

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

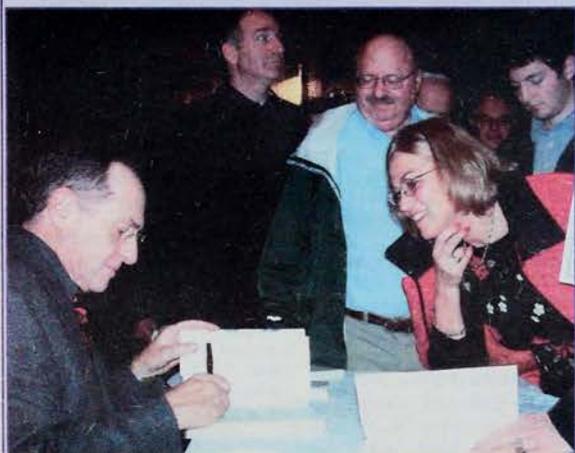
November 19, 2004

As of Nov. 17, the annual community campaign has raised \$3.5 Million — up 5.4%.

Thank you to our donors for making a difference in the lives of Jews in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world!



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Alan Dershowitz autographed Rivka Eskovitz's copy of *The Case for Israel* at the annual 2005 Jewish Federation Community Campaign donor event held Nov. 7 at Temple Beth-El. Next in line is Ezra Stieglitz. Photos by Mary Korr

## Dershowitz argues case for Israel

Over 700 attend Federation event to honor donors to Campaign 2005

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — With the zeal of a Zionist and the experience of a seasoned attorney, Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz argued the case for Israel Nov. 7 at a donor recognition event given by the Jewish Federation of R.I. at Temple Beth-El. More than 700 members of the Jewish community attended.

Dershowitz said the skewed view of Israel worldwide, particularly on college campuses, is the reason he wrote *The Case for Israel*.

See DERSHOWITZ, page 3



Brown students for Israel, Michael Meller '07 (left) and Sean Siperstein '05, invited Dershowitz to speak at Brown.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Obstacles remain in post-Arafat era

*Bush must take the lead*



ARAFAT FUNERAL — Crowds of Palestinians strain as they look in the sky for helicopters carrying the late Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat from Egypt to the West Bank city of Ramallah for burial on Nov. 12.

Brian Henderl/JTA

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The post-Arafat era has begun with high hopes in Washington, London, Jerusalem and even Ramallah — but many of the obstacles that prevented peace in Arafat's day remain, and it's not clear whether any of the major players has the single-minded determination to make peace happen.

The United States is not as actively involved as it may have to be; the Europeans, who would like to be intimately involved, don't have the necessary political clout; the Israeli leadership, insulated by strong American backing and facing a recalcitrant right wing, sees no need to hurry; and the new

Palestinian leaders, hamstrung by radical, violent opponents, may not be able to make concessions beyond what the late Palestinian Authority president countenanced.

President Bush gave an inkling of the ambivalence inherent in American policy after a meeting last week in Washington with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Bush rejected Blair's call for an international conference and a speedy transition to talks on a final peace agreement, saying the Palestinians first would have to stop terrorism against Israel. At the same time, however, Bush said he still believed the establishment of a Palestinian

See OBSTACLES, page 22

## Somerville divestment is blocked temporarily

By Penny Schwartz  
*Boston Jewish Advocate*

BOSTON — Six thousand miles from the Gaza Strip, the strife between Israelis and Palestinians reverberated in the stately Somerville City Hall chambers a few miles from downtown Boston. The scene was a packed, emotionally charged hearing on a resolution to divest the city's retirement funds of its holdings in Israel Bonds,

based on a controversial measure submitted with 1,170 signatures by the Somerville Divestment Project.

The resolution had been nearly adopted by the aldermen without debate at an Oct. 28 meeting.

More than 200 people crowded into the Nov. 8 hearing before the Legislative Matters Committee which routinely decides questions such as local linkage fees.

Opponents to the measure, who organized a response through a quickly put-together coalition of Somerville residents in and out of the Jewish community, represented a wide swath of political and religious views. Divergent in background, they were united in calling the proposed measure one-sided and unfair, singling out Israel among the world's nations for human rights violations.

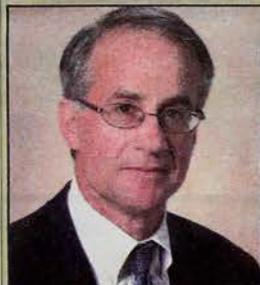
Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone said he opposed the non-binding resolution, saying he would veto the resolution if it were approved by the aldermen. The resolution also calls for divestment from corporations that "manufacture military equipment used in Israel's illegal military occupation."

Written testimony will be accepted until Dec. 1 and the committee will take up the resolution on Dec. 7.

## Inside...



JCC plans casino night Dec. 4. See page 7.



JEFFREY G. BRIER named chairman of board at Miriam. See page 12.



MAKE A MOSAIC bookmark with Charli. See page 27

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## CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

Nov. 19 4:16

Nov. 12 4:08

Nov. 19 4:02

Dec. 3 3:56



## Community Calendar

### Ongoing

Nov. 7-30

#### JCC craft show

Handicrafts from local arts and craftsmen and the Ethiopian community in Israel for sale.

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 20-21

#### Habonim arts festival

Sat: 5 to 9 p.m., Sun.: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. Original arts, crafts for sale from many local artists. Raffle, refreshments. For more information, call 245-6536. Free. See community.

Sat., Nov. 20

#### Jewish film festival

7:30 p.m. Newport Congregational Church, 73 Pelham St. Saturday night at the movies, featuring "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz" starring Richard Dreyfus. Presented jointly by Newport Havurah, Temple Shalom and Touro Synagogue.

Sun., Nov. 21

#### BBYO Teen Connection in South County

Noon at the Hebrew school at URI. Staff members will introduce BBYO to pre-teens.

4 p.m. bowling party at Old Mountain Lanes. Bring money for bowling and snacks.

For more info call David Hochman at (401)467-BBYO (2296)

Authors' signing in Warwick

Noon to 4 p.m. Barnes and Noble, 1350 Bald Hill Road, Warwick (401-826-8885). Reading with Robin anniversary celebration with author reading/signings. See books.

### JCC shopping night

7 to 10:30 p.m. at Providence Place Mall. Special discounts from participating retailers. Door prizes, entertainment. \$1 flat rate for parking. All stores will be open. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the JCC reception desk until Nov. 19. (Note: you must have a ticket for this event.) All profits benefit the JCC. For more info, contact Amy Stein at 861-8800, ext. 117.

### Torat Yisrael to host talk

#### on Jews of R.I. book

Following the 9:15 a.m. minyan, a brunch will be served at 10 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. George Goodwin of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association will be the guest speaker. He is co-editor of the book, *The Jews of R.I.*, an illustrated anthology of 19 essays. Call the Temple office for reservations: 785-1800.

### Shema pajama party

6 to 7:30 p.m. Congregation Agudath Achim, 36 Winthrop St., Taunton, Mass. Led by Alice Nussbaum, Jewish family educator. Designed for children ages 3 to 7 and their parents/grandparents. Learn the Shema in Hebrew and American sign language and enjoy stories, songs and snacks. \$7 family. Registration deadline is Nov. 19. Contact Linda at (508) 822-3230 or agudathachim.taunton@verizon.net.

Tues., Nov. 23

### Learn to read Hebrew

7:15 p.m. Chabad CHAI Center 3871 Post Road, Warwick. Learn to read Hebrew in 6 classes. Free of charge. To RSVP, call 884-7888.

Sat., Nov. 27

### Bresler's Klezmer at Stone Soup

8 p.m. Stone Soup is now located at the Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket, 210 Main St. Bresler's Klezmer Hassidic Ensemble will be performing at Stone Soup, Motsei Shabba. Ticket price is \$12; less for seniors and children. (There will be a sandwich board sign curbside. The door is not visible from the street, it's on the side of the parking lot.)

Sun., Nov. 28

### Camp JORI reunion

1 to 3 p.m. JCC in Providence.

Tues., Nov. 30

### Family Life series

7 to 9:30 p.m. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro. "Healthy Relationships: Couples and Partners." A project of Jewish Family Service and Agudas Achim. Pre-registration required. For info, call (508) 222-2243. Open to all with a fee.

### AIDS service

7 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. To open World AIDS Week, hosted by the AIDS Task Force of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of R.I. For info, call Aimee at 421-4111, ext. 161.

Wed., Dec. 1

### Cranston Sr. Guild Hanukkah party

Noon. West Valley Inn, 4 Blossom, West Warwick. \$17.50 per paid-up member. Entertainment and raffle to follow lunch. For reservations, call Gloria Lefkowitz at

463-5657 or Marilyn Salk at 738-8140 by Nov. 21.

Thurs., Dec. 2

### Women's Alliance Board Meeting

12-1:30 p.m. at the Warwick Chabad, 3871 Post Rd. For more info, call Rachel Siegal at 421-4111, ext. 206.

Sat., Dec. 4

### Hanukkah concert at Torat Yisrael

7:30 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. The Ira S. & Anna Galkin Hanukkah concert with singer/songwriter Laura Wetzler, accompanied by Robin Burdulis. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Sun., Dec. 5

### Am David breakfast & sale

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the temple, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Congregational breakfast & silent auction/sale of sports memorabilia, celebrity items, framed art. For more information, call the temple at 463-7944.

### Babies, kids and kibbitzing

12-1:30 p.m. at the Warwick Mall. Sponsored by the Gateway Committee of the Women's Alliance of JFRI. For more info, call Rachel Siegal at 421-4111, ext. 206.

### Fall River Yiddish Club

1 p.m. Adas Israel Synagogue, 1627 Robeson St., Fall River. Hanukkah program with Herb Leshinsky, music by Billy Chebot. Louise Macy presentation: "A Rose by Any Other Name Will Smell as Sweet." Latkes will be served. All are welcome. For more info, call (508) 678-4273.

## The Jewish Voice & Herald announces the 19th Annual

# Hanukkah Art Contest

## This year's theme - Hanukkah in My Home



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

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

The DEADLINE for submission is Nov. 25. Entries must be delivered to the front desk at the Jewish Community Center, c/o Voice & Herald Hanukkah Art Contest, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

All submission will be listed in the Dec. 3 Issue of the Jewish Voice & Herald. Artwork and prizes may be picked up at an award party at the Jewish Community Center (date TBA).

An Award Party will be held at the Jewish Community Center on December 12.

401 Elm Grove Avenue • Providence, RI

If you have questions call Jon at 421-4111, ext. 168

Categories:  
Ages 4 to 6  
Ages 7 to 9  
Ages 10 to 13

## Dershowitz at campaign event

From page 1

published last year. "Israel stands accused in the dock of international justice," he said.

He summed up the charges: Israel has been condemned by the UN more than any other nation; and has been accused of being the prime violator of human rights in the world, a Nazi regime, an imperialist and racist state, an expansionist aggressor.

Dershowitz, 66, focused his message on Jewish college students. "The case against Israel is being made so viciously on college campuses," he said. "We are struggling for the hearts and souls of the future leaders of America."

In attendance were Brown University students who belong to a group called Friends of Israel; afterwards they invited him to speak at Brown, an invitation he accepted.

He is worried that young Jewish professors see it as disadvantageous to support Israel openly on campus. Students need open debate if they are to become empowered, he said.

Dershowitz said Columbia University is rampant with anti-Israel rhetoric that gets no campus response, except from



RECEPTION — At a Federation reception held Sunday after Alan Dershowitz's talk, Mynde Siperstein, at left, speaks with Jack, Barbara and Hannah Feibelman.

the Hillel rabbi. However, he said Israel is open for debate at Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Berkeley because faculty are willing to engage in the debate and take a stand. "You only need a few professors to speak up," he

**"When I go to speak on a college campus, I tell students I am pro-Palestinian. I favor a two-state solution."**

— Alan Dershowitz

said.

Dershowitz leavened his remarks with anecdotes. He told of a student who came to him and apologized for not speaking out for Israel on campus. The student's reason: He couldn't get

a date if he did. Dershowitz recommended he look for some nice Zionist women to date.

"We need to make the broad case for Israel," he said. "When I go to speak on a college campus, I tell students I am pro-Palestinian. I favor a two-state solution — as do 95 percent of Israelis."

In the post-Arafat era, Dershowitz hopes the Bush Administration will take this as a "remarkable opportunity for compromise. It is important to push for secular and pragmatic solutions. Will it work? Israel has to be sensitive to the opportunity that lays ahead...It must make sure it never becomes a country with a right- or left-wing agenda," Dershowitz said.

## Gewirtz praised as champion of poor

(See obituary on page 25)

By Yehuda Lev

PROVIDENCE — "She practiced what I preached," Rabbi Leslie Gutterman said of Nancy Gewirtz on Monday, shortly before he entered the sanctuary of Temple Beth-El to conduct her funeral.

The widely respected community activist had been ill with pancreatic cancer and died on Sunday at the age of 59.

Gewirtz was an impassioned fighter on behalf of the low-income and impoverished population of Rhode Island and was perhaps best known for the determination and skill with which she lobbied legislators in their interests.

The Providence Journal described her as a "...familiar figure in the State House, prowling the marble corridors and hearing rooms in her battles, many of them unpopular with the state's political and business elite on behalf of low-

income Rhode Islanders."

At Temple Beth-El, Gewirtz was active in the Social Action Committee, which she chaired for some time before devoting virtually all of her energies to movements such as the Rhode Island Initiative, a proposal for a legislative package intended to help people escape from poverty.

**Gewirtz was an impassioned fighter on behalf of the low-income and impoverished population of Rhode Island.**

In this capacity she appeared recently before the Jewish Federation's Community Relations

Council to ask that the Federation become a sponsor of the Initiative. The CRC agreed and Maxine Richman is now serving as the Federation's first representative on it.

"At Beth-El she prodded us to social activism," said Alan Axelrod, chair of the CRC and a long-time friend of Gewirtz. It was an accomplishment that was repeated with whoever and wherever Gewirtz chose to promote her endeavors.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Endowment Fund invites you to an evening with

*The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra*

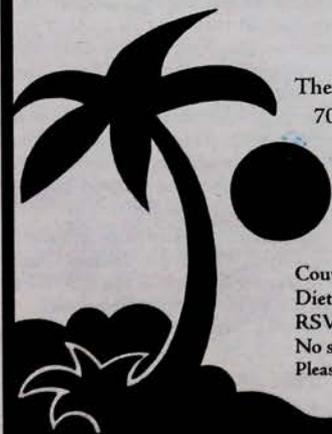
Keith Lockhart, Conductor  
and

A reception for Rhode Islanders  
preceding the concert

Sunday, February 13, 2005  
4 Adar I 5765  
6:00 pm

The Kravis Center  
701 Okeechobee Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL

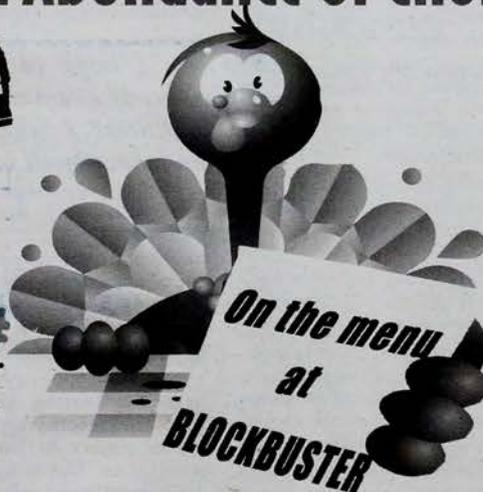
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## Opinion

## A MAJORITY OF ONE

## The secret, impoverished Jew

A word of warning before reading this week's contribution to modern Jewish literature. Your observer lays claim to one accomplishment that belongs in the Guinness Book of Records. He failed statistics in three of the finest universities in the country — Cornell, Chicago and Stanford.



Yehuda  
Lev

With that "caveat" firmly in place, let us proceed.

Met any poor Jews lately?

Ours being a Jewish newspaper, it is only proper to answer one question with another. How do you define "poor?"

The government drew the poverty level in 2001 at an annual income below \$17,800 for a household of four. The 2000 census produced a national estimate of 11.7 percent of all American households living below the poverty level.

The 2000 National Jewish Population Study (NJPS) found five percent (later revised to seven percent) of Jewish households surviving on that level. Both

studies were conducted just before the economic downturn which began in 2001, so the current figures may well be higher.

In the Rhode Island Jewish Population Study (2002), 1.6 percent of Jewish households lived below the poverty level, considerably fewer than either the national level or the Jewish statistics nationally.

So where's the Jewish problem? Some conclusions on low-income households (defined as earning less than \$25,000 for a family of four) among Jews have just been released based on the 2000 NJPS. They tell us that, NJPS percentages to the contrary, there are large numbers of Jews living in low-income households around the country, nearly one million Jews in all.

Who are these Jews? They include:

- Elderly Jews, not all of whom can afford to move to Florida for their retirement if, in fact, they have any retirement income left after their employers have gone bankrupt.
- New immigrants, not all of whom can find work in a very different environment.
- Young Jews, many of whom are struggling to pay education debts or to

support families.

• And, most publicized in this election year, they include middle class families who have lost jobs and find themselves faced with unpaid mortgages and mounting energy and medical bills.

Who else is affected negatively by all this? The Jewish "near-poor" who earn just enough not to qualify for Medicare or food stamps or welfare payments. And many who would like to participate actively in Jewish activities but who cannot afford the rising cost of synagogue membership or a Jewish education for their children.

You don't have to be as statistically-challenged as is this observer to realize that all of this bodes ill for the Jewish community, especially when both political parties scored campaign points on how much they would reduce what they jointly regarded as the dangerous dependency of many needy Americans on government "handouts." It is true and deserving of much credit that, as a community, we are generous to our own and to others who are in financial trouble. And it is also true that we tend to vote against those who would reduce taxes for the rich and benefits for the suffering.

But the fact remains that many of

our own are in dire need. Gifts to Harvard's endowment fund, praiseworthy though they may be, are nothing more than the wealthy giving to the wealthy. The same may be said for donations to hospitals of expensive medical devices that serve those who can afford to pay for high-tech care, to the detriment of those who cannot afford basic medical coverage for their families.

How much better would the Jewish community be served if those funds were used instead to meet fundamental educational and medical needs within our own ranks?

This is not an argument to withdraw from the rest of American society and become insular and narrowly focused. There is too much of that already in certain Jewish circles. Rather, it is an appeal to look more closely at the mote in our own eye, to deal adequately with our own problems.

Sometimes, in order to be "a light unto the nations," it makes sense to begin by casting illumination on your own people.

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

## VIEWPOINT

## Why we need to care about crisis in Sudan

By Rebekah Raz

Is the crisis in Sudan a Jewish issue? Is it something that should serve as a priority in the Jewish community? What is a Jewish issue?

A Jewish issue can be defined as something that has particular relevance to the Jewish community; it could be an issue that affects the Jewish people, or something that is connected to Jewish values and our desire to live in an ethical society.

Based on this definition, do we have the moral obligation to make the Sudanese genocide a Jewish issue? When one looks at the scope of the issue, it would be hard to say that it should not be a priority for the Jewish community.

Did you know that in Sudan's Darfur region more than two million people are being affected by an ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing, barbarically carried out by the Sudanese government against the region's black African population?

Did you know that government-supported militias, known as the "Janjaweed," are systematically bombing and scorching entire villages and towns,

destroying water sources and food stores, killing, raping, and forcing people into slavery?

In the past year alone, an estimated 50,000-100,000 civilians have lost their lives, and more than one million individuals have been displaced and forced

*'How can I hope to move people from indifference if I remain indifferent to the plight of others? I cannot stand idly by or all my endeavors will be unworthy.'*

— Elie Wiesel

to live in refugee camps. Even the refugee camps are not safe from the wrath of the Janjaweed; they are committed to wiping out the native black African inhabitants of the territory.

As Jews, our people were subjected to the murder of six million, the largest scale genocide and ethnic cleansing of the last century. At that time, the world stood silent. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the genocide of 800,000 Tutsi people in Rwanda. This tragedy was fueled by the world's indifference. We cannot let this happen again. If the

urgent needs of Darfur are not met, U.S. officials estimate that a third of a million people will die by the end of the year.

As Elie Wiesel said, "How can I hope to move people from indifference if I remain indifferent to the plight of others? I cannot stand idly by or all my endeavors will be unworthy."

Here's what you can do:

• The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), an organization committed to Jewish and non-sectarian relief efforts, is spearheading a campaign to help the people of the Sudan. Visit [www.jcdr.org](http://www.jcdr.org) to find out more, or send donations by mail to JDC / Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief, Box 321, 847A Second Ave., New York, NY, 10017. To date, the Coalition has raised nearly \$90,000 to help the victims of this crisis.

• Other ways you can help include writing to Secretary General Kofi Annan at the UN to urge that he exercise leadership on the issue, communicate concern to the ambassadors of those countries serving on the UN Security Council (a list can be found at [www.un.org/docs/sc.unsc\\_members.html](http://www.un.org/docs/sc.unsc_members.html)). Ask for a quick adoption of a binding resolution of action to address the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan.

• Write an op-ed piece and letters to the editor on this issue.

*Rebekah Raz is director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.*

## Letters to the editor

## Backpacks needed

For the past five years, students in the Harry Elkin Midrasha have been going to Philadelphia to work with the homeless. Participants on the trip are asked to bring anything they can to donate to the homeless, like clothing and food. We bring everything we collect to Philadelphia, sort it out and go on the streets and personally give it out to the homeless that we encounter.

There always seems to be a great deal of women's and children's clothing and not nearly enough men's clothing. In my three years of experience on the Philly Trip, I have met a total of 12 homeless women and never any children. More men's clothing is needed.

Also, in talking with dozens of homeless people during Philly trips, I have learned that even when they stay in shelters, they have to carry everything they own with them all the time. They all have said they need backpacks or duffel bags because their plastic shopping bags rip. They need toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, soap and even razors. They also need sleeping bags for those freezing winter nights.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Rich Walter, Director of Teen Education at the BJE/RI at 401-331-0956 or [rwalter@bjeri.org](mailto:rwalter@bjeri.org).

Dena White  
Providence

*Dena White is a junior at Classical High School and attends the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School.*

## Submission guidelines

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

## ALISON ON ALIYAH

## Co-existence conflicts in a post-Arafat world

So the big news on the street over here is that Yasser Arafat is dead. In actuality, it is widely believed that he has been dead for at least a week and the announcement was simply being delayed for a variety of reasons. Regardless, he was buried today in Ramallah, amidst chaos and gunfire and the highest security alert level Israel has known since wartimes.



Alison Golub

I chose not to travel to Jerusalem for the weekend, a trip I have taken without second thought every weekend for over a month now. I was, in fact, visiting Jerusalem last weekend when I first heard the "presumptive" news that he had died. My first reaction was excitement and not a small amount of hope. I immediately envisioned a new world, a new Middle East, a new chance to fix the mess we have become over here.

That fantasy world faded away and was quickly replaced by a gripping fear. Indeed, I haven't felt that way since Israel assassinated one of the highest ranking leaders of Hamas earlier this year. I instantly felt like a target — after all, I reasoned, it was only a matter of time before they found some way to blame this on us too.

We all got through the rest of the

week, wondering when the "official" news would come, whether Arafat would be replaced by someone better or worse, and how far the battle over his burial place would be taken by both sides. It was clear to all that we were experiencing a major turning point, whether to a positive or negative place. I cannot describe what it feels like to be in the middle of an event such as this, truly in the middle. At these times, it is as if Jerusalem is at the core of the world.

Nonetheless, I returned to Beer-sheva to attend the week's classes. One of my courses, entitled, "Co-Existence Through Life Stories," places eight Israeli Arabs and seven Jewish Israelis in a room for two hours per week, to interact and learn how to understand one another through our life narratives.

Class started as usual last Tuesday, with the Arabs clumping together in the circle and the Jews similarly clinging to one another. We try to be nice and involve the others, but it never works. Finally, in the last half hour of the session, the Arab professor asked us to go around the circle and give our thoughts on the imminent demise of Arafat. I immediately tensed up, knowing what I would need to say. I had no clue, however, of what would be said by the other side.

An Arab girl raised her hand first, one I had previously understood to be fairly moderate and one of the nicer of the bunch. She began by saying that she

is angry with Arafat's wife for all the commotion she has caused and for being so concerned with money at a time like this, but overall, she said, she has great respect for Arafat and his lifelong leadership of his people.

Once the words "respect" and "Arafat" were uttered in the same sentence, one could literally see the stomachs of most of the Jews in the room turning. Two more Arab girls spoke after her, both echoing the same sentiments of sadness and pain at his passing and deep respect for "what he did for our people." I felt such repulsion; all I could think was, "How in the world are we supposed to understand and 'co-exist' with people who think this way?"

Some of the Jews spoke next, all "politically correct" and clearly unwilling to say what (I hoped) we were all thinking. They said they were in shock when they heard the news, and while there was certainly no "love lost," they were feeling uncertain for the future. No one said the word "terrorist." As the discussion made its way around the room, I could feel myself flushing with anger and frustration.

When the professor finally asked me how I felt, I nearly exploded. "It pains me to hear you all say Arafat is a man worthy of respect," I articulated slowly, "He is not. And I simply cannot understand why no one has mentioned 'terror.' Arafat is a terrorist. He organizes terror. It kills me that he received a Nobel Peace

Prize and it pleases me that he will soon be dead. My only reaction to the news was fear, fear for the retribution that we always receive as a result of everything being blamed on us."

A number of angry outbursts greeted me upon the conclusion of my speech. A left-wing Jew yelled that Sharon, too, is a terrorist in his eyes. A Jewish girl and an Arab boy argued back and forth about the money that Arafat has pilfered from his own people (one saying it was disgraceful, the other saying corruption is rampant in every government). Finally a young Arab woman looked straight at me and, with tears in her eyes and chin wobbling, whispered that she was hurt deeply by my comments. I simply looked back at her, unable to think of a single word to ease her pain and, even more, not feeling any desire to do so.

The professor thanked us all for sharing our feelings and dismissed us. I cannot get the image of that girl's icy but pained stare out of my mind. I cannot help but continue to think that co-existence is far from possible. When even a group of students who volunteer to do a project such as this cannot find common ground, what hope do we have?

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

## Letters to the editor

## Museum is best way to educate on the Holocaust

Another piece of art — another monument with a ribbon cutting ceremony, and a plaque for all to see. I'm sure that your proposed Holocaust memorial (the third in Rhode Island) will satisfy your needs, but will it be the most effective way to pass on a very vital, yet often forgotten piece of history? The goal of the R.I. Holocaust Museum is to pass to an entire generation the truths and realities of "never forget and never again." Sending survivors to schools to

share their stories has such a profound result as illustrated by this letter from a student named Bryan: "Thank you for coming and educating us on your survival of the Holocaust. I am very fortunate to hear your story. I can now educate others about the Holocaust."

The children we reach have no first hand understanding of the impact the Holocaust had on the Jewish people. Their response is overwhelmingly compassionate and curious. They hear

answers to questions that cannot be found in textbooks or on monuments. The programs and the Museum itself are underfunded and would benefit greatly from the money spent on a third Holocaust memorial. Let us all work to continue these existing programs which bring a face, a voice and humanity to our heritage, our history and to our people.

This is how we can best end anti-Semitism.

Jeannette Bornstein  
Cranston

## Holocaust Memorial will be beacon for justice

I was deeply saddened to read Alice Goldstein's letter to the editor in the Oct. 22nd issue of *The Jewish Voice*. Her letter, you may recall, was in response to *The Jewish Voice* article about the Holocaust Memorial to the Six Million intended for Memorial Park on the River Walk in Providence.

What grieved me most about Mrs. Goldstein's letter was that this noble effort has become a politicized issue. As such, the importance of placing a memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust in a place of prominence has unfortunately become obscured. In a

world where man's inhumanity to man rages and where we tragically continue to witness genocides in Bosnia and now in the Sudan, we cannot raise our voices loud enough nor often enough.

Placing this Memorial in a location of prominence, beside the memorials that honor American soldiers who gave their lives in both World Wars and in the Korean War, affords our state, the city of Providence and the Jewish community an opportunity to make a profound statement.

The City of Providence has made a courageous commitment in offering this

parcel of land at a time when anti-Semitism is again rearing its ugly head and when the world seems to lack the will to address the ongoing genocides.

My hope is that the Jewish community will stand beside the City of Providence in supporting this effort. Let "Never Again" be the credo that brings us together to see to it that this effort is brought to fruition.

A. Leonard Newman  
Wakefield, R.I.

## Red Cross supports emblem

I am the new chief executive officer for the R.I. Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since my short tenure here, I have received a few letters about the Red Cross and its lack of support for the Magen David Adom (MDA) emblem to be recognized by the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The letters that I have received make note of our former American Red Cross president, Dr. Healy, being fired because of her support for the MDA inclusion. Dr. Healy was a very strong supporter of recognizing the MDA emblem in the Federation; her departure did not revolve around any single issue.

The American Red Cross is only one of many societies that belong to the Federation and the sole society that withheld dues to the Federation for not recognizing the MDA emblem. We still remain diligent and fully support inclusion of the MDA. The decision not to recognize the MDA emblem resides in Geneva, not the United States.

Daniel S. Samborn  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Red Cross of Rhode Island

**Federation**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**Gratitude for a bounteous harvest in our midst**

My dad told me each year that Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday. It was our family's opportunity to celebrate our bounties and blessings with our Jewish and non-Jewish friends.

In fact, the Pilgrims were inspired by my favorite holiday, Sukkot, in planning their first Thanksgiving. Two holidays in which we give thanks for abundance. Two holidays to welcome neighbors, and even strangers to join with us.

As the chill of fall deepens into winter, we're challenged to remember that many of our neighbors don't share in our bounty, and need our openness, kindness and assistance.

This week we say a gentle farewell to Nancy Gewirtz, the co-founding director of the Rhode Island Poverty Institute. Nancy lived these values and



Janet Engelhart

challenged us to put our noblest aspirations for the vulnerable among us into action.

There are individuals and organizations who only know the Federation through the actions

of our Community Relations Council (CRC). The Council is dedicated to social justice and partners with other organizations whose mission is *tikkun olam*.

CRC is a coalition member of One Rhode Island, along with organizations which advocate

gational social action committees and Habitat for Humanity.

Our Women's Alliance (WA) has partnered with the National Council of Jewish Women in bringing community awareness to the plight of abused women. WA sponsors a "Mitz-

vah of the Month," including knitting hundreds of scarves to send to children in the former Soviet Union.

We salute the efforts of congregations to make a difference to those who need us the most: from Temple Emanu-El's homeless shelter to Congregation Beth Sholom's new soup kitchen. To become involved in a CRC social action or advocacy project, please call or e-mail our CRC director, Rebekah Raz, (421-411, ext. 172, or rraz@jfri.org). Rebekah will match your interests, skills and availability with a meaningful volunteer commitment, through Federation or with one of our partners.

With so many in need, what do we have to be grateful for during this season? Besides our personal and family blessings, we are all enriched by a community that is secure, sensitive and committed enough to welcome the stranger into our midst and to dedicate ourselves to repair even a small corner of our world. For this, we are deeply grateful.

**As the chill of fall deepens into winter, we're challenged to remember that many of our neighbors don't share in our bounty, and need our openness, kindness and assistance.**

with elected officials on behalf of excellent child care, affordable housing, quality healthcare for the uninsured, food distribution and shelter for the poor and homeless. Its committees also work in partnership with congre-

gations to make a difference to those who need us the most:



**Jewish Federation of Rhode Island**

Please join the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island for our annual community phonathon...

## Super Sunday

December 12, 2004

**Session I:**  
9:00 am-11:30 am

**Session II:**  
12:30 pm-3:00 pm

- **Build a STRONGER Rhode Island Jewish Community**
- **Have an IMPACT on Lives in our Area and Around the World**
- **Mark your Calendar NOW to Help Make a Difference!**

Don't miss out on...  
Food, Fun... &  
Phone calls!

Count me in! I look forward to joining my Jewish community for Super Sunday on December 12th.

Session I: 9:00 am-11:30 am       I'd like to help make phone calls!

Session II: 12:30 pm-3:00 pm       I'd like to help as a general volunteer!

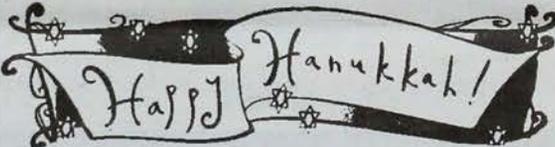
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return to: Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906  
Attention: Tracie Goldman—or E-mail to: tgoldman@jfri.org—or FAX to: 401-331-7961  
For more information call 401-421-4111, extension 162

## "Mitzvah of the Month"



**Needed: Gifts for Israeli Teenage Girls**

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:

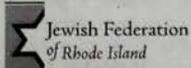
- Earphones
- Nail polish
- Hair clips
- Any other small items teenage girls would appreciate

• Please limit your purchase to \$2 per gift.

**Drop off gifts by Monday, December 2**  
**at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island**  
**130 Sessions Street • Providence, Rhode Island 02906**

For more information contact Tracie Goldman  
at 421-4111, ext 162  
or E-mail: tgoldman@jfri.org

This mitzvah opportunity brought to you by the Community Service Committee of the Women's Alliance.



Building Community. Helping Jews in Need.

## Community



KENT AND JENN THALER are co-chairing the JCC Casino Night on Dec. 4.

### JCC rolls out 'Casino Night'

By Jonathan Rubin

SEEKONK — If there is one time when it's worth it for Rhode Islanders to make the drive over the state line into nearby Massachusetts, it's now. On Dec. 4, The Jewish Community Center in Providence is bringing a 'Casino Night' to the Johnson and Wales Inn in Seekonk, with a full-scale Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, blackjack tables, roulette and a live auction, with all proceeds benefiting the JCC Early Childhood Scholarship Fund.

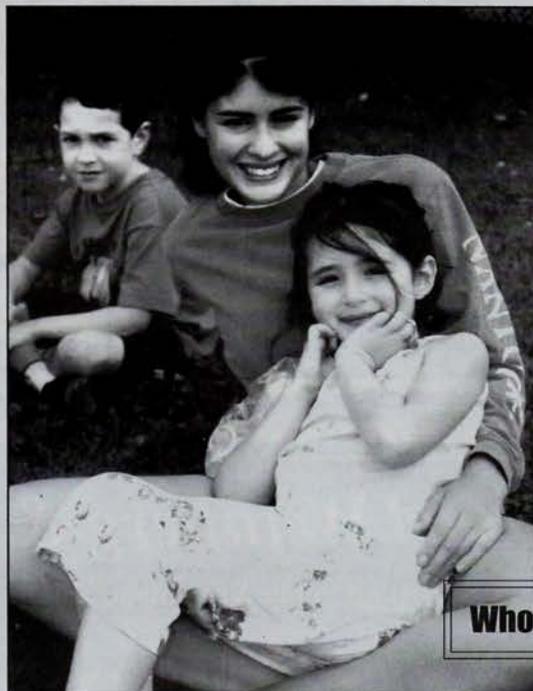
"This is not just a poker tournament. This is a full casino," said Kent Thaler, of Cranston. He and his wife Jenn, who runs the dance and gymnastics programs at the JCC, are co-chairing the event.

There will be more than 40 gaming tables, with poker, craps, roulette, blackjack, bingo, and even a "no-limit dreydl."

The "winner-take-all" Poker tournament starts at 5 p.m., and the regular casino and auction

See CASINO, page 8

### Federation and the JCCRI are partners?



Who knew?

### The power of Community

What is the Jewish Community Center of RI? The JCCRI is...

- Welcoming
- Diverse
- Dynamic
- Compassionate
- Supportive
- Non-threatening
- Friendly
- Jewish Collaborative

Visit the JCCRI website at: [www.jccri.org](http://www.jccri.org)

FEDERATION AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 1945,

Sending children to camp, operating senior adult programs and child day care, providing a physical and emotional center for our community. Along with other Federation-supported agencies and institutions, Federation and the JCCRI are working together, helping to build Jewish community in the six neighborhoods of greater Rhode Island.

Be an important partner in the *power of community*. Give generously to the 2005 JFRI campaign and invest in our future. You can give directly and immediately through a gift to the campaign, or you can ensure that you continue to build a strong community after you are gone through an annual campaign endowment that funds your annual campaign pledge in perpetuity.



Live Generously. It Makes a World of Difference.

To volunteer or learn about community programs, visit our website at [www.jfri.org](http://www.jfri.org) or call 401.421.4111.



**CAPLINK TECHNOLOGY**  
presents

**CASINO NIGHT & AUCTION**

TO BENEFIT THE JCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
**Saturday, December 4, 2004**

**No need to call the babysitter!**

**We're having a sleep-over and your children are invited!**

**call for details**




**To register call 401-861-8800 or visit [www.jccricasino.org](http://www.jccricasino.org)**

## Community

### JCC rolls out 'Casino Night'

From page 7

open at 6 p.m.

"We wanted an interactive fundraiser that everyone can get into," Kent said.

"We've got the entire JCC behind this," said JCC development officer Margo McAdams. "We've never attempted anything this massive before."

Money will be changing hands in the form of "JCC Bucks" — each worth a dollar. Worried that you'll be outbid by the big wigs for the top prize — club seat season tickets to the 2005 New England Patriots season? Don't be — the big winners of the poker tournament get up to \$10,000 JCC bucks to use in the auction.

Other prizes include a weekend apartment in New York with theatre tickets, tickets to the U.S. Open, signed drumsticks from Max Weinberg of Late Night with Conan O'Brien, just to name a few.

Package deals also include a buffet catered by Johnson and Wales University students, and a glatt kosher option available for those who pre-register.

There will also be a sleepover at the JCC supervised by Kid-space staff.

The JCC early childhood program serves more than 150 families a year. For more information, call the JCC at 401-861-8800, or visit [www.jcccasino.com](http://www.jcccasino.com).

### Shalom holding book fair

MIDDLETOWN—Temple Shalom will be having a Hanukkah book fair, Nov. 21 through Dec. 12. There will be many books about Hanukkah and Judaism for children and adults. There will also be cookbooks, craft books and fiction for all ages. In addition to books, there will be Hanukkah menorahs, candles, dreidels, games and gifts.

The book fair will be open from 9:30 to noon on the following Sundays: Nov. 21, Dec. 5 and 12; and from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1 and 8.

For more information, call 846-9002.

### Am David sale

WARWICK — On Sunday, Dec. 5, Temple Am David is planning a congregational breakfast and silent auction/sale of sports memorabilia, celebrity items, and framed art.

It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the temple, located at 40 Gardiner St. For more information, call the temple at 463-7944.

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 Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7:30-5 – Thurs. 7:30-8 – Sat. 8-2

Schedule	
5 P.M.	Texas Hold 'Em Tournament starts, food service begins
6 P.M.	Casino opens and silent auction begins
9 P.M.	Texas Hold 'Em Tournament ends
10 P.M.	Casino closes
10:30 P.M.	Silent auction closes, live auction begins
11 P.M.	Live auction ends and checkout begins

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

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**Mr. George Lee**, the managing director and formerly of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, is a certified public accountant in Hong Kong and is also a member of the Hong Kong Society of Accountants (HKSA), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Chartered Financial Analysis (CFA).

Mr. Lee has assisted clients in sourcing products and establishing office and production facilities in China. He has a practical understanding of the rules and governmental regulations needed to do business throughout China.

For further information contact:

**Mr. George Lee, CPA, managing director at:**

Suite 607, Ocean Center, Harbour City, No. 5 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui,  
 Kowloon, Hong Kong

tel 852-2111-5222 fax 852-2947-7590

email: [George@myhkecpa.com](mailto:George@myhkecpa.com)

**Mr. Carl Weinberg, CPA, managing partner at:**

The Summit West, Suite 350, 300 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI, USA 02886

tel 401-737-6300 fax 401-737-0373

email: [Cweinberg@carlweinbergcpas.com](mailto:Cweinberg@carlweinbergcpas.com)

## Federation

FROM THE CAMPAIGN DEPARTMENT

### Reducing risk for 'at-risk children'

By Sara Masri

In the dictionary, risk is defined as *the possibility of suffering harm or loss; injury, disease, or death*. To hear this definition, one automatically thinks about physical risk - of being in imminent peril. However, this is only the slimmest of definitions. In addition to the risk of physical or psychological trauma, there is also a risk of poverty, malnutrition and the resultant corresponding developmental problems. Fortunately, thanks to Jewish Federation campaigns, we are able to help children and adults survive and succeed in life.

Of the 1.5 million school-age children in Israel, 600,000 live below the poverty line. Some of these children are from families who have been impacted by the economic crisis in Israel. Twenty percent are *olim* - recent immigrants to Israel. The groups who are suffering the most are Jews emigrating from Ethiopia or the Caucasus Mountain region in the Former Soviet Union.

In the Ethiopian community, 72 percent of families are living below the poverty line. The children in these families often suffer from "food insecurity" - essentially not knowing whether they will be able to eat even one meal that day.

Last year, 4,400 new immigrant children dropped out of school. If they drop out of school, the impact is felt by more than one generation.

With numbers this daunting, it probably seems as though it would be impossible to have an impact. However, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, along with its partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), are making a tremendous difference in their lives.

Here are some of the initiatives we are supporting with your generous campaign contributions:

- In Afula, our Partnership

2000 community, 400 children under the age of 6 get their one hot meal of the day at school. Around Israel there are thousands of other children who are getting a substantial meal thanks to JAFI's efforts.

- "Making the Grade" is a JAFI initiative that provides 20,000 at-risk children in grades 1-6 with necessary supplies, including school bags, textbooks, binders, pencils and calculators.

- JDC's *Ofek Bagrut* program. *Ofek*, meaning "Horizon" in Hebrew, was developed by JDC in partnership with the Israel Association of Community Centers to create an environment for immigrant youth that encourages learning and enhances their likelihood of achieving a matriculation certificate.

For more information about these programs or others, or to contribute to the 2005 JFRI Annual Campaign, please contact our campaign department, 421-4111, ext. 171.



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### The Jewish Federation of RI Women's Alliance December "Mitzvah of the Month"



**Holiday  
Gift Wrapping**

**To Benefit  
Women's Alliance  
Endowment  
Fund**

*For programs that  
support women  
and children*

Please join us on  
**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Barnes & Noble Bookstore  
Smithfield**

**9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Sign-up to help for a shift!

*A great activity for mothers and daughters*



This mitzvah opportunity brought to you by the  
Community Service Committee of the Women's Alliance.

Live Generously.  
It Does a World of Good.

For more information, contact Tracie Goldman  
at 421-4111, ext. 162, or E-mail [tgoldman@jfri.org](mailto:tgoldman@jfri.org)

## The Jewish-Latino Alliance

A Joint Project of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island  
and the Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy  
are hosting

### The 2004 Jewish-Latino Alliance Retreat

the program will be held at the

**Jewish Community Center  
Senior Adult Lounge**

401 Elmgrove Avenue ♦ Providence

**Thursday, December 2, 2004**

**5:30 p.m.**

### Special Guests

Dr. Cynthia Garcia Coll of Brown University

Mel Zurier of Counsel to the Law Firm of Tilinghast, Licht, Perkins, Smith and Cohen, LLP

Closing remarks given by  
Mayor David Cicilline

Topics to be discussed include:

The history of both Jewish and Hispanic communities in R.I.  
and ways that both communities can work together to better serve our society.

Dinner will be served at a cost of \$5.00 per person ♦ This program is open to the public

For information or to RSVP (by November 22) call Rebekah Raz at 401-421-4111, ext. 172  
or E-Mail: [rraz@jfri.org](mailto:rraz@jfri.org)



## Community

### Habonim holding arts festival

BARRINGTON — Temple Habonim is hosting its second annual arts and crafts festival on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On-site caricaturists will also be available.

Many of the artists are from within the Temple community. Saturday evening will feature a reception with light snacks and beverages. Bagels, beverages and baked goods will be sold on Sunday.

A raffle will be held to benefit the Temple Building Fund.

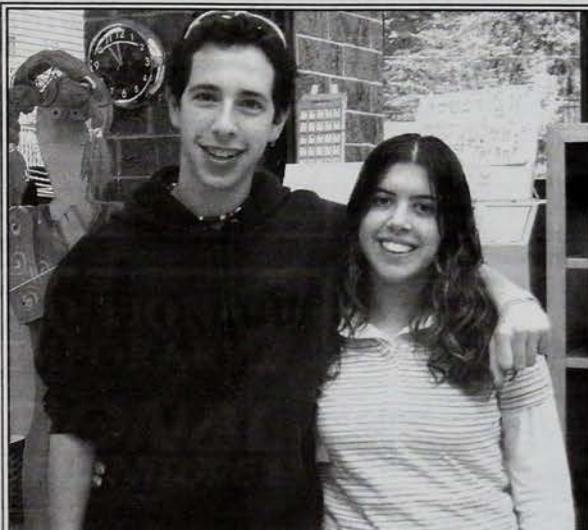
Admission is free.

Temple Habonim is at 165 New Meadow Road. For information or directions, call 245-6536.

### Shalom celebrates

MIDDLETOWN — The Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School celebrated its 15th anniversary year with a breakfast at the temple on Sept. 26.

Rabbi Marc S. Jagoliner, educational director of the school, addressed the group of faculty, students (both past and present) and parents, honoring Beatrice B. Bazarsky, who founded and donated the school to the temple in memory of her late husband, Samuel Z. Bazarsky.



**NEW FACES** — Or Lustig, 19, and Gani Born, 19, are the new Israeli emissaries brought to the Rhode Island Jewish community by the Bureau of Jewish Education. The two teens live in the northern Israeli city of Afula, and are linked to Rhode Island through the Partnership 2000 program. As part of their stay, the two will act as educators and teen program directors in communities throughout Rhode Island.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

### Hanukkah program at mall

WARWICK — A holiday program, Lanterns of Liberty: Hanukkah Lights, will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5, between noon and 4 p.m. at the Warwick Mall on Bald Hill Road.

Visitors will be able to view a display of lights significant to the traditions and rituals of Judaism. Children are invited to participate in a holiday craft activity.

Hanukkah items will also be available for purchase.

For additional information, contact Robin Kauffman at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE/RI) at 401-331-0956 or rkauffman@bjeri.org.

## Beautopia

Make-up Euphoria

Exclusive Paula Dorf make-up event.  
National Make-up Artist & Best of Boston Winner

*Lisa DeCobert*

Complimentary Holiday make-up applications with the newest looks and colors for winter.

December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

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Estancia Chardonnay 750ml .....	\$7.99
Bollini Pinot Grigio 750ml .....	\$8.99
Bollini Merlot 750ml .....	\$6.99
Louis Jadot Macon-Villages 750ml.....	\$8.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais-Villages 750ml.....	\$6.99
Louis Jadot Pinot Noir 750ml .....	\$12.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly- Fuisse 750ml .....	\$15.99

<b>California</b>	
Baron Herzog Chenin Blanc and White Zinfandel 750ml.....	\$6.99
Baron Herzog Chardonnay 750ml.....	\$9.99

<b>France</b>	
Fortant Chard, Merlot and Cab. Sauvignon 750ml.....	\$6.99

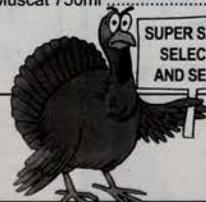
#### KOSHER WINES

<b>Australia</b>	
Teal Lake Shiraz and Chardonnay 750ml .....	\$9.99
<b>Italy</b>	
Bartenura Pinot Grigio and Moscato D'Asti 750ml.....	\$8.99

<b>Israel</b>	
Carmel Chardonnay 750ml .....	\$11.99
Carmel Concord Sweet Red 750ml.....	\$5.99
Carmel Riesling/Chenin Blanc 750ml.....	\$7.99
Gamla Cab. Sauvignon 750ml .....	\$11.99
Gamla Chardonnay 750ml .....	\$10.99
Gamla Muscat 750ml .....	\$7.99

<b>Chile</b>	
Alfasi Cab. Sauvignon, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc 750ml.....	\$6.99

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We reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices subject to change without notice. Alcoholic beverages subject to RI taxes and may be subject to seizure.

### Thank You to the Voters of House District 3



EDITH H. AJELLO

I am eager to continue to work with you for the good of the state.

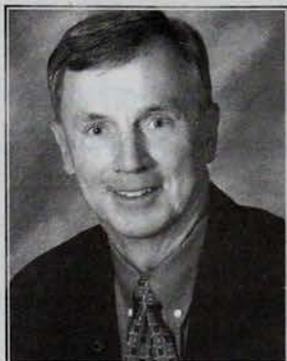
As always, please call me at 274-7078 with your questions, suggestions and concerns.

Very truly yours,

*Edie*

**Community**

**THANK YOU TO THE VOTERS OF DISTRICT 15**



**Representative Elect  
Jim Davey**

**Please call or E-Mail me at any time if you have concerns or questions.**

**Call — 401-464-6222  
E-Mail — hoyajd65@cox.net**

*I am looking forward to working for you.*

*"Paid for by Friends of Jim Davey-Joan Gray,Treasurer"*

**Miriam ranks in top 100 hospitals nationwide**

PROVIDENCE — The Miriam Hospital has been recognized as one of the nation's leading hospitals for cardiovascular care by the Solucient 100 Top Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success study.

The study recognizes hospitals that have achieved excellence in care, efficiency of operations and sustainability of excellent

cardiovascular outcomes. The complete list was published in the Oct. 25 issue of *Modern Health-care* magazine.

In addition to identifying the top hospitals, the Solucient study found that although coronary bypass patients are sicker than ever, more are surviving—with those on the top 100 list showing

the best outcomes of all.

The hospital was founded more than 75 years ago by The Miriam Hospital Women's Association and is a teaching affiliate of Brown Medical School.

This is the third consecutive year and fourth year overall that the hospital has been recognized with this honor.

**Brier named Board chairman**

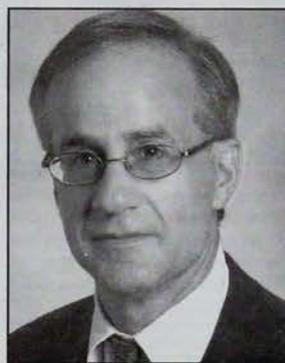
PROVIDENCE — Jeffrey G. Brier has been appointed the new chairman of the board of the Miriam Hospital. Brier was formerly the vice-chairman of the hospital board and succeeds Alan Gilstein.

Brier's grandfather, Benjamin Brier, served as chairman of the board from 1950-1955.

His mother, Zita Brier, is a lifetime member of the Women's Association and his father, Milton Brier, is a past trustee.

Brier is the past president of the Jewish Community Center, and is currently the treasurer at the Jewish Federation.

He attended Moses Brown School, received his undergraduate degree at Lake Forest College



**Jeffrey G. Brier**

in Illinois and completed his MBA at Washington University in St. Louis.

He and his wife, Jessica, have two children.

**Torat plans bingo**

CRANSTON — Temple Torat Yisrael is holding a family bingo on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The event is open to the community. A \$5 per family fee includes dinner and prizes.

RSVP to the Torat Yisrael office at (401)785-1800.

**Kibbitzing at mall**

WARWICK — Babies, kids and kibbitzing will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 12-1:30 p.m. at the Warwick Mall.

The program is sponsored by the Gateway Committee of the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation. For more information, call 421-4111, ext. 206.

**Babies Kids & Kibbitzing**

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This program is in partnership with the BJE Celebrations Program.

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Friday, March 18, 2005  
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# 'Gossip' author speaks at annual Women's Alliance event

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — You just heard something that happened to a friend of a friend. It's really embarrassing; you're glad it didn't happen to you. It's a great story — hilarious. You have to tell someone. So you pick up the phone, ready to spill your guts.

Gossip seems as though it's both universal and socially permissible... except when they're talking about you.

"Words are like bullets — once they're fired, they can never be taken back... and they can kill," said Lori Palatnik, author of and speaker at the annual Women's Alliance campaign event held recently at Temple Emanu-El.

Judaism sees speech as a gift from God, Palatnik said, and every effort should be made to use this power of communication for good. Although men can also gossip, Palatnik said women often get into more trouble because "we talk more than they do. We are communicators."

Gossip, she said, is like "triple murder" — you are committing a crime against the person you're speaking about (killing his or her good name), yourself (social suicide), and the person you are speaking to (making him or her an accomplice.)

The guiltiest party of the three is the person who hears the gossip, because "he or she has the most control over the situation." The listener can stop the conversation right there and, if possible, help the speaker avoid making

the mistake again.

"Are you your brother's keeper? Yes, you are," she said.

Palatnik has appeared on television nationwide and on the Dr. Laura Schlessinger radio program talking about *Lashon Hara*, or the "evil tongue."

She suggested ways to escape gossip: Change the subject, zone out and ignore it, or just walk away if you can.

What if someone is in trouble and needs help? You can find an individual who can assist and tell that person only what's necessary.

One attendee asked: "What about celebrity gossip, Access Hollywood, *People Magazine* and all the rest?"

"It's a slippery slope from talking about Tom [Cruise] and Nicole to talking about your neighbor," Palatnik said.

"What about telling our spouses?" one woman asked.

Avoid it, she said. "This is one relationship that you want to have value and integrity."

Attendees were buzzing after the presentation, and several said it changed the way they thought about casual conversation.

"This is something we can all relate to," said Susan Leach DeBlasio.

The event was also a time for celebration; Mitzi Berkelhammer, campaign chair, announced that the Women's Alliance has raised more than \$881,000 to date, an 8 percent increase from last year.



Anne Berkelhammer Krause and Mitzi Berkelhammer.

**AUTHOR LORI PALATNIK**, above, at left, was the guest speaker at the annual Women's Alliance campaign event held recently. Afterwards, she spoke with Susan Odessa and Sharon Gaines. *Photos by Jonathan Rubin*



**ATTENDING THE EVENT**, right, were Rachel Siegal, director of the Women's Alliance, and WA members, from left, Linda Miller, Leah Daniels and Hinda Semonoff.

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WOMEN'S ALLIANCE PRESIDENT Sharon Gaines and Federation president Mark Feinstein welcomed Dershowitz to the annual campaign thank-you event.

# Federation thanks 2004

*While Alan Dershowitz made the Community Campaign donor-recognition event, more than 700 people were made*



The 2005 campaign team enjoyed the spotlight. From left are Alan Litwin, campaign chair Amir Cohen, Sharon Gaines, Ralph Posner, Susan Froehlich, Ron Markoff, Joyce Starr, next to Alan Dershowitz, Mitzi Berkelhammer, Mark Feinstein, and Doris Feinberg. Missing were Fredman, Dee Dee Witman, Herb Stern and Michael Isaacs.

Photos by Seymour G...



ZACK AND MAX Mann brought down the average age for the evening. They attended with parents Judy and Robbie Mann.

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**Many Thanks to You**



DERSHOWITZ, above, enjoyed the company of Rosalie Fain, Mitzi Berkelhammer, WA Campaign chair, Anne Krause and Dorothy Nelson.



DIANE DUCOFF, left, with family members Andrew Miller, Matthew Belkin and Lynn DuCoff.

**campaign contributors**  
*case for Israel" at the annual 2005*  
*event held Nov. 7 at Temple Beth-El,*  
*ing the case for a fun evening.*



Above, Susan Ross (left), Ellie Frank, Selma Stanzler and Susan Odessa were engaged in conversation at the reception prior to Dershowitz's talk.



At right, daughter-and-mother team Susan Froehlich and Elaine Odessa shown with Marianne Litwin at the event.



At left, Mel Alperin with Hope and David Hirsch.

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**Directions from North:** Rt. 95 South to exit #30, turn right at 2nd traffic light onto Central Ave. (Central Ave. becomes Cross St.) Follow to the end. Turn left onto Pine St., then 1st right onto #225 Conant St.

**Food**

**Challah makes a sweet sandwich with leftovers.**

*Turkey sandwiches for weekend football games*

By Marylyn Graff

After Thanksgiving, use leftover turkey in sandwiches for one — or a crowd.

- Begin with good bread: challah, bialys, crusty rolls, firm Italian bread, rye or pumpernickel, or fancy breads. You can also use wraps or pitas. If all you have is soft white or wheat, be sure to toast it.

- For greens, use romaine or large spinach leaves, well washed and dried.

- Add: sliced tomatoes, avocado slices, pickles, raw or sauteed sliced onions, roasted red peppers, soy cheese, (check package to make sure there are no dairy products, such as whey in the soy cheese) or whatever you like.

**Dressings:**

1. Make a Russian dressing from 1/2 cup each of mayonnaise & chili sauce, and a tsp. Dijon mustard.

2. Mix mayonnaise with leftover cranberry sauce (well drained if juicy.)

3. Mix horseradish or Mexican salsa to taste with mayo or Russian dressing.

4. Stir chopped olives and/or pickles into mayo.

5. Mix cole slaw with cranberry sauce.



6. Or, just use your favorite mayo or mustard.

**Individual sandwich**

Cut slices of turkey as large as possible to fit the bread.

Add your choice(s) of the above.

**Open-face sandwich**

Toast bread or roll, place on plate, cut sides up. Warm some stuffing and gravy. Lay slices of turkey on both slices of bread, pile on stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce (or serve the sauce on the side.)

**Panino**

Use two slices of firm Italian bread. Lay slices of turkey on one slice of bread, add roasted red peppers, soy cheese, and tomato slices. Cover with other slice of bread and grill until browned on

both sides. (If you don't have an electric grill, use a lightly oiled frying pan with a weight to press the sandwich down.)

**Turkey salad sandwich**

When you get down to the bits and pieces of the turkey, make turkey salad with diced celery and a dressing from the above list. Serve in hollowed-out crisp rolls, garnished with your choice of roasted red peppers, avocado, etc.

For a football party arrange platters for people to make their own sandwiches.

Have bowls of potato or pasta salad and cole slaw on the side, plus dishes of pickles and olives. Or just put out chips.

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

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- MARYA DABROWSKI.....DECEMBER 10, 11
- DANIEL K.....DECEMBER 16, 17

## Community

### Kollel plans 'crash' course in Hebrew

PROVIDENCE — Kollel will host a "Read Hebrew America/Canada" outreach program this month.

Led by Dovid Schwartz, the five-week Hebrew reading crash course will focus on the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills. Classes will meet on Monday nights, from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m., beginning Nov. 22.

Additionally, a level-two program is available to those who are interested.

The Kollel is located at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave. For more information, call 383-2786.

### ASDS holds mock election

PROVIDENCE — Prior to election day, Alperin Schechter Day School students in grades 3-8 joined millions of students across America and voted in the National Student/Parent Mock Election.

The results of the ASDS election were: President: George W. Bush/Dick Cheney(R):19; John F. Kerry /John Edwards (D): 90.

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**APPLE PICKING** — (From left) Jack Bennett, Lon Gelade, Sasha Cervantes, Dan Schuster, Tavlin Hogan and Shana Newman get ready to pick apples at Hill Orchards in Smithfield. The group went to the orchard recently to pick apples and enjoy a hay ride as part of a Perspectives singles' event. To find out how to join, contact Tavlin, Perspectives Director, at 861-8800, ext. 205.

*Photo by Alyssa Nordhauser*

### Students serve lunch to seniors

PROVIDENCE — The Alperin Schechter Day School's eighth-grade class assisted at a Golden-Agers lunch for 80 seniors recently at Temple Emanu-El, as part of their community service. Cantor Brian Mayer entertained the group with music.

The student volunteers included: Ilyse Blazar, Zack Gold, Eugene Goncharov, Nate Jablow, Brennan Johnson, Lizzie Tilchin, Jessica Waterman and Sarah Winkler. Sally Rotenberg, Harriett Frank, Dot Winn, Lila Winograd, Helene Sondler and Cindy Kaplan also helped to plan this event.

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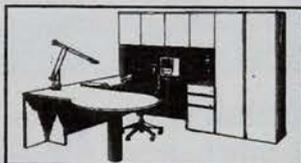
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Jon Weiss

## Community

### Holocaust Museum plans mission to Poland

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum is sponsoring a trip to Poland from May 3 – 9, 2005, with an optional add-on to Israel.

Participants will visit former synagogues, yeshivas, and cemeteries. Tours of concentration camps will be given by Holocaust educators who accompany each tour group, as well as guides from the camp museums. Survivors will also accompany each bus and provide running commentary about their own experiences before and during the Holocaust.

"It was a life-changing experience," said Frieda Soble, executive director of the Museum, about her trip to Poland in 1998. "As much as you read about it, you can't imagine what it is like to see the same countryside, to enter the same buildings that your ancestors did for hundreds of years, until the Nazis ended their habitation in Europe."

The mission will include a symbolic "March of the Living" by 18,000 people, young and old, to Birkenau, the death camp of Auschwitz, on Yom Hashoah, May 5.

The trip to Poland will include stops in Krakow, Plaszow, Lublin, Majdanek, Warsaw, Tykocin, and Treblinka. The cost for Poland only will be \$1895; with the Israel add-on, it will be \$3695. International

travel will be via El Al. Travel to and from JFK airport will be by bus. The price also includes admission fees and some meals. There will be a security guard on every bus. Training sessions

will be given in preparation for the trip.

To register or for more information, call the Museum at 401-453-7860 or email rhodeislndhmm@aol.com.

### Brown center honors Goldstein

PROVIDENCE — On Sunday, The Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC) of Brown University dedicated its new facility on Waterman Street, and honored Sidney Goldstein Ph.D by naming the faculty conference room after him.

Goldstein was the first director of the interdisciplinary center, from its founding in 1965 until 1989. Under his leadership, the PSTC became internationally recognized as a preeminent institution for demographic research, with a special focus on migration studies. Goldstein was responsible for obtaining both endowment funds for the Center as well as ongoing foundation and government support, which has continued to the present.

Goldstein is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with population issues around the world. He has served as President of the Population Association of America and holds honorary positions in a number of organizations worldwide. His former students continue to make important contributions to demographic research throughout the developing world and America.

Goldstein is also recognized as the dean of American Jewish



Sidney Goldstein

demographers, and has played a leading role in the development and analysis of national and community Jewish population surveys.

He retired from Brown University in 1992 as the George Hazard Crooker University Professor Emeritus.

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## Books

# 'Reading with Robin' an eye-opener

By Mary Korr

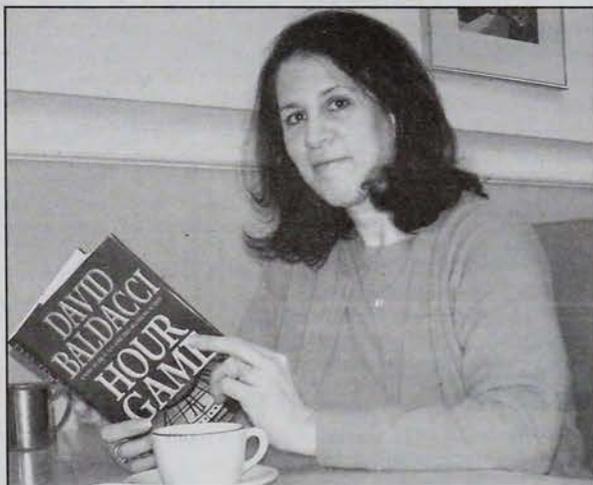
PROVIDENCE – If you're up at 7 a.m. on a Saturday, call Robin Kall's radio show on WHJJ 920 AM; she'd love to hear from you. In fact, calling in is how she got her start in radio.

The East Greenwich resident, who hosts a weekly, one-hour show called "Reading with Robin," became a regular caller to the "take-no-prisoners" Don Imus radio show several years ago. Her topic: Buddy Cianci and Plunder Dome.

Kall is keen on social issues and politics, especially R.I. politics – Mike Stanton, author of the Buddy book, *The Prince of Providence*, has been on her show several times. But books are her passion. She started the Reader's Circle at Temple Beth-El, where she is a congregant. And she brings her love of books into the classroom, visiting schools around the state.

"I love bringing people together through literature," she said one morning at her regular East Side coffee haunt as she finishes reading *Hour Game* to prepare for her Saturday show and her book chat with David Balducci, the author.

*Hour Game* is No. 1 on *The*



Robin Kall

*New York Times* best-seller list this week. It's a sequel to his previous book, *Split Second*. Kall congratulates the author and repeat guest. "It's an incredible page turner," she tells him. They talk movie options, the next book, and about the literacy projects they are involved with: Kall works with "Reach Out and Read R.I.," which supplies books to urban kids in their doctor's office.

On Saturday, she'll interview

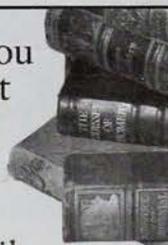
Augusten Burroughs, author of *Running with Scissors*, who will speak about his new book, *Magical Findings*. It's also the second anniversary of her show, which she is celebrating with an author event at Barnes and Noble in Warwick from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, check [readingwithrobin.com](http://readingwithrobin.com).

Kall's website also has the schedule of upcoming authors on her show and book events throughout the state, as well as author's email links.

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7:30 pm

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## AS WE GROW OLDER Entitlements are to be earned

Years ago, a favorite expression of disdain was to say of someone that "he thinks the world owes him a living." I have not heard that criticism in many years. But it still could be applied to many of us today, young and old, because most of us have feelings of entitlement.



**Tema Gouse**

Younger generations have raised those expectations to high levels to justify self-indulgence and selfishness.

I recently read about the wedding plans of one of the current minimally talented but bodily endowed current superstars. Amongst the vulgar extravagances in the planning was ordering \$180,000 worth of tulips for the wedding because she "just loves tulips." One can only wonder how much the wedding cake will cost.

The next day's newspaper described the severe shortage of affordable housing in America. They were not talking about street people, alcoholics, degenerates, or criminals. They were talking about families whose heads of households were gainfully employed, but could not afford to rent adequate living

space.

Which led me to obsess about the disparity of values in this country. That rock star can afford the wedding table centerpieces. That adornment, which will be displayed for two or three hours, could have taken some needy children off the streets for many nights. There is such incongruity in these situations.

As a crotchety senior I have often wondered how individuals develop standards of what they merit or deserve. There used to be a myth that hard work was the tool for success. If that were the case, the ditch-digger would be richer than the banker.

It is difficult for the generation that lived through the Great Depression not to be intolerant of gross extravagance. (Believe me, there was nothing Great about the Great Depression). For nearly a decade we witnessed the dire need of families who were victims of an era.

I grew up in a middle class neighborhood in Chicago. Most of my friends' parents did not own cars until the late 1930s. My father owned a car because it was essential to his profession. My brother did not learn to drive a car until he earned enough money to buy one.

That was not deprivation. That was dealing with reality. It was setting values and not experiencing entitlement. Extended families shared resources with each other and with needy friends.

Today, no self-respecting

16-year-old waits a week after the landmark birthday before getting her driver's learning permit. And soon, owning a car is mandatory to that unemployed teenager. This is not only the indulgent fostering of attitudes of entitlement: it is reckless to render the responsibility of driving to immature individuals.

Young people equate wishes with needs. "In my day" we bought houses when savings or income allowed it. Today's young couples feel it is mandatory to own their own homes before they can pay for them. (So guess who is picking up the tab!)

O.K. That is enough griping about the offspring. Seniors, too, have issues of unearned expectations. Mostly, we feel that we deserve better than what we have gotten. We tend to overestimate our worthiness and wonder why everyone else has an easier time in life. We grumble about this with our peers. We also burden our kids with guilt because their lives have not turned out as we had planned. They may be satisfied but we feel that we deserved more noches (a hard word to translate, but basically it implies reflections of glory, which are products of entitlement).

A favorite statement of the elderly is: "I do not want to be a burden to my children." At a conscious level, most of us mean that. But silently underlying the words is the expectation that the kids will be there for us, even if it inconveniences them.

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

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*Obstacles*

From page 1

ian state is the only way to resolve the conflict.

The essence of American policy can be gleaned from those ostensibly incongruous state-

ments: The United States will help the Palestinians achieve statehood on condition that they stop the violence and carry out economic, security and political

reforms. In other words, it's up to them to make the first move.

Bush also seemed to alter the time frame for Palestinian statehood. Whereas the "road map" peace plan — presented in 2002 — spoke of 2005 as the target date, Bush said he was determined to work toward a Palestinian state by the time he leaves office, in January 2009.

This reinforced the president's main message to the Palestinians: They must get their act together before the United States will be ready to help. If they're slow, there will be a price to pay in the deferral of national aspirations. The quicker they act, the quicker statehood can be achieved.

European officials believe the American role primarily should be to help the new Palestinian leadership establish its legitimacy. First, they say, the United States can help with elections for a new P.A. president by leaning on Israel to allow optimum conditions for a free election, with as few signs of occupation as possible.

The election process will have two salutary effects, the Europeans argue: bringing to power a Palestinian leader accepted by the people and creating a sense of democracy at work.

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# Gertsacov planning 'Bright Night'

PROVIDENCE — Mayor David Cicilline announced last week that the City of Providence will contribute \$25,000 to the second annual Bright Night festival, a New Year's Eve gala that features performances by local artists. A large fireworks display and a special WaterFire are also planned to occur during the evening's festivities.

Bright Night, led by local performer and festival director Adam Gertsacov, already has a number of events planned for this year. The day will start with children's events at both the Providence Children's Museum and the RISD Museum. After official opening ceremonies at the Fleet Skating Rink, a number of venues around downtown

will host dozens of performers, including comedians, musicians, storytellers, and renowned puppet group Big Nazo. The fireworks display will take place at midnight, and the tenth anniversary of Water Fire will take place throughout the evening. "We're so pleased to be back for a second year," said Gertsacov. "As an artist myself, I know how important and exciting this event is for area performers, and we're looking forward to building on the success of last year."

Tickets to Bright Night will be available in early December from ArtTixRI, and available at all BankRI locations. For more information, contact Gertsacov at (401) 351-2596, or visit [www.brightnight.org](http://www.brightnight.org).

# Hanukkah concert at Torat Yisrael

CRANSTON — On Sat., Dec. 4, Temple Torat Yisrael is holding a Hanukkah concert at 7:30 p.m.

The Ira S. and Anna Galkin concert will be performed by singer/songwriter Laura Wetzler,

accompanied by Robin Burdulis.

The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The temple is located at 330 Park Ave.

For more information, call 785-1800.

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**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

## Male seeking Female

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

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**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

**Mature DJM, fun-loving person,** seeks a companion who enjoys dining out, taking trips and the theater. ☎49014

**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

**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

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## Simchas

### Births



Gabriel Frances Brochu

PROVIDENCE — Gabriel Frances Brochu was born to Alexis Jennifer (Waldman) and David Francis Brochu on Sept. 26 at Women and Infants Hospital in Rhode Island. He weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz.

He has two siblings, Julian David, 3, and Cosette Concetta, 19 months.

The baby's grandparents are Herbert Rakatansky and Barbara Sokolof of Providence, the late Elaine Rakatansky of Providence, Myron and Marie Waldman of Narragansett, Francis Brochu of New Hampshire, and Norma and Bob Dickerson of Maine.

REHOBOTH, — Elyse and Fred Thaler and their son, Ethan, announce the birth of *Mare Devin Thaler on Aug. 12*. Maternal grandparents are Melba and Herb Meister of Newport.

Fred Thaler is the son of the late Esther and Jack Thaler of Fall River.

## Mazal Tov!

### Wedding



Michelle Levitt and Scott Goldman

CRANSTON — Joan and Steven Levitt of Cranston announce the wedding of their daughter, **Michelle Beth Levitt**, to **Scott Randall Goldman**, the son of Laurie and Stephan Goldman of Warwick.

The couple was married on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Temple Emanu-El. Rabbi Wayne Franklin officiated at the ceremony.

The bride, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, is an elementary school teacher in Arlington, Mass.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Rochester, N.Y., and received a master's degree in finance from Suffolk University, Boston. He is employed at New England Pest Control.

The couple lives in Newton.

### Engagement

PROVIDENCE — Dr. and Mrs. Robert Levin announce the engagement of their son, Jonathan, to Sara Miro, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miro of New York City.

The future bridegroom

received a bachelor's degree in history, government and Judaic studies from Muhlenberg College and a master's degree from Adelphi University. He works in the New York City Teaching Fellows program and is currently employed as a first-grade teacher in West Nyack, N.Y.

The prospective bride graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor of science in elementary and kindergarten education. She received a master's degree in literacy from Adelphi University and is currently a fifth-grade teacher in Congers, N.Y.

Jonathan is the grandson of Buddy and Ruth Paige Levin of Providence.

### 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Shirley and Philip Macktez

PROVIDENCE — Shirley and Philip Macktez, married on Oct. 27, 1939, celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary with their daughters, Ruth and Shoshana; their sons-in-law, George and Jay; and their grandchildren, Ethan and Noah.

Originally from Woonsocket they retired to West Palm Beach, Fla., and now reside in Providence.

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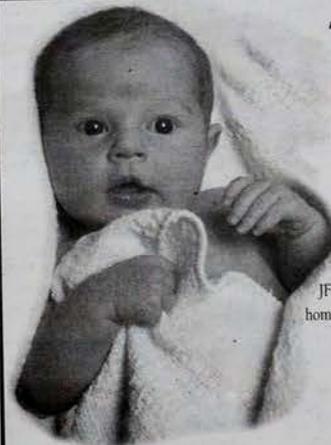
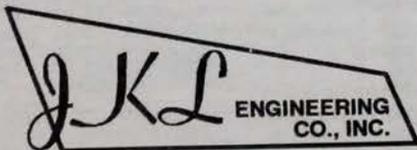
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## Obituaries

## Rosella Cohen, 83

CRANSTON — Rosella (Bernstein) Cohen, 83, the co-owner of the Cohen Heating Supply Co., Providence, died Nov. 5. She was the wife of the late Joseph Cohen.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Gussie (Halpern) Bernstein, she was a longtime resident of Cranston.

Mrs. Cohen had been co-owner, with her husband, of Cohen Heating Supply.

She was a graduate of Hope High School and the University of Rhode Island.

Mrs. Cohen was a member of Temple Beth-El and the Potowomut Golf Club.

She leaves a son, Allan Cohen of Coventry; a daughter, Barbara Boritz of New York; and two sisters, Ella Persky of Providence and Ruth Lack of Everett, Mass.

Burial was in Sinai Memorial Park, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of R.I., 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

## Samuel W. Finn, 60

EAST PROVIDENCE — Samuel W. Finn, 60, an assembler at the Blackstone Valley Center of Pawtucket, died Nov. 8. Born in Providence, a son of the late James and Bertha (Rakatsky) Finn, he had resided in East Providence since 1982.

He is survived by a sister, Brenda Goldman of Langhorne, Pa.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## Max J. Garelick, 65

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Max J. Garelick, 65, a retired fashion executive, died Oct. 9. He was

## Nancy H. Gewirtz, 59, social worker and activist

PROVIDENCE — Nancy (Horwitz) Gewirtz, 59, an academic and social activist, died Nov. 14. She was the wife of Dr. Henry Gewirtz. They had been married for 35 years.

Born in Boston, she was the daughter of the late Hyman and Silvia (Wolf) Horwitz.

She was brought up in Newton and graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She earned a master's degree in social work from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and a master's degree in public administration and a doctorate in political science from the University of Connecticut.

For over 25 years, she taught social work at Rhode Island College (RIC) and was chairperson of its master's degree program.

Gewirtz worked with other

advocates and members of the legislature and state government for the benefit of the working poor and welfare recipients. She and Linda Katz, an advocate for low-income families, co-founded the Poverty Institute at RIC's College of Social Work.

She spent much time at the State House, often creating holes in the traditional attitudes of the lawmakers and government officials, letting in the light of reason. Known for her ability to get her points across with humor and pragmatism, she accomplished much in her battle against social injustice.

She was honored by many groups for her contributions to the Providence community.

In the *Providence Journal* of Monday, Nov. 15, Elizabeth

the former husband of Lynne (Baker) Garelick and Lynne Burgess. Born in Woonsocket, a son of Sophie (Sherman) Garelick of North Providence and the late Harry Garelick, he formerly lived in Greenwich and Westport, Conn., and Woonsocket.

Mr. Garelick was a marketing consultant for the Wetter Indochine Collection and Barbara Barry, Inc. A retail fashion executive, he was president and CEO of Perry Ellis International.

He was a Navy lieutenant, serving from 1962-1965.

He was a graduate of Woonsocket High School and received a bachelor's degree in economics from the Wharton School, the University of Pennsylvania, and an MBA in marketing from the University of California, Berkeley.

Besides his mother and former wives, he leaves two sons, Bruce Garelick of Cohasset, Mass., and Jeffrey Garelick of San Francisco; two brothers, Frank Garelick of Cranston and Jon Garelick of Cambridge, Mass., and one grandchild.

Burial was in B'nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket.

Contributions may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087.

## Gladys Lavik

CRANSTON — Gladys (Graubart) Lavik died Nov. 8. She was the wife of Charles Lavik. She leaves a son, Marc D. Lavik of East Providence; a daughter, Rachelle H. Modiano of Cranston and one granddaughter. She was the sister of Etta Rochstein of Charlotte, N.C., and Doris Graubart of

Burke Bryant, executive director of Kids Count/Rhode Island, the child advocacy organization, said, "She has taught a couple of generations of social workers...and really changed the lives of many of her students." Her legacy will live on in their work on issues of social justice."

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Aaron Gewirtz of Narragansett; a daughter, Rebekah Gewirtz of Somerville, Mass., and a brother, David Horwitz of Salem, Mass.

Contributions may be made to the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908 or the Pancreatic Cancer Society, (PanCan) 2221 Rosecrans Ave., suite 131, El Segundo, CA 90245.

Providence, and the late Dr. Irwin Graubart and Matilda Graubart Blum.

## Bella K. Roberts, 81

PROVIDENCE — Bella K. (Klein) Roberts, 81, a retired bookkeeper and former weight-loss instructor, died Nov. 4. She was the wife of S. David Roberts.

Born in Providence, the daughter of the late David and Anna (Berenfeld) Klein, she lived in Cranston before moving to Providence in 2003.

She was a bookkeeper at the former Imperial Jewelry in the 1940s, returning there in the 1970s after her children entered high school. She had been an instructor for Weight Watchers for many years.

She was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its sisterhood, Hadassah and the Jewish Community Center and was active in the Jewish Federation of R.I.

She attended Classical High School.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Gary H. Roberts of North Scituate; two daughters, Karen B. Hickey of Boxford, Mass., and Ellen G. Roberts of Farmington, Maine, and seven grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Perry Klein.

Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.

## Freda Schretter, 93

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. — Freda (Chernin) Schretter, 93, formerly of Cranston, died Oct. 27. She was the wife of the late Leo B. Schretter. Born in Montreal, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Sarah and Phillip Chernin.

She is survived by a son, Stanley, of Reston, Va.; and a daughter, Rhona Glickman, of Framingham, Mass.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Hilda and Jack Sherman of Montreal.

Burial was in Del Ray, Fla. Contributions may be made to the Lighthouse of Broward County, 650 North Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311-7436.

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# My Voice Conversion: a long and lonely struggle

By Rosa Maria Pegueros

My "crisis of faith" occurred in 1968, at the University of San Francisco baccalaureate Mass — the time at the beginning of the school semester in which God's blessings, guidance and support are asked for the new school year.

Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with my first-year classmates, I found myself unable to utter the words of the "Apostle's Creed," the declaration of faith that is said in every Mass.

I couldn't say the words; when I came to "Jesus," I choked. By the time that the communicants chanted "the holy Catholic church" I was feeling dizzy and stupefied: I had gone to Catholic schools since I was five. My father was a devout Catholic who went

to Mass every morning. The nuns had given me a superb education and had always been kind to me, but just as I was about to embark on my college career at a Jesuit university, I could not make a proclamation of faith.

Thus began one of the loneliest struggles of my life. If I objected to Jesus, I reasoned, then turning to another Christian denomination was not the solution. I found little in Protestantism that attracted me. Eventually, I learned that I could have continued to be a Christian in any number of Protestant churches that does not have the doctrinal rigidity and misogyny of the Catholic Church. In spite of the sexual revolution, the Vietnam War, and even the advent of the second wave of feminism, women occupied inferior positions to men in most institutions. I didn't know if I was an agnostic or an atheist but I was certainly an organic feminist, deeply angry that women could not become priests and were subordinate to men in most areas of life.

One problem for Catholic women is that one of the core principles of Catholicism is humility. One walks "humbly with the Lord." Why should women demand the right to administer the sacraments? Christ's apostles were men;

Christ anointed Peter to be the leader of his Church. Women simply were not in the picture. The rights of the priesthood gave men power but it was the power to serve. Women did their part by serving without the power or status of the priests.

Over the centuries, true humility in the Church has been characterized by any number of acts of abnegation: self-flagellation, dressing in sackcloth, or taking vows of poverty. Modern pilgrims to the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City often crawl up the stone stairs and shuffle across the plaza to the church on their knees as a sign of humility. How could I be a true Catholic if I abandoned humility and desired the priestly powers that men had?

I converted to Judaism at age 20. It was a conversion of pure faith, neither of convenience nor because of an impending wedding. I did it twice: once through the Reform movement and later, when I had a yearning for more structure, once again before an Orthodox Bet Din. When I had my first conversion, I was naive, and when I learned more about the differences among Jews, I had an Orthodox conversion so there would never be a doubt about the Judaism of my daughter.

I did not realize the momentous nature of my choice to

convert, nor did I know that it would make me a lifelong outsider. As a girl growing up in an Italian neighborhood, I could have picked the easy rhythm of nominal Catholics who were baptized, married, and buried in the Church but who also used birth control, had clandestine abortions, and in other ways defied the Church. One could be a "fallen away" Catholic who, in a deathbed confession, could be repatriated and sent directly, soul cleansed of sin, to one's eternal reward.

Of course, planning one's demise is a very iffy enterprise. If one died without the priest's absolution, or perhaps, even without the opportunity to confess directly to God and die with contrition on one's lips, then purgatory lay ahead, a fiery obstacle on the path to heaven.

Unless you are unusually prescient at 20, the afterlife isn't much on your mind. I didn't think about it much, if at all. But I was so obsessed with the idea of purity that I needed to believe completely in God, to practice his/her way, and to be able to proclaim my faith. For me, living as a fallen-away Catholic was no more an option than becoming a "recovering" Catholic, a wry contemporary description of today's non-practicing Catholics.

Whatever I chose, I had to feel proud enough to own it. And books helped me find this ownership, initially in the novels of Leon Uris and Elie Wiesel, then the many writings on the history and culture of the Jews. Here, it seemed to me, was a belief that enabled me to interact directly with God, without the mediation of a priest. Orthodox Jews were as rigid about women as Catholics, so my first formal introduction was to the Reform Movement, which seemed more respectful of women.

I relished the amorphous nature of Judaism; the fact that one could disagree without being labeled a heretic or excommuni-

cated. One could believe in an afterlife, or not, despite the fact that so many Jews have gone to their deaths proclaiming, "Ani Miamian. Ani Ma'amin. Ani ma'amin be'emuna sblema. B'viat hamashiach," (I believe that the Messiah will come in the "fulness of days.")

When I was young, I didn't understand how deeply intertwined religion is with culture nor how far my abandonment of Catholicism would take me from my family of birth. This is, after all, America, where one could define oneself. My father, truly the most genuinely humble person I have ever known, accepted my choice with equanimity. My mother, cognizant of her secretly Jewish grandfather on whose birthday I was born, chose not to interfere because she felt that my choice might indicate a mystical connection to him. Hence, I was able to maintain my ties with my family but it also meant that I could not shut their Christian practices out of my life completely.

Religion is the embodiment of culture. Holidays, beliefs, mores, customs, foods, death rituals; all of these and many more are bound up with our identities. How do you love yourself when you have chosen to reject the religious faith of your family and people? How do you reject your religion yet emerge with an identity?

I am glad that these questions dawned on me gradually after my daughter was born, because I would have been paralyzed into inaction if they had occurred to me earlier. I was lucky that the Jewish community accepted me instantly. Bearing a child and raising her steeped in tradition and sending her to Jewish day schools erased the last remnants of my Catholic past in the eyes of the other Jews.

Dr. Rosa Maria Pegueros is Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

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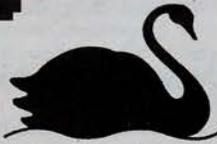


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# Arts

## Mosaic bookmarks make gifts special

By Charlotte Sheer

In recent years, the Association of Jewish Libraries designated the month preceding Hanukkah as Jewish Book Month. This year it occurs between Nov. 8 and Dec. 8 (25 Kislev on the Hebrew calendar), the latter being the first day of the festive holiday.

During this period, special attention is given to books of Jewish content or written by Jewish authors. Book fairs are commonly held by Jewish organizations and institutions across the country and often include guest appearances by authors and illustrators.

Jewish books are a popular choice for Hanukkah gifts. Each can be made more special when accompanied by a handcrafted bookmark.

The paper mosaic design used in this project represents an artistic connection to tile mosaic remnants that archaeologists have unearthed in Israel, as well as to the colorful patterns of a 16th-century Persian synagogue wall, on display at The Jewish Museum in New York City.

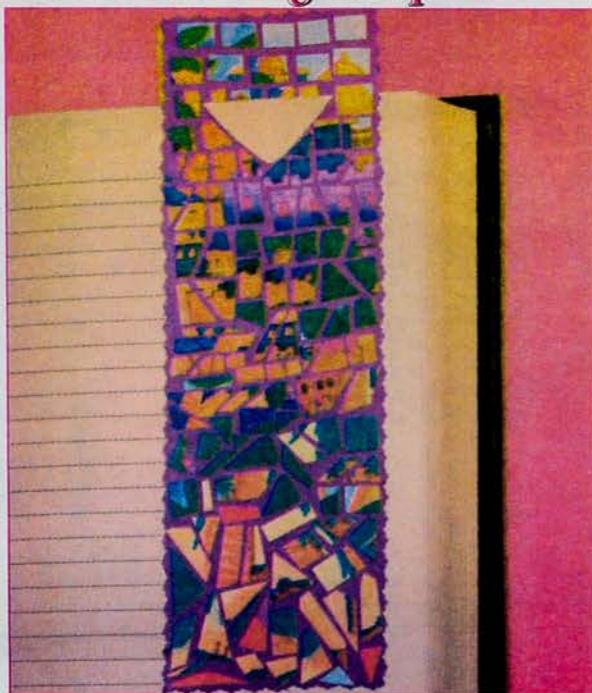
**Level: Easy to Intermediate**

**Materials:** Greeting card covers (especially with Jewish themes) or small scrap pieces of colored paper

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Clear Contac® paper (optional)

**What you'll do:**

1. Cut a piece of construction paper approximately 3" x 8" long. This is the bookmark backing.
2. Measure down 1 inch from the top, and a half inch in from each side.
3. Within this space, care-



Mosaic patterns brighten holiday bookmarks Photo by Charlotte Sheer

fully cut a "v" or "u" shape, about 1 inch deep.

4. Cut the card cover into horizontal strips, and then into small square, rectangle and triangle-shaped pieces. The size of the pieces will depend on the fine motor skill level of the child. The younger the child, the larger the pieces may need to be.

5. Apply glue to small areas and apply the shape pieces, one at a time, being sure that none of the pieces touch one another.

6. Cover the entire bookmark backing.

7. If desired, seal the decorated bookmark with clear Contac® paper. Re-cut the "v" or "u" slit to create a flap that slips over the front of the book page to be marked.

There's plenty of room for creativity and imagination on this project! It's fun to try reassembling part of the original card design, but keep in mind that the nature of mosaic placement requires that there be space all around each individual piece.

Any Judaic symbols with which the child is familiar could also provide design framework for this Jewish Book Month bookmark project.

*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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