catch on in the U.S. in 1941, with the arrival of the Polish Rabbi Aaron Kotler. He established the Beth Medrash Govoha Kollel in Lakewood, N.J., and his model has been replicated dozens of times. The kollel was introduced internationally in 1970 into South Africa. By the 1990s the idea had become well

See KOLLEL, page 18



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Community

From Omaha to Oxford, Kollels stand tall

From page 17

known in Europe and elsewhere; Moscow now has two kollelim, Budapest and Melbourne, Australia have one each.

In the U.S. particularly, many towns rushed to establish their centers of Jewish activity at the rate of three to five a year. New York, Memphis, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit and other major cities all boast kollelim.

Many Kollelim are independent, many others are linked through national organizations like Torah Umesorah, which have highly systemized programs for bringing kollelim into communities that are ready for them, included check-lists and questionnaires for community leaders.

Many people become attracted to kollelim because they find them an alternative or supplement to synagogue life.

Many kollelim practice *harbatzas haTora* — teaching Torah to people from all backgrounds and levels — will simultaneously serve both the observant and secular Jewish communities.

In many communities the

avreichim are their own support group, so they are frequently chosen not only for their skills but for their compatibility with

Many Kollelim are independent, many others are linked through national organizations like Torah Umesorah

each other. Idealism, outgoingness, persistence and devotion to study are other prized qualities.

In Israel, ultra-Orthodox kollelim are often the center of community discontent, as their students are exempted from military service to study full-time, where they live on welfare and community donations. Other "Zionist" kollelim combine Jewish study with military service, and the first Zionist kollel in the U.S. sprouted up in Cleveland in 1994.

Even though kollel study frequently confers no degree, study of this nature is generally considered to be the height of a yeshiva career for educators.



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Food

Versatile squash — for muffins, soup and pie

By Marylyn Graff

More than a vegetable, the winter squash, a gift from the Native Americans to the Pilgrims, cheers up winter meals with flavor and color, not to mention nutrition, from breakfast to dessert. For all of these recipes you can use any member of the squash family from butternut, the mildest and sweetest, to acorn, hubbard or any other variety.

Squash muffins

Oil or spray pan for 12 regular or six large muffins. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

- 1-1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 cup rolled oats, quick or old-fashioned
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 2-1/2 tps. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- sprinkle of nutmeg, optional
- 1 cup mashed or canned squash
- 3/4 cup skim or low-fat milk
- 1 lg. egg or 2 egg whites or 2 egg substitute
- 1/4 cup salad oil
- 1/2 cup raisins, optional
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts, optional

In a medium bowl, mix dry ingredients together. Break egg into a small bowl and beat slightly with a fork, add the rest of the wet ingredients and mix well. Pour wet ingredients into dry and mix just until fully moistened; do not overmix.

Divide batter into muffin pan. Bake for 20-25 minutes for smaller or 25-30 minutes for larger muffins. Cool for about 10 minutes and remove muffins to a rack to finish cooling.

Squash soup

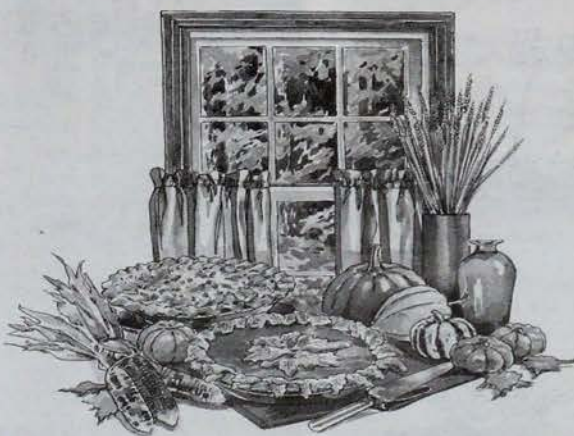
About 1 1/2 qts. chicken or vegetable broth or home-made stock. (A 46 oz. can is about right)

- 1 large or two med. onions, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 1-2 cloves garlic, mashed

1-1/2 - 2 lbs. squash. (You can peel and cut up fresh squash or use frozen chunks. The easy way is to cut squash in half, scoop out seeds, bake or steam and remove flesh when soft.) If you are in a hurry, you can use frozen mashed squash.)

I like to season this soup with a tsp. or two of curry powder, mild or hot, your preference, and a tsp. of ground cumin. If you don't like curry, use thyme and other favorite herbs.

Salt and pepper to taste.



Sauté onions, celery and garlic in a little margarine or butter until soft. Add broth, squash and seasonings, cook until tender, about an hour. Puree in blender, adjust seasoning. Reheat to serve.

(Note: If you are cooking low-fat, 1 or 2 medium potatoes, diced and cooked in with the squash will thicken soup nicely. If you are on a low-carb diet, you can add 1 cup cream stirred into soup when reheating (do not boil.)

Squash pie

An unbaked 9 inch pie shell, your own or bought, or a graham cracker crust

- 1 15 ounce can of squash, or 2 cups cooked or frozen mashed
- 2/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg

- 1/8 tsp. ground cloves
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup cream or non-dairy cream substitute

Mix all ingredients together until smooth. Pour into pastry shell and bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes until knife inserted halfway between center and edge of pie comes out clean. (Center will still be a little jiggly, but will set out of the oven.) Cool pie on a rack.

You can substitute pumpkin in any of these recipes.

A hint left out in last issue: To brown meatballs the easy way; oil or spray a frying pan and get it hot on the stove. Put in meatballs and brown on the bottom for 5-10 minutes, while heating broiler. Slide pan under the broiler to brown the tops of the meatballs and voila! They're ready to go into the sauce with no turning.

Marylyn Graff is food editor and copyeditor at the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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Arts

Providence Singers present 'Creation'

PROVIDENCE — The Providence Singers presents "The Creation," Franz Josef Haydn's most popular choral oratorio, in a special collaboration with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra on Sat., Oct. 23, and Sun., Oct. 24.

Julian Wachner, the Providence Singers' artistic director, conducts the performances on Saturday evening in Providence and on Sunday afternoon in New Haven.

With texts from the first book of Genesis, Milton's Para-

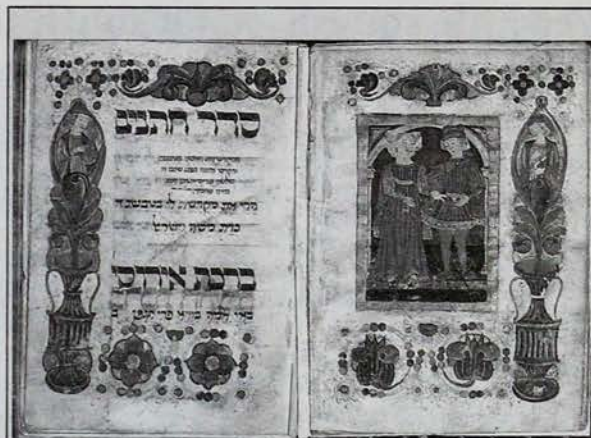
dise Lost, and several psalms, Haydn vividly depicts the biblical story of the Earth's creation. The archangels Gabriel, Raphael, and Uriel and a "heavenly chorus" narrate the tale, which opens in chaos and closes with Adam and Eve's joyous meeting.

The show will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, 30 Fenner St., Providence. Tickets are available through ArtTix: <http://www.ArtTixRI.com> or call 401.621.6123. Admission is \$38 premium seats; \$28 preferred

seats; \$18 standard seats; \$2 discount for seniors and WGBH cardholders (limit 2 per card) and half-price for students.

For more information: <http://www.ProvidenceSingers.org> or call 401-683-1932 or email singers@providencesingers.org.

The show will also be performed at Woolsey Hall in New Haven, CT, on Oct. 24 at 4 p.m. For information, visit <http://www.newhavensymphony.org>.



A Collection of Prayers

A FOLIO of an illuminated manuscript on parchment from Italy, circa 1460, containing a collection of poems and prayers. Sotheby's estimates the manuscript will fetch a price of \$150-\$200,000.

Credit: Sotheby's

Pianists to perform in Tiverton

TIVERTON — "Moonlight Serenade," an evening with duo pianists Shand and Lowenstein will take place at Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Road, Tiverton, on Oct. 27. There will be a sherry hour at 6:30 p.m. with the performance at 7 p.m.

The duo gave live radio broadcasts on WSAR and WALE for many years. They will play retro selections from semi-classical and classical music, including Gershwin, Cole Porter, Leroy Anderson and Rachmaninoff.

For more information, call 624-1880.

Jewish film festival to open

NEWTON, Mass. — The Boston Jewish film festival will be held Nov. 3 to 14.

The schedule and full film descriptions are available at www.bjff.org.

Tickets are now on sale through www.ticketweb.com (or link from www.bjff.org) for all screenings, or call The MFA Box Office at (617)369-3770.

Craft show, sale at JCC

PROVIDENCE — Gallery 401 at the JCC will present "A Mini Show of Hands," a craft show featuring twelve artists from Nov. 7-30.

Some of the artists have exhibited at JCC craft shows before; some are new. Nevertheless, there is a wide selection of holiday and craft items.

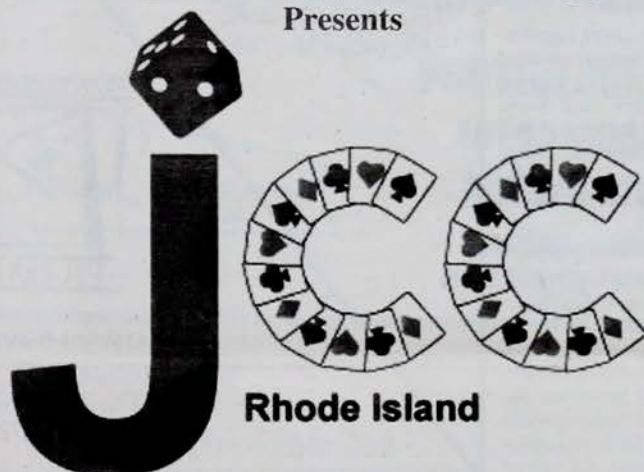
Favorite local artists include: ceramics by Leon Nigrosh, jewelry by Virginia Stevens, hand painted textiles by Sandra Solomon, serving utensils by

Robin Dessler, beaded jewelry by Enid Kagan and Marilyn Kagan, handwoven cloth by Suzi Ballenger, fine art by Judith Klein, painted glass by The Glass Action, and glass art by K4 Glassart.

There will be an opening reception on Sun., Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gallery will be open Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. For further information, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

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HISTORIC PHOTOS — There are 97 black-and-white photographs in the new anthology, *The Jews of Rhode Island*, published by The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. This is a photo of the original site of The Miriam Hospital.

Photo courtesy of R.I. Jewish Historical Association

'Jews of R.I.' anthology released

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association has published an 268-page anthology, *The Jews of Rhode Island*, in cooperation with Brandeis University Press and the University Press of New England. The book celebrates the 50th anniversary of RIJHA's journal, *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, and coincides with the 150th anniversary of Providence's Temple Beth-El and the 350th anniversary of the Jewish arrival in North America.

Spanning the colonial through modern eras, *The Jews of Rhode Island* presents 17 previously published articles (from among 300), two new introductory articles, a detailed timeline, and an extensive bibliography. There are 97 black-and-white photographs.

The Jews of Rhode Island has been coedited by George M. Goodwin, president of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association, and Ellen Smith, associate director of the Gralla Program for Journalists at Brandeis University.

The anthology's purpose is to provide a panoramic view of the Rhode Island Jewish community, which has been one of the most thoroughly studied in North America. *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes* is the longest running journal published by a state or local Jewish historical society.

Dr. David Ellenson, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, has called the book "an invaluable addition to the literature on American Jews and Judaism, and it is particularly welcome in the year that marks the 350th anniversary of Jews in America."

The Jews of Rhode Island sells for \$34.95 and is available in bookstores throughout Rhode Island.

For more information, contact George M. Goodwin at 861-0636 or email geomgood@aol.com.

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Tamarisk hosts Alzheimer benefit, physician talk on breast cancer

WARWICK — Two programs open to the public are planned at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive in Warwick.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, from 5:30-7 p.m., Tamarisk will host

"Cocktails for a Cause," a R.I. Alzheimer's Association benefit. There will be a wine and cheese reception with entertainment by Tony Carlino.

On Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m., William Sikov, MD,

a specialist in hematology and oncology with the University Medicine Foundation at The Miriam Hospital, will speak on "Breast Cancer — the Newest Interventions."

Call Gina to RSVP at 732-0037.

Adoption Options sets program

PROVIDENCE — Adoption Options of Jewish Family Service will host a panel discussion titled "The Many Faces of Adoption: Families Tell their Stories" on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.

The program, intended for people considering adoption, will take place at the Conference Center, 2nd floor of the United

Way building, 229 Waterman St., Providence.

The evening will feature several families discussing their experiences with different adoption agencies and different types of adoption, including, infant, older child, transracial, domestic and international. There

will be a question and answer period. Coffee and dessert will be served.

RSVP at (800) 337-6513 by Tues. Oct. 26. For more info contact Betsy Alper, adoption coordinator or Peg Boyle at 331-5437, (800)337-6513 or email at balper@adoptionoptions.org.

Local event planner 'dresses up' Israel event

By Jonathan Rubin

EAST PROVIDENCE — Not many companies have the chance to offer services to both the Republican and the Democratic National Conventions. But Future Affairs Productions in Rhode Island managed to handle the events for the American

Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) for both conventions.

It was a big step for the East Providence-based group, which had done "themed events" before but never on that scale. Their goal was to take the massive convention hall and "create a patriotic environment" awash in

blue and white, as well as in red, white and blue.

From the Israeli flags on stage to the grand finale balloon drop, "it was a tremendous success," said Terry DelMonico, co-owner of FA.

"When people came in, they immediately came into the emotion of the event" which took place at the World Trade Center in Boston and took nine months to plan.

United Jewish Communities referred the company to AIPAC, the umbrella organization of all of the national Jewish Federations in the United States. The event drew more than 2,000 attendees.



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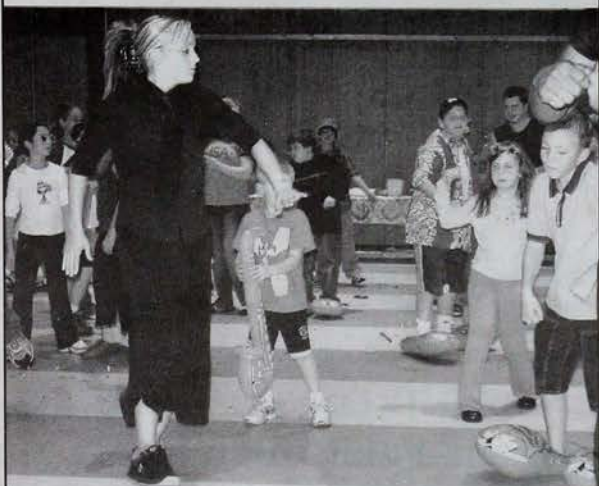
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Party people at the JCC



PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Center became party central on Oct. 2 when Tyler Somberg and Danilo Milevsky celebrated their 11th birthday parties there together.

The two Alperin Schechter students and 40 of their friends danced under the party lights, playing arcade games and dressed up in costumes for the big bash.

Above: An entertainer from Bates Entertainment teaches some dance moves to the kids.

Tyler Degnan, 9, above right, works a pair of hula hoops.

Photos by Eric Rosenthal



Agudas Achim holds ongoing parenting workshop

ATTLEBORO — Congregation Agudas Achim will hold eight monthly parenting workshops at the synagogue. The workshops will combine wisdom on parenting from Jewish texts, with contemporary thinking, in

both a discussion and workshop format.

The classes will be led by Cathie Cruz (LICSW), preschool teacher and parent of two, who will also be using the book "Blessing of a Skinned Knee" by Wendy Mogul.

Classes are from 10 a.m. to noon and meet on the following Sundays:

Oct. 24; Nov. 14; Dec. 12; Jan. 9; Feb. 13; March 13; April 10 and May 15.

Classes are open to anyone, but advance registration is required. Childcare for children under five is available.

Call 508-222-2243 or email Rabbi@Agudasma.org. Congregation Agudas Achim is located at 901 North Main Street in Attleboro.

Whitehouse to address Federation meeting

PROVIDENCE — The boards of the Jewish Federation and its Community Relations Council will hold an open meeting on Monday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Brown Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence.

Guest speaker Sheldon Whitehouse will discuss the separation of powers.

Robbie Mann will also speak on the Federation's pre-campaign assessment.

In addition, there will be a presentation on a Joint Distribution Committee program, Ofek Bagrut, which enables Israeli immigrants to matriculate in university studies.

The meeting is open to the public. To RSVP, call Aimee Gannon at 421-4111, ext 161, or email agannon@jfri.org.

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Jewish creative writing contest

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, CAJE, is offering up to three prizes totaling \$1,000 in its 16th annual David Dornstein Memorial Creative Writing Contest.

Authors aged 18 to 35 are invited to submit a short story with a Jewish theme or topic by Dec. 31. CAJE will have the right to publish the winning submissions. Credit will be given to the author.

Authors should submit a typed, double-spaced manuscript of no more than 5,000 words, which must be an original short

story that has never received an award or been published. Only one entry per author per year is permitted. Stories must be accompanied by a cover sheet with the author's name, address, phone number and the title of the story. A copy of a driver's license or other document to confirm the author's age and a signed statement attesting that the story has not been published, are also required.

Winners will be notified by June 30, 2005.

Send stories to CAJE-Dornstein Contest, 261 West 35th St., Floor 12A, New York, NY 10001.



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PROVIDENCE — Temple Emanu-El's Leisure Club plans the following lectures for its fall semester:

- On Mon., Oct. 25, from 10 to 10:50 a.m., Professor Nancy Schuster will speak on "Hearing Loss and Winning Solutions."

- On Thurs., Oct. 28, Nov. 4 and 18, from 10 to 10:50 a.m., the subject will be "Literature and Insight: Trying to Express Truth in Words" with Bob Hill.

Following a coffee break, the topic from 11:10 a.m. to noon on those days will be "Rebelling

Jews: From Bar Kochba to Bob Dylan" by Miriam Abrams-Stark.

- On Mon., Nov. 1, from 10 to 10:50 a.m., Professor Josh Stein of Roger Williams University, will discuss "Comparison Between Ancient Greek and Biblical Religions."

- On Mon., Nov. 8, from 10 to 10:50 a.m., Professor Michael Fink will speak on "Gilbert Stuart and his Portrayal of the Jews of Newport."

- On Mon., Nov. 15, from 10 to 10:50 a.m., Professor Phil

Rosen will discuss "Modern Culture and Film."

- On Mon., Nov. 22, from 10 to 10:50 a.m., Lev Poplow's subject will be "The Jewish Soul."

After a coffee break, from 11:10 a.m. to noon on Oct. 25 through Nov. 22, Dr. Steven Kane will present "Sights and Sounds of the Swing Era."

Membership in the Emanu-El Leisure Club is open to all seniors regardless of temple affiliation. For more information, call the temple at 331-1616.

Library to show Israeli-Palestinian film

EAST PROVIDENCE — The film "Promises" will be shown on Sun., Oct. 24, at 1:30 p.m. at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove Ave., East Providence. It is the first event in The Human Rights Video Project.

"Promises" is an award-winning film and compelling look at the Middle East conflict through the eyes of seven Palestinian and Israeli children.

Joshua Rubenstein, North-

east Regional Director of Amnesty International, and an associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, will facilitate a discussion following the film.

The library is one of 50 libraries selected to participate in the program organized by National Video Resources, in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA). The

project is supported by a major grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Refreshments will be available during the program. This program is free and open to all.

For details and a description of all the films, visit www.eastprovidencelibrary.org or contact Joyce May, 435-1986, and/or joycemy@lori.state.ri.us.**Lecture on the 10 Commandments at JCC**

PROVIDENCE — Rabbi Gedalia Fleer will lecture on the Ten Commandments at the Jewish Community Center on Sun., Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. The lec-

ture will be based on the teachings of the Jewish sages.

Rabbi Fleer studied at several yeshivas in New York and

was ordained in Jerusalem in 1960. For several years he served as executive vice-president of Al Tidom for Soviet Jewry.



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Community

Social workshops at Agudas Achim

ATTLEBORO — Congregation Agudas Achim is working in conjunction with Jewish Family Service (JFS) to run one-session support/information sessions. Dan Kane, a social worker at JFS will lead the programs, which are open to the community.

"It brings JFS's services into our area and helps us provide more ways for people to connect

and for us to do outreach," said Rabbi Elyse Wechterman.

The programs will take place every other Tuesday night from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Upcoming programs are:

- Grief and Loss from a Jewish perspective (Nov. 2)

- The Sandwich Generation: Caring for the caregiver (Nov. 16)

- Healthy relationships: Couples and Partners (Nov. 30)
- Parenting Teens (Dec. 14)

Cost is \$12 per session or \$50 for all five. Discounts for Agudas members.

Call 508-222-2243 or email Rabbi@Agudasma.org. Congregation Agudas Achim is located at 901 North Main Street in Attleboro.

Kibbutz needs musical instruments

Kibbutz Yizrael in the Afula-Gilboa region of Israel — Rhode Island's sister region in the Partnership 2000 Program —

has started a music school which provides lessons to children throughout the region.

If anyone has any unused

instruments that they would be willing to donate, contact Carol Levitt at clevitt79@yahoo.com. or call 934-2833.

Israeli economist to speak at Brown Hillel

Dr. Jonathan Spyer, a research fellow at the Center for Global Research in International Affairs at the Inter-Disciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel will speak at Brown Hillel on Wed., Oct. 27. The 7 p.m. lecture will take place in Wilson 101 on the Brown campus.

Dr. Spyer holds a PhD from the London School of Economics

and an MS in Modern Politics of the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies. He has lived in Israel for the past 13 years, and was an official of the Israeli Government Press and special advisor on international affairs to the Israeli Cabinet.

His analyses of Israeli foreign policy and the Arab-Israeli conflict have appeared in a variety of journals worldwide.

At Brown, Dr. Spyer will lecture on the latest developments in Israeli politics, touching on an emerging consensus concerning the conflict with the Arab world and the erosion of old ideologies, among other timely topics in this field.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

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Are you my prince? DJF, 5'5", slim, curly hair, seeking a financially and emotionally secure prince, 55-65, to laugh and enjoy the moment with. Golf, movies, walks, sunsets. I'll be waiting. ♀49006

I'll take romance. Blonde, 5'6", slim artist, good sense of humor, fun-loving, varied interests, seeking n/s, light drinker, physically and mentally fit, late 50s+, who's looking for sincere relationship, friend, more. ♀49012

Musician wanted to play upon my heart strings! Attractive, fit, adventurous, curious, affectionate, energetic, creative, intelligent, curious, cuddly and kissable WJPF, 5'4", brown/brown, emotionally and financially secure, seeking similar Gentleman, 49-60. ♀49011

WJF, extremely attractive, vivacious, good SOH, intelligent, cultured, likes sports, theater and traveling. You are 65-75, 5'10"+, healthy and looking for a Lady you can be proud of. ♀49061

Male seeking Female

A mitzvah machine. SJM, 39, sensitive, loving, personable, traditional, vibrant, passionate, writer and teacher, loves sports, dogs, intimate times with family and friends, intelligent conversations. Seeking a Woman with similar background. ♀49013

Attractive, adventurous, charming DJM, classy, witty, secure, stimulating, sensitive, interesting, seeks a JF, 59-70, taller, H/W/P, healthy, SOH, upbeat, eclectic, spontaneous, together, caring, for friendship, relationship... life's pleasures! ♀49004

English Jewish chap, cute, cuddly, caring, sensitive, professional, 50s, 5'10", 175 lbs, easygoing, nice-looking, variety of interests, relocatable, seeks professional, outgoing, sincere, kindhearted, marriage-minded Female, 40-55. Animal lover a plus. (NY) ♀49000

Handsome, sincere, intelligent, romantic, faithful, communicative vegetarian. Israeli DJPM, 48, 5'8", lean, Phoenix resident, enjoys music, nature, exercising, conversations and reading. Seeking soulmate, S/DF, 30-48, good-looking, health-conscious, nonmaterialistic, relocatable. Friends first. ♀49005

Male, 63, Widower, retired, likes fishing. Seeking a Woman who is caring, passionate, 55-65, for a LTR. No head games. ♀49063

Seeking love, romance. DWJM, 58 (look mid-40s), 5'8", 175 lbs, fit, n/s, varied interests, open-minded, emotionally and financially secure, seeking a WF, slim, 40-55, emotionally secure. Let's talk soon! ♀49002

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SWM, 32, 5'8", 215 lbs, brown/brown. You want lots of love and affection from someone who's sweet, mature, good listener and more. You must be marriage-minded. No games. Kids ok. (IN) ♀49062

SWM, 72, 6'6", 250 lbs, n/s, n/d, many interests... especially movies and dining out. Seeking a Lady, 55+. ♀49007

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AS WE GROW OLDER Technology and I

Technology, heralded as the great advancement of our time, has managed to create a barrier between the generations.



Tema Gouse

Let's consider cameras, cell phones, telephone aids, and of course, computers.

My high school graduation present from my father was a Kodak camera. I loved and used it for nearly 20 years. The pictures were poor and faded quickly. The camera was discarded when Nikons became the photographer's delight. Usage was complicated and Mr. G. took over the family photography.

My grandchildren own a digital camera. They look through a viewer, press a button. They can see the picture immediately, transfer it to their computer and send copies of the picture to anyone else who has a computer. All this without taking film to the drugstore and at no cost.

I have been paying monthly charges on my cell phone for nearly 15 years, but have used it only three times; all in the last year. Once I used it when I had a flat tire. Another time I called a friend to tell her I would be

late. Once I tried it just to see if it really worked. This gadget was purchased at the behest of a caring son who felt we should keep it in the car for "emergencies." No real emergencies have occurred, so usage is sparse. (Besides, the phone is usually in the other car.)

But usage of this invention has really expanded. Cell phone calls are made from stores, restaurants, automobiles and endless other places. There are four members in my older son's family. So they have four cell phones. And when Sammy (the family dog) learns to speak they plan to get him one so he need never be lonely.

Today most houses have a phone in every room. Calls are made by pushing buttons to connect with the desired party. Dial phones went out with the sixties, but these new phones are much smarter. Something called Caller ID identifies the phone number of the caller and in whose name that number is registered. "Call-waiting" signals you when you are on the line to tell you that somebody else (usually a telemarketer) is trying to reach you. An "answering machine" accepts messages for you when you are away from home. We have learned to take these things for granted but we forget when communication was only possible through two talkers, some wire and the clumsy phone.

The mixed blessing of advancing technology was the invention of "Voice Mail". It is corporate America's very successful evasion of service to consumers. When consumers have a grievance and try to contact providers, they are NEVER responded to with a live voice.

Instead a pre-recorded voice gives you options for connections you can make by pushing phone button 1,2,3, etc. But the options that are listed are rarely relevant to the purpose of your call.

I am compiling a list of businesses that still have humans answer the phone and am planning to publish it. It should be a best seller.

And there is MY worst enemy—the computer. I should never have agreed to discard my typewriter. To be computer competent, one must begin practicing before kindergarten. You also must have the courage to just shut down the d--- thing whenever it locks up, (which is frequently). Be prepared to be admonished on-screen when next you start up the computer for not following suggested closing procedure.

Pushing wrong buttons means losing data. I am told that it is never really lost. "It is in the machine somewhere". But retrieving it is almost impossible. That is why this is the second writing of these words of wisdom. (I kid you not. The first writing is "somewhere" in the computer but it is playing hide-and-seek with me. I lost; the machine is the Master).

I hand-write these sets of thoughts in 45-60 minutes but putting them on a disc so the editor can read them takes nearly three hours.

Which merely confirms what old ladies say. New is not always better. I would just like to know how my telephone knows the names and phone numbers of my callers when I have so much trouble finding anything in the Yellow Pages.

Tema Gouse is a regular columnist and lives in Cranston.

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Wedding

PAWTUCKET — Edward and Merna Siff, of Worcester, Mass., announce the wedding of their daughter, Dahlia, of Pawtucket, to John Kalvinek of Sutton, Mass., on July 3 at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, Mass.

The bride received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's degree in communication disorders from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. She is employed as a speech/language pathologist by the Providence School Department.

The bridegroom, son of the late Andrew and Barbara Kalvinek, received an electrical engineering certificate from Central New England College. He is employed by EMC as a computer technician.

Following an Alaskan honeymoon cruise, the couple is residing in Sutton.

Birth

Dr. Bruce and Bori Fischer of Boca Raton, Fla., announce the birth of their son, **Ben Solomon Fischer**, on Aug. 17. The baby weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz.

He is named after his paternal great-grandfather, Solomon Fischer. The Fischers also have an older son, David.

Paternal grandparents are Charles and Billie Fischer of Cranston. Maternal grandparents are Gabor Kadar and Sylvia Lugosi of Budapest, Hungary.



Mr. and Mrs. Jason H. Deutsch
Wedding

WARWICK — Jason H. Deutsch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Deutsch of Warwick, and Pamela Ackerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ackerman, also of Warwick, were married on May 29 at the Hyatt Regency in Newport. Rabbi George J. Astrachan officiated.

The bride, a graduate of Fisher College, Boston, is employed by VPA, Inc., of Calabasas, Calif.

The bridegroom graduated from Rhode Island College and is employed by Gozing.com in Encino, Calif.

Following a wedding trip to San Francisco, the couple will reside in Reseda, Calif.

Providence student attends Brandeis summer program

Susan Landau, daughter of Robert and Lesley Landau of Providence, a student at Classical High School, was selected to participate in the month-long Genesis program for outstanding Jewish students this past summer at Brandeis University.

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Miriam R. Plitt

Named to board

PAWTUCKET — Miriam R. Plitt has been named chairperson of the American Heart Association, R.I. Division, Board of Directors. She is marketing director for Coventry Credit Union.

Plitt is a member of Temple Emanu-El and a past president and life member of Hadassah; a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association and the National Council of Jewish Women.

She is a graduate of NYU and Rhode Island College.

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Obituaries

Influential economist Herschel Grossman, 65

PROVIDENCE — Herschel Grossman, 65, of Everett Avenue, an economics researcher, editor, and Brown University's Merton P. Stoltz Professor in the Social Sciences, died Oct. 9 while attending an academic conference in Marseilles, France.

Mr. Grossman was the husband of Suzanne (Oringel) Grossman. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he was a son of the late Samuel and Celia (Cohen) Grossman.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Rebecca Gruber of Arlington, Mass.; a son, Andrew Grossman of Seekonk; three stepchildren, Gary and Donna Goldman and Nancy Friedman; a grandson and four step-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Oct. 24, at 3 p.m. at the Brown University Hillel Center, 80 Brown St. A recep-

tion will follow.

Mr. Grossman joined the Brown faculty in 1964, was appointed the Merton P. Stoltz Professor in 1980, and had served as department chairman from 1982 to 1985 and 1986 to 1991.

Much of his early academic work was in the area of Keynesian macroeconomics — specifically, an attempt to understand the process through which monetary policy, as carried out by central banks like the Federal Reserve, affects such economic variables as unemployment and the level of output.

His model of disequilibrium macroeconomics — developed jointly with Robert Barro — provided a rigorous analytic foundation for understanding how the failure of price and wages to adjust in a manner that equalized supply and demand could lead to such diverse phenomena as unemployment, inflation and the

shortages of goods that plagued socialist economies.

In his most recent research, he had been studying appropriative conflict, struggles between individuals or groups over the definition of property rights. Mr. Grossman had been named a Guggenheim Fellow and a Russell Sage Foundation visiting scholar, and a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

At Brown, he also was the academic liaison for the football team and participated in the recruiting of student athletes.

After attending Central High School, in Philadelphia, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Oxford University, in England, and his doctoral degree from Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore.

He enjoyed gardening, art and architecture.

He leaves two brothers, Rabbi Joel Braude of Silver Spring, Md., and Benjamin Braude of Northampton, Mass.; two nephews and two nieces.

Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Reservoir Ave., Providence.

Shirley Cohen

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Shirley Cohen, 84, formerly of Providence, died Oct. 6. She was the wife of the late Leonard Cohen.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Ida (Teplitzky) Genser, she lived in the city for many years before moving to Asheville 20 years ago.

Mrs. Cohen graduated from Hope High School and attended the University of Rhode Island.

During World War II she volunteered as a Red Cross driver.

She was a member of the former Temple Beth Torah.

She leaves a son, Arthur Robb-Cohen of Asheville; a daughter, Karen Karten of Oakland, Calif.; a brother, Howard Genser of De Land, Fla.; and a granddaughter.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the American Lung Association of R.I., 298 West Exchange St., Providence 02903.

Rhoda Koozman

THE VILLAGES, FLA. — Rhoda Edith Koozman, 80, formerly of Providence, died Oct. 11. She was the wife of the late Charles Koozman.

Born in New York City, the daughter of the late Meyer and

Rose (Sampson) Gershowitz, she lived in Great Neck, Long Island, and in Providence before moving to Florida in 2002.

She attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Koozman had owned several antique and antique jewelry stores in Great Neck.

She is survived by a son, Brad Koozman of The Villages. She was the mother of the late Rena A. Koozman, and the sister of the late Irving and Harold Gerard.

Entombment was at Swan Point Cemetery, Providence. Contributions may be made to Butler Hospital, O.C.D. Program, c/o Steven A. Rasmussen MD, 345 Blackstone Blvd., Providence, RI 02906.

Ida Shaw

PROVIDENCE — Ida Lovit Shaw, 89, died Oct. 6. She was the wife of the late Joseph Shaw.

Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Morris and Bella (Goldfarb) Lovit, she lived in Fall River and Boynton Beach, Fla., before moving to Providence in 1996.

Mrs. Shaw was a graduate of BMC Durfee High School in Fall River and the Beth Israel School of Nursing in Boston.

She was a member of Temple Beth El and its Sisterhood in Fall River and of Temple Beth-El in Providence. She was a life member of Hadassah.

She leaves a son, Michael Shaw of Sudbury, Mass., a daughter, Eileen Horwitz of Providence; a brother, Harry Lovit of Fall River; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Burial was in Temple Beth El Cemetery, Fall River.

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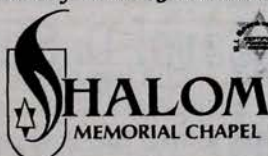
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Daniel Braude

WALTHAM, Mass. — Daniel Braude, 56, formerly of Providence, a food merchandiser, died Oct. 4.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Rabbi William G. Braude and Pearl (Finkelstein) Braude, he had lived in Boston most of his life.

Mr. Braude was a graduate of Hope High School in Providence and a 1972 graduate of Curry College in Milton, Mass.

He served in the Rhode Island National Guard in the late 1960s.

He was a great fan of the Boston Red Sox.

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My Voice organ donation: the gift that keeps on living

By Marjorie Ingall

For me, one of the great tragedies of pregnancy is being unable to donate blood. Oh, how I love giving blood. I love the free cookies. I love the sanctioned procrastination. (Article due? Open a vein! I used to give myself a pore-cleansing facial, or clean the bathroom, but this is so much more virtuous!) I love that at NYU Hospital, my usual plasma "pumpenplatz," I often get a free Loews pass, good for a movie and popcorn. I love knowing that something so easy for me can do so much good for others. My gay brother, my husband who lived in England, my petite sister-in-law and my pals who pass out every time they see a needle can't donate. But for me, bopping into that office and seeing those two-year-old ratty copies of Condé Nast Traveler is pure joy.

So why am I not an organ donor?

Post-mortem organ donation hurts way less than giving blood. When you've got no functioning brain stem, you really don't care what your body's up to. Why not give your functioning parts to someone who'd die without them? But when I got my driver's license, I placed that teeny round sticker on the back, then removed it, placed it and removed it. Why? Would I be beckoning the evil eye by saying, "Come and get it?" Did I want to delay a talk I knew I should have with my family because it just seemed like such an icky subject? ("Hi, have some bakka, and let's talk about my possible brain death!") I've never been particularly interested in Judaism's rules about desecrating one's body: I'm pierced and tattooed. My only rationale was full-on unpleasantness avoidance.

My father was on a heart and kidney transplant list. He had his first heart attack at 39. Throughout his life, he had multiple surgeries and took several metric tons of pills. He had periods of great health (a couple of days before a major heart operation in 1996, he biked from Providence to Boston; back then, he had better legs than a Swedish supermodel), but his last seven months were not good.

He was on dialysis four days a week. He couldn't leave the vicinity of Massachusetts General Hospital, so he was unable to travel to visit us in New York. But every time we would visit him, I'd be struck by how weak he was. He needed to rest all the time. His hands shook. He was covered in black bruises. His eyes were often unfocused. It was hard to follow his train of thought. He was frequently demanding and angry. And I could not stand seeing how my mom suffered.

The odds of Dad getting a transplant were not great. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing, there are currently 86,058 people waiting for organs in this country. Last year, there were 6,200 post-mortem transplants. Every day, 17 people die while waiting for a heart, kidney, liver, lung or pancreas that just isn't available.

And we Jews have the worst record



UNITED NETWORK FOR ORGAN SHARING

of organ donation of all religious groups. We take, but we don't give. As a result, it's harder than ever to get a transplant in Israel.

Why don't we donate? I spoke to Rabbi Elliott Dorff, rector and professor of philosophy at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles and chairman of Conservative Judaism's Committee on Laws and Standards. "Huge numbers of people think organ donation is against Jewish law," he said. "They think it violates *k'vod ba-met*, the principle of honor being due to a dead body. But the principle of *k'vod ba-met* and the overriding principle of saving a life, *pikuach nefesh*, actually go hand in hand. Saving a life is such a sacred value in Judaism, if a deceased person's organ can save someone else's life, that is an honor to the deceased."

Dorff added that many Jews think they have to be buried whole in order to be resurrected, which is simply folklore. Some may worry that if their doctors

know they're donating organs, they may not get the best care at the end of their lives. "But American laws require that the doctors who treat you are different from the ones who do organ transplant," Dorff pointed out.

Perhaps most importantly to the family, the process doesn't delay a traditional Jewish burial; the body is ready the next day. In 1997, the Conservative movement declared that to make your organs available on your death is a mitzvah, in the old-school sense — not just a good thing to do, but a positive duty.

Definition of death

For modern medicine and for Judaism, the central question surrounding organ donation is this: When do we die? The Talmud defines death as when a feather held beneath the nose doesn't move, and when an ear pressed to the chest can't detect a heartbeat. But what does that mean in our more technologically advanced era?

In the 1960s, the Reform and Conservative movements declared that brain death, the irreversible loss of electrical impulses from the brain after the destruction of the brain stem, meets the halachic definition of death. That makes organ donation permissible. (For organs to be transplanted, the body must be kept alive by artificial means, because when its tissues are deprived of oxygen, they become unusable.)

In 1989, Israel's chief rabbinate agreed with this definition. The Rabbinical Council of America, speaking for the Modern Orthodox rabbinate, followed suit in 1991. But Agudath Israel of America, an advocacy group representing the traditional wing of Orthodoxy, says that there's still too much uncertainty; since some Orthodox rabbis feel that if the heart beats, even if the brain is dead and no one ever has recovered from brain death (which is not to be confused with coma), removing organs would constitute murder. Agudath Israel therefore recommends that each person talk to his or her own rabbi about whether donation is permissible. (But even Orthodox Jews who don't accept brain death as death still can donate corneas, which are transplantable for 24 hours after the heart stops.)

Halachic Organ Donor Society

Another Orthodox group that supports post-mortem organ donation of all sorts is the Halachic Organ Donor Society. (Its acronym, HOD, is the Hebrew word for "glory.") It was founded two-and-a-half years ago with financial support from the parents of Alisa Flatow, a 20-year-old American Orthodox girl who was killed in a 1995 suicide bombing in Israel. Her organs changed the lives of six people on Israel's transplant waiting lists.

Rabbis of all denominations can address this issue with their congregations in November, at the ninth annual Department of Health and Human Services National Donor Sabbath. (Start your sermons now!) Donor Sabbath, always held two weekends before Thanksgiving, is designed to educate people of all faiths about organ donation. Synagogues can invite speakers and hold donor drives, awareness workshops and health fairs. We all can talk to our families about our wishes, and sign Jewish donor cards. (Downloadable ones are on HOD's Web site, www.hods.org, and on the Union for Reform Judaism's Web site, www.uahc.org.)

It's a bummer that I can't give blood now that I'm pregnant. But I can do something far greater, if the unthinkable happened. People who donate organs after death are heroes. How can I be a coward, especially after my dad's experience?

[Editor's note: Michael Ingall died on Aug. 12.]

Marjorie Ingall, originally from Providence, is a regular columnist for the Jewish newspaper, the Forward, where this article originally appeared. Reprinted with permission. She can be reached at mamele@forward.com.

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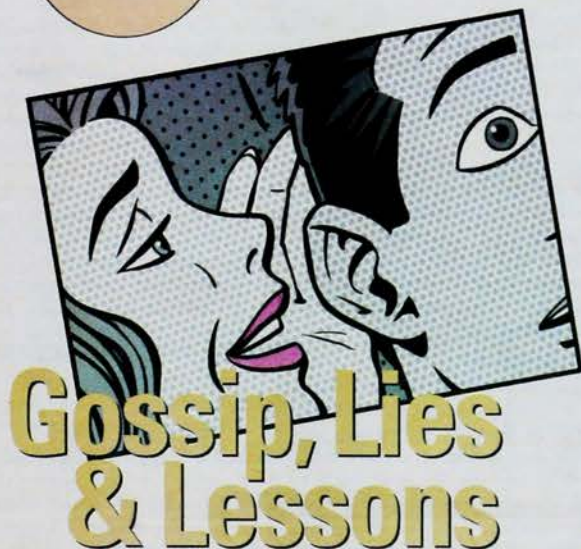
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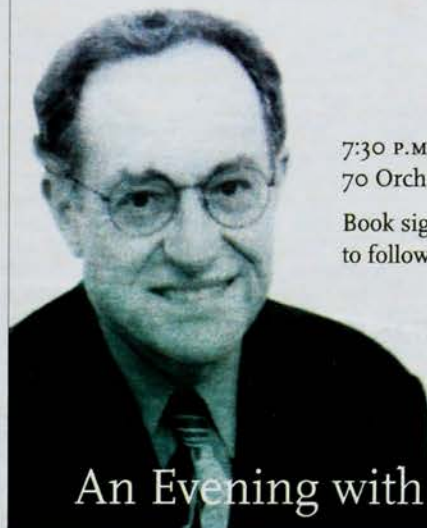
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A Supplement of the Jewish Voice/Herald Newspaper



Bar/Bat Mitzvah Bookshelf**'Putting God on the Guest List'**

Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah, by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin. Woodstock, Vt., Jewish Lights, 1992.

By Judith S. Greenblatt

This book made its first appearance over ten years ago. Ever since then it has been used by rabbis, cantors and educators, both in classes of Bar and Bat Mitzvah students, and with individual students. And with good reason. Reacting to emphasis on and the extravagance of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah party, Rabbi Salkin wrote this book to help people find their way to a greater understanding of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience.

Included in the book are chapters on the history of the Bar Mitzvah ceremony, why parents and grandparents cry at Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, the meaning of Torah, and

putting the party in perspective.

He addresses the religiously skeptical Jewish parent. He provides help in understanding the Shabbat morning service. He talks about the changing Jewish family.

At the end of each chapter there is a question that will help the reader integrate the material presented.

Also included are two very important appendices, one providing the information non-Jews should know about the Bar and Bat Mitzvah service, and one providing a list of places for tzedakah.

Rabbi Salkin also provides a list of resources for further study about questions raised in the book, as well as a glossary.

Judith S. Greenblatt is the Director of Library Services, Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.

'One Bar/Bat Mitzvah, hold the camels'

(MitzvahChic by Gail Anthony Greenberg, Paperback: 240 pages MitzvahChic Publisher; 2003)

The book *MitzvahChic* states that—especially since 9/11—people want their important celebrations to be a powerful shared experience, and a moment of real connection to friends, family and what matters in life.

The book shows, among many general topics, how to host parties that are about who we are, the passions we have and how best to share it all with others.

According to author Gail Anthony Greenberg, milestone parties—the weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, and other very personal events—are not frivolities but are loaded with significance. Simply inviting someone or being invited affirms the importance of your relationship.

MitzvahChic shows eight complete parties—some with invitation ideas and special activities—based on important human values and experiences.

One entitled "Beginnings" is an invitation to contemplate how often new beginnings happen in life and how positive change can be...even though we all resist it. The centerpiece is a lit-up tree in a Tuscan-finish pot decorated with cartouches of baby footprints. (Instructions on making the pot are in the book.)

Other symbols of new beginnings are a bird's nest with eggs at the tree base, a wire baby bassinet holding photos, seeds scattered over the table and a "desktop garden" party favor.



TUSCAN POT with footprint



Small inscribed candles light up the table

The party favor showcases the partner website (www.MitzvahChic.com). Hosts who want to create this party favor go there to find links to all

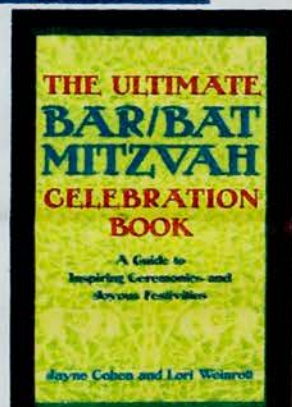
the materials needed, and also to download sheets of the ready-to-customize-and-print round labels.

This book is the ultimate

(The Ultimate Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebration Book, A Guide to Inspiring Ceremonies and Joyous Festivities, by Jayne Cohen and Lori Weinrott, Clarkson Potter Publishers, 280 pps. March 2004.)

In this book Jewish food and culture writer Jayne Cohen and event planner Lori Weinrott explain how parents can create a celebration that truly reflects their traditions and their child's personality.

Cohen and Weinrott use their expertise to demystify every aspect of planning the big day—from synagogue facilities, Torah



portions, and the timing of the ceremony to working with a tutor and special mitzvah projects.

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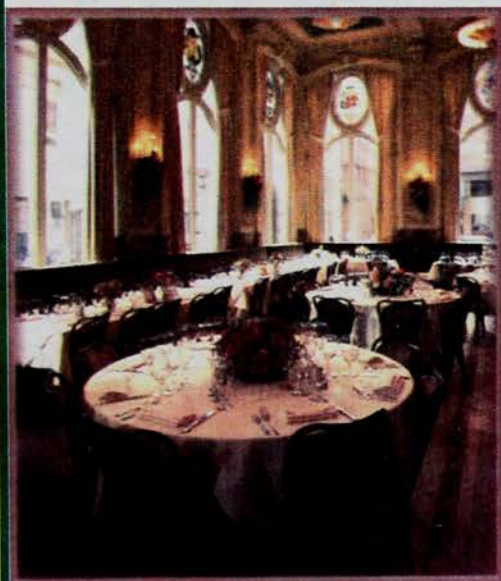
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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

Advice from the 'experts'

The Jewish Voice & Herald asked students at the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of R.I. to offer some helpful advice to upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah students.

Here's what they had to say:



Brian Veltri, Warwick



Mira Sand, Warwick



Jeff Botwick, East Greenwich



Mary Rothenmich, Providence

"Try not to fall asleep on the Bimah."

"Don't drink a lot of water before the service."

"Don't spit out the wine."

"When the rabbi is talking to you, smile and nod."



Michaela Miller, Providence

"Don't look at your mother, she may be crying."



Eitan Levine, Providence

"It's your service, do what you want with it."



Jeremy Gertz, East Greenwich

"Don't drop the Torah."



Aaron Guttin, Cranston

"Make sure you know what the rabbi is going to say about you, so you know what to expect."

Photos by Richard Walter

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

A Bar Mitzvah in Israel: the woes and wonders

By Brian Blum

JERUSALEM — As soon as I heard that sixteen family members were coming from overseas to Amir's Bar Mitzvah, I knew we had to do something special.

First of all, sixteen people coming to Israel in these days when the country is still perceived as a threat to life and limb is worth celebrating with a significant dose of joy and appreciation. But once they got here, what would we do with everyone? Sure, the main event — the Bar Mitzvah itself — was a good start. And there was a party the following night.

But I wanted to create something that would provide our visitors — some of whom were on their first ever trip to Israel — more of a taste into why we love it here, why raising a Bar Mitzvah boy in Israel is so meaningful to us, and why we stay...despite all the difficulties (and make no mistake about it, life here is difficult). In short, I wanted to give our guests an AHA Moment...you know what I mean: that point

when a click goes off in your head and you just "get it."

Day trips

And so my wife Jody and I began planning. We organized several day trips around the country.

There were group meals to order for the days we were in town. Kugels and herring to buy for the Kiddush on Shabbat. I worked with the band to play just the right mix of Bar Mitzvah music and rock and roll at the

I built a PowerPoint presentation of embarrassing baby photos while Amir practiced reading his parshah (the Torah portion of the week).

party. I built a PowerPoint presentation of embarrassing baby photos while Amir practiced reading his

parshah (the Torah portion of the week).

All this while staying on top of airport arrivals that spanned a full week, then dealing with the crusty bed and breakfast proprietor who routinely botched most of our reservations.

This was one serious logistical operation. As the week progressed, though, our planning paid off. The parade of pre-Bar Mitzvah events proceeded without a hitch



and I began to hear what I had dreamed of for so long: those tell-tale sighs, murmurs and oohs. Little by little, the magic of this place was working. Our guests were really "getting it."

The only problem was: I wasn't getting mine. You see, I had been so busy with all the planning and the coordinating that I got lost in the details. The bus driver needed directions. Restaurant reservations had to be confirmed. Deadlines...timelines... Where was my AHA Moment?

Shabbat morning finally came. The big day: the reason for all of this. We arrived in shul on time (for once).

But I was still in host mode. The gabbai needed to know who to call up for aliyot to the Torah, and in what order. Did everyone have a tallit? Had all the herring been properly toothpicked?

And so I wasn't at all ready for the wave of emotion that practically bowled me over when Amir finally took to the Bimah to say the blessings on his own aliyah for the very first time. I had imagined this as just another event among the many that had taken place or were still to come. But it wasn't.

When he concluded his final blessings and everyone started throwing Hershey's kisses and other sweets at him, I felt like he had crossed a threshold.

During dinner the night before, Amir asked if he could lead the zimun, the invitation to the benching — the grace after

meals — that you're only able to do if you're thirteen or over. I was unsure. "Why not?" Amir asked. "I'm thirteen already." The truth was, I didn't know what the Jewish law said in this case. Could he do this before the Bar Mitzvah ceremony itself? Or was this something that needed to wait?

Ultimately, I decided I wanted to do it myself, one time at least, as our entire family was gathered for the festive meal. The next morning, as Amir ducked under his tallit to avoid the hailstorm of projectile candy,

I realized why I had hesitated. His becoming Bar Mitzvah wasn't just another event. He had, in a single instant, been transformed. Like at a wedding. One minute you're single, the next you're married. He had gone from boy to man with the utterance of a word.

And I was so proud of him. It wasn't the same feeling I'd have if he'd studied hard and aced an exam. Rather it was because he had joined me in the world of adults. He'd become my equal in the responsibilities placed on him by the Jewish community.

And that's how I finally got my own very personal, very special, quite extraordinary AHA Moment.

Brian Blum is a writer living in Jerusalem. He writes a syndicated column "This Normal Life" which is published in several Jewish newspapers and is available online at www.ThisNormalLife.com.



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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

Add tikkun olam to your simcha

By Danny Siegel

How can we add that special ingredient of tikkun olam or fixing the world to our upcoming simcha so that many more people can benefit from our happiness and joy?

Start by asking yourself a few questions. We all know the Four Questions, but here is a different set of four questions. First, ask yourself: What are the other person's (the person we want to help) needs? Then, and only then, should we ask the Four Questions.

1. What am I good at?

2. What do I like to do?

3. What bothers me so much about what is wrong in the world that I weep or scream in anger and frustration, or am speechless at the horror of it?

4. Whom do I know?

5. And finally— Why not? What can I do right now? Your list might look like this:

No. 1 — May include: giving big hugs, playing soccer, baking chocolate chip cookies, talking on the phone for hours, being a computer whiz, or drawing or painting the most beautiful pictures.

No. 2 — In order to answer what you like to do, you will have to think a little bit more. What activities give you the most pleasure? Can you sit and read for hours? Are you really excited about playing the guitar or keyboard?

No. 3 — What bothers you? Are we tired of hearing that there are untold numbers of



DANNY SIEGEL says kids can save the world

kids who go to bed hungry every night? Are you enraged when you think about what terrible things happened when the World Trade Center was attacked? Do you feel uncomfortable when you visit a nursing home and see so many people just sitting and staring into space?

No. 4 — The classic example of "Whom do I know?" After the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001 we saw unprecedented giving and helping from all parts of the country. The late George Harrison of Beatles' fame went one step further. He remembered how his own father, a firefighter in his native England, put his life on the line every time he went out to fight a fire and then used the "Whom Do I Know" principle to raise tens of millions of dollars for relief for fallen firefighters. How did he do

it? He called all of his friends.

Do you know someone who enjoys playing a musical instrument as much as you do and would like to join you in a concert at a local nursing home?

Are you and your friends ace soccer players who could teach kids at a homeless shelter how to play?

No. 5 — "Why Not?" is generally the easiest of all. Almost always the answer is, "There's no real reason why not. So, let's do it."

Danny Siegel is an author and poet who founded the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, Inc. (www.ziv.org).

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

First-time Torah readers can create personal yad



Charlotte Sheer

By Charlotte Sheer

A special pointer is used for reading from the Torah scroll. It is called a yad, Hebrew for hand, a reference to the pointing finger shape found at its end. The yad is used not only to help keep the reader's place, but also to protect the sacred parchment from contact with the human hand.

Teachers can integrate this activity with a visual literacy lesson on the origin of the yad as the representation of a royal scepter. According to *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Symbols* (Frankel and Teutsch, 1995), Jewish artisans of the 16th century used royal garb as the model on which the "majesty of God and the Torah" were based. This is the origin not only

of the yad, but also of the crown-like Torah handle-covers and the beautiful mantle that dresses the scroll.

Many materials have been used to make the yad, including wood, ivory, and precious metals. A young person preparing to read Torah for the first time might enjoy creating a special, personal yad for the occasion.

Level: Intermediate

Materials:

plastic flexible straw
masking tape
plaster cloth (such as Rigid Wrap® which can be purchased where craft supplies are sold)
thin cord or 1/8 inch wide ribbon
colored pony beads
Hebrew letter beads (optional – available through Judaic crafts suppliers and some bead specialty stores)
silver or gold metallic spray paint
clear acrylic seal coat spray
newspaper
pencil
shallow plastic bowl with 1 inch depth of water

What You'll Do:

1. Bend the straw at its flex point so the short end touches the rest of the straw. Tape in place.
2. Cut 3 pieces of plaster cloth, which measure 2 inches



PERSONAL YAD makes a special touch

Photo by Charlotte Sheer

longer than the taped length of straw.

3. *Caution: Plaster cloth will begin to dry within 4 or 5 minutes of wetting, so you must work quickly and carefully.*

Follow package directions for moistening and applying plaster cloth. Be careful not to saturate the strips. The more plaster that stays in the strips, the better!

4. Wrap the straw lengthwise with one strip at a time, leaving 1 inch extra at each end.

5. On one end, form a loop by wrapping material away from the straw end, around a pencil, and back against the end of the straw. Squeeze gently to make it stick together. Leave the pencil in place until plaster cloth begins to harden.

6. On the opposite end of the straw, gently twist and form the extra 1 inch of material into a point, to replicate a pointing finger. Wrap it on itself if more thickness or less length is desired.

7. Small "band aid" strips of plaster cloth may be cut, wet, and added as needed to even out the surface of the yad.

8. Let yad dry completely on newspaper, 1 to 2 days

depending on conditions.

9. Spray paint completely. Let dry.

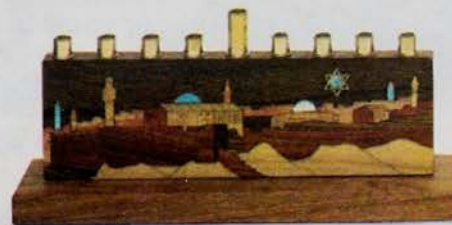
10. Seal the metallic paint by spraying an acrylic coating. Let dry.

11. Thread a piece of ribbon or cord through the loop and add beads, as desired.

Use Hebrew letter beads to personalize with the name of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah child. Knot the ends together.

Charlotte Sheer is a fourth-grade lead teacher at The Rashi School in Newton, Mass., and was the Judaic art specialist for more than 16 years at Temple Beth-El in Providence. She lives in Foxboro.

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

Oy klezmer! From the shtetls to the suburbs

By Mary Korr

"Klezmer, the music of Eastern European instrumentalists, hearkens back to an earlier time," said Fishel Bressler of Providence. The Fishel Bressler Klezmer & Hasidic Ensemble and his Orthodox group, Tzahala (Rejoicing), play at events throughout the region.

The lively dance music arrived in this country at the turn of the last century along with the great influx of Eastern European Jews. If the first generation born in America turned its back on it, their children and grandchildren are rediscovering it, said Bressler. "We didn't speak Yiddish at home but when I heard Yiddish songs played at school, I loved the sound. It grabbed me," said Bressler, who grew up in Bridgeport, Conn.

Count the Brown University klezmer band, Yarmulkazi, among the torchbearers. The enthusiastic ensemble practices twice a week at Brown Hillel, which sponsors the group, along with the Brown Music Department. Warming up before a Women's Alliance event last Thursday, several of the members of the group said they joined because the sound was intriguing.

"I'm not Jewish," said Claire Harlan-Orsi, who plays clarinet. "I was trained in classical music but my father played all kinds of recordings at home, including klezmer."

There are eight musicians this year, playing flute, bass, trombone, two clarinets, piano,

voice and violin. "We don't use sheet music," said Alan Gordon, flute player. "So there has to be a lot of communication," he said.

According to the book, *The Compleat Klezmer*, by Henry Sapoznik, "the term klezmer comes from the Hebrew words 'kley zemer,' referring to the musical instruments. At some point, however, the identities of the musician and his instrument merged, to be covered by the term klezmer."

Klezmer adds a nostalgic and Jewish flavor to an event, Bressler said. His group often opens for a DJ or band.

"Bressler is the King of Klezmer in Rhode Island," said Marc Adler, who dusted off his clarinet after 30 years, and began to play klezmer with a Barrington band.

Adler said the resurgence in klezmer here began with American bluegrass musicians, and some who were Jewish naturally turned to the music of their grandparents. "And when we play this music for children, we are passing it on to the next generation." He said typically the klezmer bands played at weddings in the old country and were often joined by gypsy musicians.

Adler plays with The Klezphonics, founded by Howard Boksenbaum several years ago. Many of the original group were congregants of Temple Habonim, where they practiced the shtetl music.

Klezmer is an avocation for the five-man troupe. Founder and fiddler Boksenbaum works



Brown University's klezmer band, Yarmulkazi, play at local fundraisers, events, weddings and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

Photo by Mary Korr

for the state of Rhode Island. Adler, the clarinet player, is in the family business, Adler's. Trumpet player Gerry Glaser is an optometrist. Bob Teifeld is a retired business consultant. And the newest member, keyboardist Elie Bienenstock, is a math and neuroscience professor at Brown University.

A shared heritage and love

See page 8

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THE KLEZPHONICS — From left, members of The Klezphonics klezmer band include Elie Bienenstock on keyboard and vocals; Marc Adler on clarinet, Gerry Glaser on trumpet, Howard Boksenbaum on fiddle, and Bob Teifeld on drums and percussion.
Photo by Mary Karr

Klezmer

From page 7

of folkloric music unites the lively quintet. "The music brings us back to our cultural roots," Glaser said.

"I didn't grow up with jazz or blues," said Bienenstock, who was born in Lyons, France, to an Orthodox Hasidic family. "This music is in me. I have a great affinity for Hasidic music. The harmonies and rhythms of klezmer are in Hasidic communities worldwide."

Percussionist Teifeld, who has played in Latin and jazz combos, said the group plays a Yiddish Theatre medley, including "Abi Gezunt," "Greene Kuzine," and "Yossl Yossl."

Other favorites that round out their "Top 10" are: "Odessa Bulgar," "Russian Sher No. 2," "Rumanian Hora," "Keli Ato" and "Tantz Tantz Yidelekh."

The Klezphonics play at coffee houses, assisted living facilities such as Tamarisk and Epoch, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, temple events and fundraisers.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah significance

By Jonathan Rubin

It's hard to believe, but Bar and Bat Mitzvahs are becoming so popular, even some non-Jews are starting to have "coming-of-age" ceremonies at 13. As a Jewish mother in New York exclaimed at her daughter's Bat Mitzvah party, "Sweet Sixteens" are out, Bat Mitzvahs are in.

Popular culture aside, what is a "Bar/Bat Mitzvah" and where did it come from? The literal translation is "son/daughter of the commandment." In simplest terms, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the threshold when a Jewish young adult participates fully in the Jewish community and is responsible for all of the mitzvot (commandments). It is only after the Bar Mitzvah ceremony that the young adult can be counted in a minyan, or a quorum of ten needed for prayer.

However, the ceremony itself is not a commandment, and, in fact, upon reaching the age of 13 (or 12 for girls) all Jewish youths automatically become Bar Mitzvahs.

The most basic tenet of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is being called up to the Torah, or Aliyah. Although the ceremony may be held on any day, and in any location as long as there is a minyan and a Torah, it has become standard for it to be on Shabbat at the synagogue.

It is common for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah to read their Haftarah, and often from the Torah as well, and/or to give a drash (commentary) on the Torah reading as well.

Parents also commonly say a blessing marking the importance

of the day.

Often the congregants shower the young adult with candy, a custom borrowed from weddings when the couple is wished a sweet new life.

Women on the Bimah

Although young women have held Bat Mitzvahs as early as the 14th century, it wasn't until 1922 that the first ceremony that resembled a Bat Mitzvah was held in North America. This was a controversial event, and still is many circles, as traditional Judaism held women to the commandments, home and family, rather than to synagogue obligations.

Bat Mitzvahs still remained largely taboo even through the 1950s.

Today, Reform and Conservative synagogues now see very little difference, if any, between Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Many Orthodox congregations do hold Bat Mitzvahs, but the young woman does not read from the Torah, although she does give a drash.

The Terms

* Aliyah: Going up to the synagogue platform to say blessings over the Torah.

* Bimah: The raised synagogue platform.

* Haftarah: Readings from the books of the Prophets.

* Simcha: "Joyous event" - used to refer to Bar/Bat Mitzvah and other celebrations.

* Tallit: Prayer shawl

* Tefillin: Black leather boxes containing portions of the Torah.

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What are some concepts from the Zohar about their hidden meaning?

While everyone knows that the Ten Commandments are important to Judaism, and that they have inspired Western Civilization as a whole, how many of us have had an opportunity to learn about them in depth?

Rabbi Fleer studied for rabbinic ordination (smicha) at the Navardoc Yeshiva in Brooklyn. He also studied at the Mirer Yeshiva and Yeshiva Torah V'daath. In 1960, he received smicha at the Yeshivat Chasider Breslov in Jerusalem. From 1969 to 1975, Rabbi Fleer served as Executive Vice President of Al Tidon for Soviet Jewry, and made 17 trips to the former Soviet Union in his fight for Soviet Jewry.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide



"...and all the trees of the field shall rejoice." — Isaiah 65:22

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JNF's website at www.jnf.org. Selected as the poster artist for the 76th Annual Academy Awards, Morris has also created distinctive works for the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, the 2004 Montreux Jazz Festival, and the NBC television show "Friends." In addition, his work has raised thousands of dollars for various charities worldwide.

Fund offers free stock share

LOS ANGELES — The Blue and White Fund, a U.S. stock mutual fund which invests exclusively in Israeli companies that are publicly traded, is offering to give each boy and girl at the time of their Bar and Bat Mitzvah a free stock certificate as an incentive to invest in Israel.

"We are doing this to encourage American youth to invest in their future and the Israeli economy," said Shlomo Eplboim, founder and CEO of the fund. "Israel doesn't need charity as much as it needs investment, as investment creates long-term solutions. And youth, by participating in this program can start supporting Israel and

themselves at a very early age. They can wake up every day and check their stock and see how Israel's economy, and their investment is doing."

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Winning websites

The following websites can provide the B'nai Mitzvah family with information, inspiration as well as links to planning sites:

- **www.bible.ort.org** — Want to know the date of your new baby's Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Click on "Find My Bar/Bat Mitzvah," enter birthday and check whether baby was born in the Diaspora, after sunset and at what age the ceremony will occur (12 or 13). It will give you the date, the Torah and Haftarah portions.

- **myjewishlearning.com** — Click on the lifecycle events tab, go to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The site has a quiz, advice on how to choose a mitzvah project, a list of recommended books, how to involve non-Jewish parents, and articles on the history, practicalities and contemporary issues in planning the celebration.

- **www.shopinIsrael.com** — This is a virtual mall linked to merchants in Israel, selling just about anything you need for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

- **www.barmitzvahfindit.com** — A virtual American mall. Every kind of vendor imaginable is on this site.

- **www.mayaworks.org** — Mitzvah kippot. These kippot will help support the women who make them in remote villages of Guatemala. Order early.

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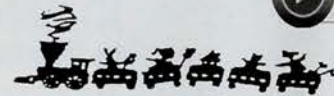
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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

THE WAY WE WERE



PORTRAITS — These Bar Mitzvah portraits are in the archival collection of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. Standing tall before a lectern, at left, is Julius Brier. Above are twins, Banice (at left) and Saul Feinberg. Do any Voice & Herald readers know the dates?

Photos courtesy of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association



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Planning checklist

By Joan G. Friedman

At Birth

When the child is born, start saving. It's not a bad idea to start two savings accounts; one for college, and one for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

1-3 years ahead

- ☐ Set the date.
- ☐ Set a budget.
- ☐ Reserve the synagogue.
- ☐ Reserve the hall for additional receptions.
- ☐ Arrange for caterer, party planner, and band or DJ.
- ☐ Buy a loose-leaf binder or start a filing system on index cards.

10-12 months ahead

- ☐ Begin Hebrew lessons.
- ☐ (Continue to) attend weekly Shabbat services as a family.
- ☐ Arrange for photographer and videographer.
- ☐ Book hotel accommodations and investigate transportation for out-of-town guests.

6 months ahead

- ☐ Plan colors and theme.
 - ☐ Arrange for florist and make guest list.
- 4-5 months ahead
- ☐ Order invitations and thank-you notes, imprinted napkins, and personalized party favors.
 - ☐ Shop for clothing and shoes.
 - ☐ Purchase a tallit and Tefillin if applicable.
 - ☐ Choose a calligrapher.

3 months ahead

- ☐ Plan Sunday brunch if applicable.
- ☐ Order printed kippot.

2 months ahead

- ☐ Meet with photographer and videographer.
- ☐ Meet with florist and/or decorations coordinator.
- ☐ Mail out-of-town invitations.

6 weeks ahead

- ☐ Order tuxedos.
- ☐ Take care of clothing alterations.
- ☐ Order wine for Kiddush.
- ☐ Mail in-town invitations.

4 weeks ahead

- ☐ Prepare Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech.
- ☐ Finalize reservations and transportation.
- ☐ Meet with caterer.
- ☐ Make welcome gifts for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Arrange aliyot.
- ☐ Send honorary gift to synagogue.
- ☐ Meet with rabbi.
- ☐ Make seating charts for reception (and dinner).

2 weeks ahead

- ☐ Give final count to caterer.
- ☐ Check with florist.
- ☐ Order Bar/Bat Mitzvah cake, cookies, pastries for Friday night Oneg.

A few days ahead

- ☐ Have rehearsal and take Bimah photographs.
- ☐ Make copies of speeches, room and table layouts, and give them to a friend to hold for you.

Special Day

Enjoy your simcha!

(Joan G. Friedman is a freelance writer and can be reached at joan@friedman.net.)

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guide

Once date is set, start planning

By Mary Korr

People hire professional event planners for various reasons. Some are too busy to plan what is often a weekend-long family and friends' reunion. Others need the organizational skills and creative suggestions from an expert who has been on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah circuit and can advise on how to make their event unique.

When her son Andrew became a Bar Mitzvah, event planner Abby Leavitt said, "I thought this could be the last time that all of us would be together, dancing and celebrating."

She advises families to "plan early, as soon as you get the date from the synagogue. Time is of the essence. The biggest mistake people make is they don't plan things far enough ahead," she said. "You need to start a year or more before the event to book popular facilities, DJs and caterers."

Some families follow this advice; Leavitt has a Bar Mitzvah in 2006 completely planned out. Most families start planning one to two years ahead.

But where to start?

Area event planners say the Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey begins with the spiritual. Terry Del Monico, president of Future Affairs Production, said families are first and foremost concerned with the service. They want to keep the emphasis on their child and have the day reflect who they are as a family. The first thing she tells families is "Relax. Don't lose perspective."

Event planner Bonnie Gold is a former pre-school teacher. Many of the skills she picked up in her dozen years in the classroom are very helpful in her current business—like hand holding. "When parents are feeling overwhelmed, I try to remind them to look at what the day is all about. Everybody coming is so happy to share this simcha. You don't have to worry about making every single family member happy."

When Leavitt first meets with a family, she always brings a copy of the book *Putting God on the Guest List* by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin to reflect on what the day is all about.

For her son Andrew's Bar Mitzvah, Leavitt said, "I wanted to keep it simple. We didn't have a cake or favors." But she did have a DJ who brought along a band. "You need to entertain kids, especially during the cocktail hour. They can go wild," she said. Her event was held at a private club.



CORNUCOPIA makes a pretty fall centerpiece

Gold has two daughters. Her oldest had her Bat Mitzvah party in the town beach clubhouse in Narragansett. "I told her we weren't going to put on a big show. It was a beach party on a Sunday night with close family and friends and a lot of kids," she said. Gold did the cooking herself.

Leavitt planned the Bat Mitzvah of twins. One wanted an ocean theme, the other aliens. The result — a Bat Mitzvah on the beach with aliens coming up out of the water to the party. She laughed. "I create miracles," she said. "I really do."

For a recent event Gold helped plan, the theme was camping. Gold, who creates centerpieces, designed a camp cabin in the woods that lit up. It was surrounded by plants and camping supplies. "To make a Bar/Bat Mitzvah special, it's nice for the child to donate the party favors

or toys to children in need. I keep this in mind when I decorate a centerpiece," she said.

Many families end up donating gift baskets and leftover food to shelters and hospitals.

Leavitt said Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations in this area are less glitzy than they used to be, especially after 9/11. She has created tzedakah baskets to dress the Bimah. They're filled with toys, clothing, art supplies that are given to those in need as a mitzvah.

Del Monico has had families select centerpieces that would be sent to Israeli children. They put up a small placard so happy hands do not dismantle it.



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