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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

23 Adar 5765

Vol. III — Issue XXIII

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

March 4, 2005

JFRI grants \$425K for community school

By Jonathan Rubin

CRANSTON — In many ways, the stakes couldn't have been higher: \$425,000 of community money was on the line, as well as the future of the Alperin Schechter Day School, and the two-year dream of creating the first trans-denominational community Jewish day school in Rhode Island.

At the Feb. 16 board meeting of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), the proponents for the school grant laid down their points: Jewish day school education has "plateaued" in its current state in our community and cannot compete with secular private schools; that a pluralistic school serving Reform, Conservative,

Modern Orthodox and unaffiliated students would educate the broadest spectrum of Jewish children; attract a wider donor base and bring new Jewish families to the region.

Others, many of whom were admittedly enamored by the vision, focused on the many yet-to-be-determined details — location, a projected budget — and what some saw as an aggressive timetable opening the school by next year.

Passionate praise and exacting questions were batted back and forth for two hours. Numerous attendees voiced their support for the school's concept; retired judge Richard Israel,

See COMMUNITY SCHOOL, page 3



THE 'AYE'S HAVE IT — Board members of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island vote in favor of granting \$425,000 for the proposed Jewish community school.

Medical school welcomes new dean

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — The new and fourth dean of Brown's Medical School found a surprise waiting for him at work last Wednesday — a chocolate birthday cake with "Happy Birthday Eli" inscribed in yellow frosting.

As he enters his sixth decade, the Israeli-born Dr. Eli Y. Adashi will lead Brown's Division of Biology and Medicine, Public Health program, life science initiatives and partnerships with affiliated hospitals.



Dr. Eli Y. Adashi, the new dean at Brown Medical School, addresses the Brown community at a welcome reception.

His first official day at Brown was Jan. 18, but Adashi is still unpacking his books. Atop a mostly empty bookcase in his office are two photos. One is of his wife, Toni, a former actress in Habima, the Israeli National Theater, who

has a master's degree in drama studies from Johns Hopkins University.

The other photo is of a young man sitting at a piano — their son, Judah, a doctoral student in composition at

See DEAN, page 8

The Community School Where will Schechter, PHDS fit into new plan?

By Jonathan Rubin

Should the Jewish community day school come to fruition, it will dramatically change the educational landscape of Rhode Island's Jewish community. Both of the two current Jewish day schools — The Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) and the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS), both in Providence — will be significantly affected. Schechter currently has 185 students, and the PHDS has 135. The community school is aiming to have between 180 and 190 students when it opens.

The board of the Schechter school voted in December to effectively fold into the new school, which it regards as having a similar vision and goals (see letters to the editor,

page 5 for more discussion).

Schechter co-president Miriam Ross said that the board "determined that a strong, growing and sustainable Jewish day school needs broad-based community support, must be inclusive of all children who want to come and there must be a state-of-the-art facility. We voted that if the Community Day School would incorporate our core principles into its mission that we would partner with them to help make a community day school a reality. The board did not vote to close ASDS."

Bruce Wolpert, newly elected president of the Community Day School, remarked at the Feb. 16 Federation board

see CURRENT, page 3

The Jewish Voice & Herald

Editor
Jonathan Rubin
Assistant Editor
Mary Korr
Production & Graphic Design
Leah Camara
Advertising Representative
Frank Zasloff
Copy Editors
Marylyn Graff
Gladys Sollosy
Susannah Goldstein
Distribution Manager
Al Resnick

Published by the Jewish Federation of R.I.
President
Mark R. Feinstein
Executive Vice President
Janet Engelhart

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Telephone / Fax: Editorial phone: 401-421-4111. Advertising phone 401-421-4111 ext. 160. Fax: 401-331-7961.

Mail: The Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

E-mail:
voiceherald@jfri.org

Editorial Board:
Eleanor L. Lewis, chair

Members: Stanley Aronson, MD, Alan Axelrod, Patricia Cohen, Marty Cooper, Rabbi Alvan Kaufner, Toby London, Alyssa Nordhauser, Alison Rose, Richard Shein, Joshua Stein, Norman Tilles

Editorial Consultant
Judith Romney Wegner

Correspondents: Stanley Aronson, Tema Gouse, Yehuda Lev

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Community Calendar

CONTINUING:
MONDAYS

Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 2005 Spring Session

Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Leisure Club membership is open to all adults regardless of age or Temple affiliation. Membership is \$18.

10 to 10:50 a.m.

March 7: "What is Reconstructionist Judaism, Really?" with Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro.

March 14: "How We Can Care for All of Our Neighbors" with Rabbi Alan Flam, Brown University, Swearer Center.

-Coffee Break-

11:10a.m. - noon

March 7 through April 11: "The Human Condition through the Visual Arts" with Toba Weintraub, artist and art teacher.

TUESDAYS:

Adult education classes at Torat Yisrael

7 to 9 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue, Cranston. Second semester of Adult education, Tuesdays through April 19. For more information or to register, call (401) 785-1800 or email cberger@toratayisrael.org. See community.

FRI., MAR. 4

JCC, Kollel

Shabbat across America

5:20 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. The JCC and Jewish Community Kollel sponsor Shabbat services, part of "Shabbat Across America" celebrations, followed by a kosher Shabbat meal. All welcome at the service (free), reservations required for the meal - \$10 per person; \$50 per family (maximum). For more information or to register, call (401) 383-2786.

Shabbat across America at Temple Am David

6:15 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Shabbat service followed by a kosher dinner. Open to the community with special invitation to Jewish singles of R.I. and nearby Mass. Adults \$12.50, children \$6.75. RSVP to (401) 463-7944.

SAT., MARCH 5

BJE to honor

Ruth "Duffy" Page

7 p.m. Jane Pickens Theater, Newport. Fundraiser for scholarship fund will honor Ruth "Duffy" Page, who is retiring in June. Silent and live auction, raffle.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL:

From page 1

Federation grants \$425K to community day school

after an hour-long stalemate that left the meeting at an apparent impasse, boldly underlined the importance of the vote by stating:

"What you have before you are two priceless intangibles: the first is the principle, the concept of a community day school. The second is trust — do you, as a board, trust the leadership of this community who are asking you for the \$425,000?"

When the vote finally came for dispersal of \$425,000 of JFRI Endowment income, it was 71 in favor, one against and three abstentions.

The allocation will be used for start-up costs of the school, including the search for a new head, administrative, marketing and recruiting costs, consultant fees and planning expenses related to the investigation of other community school models.

"For 20 years this community has been saying that Jewish education is a priority... I'm thrilled that we're putting our money where our priorities are," said Alice Goldstein, of Warwick.

Wave of the future

The proposed school will serve children from at least kindergarten to the eighth grade, and day school committee members said there is the possibility that a high school will eventually be added. Both Partnership leadership and the newly established Day School board have repeatedly called the community school movement "the wave of the future," and the fastest growing Jewish day school movement in the United States.

"[Day school] transdenomination is the Jewish future," said Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, of Providence, who led the community day school committee.

He said the new school will be a "community resource," and its benefits will extend beyond the school itself. It can "meld families from diverse religious backgrounds, increase Jewish identity" for the families involved and become a spawning ground for "new leaders."

Partnership vision

Dee Dee Witman, chair of the Partnership organization that had been spearheading the community school idea, was "thrilled" at the board's decision.

"We came together as a team to make this dream a reality," she said.

The vote comes as a huge victory for the Partnership, a planning organization convened by the JFRI and charged with the lofty goal of improving the Jewish landscape of Rhode Island. The group has come under criticism for its slow pace on its many community-building initiatives; however, at the board meeting, its community school vision triumphed.

Alperin Schechter

Preliminary interviews of current ASDS parents have shown great interest in joining the school, said Wolpert, and plans will be drawn to integrate ASDS into the "Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island." (See story, page 1)

Wolpert, who had been on the Schechter board for 12 years, admitted that he was "skeptical at first," of the community school idea. However, after three years of studying it, he "became absolutely convinced that the community day school model is the best choice for our community."

"Why not come back in six months with more information?" asked a board member.

"We could have waited another six months" and produced more budget figures, said Bruce Wolpert, newly elected president of the community school project, but then the school's opening would be delayed until 2007 or later.

People want the school to open as quickly as possible, he said, and a "loss of momentum" caused by waiting would be very difficult to make up. He said that hiring of full-time professionals is essential to quickly solidifying a budget and readying the school for the 2006 opening.

Location

One of the most frequently asked questions during the meeting was about location and the facility needed for the new school. It will most likely occupy an interim site initially ("modular classrooms" were an option mentioned at the board meeting), with plans to eventually move into a permanent site.



Photos by Jonathan Rubin

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR Dee Dee Witman, left, makes her opening statement at board meeting of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island held at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. Seated at right are Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer and Sharon Gaines, while Bruce Wolpert stands in the background.

CURRENT: Where do current day schools fit in?

From page 1

meeting that the plan is for the Schechter school to end its final semester in June of 2006, with the community day school opening its doors for the first time a few months later in September. Wolpert said that based on meetings with Schechter parents, he predicts "a substantial number of Schechter students will come over" to the new school.

Providence Hebrew Day

Plans are somewhat less clear in the Orthodox community. In a letter to the editor that appeared in the last issue of the *Jewish Voice & Herald*, the dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School, Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman wrote that he "whole-heartedly support[s]" the community day school effort. However, he also stated that "that the community school model is usually not the school of choice for Orthodox families, regardless of their level of observance."

The situation was acknowledged differently at the JFRI board meeting; Wolpert remarked that "certain segments of the Orthodox day school felt that it wouldn't be a good fit... we acknowledge their need."

Hebrew Day is not expected to lose a substantial number of students to the new school. An Orthodox Jewish day school, PHDS serves two major communities of observant Jews in Providence — the "Yeshiva Orthodox" and the "Modern Orthodox." While the pluralistic and transdenominational approach is unlikely to be attractive to the Yeshiva Orthodox community, a number of Modern Orthodox families are expected to switch from PHDS to the new community school.



ALPERIN SCHECHTER co-president Jeffrey H. Gladstone addresses the Federation board.

Also, the school may prove enticing to the few Providence families who send their children to Orthodox academies in Brookline and elsewhere in Massachusetts.

Some boosters for PHDS are worried that once a community school arrives on the scene community funding for its students will take a hit. Under the current plan in Rhode Island, the day schools are funded with per capita allocations for their students.

At the Feb. 16 JFRI board

meeting, a member of the board said that when a community school opened in Worcester, Mass., the Jewish community "cut all funding" for the Orthodox day school.

Federation president Mark Feinstein assured those present that this would not happen.

"I have no concern that we will abandon our support of the Providence Hebrew Day School," he said.

Inside this issue

Section	Page
Calendar	2 & 13
Community	3,12-13
Op-ed, Letters	19-21
Federation	4 & 5
Food/Arts	6-7
Seniors	16-17
Classified, Simchas	18
Obituaries	24
My Voice	25-26
	7

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Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE 'Nazi collaborators' off the starboard bow?

Believe it or not, an attempt is being made in Israel to charge Prime Minister Ariel Sharon with treason on the grounds that he is a Nazi collaborator. The legal basis for this stems from the traditional laws against piracy on the high seas.



Yehuda Lev

Before you turn the page in search of something more believable, let me explain. With the evacuation of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip scheduled to begin in July, tempers are rising in Israel, especially on the part of those who oppose removing the 7,500 Jews who live in those settlements.

This, claim Sharon's enemies, amounts to treason (their word) because surrendering (again their word) any part of the Land of Israel is forbidden by Jewish law and is construed as traitorous conduct on the part of all those involved.

All of this could be considered just another example of overheated Israeli political rhetoric were it not for the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995 which occurred after just such a furor arose about the possibility of turning over control of Palestinian territory to the Palestinians.

This time however, some of the

Prime Minister's more extreme enemies, including rabbinic leaders of a right-wing disengagement group, have proposed that he be tried in an Israeli court on grounds of being a Nazi collaborator under the terms of a law passed by the Knesset in 1950 titled "Nazi and Nazi Collaborators - Punishment Law."

Its text can be downloaded from the web site of the Israel Ministry of For-

crimes committed before the state that wrote the laws even existed, are difficult enough to justify legally. But in dealing with piracy on the high seas governments faced additional problems. For example, they rarely could try pirates in the lands from which they came, nor could they try pirates in the nations whose ships had been robbed and citizens murdered. So pirates were usually tried on the basis

Israel and, in fact, served its purpose well in the case of Adolf Eichmann. But Ariel Sharon? If it did not serve as a warning of possible tragedies to come, the very idea would be ludicrous. But it does, and it's not.

We are seeing today a return to the atmosphere that led to the Rabin assassination, of which the attempt to label Sharon a traitor deserving of death is one of many examples. Last week Israeli newspapers reported on an anti-evacuation rally in Jerusalem at which the organizers distributed a pamphlet addressed to Sharon which said: "You are the one who has already brought a holocaust to thousands of dead and wounded in your licentious manner and you are the one who is currently taking millions of Jews into the borders of Auschwitz."

At that rally a leader of the outlawed Kach movement of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane accused the government of "betrayal," a word that, according to *Ha'aretz*, "... the far-right has used in the past as a code for treason punishable by death." His words were greeted with cheers. And death threats to leading government and military officials have become commonplace.

On the whole, the pirates were easier to deal with.

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

We are seeing today a return to the atmosphere that led to the Rabin assassination, of which the attempt to label Sharon a traitor deserving of death...

eign Affairs. In very small type it takes six pages to wend its way through a thicket of legal phraseology but the part that concerns us states that anyone who (I summarize) acted against Jews in an "enemy country" is liable for prosecution in Israel. "Enemy country" is defined *inter alia* as any country occupied by or under the control of the Axis powers during World War II. These included Syria and Egypt and, if you chose to regard the British Mandate as having been an occupation of Palestine by an enemy, they included Israel as well.

Enter the pirates. Laws against

prima facie evidence and then hung from the yardarm. It was a practical way of resolving a quasi-legal situation. In America we called it frontier justice. In Israel it served to bring into court those who truly deserved punishment for crimes committed years before, but that other nations were not prepared to or could not act upon. And who warranted punishment more than those Nazis and their collaborators who evaded capture at the end of World War II?

The Israeli law, based in part on the earlier anti-piracy laws, was intended only to bring such people to trial in

ALISON ON ALIYAH

'Expecting' optimism in modern Israel

Toddlers. Babies. Strollers. Big, round bellies and that infamous pregnant "waddle." Sometimes it seems that every woman in Israel (especially Jerusalem) is either already a mother — perhaps several times over — or well on her way. Everywhere I look, I see women heaving themselves plus three kids, double strollers, and diaper bags onto buses; Sephardic mothers with their gaggles of children, scarcely a year between each one; girls significantly younger than me discussing diaper rash and new teeth.

Besides the ever-so-slight pang of jealousy that has begun to rear its ugly head (I am, after all, getting up there in years) I am always struck with a certain awe at these sights. It's so commonplace here, and, of course, this is almost certainly related to the substantial religious population in Jerusalem, a group that considers itself solely responsible for reversing the impending and ever-threatening "demographic crisis," which is expected to reach its peak within the next thirty years. This is due in part to the Israeli Arab population's birth rate, which is nearly double that of the Jewish citizens of Israel, and in part to the fairly steady decline in Jewish immigration.

I used to think of pregnancy as simply part of the life cycle; something women do because they can. But there is

something different about it here.

For instance, not once have I seen a soon-to-be mother in real "maternity wear." You know the type: a big frock the size of a house, overalls, baggy pants waving in the wind, all with the express purpose of hiding every possible hint of

It's as if every pregnant woman in Israel is carrying our future, and we all rejoice every time another child joins our midst.

femininity. No, here you will see bulging bellies underneath skin-tight shirts; figures shown off by long, narrow skirts; sometimes even an inch or two of skin poking out from a stretched waistline. All of this combines to create an almost palpable feeling in the air of maternal comfort, pure feminine power and the beauty of reproduction. It's like living in a big maternity ward.

When I was in the U.S., I would often hear people declare that they were having second thoughts about "bringing a child into this world," referring to the "way it is out there today," the "sorry state of affairs," and the fact that the "world is going to hell in a hand basket." I never particularly blamed people who felt this way, and there were many days on which I secretly agreed with them. It seems that the universal aspiration to bring our

children into a world that is better than the one in which we grew up, is slowly fading away into impossibility.

Perhaps no people in the world should feel this more strongly than Jews, and Israeli Jews in particular. Sometimes it seems that Israel has more

than her share of justification to feel dejected, pessimistic, beaten down, and wary of her future. And yet her people often seem to me to be among the most optimistic I've ever seen. Young adults in their early twenties getting married in droves, completely oblivious to the ominous "50 percent divorce rate" that rings in all our ears. Weathered, aging Holocaust survivors who believe so fiercely in the ultimate triumph of the state of Israel that they weep freely on our Independence Day. Battered, traumatized "normal" Israelis stepping lightly onto city buses, still hoping and believing that peace will come to us one day. This is optimism on a level I've never known.

And so lately I've been rethinking my own aspirations in this arena. Granted, it's still early in my own life

cycle, and I thank my lucky stars every day that I still have a few years to go before childbirth becomes an imminent decision, but I am starting to feel this country's influence seeping into me. I feel a sense of hope I don't know if I've ever felt before and a desire to contribute to our world simply because I believe in our strength and resilience as a people.

I can't say the "state of affairs" will be any better for my children than they are today, but I am starting to feel a need to throw in my two cents anyway. I used to imagine that two kids would be my limit, what with a career and tight finances and all those impending concerns. But now I feel a certain pull to help my people, and if having more kids would do it, that's one step I feel I'll be willing to take. It's as if every pregnant woman in Israel is carrying our future, and we all rejoice every time another child joins our midst. No wonder we are so optimistic.

Alison Stern Golub is a graduate of Brown University. Contact her at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com. Read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.



Alison Golub

VIEWPOINT

Should Schechter close?

As parents of children who are currently enrolled in the Alperin Schechter Day School, we have been following the progress of the Community Day School with great interest, but with much ambivalence. We want to raise some concerns with the hope that this will prompt a public dialogue which has yet to take place. We, the community of Schechter families, should have the opportunity to voice our opinion and have a say in determining the future of our school.

Throughout this process, the Schechter families, whose commitment to a Jewish education is proven, have not been approached with the simple question: Do we want to close our Conservative-affiliated school and send our children to a Community Day School?

The Schechter Board of Directors made the decision to close our doors and morph into the Community Day School. They presented their decision to the Schechter families in a series of open meetings. We were given the chance to react, to ask questions — but this was all well after the fact.

We are being told that a Community Day School will be able to attract more people because it will be trans-denominational. Are we to believe that a large number of families in the Rhode Island community have stood on the sidelines, not sending their children to a Jewish day school because it was not trans-denominational? And is the expanded enrollment in the Community Day School going to come from the Orthodox community? The Orthodox school isn't closing! Providence Hebrew Day School has received a commitment of continued support from Federation, as well it should.

Schechter is already inclusive, acces-

sible and pluralistic. We boast families from the Reform, Reconstructionist, Orthodox and unaffiliated, as well as Conservative, sectors of our community. These families chose Schechter because they wanted a serious dual-curriculum program.

We are being told that a state-of-the-art campus will increase enrollment. Yet, despite Schechter's underwhelming facility, our families have "voted" with their pocketbooks and have shown that core substance takes precedence over aesthetics. Many of our families like the fact that the school is attached to a synagogue because it gives our children access to and comfort with its religious leaders and the sanctuary. Our children are growing up feeling very much at home in a synagogue setting. We think this will have a positive impact on them as they grow up and choose to affiliate with a synagogue, surely a goal of Jewish education.

Philosophically, the idea of a community school is admirable. We would wholeheartedly support the community's efforts to start such a school if it was not contingent upon our school closing. After all, a variety of day school options is the sign of a vibrant Jewish community. But why not begin, as every school does, with a K class and let it grow each year? If, in the free marketplace of ideas, the community school will prove more attractive to Rhode Island Jews, it will thrive and, perhaps, eventually replace the Schechter.

Schechter is slated to close in September, 2006. Do you want this to happen? The time has come to voice your concerns.

Ellen Silverman
Providence
Naomi Schorsch Stein
Providence

Kashrut errors need correcting

As kashrut coordinator for the Rhode Island Kashrus Commission, a branch of the Va'ad of Rhode Island, I must take exception to an article you printed on Jan. 7.

First your title — "Vaad OKs Kosher Products." The Vaad of Rhode Island (now called The Rhode Island Kashrus Commission) does not "OK" kosher products; either a product is kosher or not kosher, regardless of what our commission has to say about it.

Secondly, your author is correct that Byblos Mediterranean Foods was formerly under the auspices of the Rhode Island Kashrus Commission. When their company moved to Maine under World Foods, we made every effort to keep them under our supervision. We went as far as hiring a rabbi from Maine to inspect their factory on a weekly basis. The bottom line, however, is that the company failed to pay their kashrus fees, although we gave them many, many chances. Therefore we had to terminate our relationship with the company.

Next, the author pointed out that

we removed certification from Kaplan's Bakery when we found they were baking on Passover — "Even though the bread was intended for non-Jews." Kaplan's went against our kashrus policy for Passover; It doesn't matter who the bread was being made for; they simply broke the rules. Every organization has rules. In kashrus the watchword is trust. If we can't trust a company, it means that there is a problem, and we may have to remove our certification.

Caterers who are certified under the Kashrus Commission follow nation-wide kosher policies when it comes to food service and preparation. Any person coming to Rhode Island for a Bar-Mitzvah, wedding or any type of party, should feel comfortable eating the foods served by our caterers.

Finally, while there are members of the lay board of the Va'ad of Hakashrus of Rhode Island from various branches of Judaism, it must be stressed that only Orthodox rabbis are permitted under the by-laws to be on the rabbinic board. The rabbinic board sets all religious policies:

VIEWPOINT RESPONSE

Schechter will live on in community school

The members of the Alperin Schechter Board understand the concerns and feelings expressed in the Viewpoint article on this page. Most of the board members are also parents of ASDS students. We all share a love for the school, and we all want to see the wonderful work of ASDS continue. Who could have possibly sat through our Zimryah celebration a few weeks ago without understanding the greatness of what our institution is doing, and without wanting to make sure our school continues to flourish.

Bearing in mind these concerns and feelings, the board has spent a great deal of time discussing the challenges that face our school as we plan for our future. We have reached three basic conclusions.

1) It will be beneficial to the ASDS community to relocate to a new, state-of-the-art facility with green space and room to expand.

2) ASDS should adopt specific language in our mission that is inclusive to all Jews.

3) If the Community Day School will agree to incorporate ASDS' "Core Principles," it would make sense to partner with them to build the new campus and to evolve ASDS into a single Community Day School with broader support from the R.I. Jewish community.

These principles summarize the vote taken by the board in December. It is a vote that recognizes the greatness of the institution that we have, while also addressing some of the challenges we face for the future.

While the Viewpoint writers note our families love Schechter despite its "underwhelming facility," none of us would disagree that an improved facility would offer benefits to our children as well as attract more students. In addition, our current facility has reached a point where maintaining the systems and structure in the appropriate manner requires a very significant investment. This money could be better spent on building a campus with room to grow.

Also, we need to recognize that the connection with the adjoining Temple Emanu-El does create some tension,

the lay board addresses financial matters.

While we do indeed serve the entire Jewish community through supervising bakeries, assisted living facilities, factories, caterers, coffee roasters, apple packers and others, we never compromise our standards of kashrus.

Jewish Law is not up for debate; we

both in broadening our reach and our financial support within the community. ASDS' affiliation with the Schechter association and our close relationship with Temple Emanu-El diminish our appeal to the broader R.I. Jewish community, and impede long-term growth and viability.

Our tuition has risen out of reach of many families, even after our substantial investment in financial aid. Successful day schools rely on community support to provide affordable first-class education to their children. As we move forward, we need to make certain that we never need to compromise our children's education for lack of resources, and that we also do not make ourselves unaffordable to parents that want their children to come to our school.

Partnering with the Community Day School (CDS) project gives ASDS the opportunity to relocate and broaden our mission with the support of the broader Jewish community. The new school will still embrace our "core principles" as well as the sense of community that we love. ASDS is not "closing its doors," but rather opening them wider. This will take place in the form of a new school identity and campus so that the broader Jewish community can participate and take pride in its creation.

All of us share the same concerns. We want to continue what we have at ASDS into the future. The fact that many of the people involved in the CDS are alumni parents, teachers, and supporters helps ensure that our intentions and concerns will be honored and respected.

All we can ultimately say is that after much study and thought as a board, we are convinced that this plan represents the best way to assure that we continue and expand our school's success. This can only be done with the help of all of our parents, and students, in joining together to bring all of what we love to the new campus.

Jeffrey H. Gladstone, Esq.
Miriam A. Ross, Esq.
Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees,
Alperin Schechter Day School

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

Anschel Strauss
Providence

Federation

FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Puzzle pieces

Every once in a while my family likes the challenge of a good jigsaw puzzle.

We first find a picture we can all agree on. We clear off the dining room table, dump the pile of pieces and begin the journey that slowly builds the picture. We start with the four corners, slowly frame in the edges and then work on the middle, getting closer to one another.

Each of us has our own strategy. As each piece is added, each

What kind of Jewish Community do we wish to have here in Rhode Island? How can we build a vibrant, inclusive community for the future?

subsequent piece gets a bit easier and the picture slowly comes into focus. Some puzzles have been very simple; others have taken us quite some time to complete.

It occurred to me earlier this week that our Jewish community is very similar to a jigsaw puzzle. Like a puzzle, our community is made up of many parts and only when the segments are placed in a thoughtful way, does the picture look right.

As you have read elsewhere in the paper, the Federation's Board of Directors overwhelmingly passed a motion to endorse

and fund some start-up costs for a new community day school. This vote confirms the fact that an exciting community picture is beginning to come into view.

For four years, we have been preparing for this. Hundreds of volunteers and professionals have met and continue to meet to answer the fundamental questions: What kind of Jewish community do we wish to have here in Rhode Island? How can we build a vibrant, inclusive community for the future?

A new community day school is an important compo-

nent of what our community will be. It will be one of the bases that will enhance so many other pieces of communal life. We have learned from other communities that a community school of excellence will impact not only the students who receive full-time Jewish education, but also it will have a dramatic ripple effect upon everyone connected to the Jewish community.

Families across religious denominations dialogue with one another and become more comfortable with a diversity of religious observance and affilia-

tion. A broad-based educational effort inspires philanthropists to invest in community initiatives.

But our work is far from done. We are adding new pieces, such as the community day school and new preschool programs in different parts of the State. And we are searching for ways to reach families and interconnect better so that a beautiful community picture will emerge.

I hope you are as excited as I am to help with this important effort.



Mark R. Feinstein

Help Bake Heaps of Hamantaschen

The Jewish Federation of RI Women's Alliance
Community Service Committee,
Women's Association of Jewish Seniors Agency and
Perspectives Program for Jews in their 20's and 30's

Invite you to help us bake Hamantaschen

The hamantaschen will be delivered to Jewish residents in nursing homes throughout Rhode Island

Sunday, March 20, 2005

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tamarisk

3 Shalom Drive, Warwick*



A great event for families

*I-95 South to exit 12A. Follow sign to Greenwich Ave. Turn left onto Rt. 5 North. Turn right at the second light, Shalom Drive. Tamarisk will be on left.

RSVP to Tracie at: goldman@jfri.org
or call 401-421-4111, ext 162

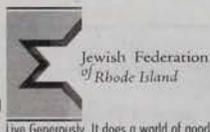


Photo by JFRI

R.I. snowbirds gather in Florida

At the annual JFRI Community Endowment Department's annual Florida event, held at the Kravits Center, West Palm Beach, Rhode Island "snowbirds" and former Rhode Islanders mixed and mingled prior to a concert by The Boston Pops. Pictured are: Seated: Carolyn and David Brodsky, and Stanley Grossman; Standing: Victor & Gussie Baxt, Anne Krause, and Hazel Grossman.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of R.I.

brings you an evening featuring

Chef Bruce Tillinghast

Chef at New Rivers Restaurant

Event location: Brown University Hillel

Event Co-chairs

Randi Beranbaum • Lisa Davis • Linda Miller

This celebration honors women who make a minimum individual gift of \$1,000 to the 2005 Annual Campaign.



Federation

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH The history of a Women's Alliance



Sharon Gaines, current Women's Alliance president



Cheryl Teverow, first president of the Women's Alliance

By Rachel Siegal

As March is Women's History month, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the history of the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation. The Women's Alliance was created in 2000 with the intention of serving all women who are active in supporting the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Previously, two different women's groups — the Women's Division (WD), and the Women's Business & Professional Association (B&P) — were serving different segments of the population of women involved at Federation. The Women's Alliance was created to combine the two constituencies of these groups and engage them in more efficient, inclusive, and relevant ways.

The mission of the Women's Alliance is to instill a sense of Jewish identity for all women through raising funds in support of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, diversified programming, leadership development, and community service; and to impart to the community on behalf of JFRI the evolving needs of the Jewish people locally, nationally, in Israel, and overseas.

Cheryl Teverow chaired the strategic plan that ultimately resulted in the creation of the Women's Alliance. She commented: "The time was right for the women of Rhode Island to be looked at as a whole, that's why the Women's Alliance was created. It was a wonderful opportunity for involved and unaffiliated women to come together and create the Women's Alliance."

The results were encouraging, she said. "It did bring in more dollars, and more people." Teverow then went on to serve as the first president of the Women's Alliance.

Under the guidance of its leaders, the Women's Alliance has enjoyed incredible success in its five short years. From its popular Rosh Hodesh springtime education series, to its hands-on "Mitzvah of the Month" projects, to welcoming new parents with "Shalom Baby" packages, the Women's Alliance reaches a broad spectrum of women.

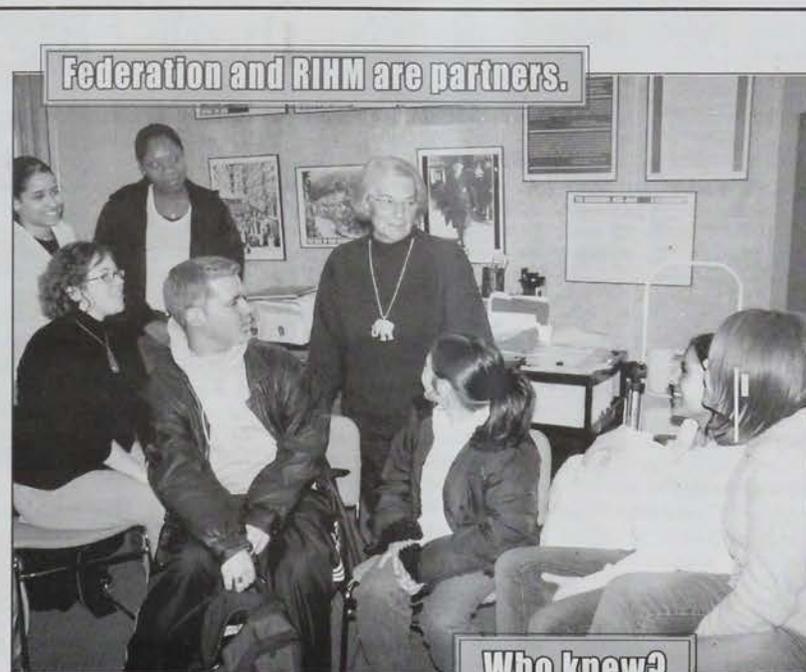
Sharon Gaines, president of the Women's Alliance, believes that the strategic goal of the WA is to strengthen the role of women within Federation and in the Jewish community.

"It's about ensuring that women have a seat at the decision-making table, and we are raising our voices as women concerned about the well being of our Jewish community," Gaines said.

Perhaps the most significant marker of its success has been its annual campaign. The Women's Alliance is responsible for raising money from Jewish women in Greater Rhode Island for the Jewish Federation's annual campaign. "The size of the Women's Alliance campaign demonstrates our power and credibility as serious fundraisers," says 2005 Women's Campaign Chair Mitzi Berkelhammer. This year, the Women's Alliance has raised the most money in its short history- to date, over \$1,073,000. The Women's Alliance is staking its claim as part of the growing trend of women's philanthropy in the country (See Women in Philanthropy, Financial Planning Insert).

For more information on the Women's Alliance, please visit the Jewish Federation's website, www.jfri.org.

Rachel Siegal is the director of the Women's Alliance at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



The power of Community

What is the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum?

It's...

- Holocaust Survivors and educators speaking in schools throughout the state
- Teacher workshops
- Extensive library
- Educational videotapes and curricular resources
- Special programs during Student Awareness Days
- Art & writing contest for middle and high school students
- Lectures, films and other presentations
- Archives and displays of Holocaust artifacts and artworks

FEDERATION AND THE RHODE ISLAND HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 1988, EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY, BOTH JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH... about the Holocaust and its meaning for all mankind.

Over 6,000 people a year, primarily youngsters, benefit from the Museum's educational services with the hope that they will then go out into the world and try to eliminate prejudice in our society. The Museum is not about death, but about the future life of all human beings.

Be an important partner in the *power of community*. Give generously to the 2005 JFRI campaign and invest in your 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.



Jewish Federation
of Rhode Island

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To volunteer or learn about community programs, visit our web site at www.jfri.org or call 401.421.4111.

DEAN: New Brown dean is an Israeli

From page 1

Johns Hopkins. He is married to a medical resident; both are graduates of Yale.

The Adashis moved here from Utah, where he chaired the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Utah Health Services Center. They recently bought a home near the Brown campus.

Beginnings

Adashi is a 1973 graduate of the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. After an internship in Tel Aviv, he came to the United States as an ob-gyn resident at Tufts' New England Medical Center in Boston.

After completing his residency in Boston, he studied reproductive endocrinology at Johns Hopkins and then at the University of California. His initial plan was to complete his training in this country and return to Israel. But professional opportunities beckoned

— something his father well understood; but his decision to remain in this country dismayed his mother, who wanted her only son to return home. Adashi was the first to graduate from college in his family; his parents' generation was "victimized by lack of opportunity and missed out on formal education," he said.

His career began at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he was the director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology for 15 years. He has had a stellar research career in his field, notably in the genetics of ovarian cancer — and one of his charges is to integrate and increase research and funding within Brown's multi-institutional medical constellation.

Brown Provost Robert J. Zimmer, who led the two-year search for the dean, said at a Dec. 6 welcome reception that "Eli

Adashi comes to Brown with an extraordinary record of achievement in clinical care, medical research, medical education and academic administration."

At the reception, Brown President Ruth Simmons called his appointment an "important milestone in our ongoing effort to advance the university locally, nationally and internationally."

He will also oversee development of a new medical school curriculum. Adashi said changes in information technology are happening at "warp speed."



Dr. Eli Adashi was welcomed by Dr. Stanley Aronson, dean emeritus of Brown's Medical School, and Brown President Ruth Simmons at a reception in his honor in December.

And while the tools to educate today's physicians have changed dramatically, the reasons one becomes a doctor remains the same, he feels — "to be of service, to do good, to make a difference. And for some, it is the highest

mountain to climb." At Brown, Adashi has a difficult but challenging climb ahead. But first, a piece of chocolate cake.

Time to relax, time to learn, time for yourself...

Women's Wellness Workshop 2005

A conference on women's health

Sponsored by The Miriam Hospital, this daylong event of educational sessions, health screenings and presentations by health care professionals will empower you with the information you need to stay healthy.

Keynote presentation



Heloise will present "Heloise's Hints for Health with Humor: Laughter Really Can Improve Your Life." This lively presentation is sure to be a great way to start the day at Women's Wellness Workshop.

Heloise is the most famous name in lifestyle advice and a self-proclaimed "clutter buster." Heloise grew into her role as columnist at the knee of her legendary mother, who began writing the first "Hints from Heloise" column in 1959. "Heloise to the Rescue" has been a fixture for over 20 years in *Good Housekeeping's* editorial lineup, while her daily "Hints from Heloise" column is published in 500 newspapers, including many foreign editions. Heloise also broadcasts a live national radio show on Saturdays and Sundays, has written 11 top-selling books and is a frequent guest on national television and radio shows.

\$25 per person (\$30 per person after March 11) — includes light, healthy breakfast, fashion show luncheon and events of the day. To register, complete the form below, call the Lifespan Health Connection at 401-444-4800 or 1-800-927-1230, or register online using a credit card at www.Lifespan.org.

Registration Form

Please send this completed registration form and payment to: Lifespan Community Health Services, 70 Catamore Blvd, East Providence, RI 02914.

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 Address: _____ City: _____
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Scholarships are available (pre-registration required). Please call 401-431-5410 for additional information. Make your check or money order payable to: **The Miriam Hospital**.

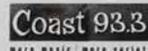
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For more information about Women's Wellness Workshop, call 401-444-4800 or 1-800-927-1230, or visit our website at www.Lifespan.org. To register additional attendees, please make copies of this registration form.

Saturday, March 19
 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
 Crowne Plaza
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- Cosmetic Procedures: The Spa Treatment
- Dig In and Grow: Enhance Your Well Being with a Sensory Garden
- Dress for Less Stress: Building a Basic Wardrobe
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- Safety Awareness and Self Defense
- Surviving the Sandwich Generation
- Medical and Surgical Technology for Treating Heart Disease
- Getting Enough Sleep: How to Make this Wish Come True in Your Life
- Take the Word "Impossible" Out of Your Vocabulary and Dream Big
- Weight Control through Sports Medicine
- Not This Week, Honey, I Have a Migraine!
- Weight, Diabetes and Urinary Incontinence
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Israel

Bombing strains peace talks

By Dan Baron

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli officials talked tough in response to a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv nightclub, but they resisted declaring an end to a cease-fire.

The Feb. 25 attack on the Stage killed five people and wounded more than 50, turning the usually raucous Tel Aviv beachfront promenade into a nightmare of blood and debris.

"Quiet — Blown Apart," was the headline in Israel's leading daily Yediot Achronot. That "quiet" was the calming of violence ushered in by the Feb. 8 cease-fire declared by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"While the State of Israel seeks to advance toward an accord with the Palestinians, there will be no diplomatic progress — I repeat, no diplomatic progress — until the Palestinians take robust action to wipe out the terror groups and their infrastructure in the Palestinian Authority's territory," Sharon told his Cabinet that Sunday.

Israel's restraint stemmed, in part, from the outrage shown by

the Palestinian Authority at an attack whose origins were apparently abroad.

The bomber was a 21-year-old Palestinian from the city of Tulkarm, acting in the name of Islamic Jihad.

But the terrorist group's own leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip denied any involvement in the bombing, which violated their truce talks with Abbas. Then came a claim from Islamic Jihad's Beirut branch, a proxy of its Damascus headquarters.

"Syria continues to give amnesty to terror groups and encourages them to carry out attacks, which endangers the peace process with the Palestinians and regional stability," Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said after meeting with security chiefs.

Syria denied any involvement in the attack.

In apparent agreement with Mofaz, Abbas blamed a "third side" for the bombing and vowed a crackdown by the Palestinian Authority.

"We will bring them to jus-

tice. We will not allow anyone to sabotage the ambitions of our people. Those who carried out the attack are terrorists," Abbas told reporters. "There is a third party which wants to sabotage the peace process.

Despite Abbas' strong language — the word "terrorists" is rare in Palestinian rhetoric — Sharon hinted that his patience was limited.

"Recently, the State of Israel has shown restraint in order to facilitate progress," he said. "But it is clear that if the Palestinians do not begin to take robust action against terrorism, Israel will be compelled to step up military activity that is designed to protect the lives of Israeli citizens."

The attack could also hinder any additional release of Palestinian prisoners. Israel recently released 500 of them and has said it would free another 400, but Israeli Cabinet minister Tzipi Livni told Palestinian officials that Israel did not want another meeting of the joint committee that sets the criteria for releases.

President Bush reacted strongly to the bombing as well. "Such brutal attacks that kill



Brian Hendler/JTA

FRIENDS OF ODELIA HOBERA, 26, who died of wounds sustained at a Feb. 25, 2005, Palestinian suicide bombing outside the Stage nightclub in Tel Aviv, grieve at her funeral held in Jerusalem, Tuesday, March 1, 2005. Hobera had planned to move to the U.S. in April with her boyfriend of the past year, who works there.

and wound innocent Israelis cannot be tolerated by the Israeli people," he said.

"Nor should they be tolerated by the Palestinian people, for such attacks undermine their hopes for a better future."

Israel's deputy defense minister, Ze'ev Boim, said Israel could resume its assassinations of Islamic Jihad leaders — a move that most Palestinians would

view as a violation of the truce — or even strike Syria, as it did when it bombed a terrorist training base outside Damascus in October 2003 in response to a Palestinian suicide attack.

"Action by us against Syria is certainly a possibility," Boim told Israel Radio. If Syria's president, Bashar Assad "needs another hint from us, then he will get it, of course."

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Photo by Jason Permenthal

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Nation

Jewish flavor at Oscar awards, often strong, is subtler this year

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Jewish talent didn't make the headlines at Sunday evening's Academy Awards, but there was some consolation in the less-glamorous categories.

Tom Rosenberg briefly shared the spotlight with Clint Eastwood as one of the three producers of best picture "Million Dollar Baby," which also collected Oscars in the best director, actress and supporting actor categories.

Charlie Kaufman, the favorite, won the best original screenplay Oscar for "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." After what he calls a "normal Jewish upbringing" on Long Island, Kaufman has become one of the hottest Hollywood writers, turning out scripts that tend to blur the line between fantasy and reality.



Photo by JTA

NATALIE PORTMAN, on the set of 'Free Zone' with Israeli costar Hana Laszlo, was one of Jewish Oscar hopefuls who went home disappointed.

In the documentary feature category, often dominated by Holocaust-themed entries, the winner was "Born Into Brothels," a story about the children of Calcutta prostitutes. Sharing the award were director Zana Briski, whose Iraqi Jewish mother now lives in Israel, according to Jewhoo.com, and her Jewish coproducer, Ross Kauffman.

Jorge Drexler, whose parents immigrated to Uruguay from Europe, earned the best original song Oscar for "Al Otro Lado Del Rio" from "The Motorcycle Diaries." Drexler, who reportedly lived in Israel for a time, now lives in Spain.

Comedian Chris Rock, the evening's host, toned down his normally edgy nightclub routine for the occasion. But he pricked up some ears in a bit about "The Passion of the Christ" when he observed that "A lot of Jewish people were offended" by the film. "They were mad about it."

As a follow-up, Rock commented, "I can relate to that. I had to deal with a movie called 'Soul Plane,'" — a lame comedy about a one-plane airline run by blacks that was panned for its black stereotypes.

Sidney Lumet, the director of such memorable films as "Twelve Angry Men," "Network" and the Jewish-themed "The Pawnbroker" and "Bye Bye Braverman," accepted a lifetime achievement award.

Veteran film and television

executive Roger Mayer received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his work on behalf of film preservation and the motion picture retirement home.

British film veteran David Samuelson appeared via video to accept a technical award for his invention, a revolutionary camera-mounting device.

Jewish hopes for an acting award rode on the best supporting actress category. Among the five finalists were Natalie Portman for "Closer" and Sophie Okonedo for "Hotel Rwanda."

Portman, born in Jerusalem and equally fluent in English and Hebrew, has just completed a semester at the Hebrew University and is now before the cameras in the Israeli film "Free Zone" by Amos Gitai.

Okonedo, a well-known British actress, is the daughter of a Jewish mother and a Nigerian father.

Both women were trumped by Cate Blanchett, who portrayed Katherine Hepburn in "The Aviator."

Among the last to appear on the stage, showing up in the final moments of the broadcast, were Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand.

The two stars, who play a free-spirited Jewish couple in the comedy "Meet the Fockers," introduced the best picture nominees and winner in an oddly absent-minded and ditzzy shtick.

Babies Kids & Kibbitzing

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Bush tempers push for 'Palestine' with focus on small, practical steps

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Bush is declaring his hope for a Palestinian state loud and clear, and no wonder — it's almost the price of entry to the alliance with Europe that he urgently wants to revive.

Some in the American Jewish community were uneasy at first about Bush's push for the Palestinians, but Bush's actions show that his commitment to Israel remains as solid as ever.

Just as Bush repeatedly has touted the benefits of a future Palestinian state at each stop along this week's European tour, his secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, is determined to keep the discussion limited to the here and now when an international conference on the Palestinians convenes March 1 in London.

Rice will not allow the conference to consider the geographic contours of a Palestinian state, and instead will focus on how the United States and Europe can help the Palestinians reform a society corrupted by years of venal terrorist rule under the late Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"This will definitely have a more practical and pragmatic orientation," an administration official said.

That's fine with the Europeans, who are happy to see progress on a topic they once felt Bush neglected — even if, for now, the progress is rhetorical.

"This is probably good music to introduce the London conference," a European diplomat said of Bush's repeated reference to his hope that he will see a democratic Palestine.

Bush's push for Palestinian empowerment at first alarmed some Jewish organizational leaders, who wanted to see if newly elected P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas would carry out Palestinian promises to quash terrorism.

Now that Abbas apparently is beginning to make good on his pledge — deploying troops throughout the Gaza Strip to stop attacks, and sacking those responsible for breaches — Jewish communal leaders are more on board.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations this week formally welcomed Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and part of

the West Bank, and congressional insiders say the American Israel Public Affairs Committee had a role in making a U.S. House of Representatives resolution praising Abbas even more pro-Palestinian than the original draft.

One factor that temporarily tempered Jewish enthusiasm was Bush's determination to rebuild a transatlantic alliance frayed by the Iraq war.

Bush wants the Europeans on board in his plans for democratizing Iraq, corralling Iran's nuclear ambitions and expanding global trade. But Jewish officials have felt burned in recent years by the Europeans' perceived pro-Palestinian tilt and their failure to contain resurgent anti-Semitism.

Don't get too exercised, cautioned David Makovsky, a senior analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"We should be careful every time we hear the word 'Europe' not to get allergic," he said. "Bush is trying to channel the Europeans to focus more on consensus issues."

That may be so, but the consensus appears to be shift-

See BUSH, page 26

Kol Sasson a cappella group will perform at Brown

PROVIDENCE — Kol Sasson, the University of Maryland's Jewish a cappella group, will perform in Providence on Wednesday, March 23 at 8 p.m. at the Brown University Hillel building, 80 Brown St.

The group performs throughout the country and sang at the national menorah lighting ceremony at the White House in 2003. Kol Sasson sings in both Hebrew and English, as well as their own original "shtick," which appeals to audiences of all ages. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults, available for purchase at the door.

The group also just wrapped up recording its new CD, which will be available for preorder at the concert. More information about Kol Sasson and its members can be found at www.kolsasson.com or by contacting the group's president, Abigail Mintz at abigailm@umd.edu.

Scout pack holds Pinewood Derby at Beth Sholom

The first pinewood derby was held in California in 1953. Since then, tens of millions of Cub Scouts have worked with their parents to make small wooden cars to race in a pinewood derby.

The Cub Scouts in Pack 104 will race their handmade cars at Congregation Beth Sholom on Sunday, March 13th at 9:30 a.m. All kindergarten-age boys in the community are invited to attend this special running of the pinewood derby. This event will show them some of the fun they will have when they can join Cub Scouting at the end of this school year as Tiger Cubs.

During 2005, Cub Scouting will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. The Boy Scouts of America organized Cub Scouting for younger boys in 1930.

For more information about this or any other Pack 104 program, contact Lori Glazer at LDGlazer@cox.net.

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COMMUNITY

Doctor who helped Poles resist Nazis to speak

WARWICK — Dr. Zbigniew Zawadzki was a Brown University professor of medicine, who spent his youth in Poland studying medicine illegally and helping the Polish resistance.

His story will be told by Ina R. Friedman, award winning author and storyteller, at a program entitled "Stories of Courage and Commitment: Christian Resistance to the Holocaust" on March 14. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, the program will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. There is no charge, and a dessert reception will follow.

After the German invasion of Poland in 1939, the Nazi leadership forbade Polish students from receiving more than a third-grade education. Dr. Zawadzki, at great risk,

attended a secret medical school and at the same time served in the Polish resistance. His story, along with two others about teenagers who defied the Nazis, as told by Friedman, are part of the R.I. Holocaust Museum's annual Student Awareness Days program. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Edwin Soforenko Foundation.

Friedman traveled to five continents to interview men and women who were teenagers during World War II. The author of three books, Friedman also produced an award winning documentary, "Escape or Die." Her picture book, *How My Parents Learned to Eat*, received the Christopher Award for promoting cultural understanding and was a Reading Rainbow selection.

For information about a pre-performance patron reception with the performer, call the Museum at (401) 453-7860.

Adult Ed at Emanu-El offers cooking, archaeology, more

PROVIDENCE — The Koffler Bornstein Family Institute of Jewish Studies starts its second semester in March. Classes meet at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, and include:

• *Cooking With Southern and Southwestern Flavor*

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., March 15 & 22 (note new dates)

Explore and savor distinct flavors of the Southern and Southwestern tradition, and prepare and taste kosher recipes that span Cajun and Creole, Tex-Mex and traditional Jewish dishes with regional interpretations. Chefs: Anne Franklin and Susan Hill

• *Excavating Three Ancient Sites: Sepphoris, Tiberias and Ramat Hanadiv*

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., March 3, 10, 17 (note new dates)

Sepphoris and Tiberias were once major Jewish capitals.

Ramat Hanadiv was a fortified palace from the Herodian period, destroyed during the First Jewish Revolt in 70 C.E. In addition to surveying the general history and development of those three settlements, the instructor will discuss her personal involvement in the research and excavation process of these sites. Instructor: Prof. Katy Galor

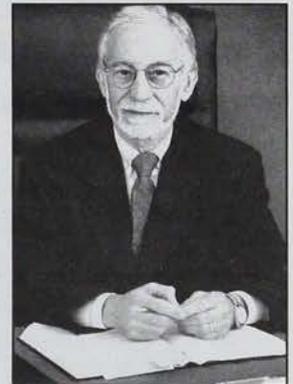
• *Reading Ruth*

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., March 3, 10, 17

The Book of Ruth, with its mere four chapters, is a powerful and timeless story. The goals of this mini-course will be to examine this book's beautiful story and rich language, explore its messages, and touch upon its meaningfulness for us today. No Hebrew knowledge is necessary. Instructor: Jane Myers

For more information call (401) 331-1616.

Registration: The night of courses, beginning at 7 p.m..



Rabbi Rifat Sonsino

Sinai holds scholar-in-residence Shabbat

CRANSTON — On Friday, March 11, Temple Sinai will be hosting a Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat, featuring Rabbi Rifat Sonsino, rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth Shalom in Needham and an adjunct professor at Boston College's Theology Department.

Rabbi Sonsino will lead a discussion entitled "New Trends in Modern Theology." Through the study of texts by contemporary Jewish thinkers, he will discuss various approaches to the question of God, proving once again that in Judaism we have a diversity of views on the nature of the divine.

The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Temple Sinai in Cranston.

For more information, call at 749-4553.

Stories of Courage and Commitment Christian Resistance to the Holocaust

Nationally known storyteller and author
INA R. FRIEDMAN
brings these stories to life.

MARCH 14, 2005, 7:30PM

Phyllis Siperstien Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence
3 Shalom Drive, Warwick RI



A vibrant speaker, Ms. Friedman has traveled throughout the world to collect the true life stories of Jews and non-Jews who resisted the Nazis. She is currently writing her 4th book on the Holocaust. Previous books have won

many awards including being selected by the American Library Association, Young Adult Division, as a "Best Book" and by the American Booksellers Association as a "Pick of the List." As a storyteller she has appeared throughout the United States including at the Boston Children's Museum, the Nevada Storytelling Festival, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her books will be for sale at a discount at the performance.



Dessert Reception to follow.
Donations greatly appreciated.

Presented by the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum

For more information or an invitation to the patron reception, call 401-453-7860

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Community Calendar

RUTH 'DUFFY' PAGE:

From page 2

\$54. Payable to the BJE. For more info, call (401) 331-0956 or email bjeri@bjeri.org.

SUN., MARCH 6

Fall River Yiddish Club

1 p.m. Adas Israel Synagogue, 1647 Robeson St., Fall River Rosanne and Sayre Litchman will present "Gib a Kook" Mish Mash! All are welcome. Refreshments. For more info, call (508) 678-4273.

Beth-El film festival

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. "The Harmonists," about a singing group in pre-war Germany, followed by discussion with Cantor Judith Seplovin. Refreshments. Free, open to the public.

Men's Club, Sisterhood dinner at Torat Yisrael

5 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. The Men's Club and Sisterhood will hold a paid-up membership dinner.

MON., MARCH 7

Israeli Rabbi at Temple Shalom

7 p.m. Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown. Rabbi Lee Diamond will speak on the Israeli experience for interfaith families. For more information or to register call (401) 846-9002.

TUES., MARCH 8

Art show opens At Gallery 401

Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. "A Distant Shore" exhibition by local artist Dorothy Abram, through April 8.

Nat'l Council of Jewish Women

12 noon. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Lunch meeting. Speaker, Shari Eshet of NCJW Israel Operations on social issues in Israel. \$18. Check to NCJW, 57 Capwell Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860. For more info, call (401) 726-1577.

Journalist Sy Hersh at Brown

7:30 p.m. Brown University, Salomon Center for Teaching, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter and author Seymour Hersh will speak on "Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib." The lecture, sponsored by the Taubman Center, is free and open to the public.

WED., MARCH 9

Hamantashen baking

7 p.m. Chabad CHAI Center, 3871 Post Rd, Warwick. Women invited to bake and explore the drama of Purim and the decisive role of Queen Esther. Donation \$5. RSVP to Shoshana Laufer at (401) 884-7888.

THURS., MARCH 10

Women of the Talmud

7-9 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Rabbi Sarah Mack will discuss "Subversive or Subverted: Forgotten Women of the Talmud." Sponsored by Women's Alliance of JFRI, BJE/RI and Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El. \$5 (dessert included). For information, call Robin Kauffman at (401) 331-0956 or email rkauffman@bjeri.org.

FRI. TO SUN.

MARCH 11-13

Scholar-in-residence weekend at Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Rabbi Richard Address, Director, Dept. of Jewish Family Concerns, Union of Reform Judaism, will be the Temple Beth-El Brotherhood scholar-in-residence.

Fri., 7:45 p.m. Rabbi Address will focus on sacred aging; Sat., 10:15 a.m. Rabbi Address will lead Torah Study connecting the weekly parasha to family issues; Sun., 9 a.m. Brotherhood-sponsored breakfast, at which Rabbi Address will lead an interactive dialogue on "Care for the Caregiver."

SAT., MARCH 12

PHDS extravaganza

8:15 p.m. Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elm Grove Ave, Providence. "The Prize is Right" includes live auction, raffle, klezmer music, food. Free. Preview prizes at www.phds-event.com. For more info, call (401) 331-5327.

Passover wine sale at Torat Yisrael

9 a.m. to noon. 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Temple Torat Yisrael Cohen School Passover wine sale through April 17. For more information call Candy Shuman at (401) 785-1800, or email cshoe512@cox.net.

Beth-El film festival

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. "The Power of Good," about a young English clerk who saves Jewish Czech children, followed by discussion with Prof. Mike Fink. Refreshments, free, open to public.

Jackie Mason at PPAC

6:30 p.m. Providence Performing Arts Center. Tickets \$37.50 to \$67.50, at the box office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. thru Fri, and noon to 5 p.m. Sat., online at ppaci.org or by calling (401) 421-ARTS (2787).

SUN., MARCH 13

Pinewood Derby at Beth Sholom

9:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence Cub Scouts in Pack 104 will race their handmade cars. All kindergarten-age boys in the community are invited to attend. For more information, contact Lori Glazer at LDGlazer@cox.net.

MON., MARCH 14

Barry Press: Living Literature

7 p.m. 708 Hope St., Providence. The Rochambeau branch of the Providence Public Library will present a production about the life of Isaac Bashevis Singer, by Barry's Press' Living Literature troupe. Seating is limited. For information, call (401) 455-8110.

Holocaust author/storyteller

7:30 p.m. Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. Ina R. Friedman telling stories of *Courage and Commitment: Christian Resistance to the Holocaust*. Dessert reception. Free of charge. For more info, call the Holocaust Museum at (401) 453-7860. See Community.

TUES., MARCH 15

Senior driving speaker

6:30 p.m. "When Driving is No Longer Realistic and Safe," with speaker Dr. John Stukides, Medical Director, North Providence Senior Health. At the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Free and open to the public. Call 732.0037.

FRI., MARCH 18

BKK Purim Celebration

10:30 a.m. to noon. JFRI Board Room, 130 Sessions St., Providence. Baby Kids & Kibbitzing Playgroup sponsored by the Gateway Committee of Women's Alliance. Bring musical shakers and your own toys and snacks.

Irish Shabbat dinner at Torat Yisrael

6 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Family Shabbat service led by Cantor Scott Bresler, followed by a corned beef & cabbage dinner. Adults \$15, \$7 for children 10 and under. RSVP to Temple office at (401) 785-1800 by March 14.

SAT., MARCH 19

Temple Shalom musical evening

7 p.m. reception, concert at 8 p.m. Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown. Cantor Fredric Scheff, Kathrynne Jennings, Gannon McHale, and pianist Dr. Matthew Larson. Concert \$30, plus \$10 for the reception (optional), payable to Temple Shalom. Mail to Edward Scheff, 210 Brookhaven Rd., No. Kingstown, RI 02852. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. For more info, call (401) 885-6073.

SUN., MARCH 20

USY Purim Carnival

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Cranston-Warwick USY Purim Carnival, open to the community. Games, mask-making and arts and crafts. Children and adults are encouraged to dress up. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Refreshments available. For more information contact the Temple at (401) 463-7944. See Community.

Hamantashen baking is Mitzvah of the Month

2 to 4 p.m. Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. Baking hamantashen - for Jewish residents in RI nursing homes - is the mitzvah of the month. Sponsored by the Gateway Committee of Women's Alliance, JSA's Women's Association and Perspectives. RSVP to Tracie at tgoldman@jfri.org or call (401) 421-4111, ext. 162.

Beth-El film festival

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. "Welcome to the Waks Family," about an Australian Jewish family with 17 children, followed by discussion with Rabbi Sarah Mack. Refreshments, free, open to the public.

Purim Mask Making

1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island and the Providence Hebrew Day School present a Purim Mask Making workshop at Michael's Arts and Crafts in Seekonk. Call 401-331-0956, x180 to register. See Community.

WED., March 23

Jewish a cappella

8 p.m. Brown Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. KOL SASSON, the Univ. of Maryland's Jewish a cappella group, who have played for President Bush at the White House, will perform. \$5 for students, \$10 for adults. Call Howard Mintz (401) 751-1251.

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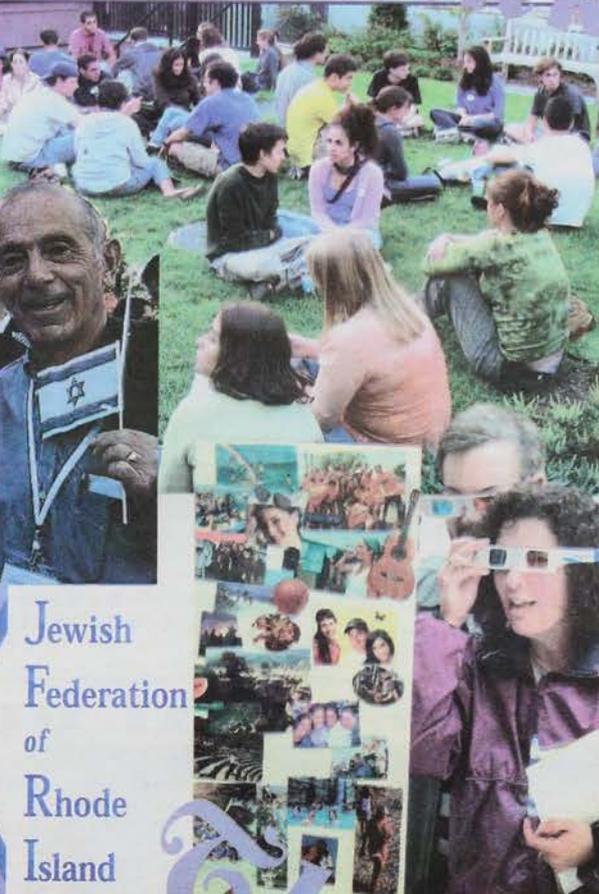
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Purim's three-cornered treats

By Marylyn Graff

Purim is just around the corner (March 25), so get an early start with this traditional favorite.

Hamentashen

You can make this Purim goodie with a plain rolled-out cookie dough, cream cheese pastry, or yeast dough.

For fillings, I recommend that you buy the poppy-seed (mohn) filling, but the prune and apricot are easy to make.

Fruit fillings

1/2 lb. prunes or dried apricots, put into a pot with water

or orange juice to barely cover. Add 1/2 cup honey, a cinnamon stick and a few whole cloves, tied in cheesecloth, or 1/2 tsp. cinnamon and 1/4 tsp. cloves.

Bring to a simmer and cook until very soft. If there's a lot of liquid left, drain off enough so filling won't be too loose.) Cool and mash.

Cookie dough

From the old "Joy of Cooking"

1 cup butter or margarine (parve)

2/3 cup sugar

1 egg

2 1/2 cups flour, sifted

1/2 tsp salt

1 tsp. vanilla or 1/2 tsp. each

vanilla and almond extract

Cream butter with sugar

until fluffy. Mix in egg and vanilla thoroughly. Combine flour and salt and blend into butter mixture. Wrap tightly and chill several hours or overnight.

Roll out about 1/8 inch thick. Cut with three inch cutter, place a tsp. of filling on each and moisten edges. Bring up three sides to form a triangle and pinch tightly together. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake in preheated oven at 350 for about 10 minutes until lightly brown. Cool on a rack. Makes about 30.

Cream cheese pastry

(From my tried and true "Better Homes and Gardens" cookie book)

1 cup butter or margarine, softened

1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened

1/2 tsp. vanilla

1/2 tsp. almond extract

1/2 cup powdered sugar, sifted

2 cups flour, sifted

1/4 tsp. salt.

Cream butter and cream cheese together. Mix in extracts. Gradually blend in sugar until fluffy. Stir together flour and salt and blend into butter mixture. Form into ball, wrap tightly and chill several hours or overnight.

Roll out dough until about 1/8 inch thick. Form and bake as above.

Yeast dough

This can be made easily in your bread machine.

Put ingredients into machine

according to manufacturer's instructions:

1 1/4 cups water.

2 eggs, slightly beaten,

1/2 cup sugar,

1/2 cup butter or margarine cut into small pieces

1/2 tsp. salt

3 3/4 cups flour

1 pkg. dried yeast

Set machine for dough and turn on.

When ready, turn out onto a floured board and roll out to

about 1/8 inch thickness. Cut into 3 inch rounds, put a heaping tsp. of filling in center of each round, moisten edges, pick up edges to form a triangle with a little of filling showing. Pinch edges tightly together. Put onto a greased cookie sheet and set aside for about an hour. Preheat oven to 350. Brush the tops of pastries with a beaten egg. Bake for about 20 minutes until delicately browned.

Makes about 40.

A modern Shabbat dinner

By Marylyn Graff

A lighter and easy on the cook but special meal

Challah — to simplify, you can buy your challah from a good bakery

Veggie chopped "liver"

Slice a medium onion, half a red pepper, a zucchini, and a handful of fresh or frozen green beans. Heat a frying pan with a tabsp. of parve margarine and put in the veggies with a crushed clove or two of garlic. Saute until all are tender, moving them around in the pan. Meanwhile, hard boil an egg. Put all the ingredients into a processor or bowl, season with salt, pepper and 1/2 tsp. each thyme and basil, (opt.) and process or mash smooth. Drizzle in some melted margarine until it holds together.

Chill in refrigerator several hours or overnight to set.

Serve as a first course on mixed greens or as an hors d'oeuvre with crackers. You can fancy this up by stuffing it into mushroom caps and baking at 350 until mushrooms are done, about 15-20 minutes

Chicken breasts Alsace

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

2 large firm apples, peeled and sliced fairly thick

1 medium onion, cut into small wedges.

3/4 cup Riesling or other white wine

Pinch each of nutmeg & cinnamon

2 tsps. fines herbes or herbs of your choice

See SHABBAT, page 17

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SHABBAT: A modern Shabbat dinner

From page 16

Heat about 2 tbsps. oil or parve margarine in a large frying pan. Saute the onion until soft and push aside. Put some flour on a plate with salt and pepper, and seasonings. Dip the chicken on both sides to coat and shake off excess. Saute in pan until golden on both sides. Tuck apple slices in among chicken pieces and onions. Add wine or broth and cook on low heat until chicken is done and apples are tender, about 20 minutes more. Remove chicken and apples to a warm platter and cook pan juices down until slightly thickened, stirring up browned bits from the bottom. Pour over chicken.

Bulgur Pilaf

- 1 cup bulgur
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, cut fine
- 1 carrot, shredded
- Salt and pepper to taste

1 tbsps. parsley flakes or fresh parsley, chopped

2 cups chicken broth

Melt a tbsps. parve margarine in a medium pot over medium heat. Put in vegetables and saute for a few minutes. Add bulgur and stir to coat. Add half of broth and stir. Bring to simmer, cook until broth is absorbed and add more broth gradually until bulgur is tender, about 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in parsley.

*This is also delicious made with pearled barley, but will take longer to cook.

Steamed or microwaved broccoli

Wash and trim a bunch of broccoli. To microwave, arrange in a serving dish, put in a little water, cover with plastic wrap leaving an opening, and microwave for about 8 minutes or until done to your liking. Garnish

with lemon wedges. To steam, put into a metal colander or regular steamer, cover and cook over simmering water until done. Arrange on serving dish and garnish with lemon wedges.

Poached Pears

Peel two large or four small firm pears, cut in half and core. Rub with a cut lemon. Put into skillet with enough semi-sweet wine such as Marsala, or white grape juice to barely cover. Add a cinnamon stick and about 10 whole cloves. Bring to a simmer and cook until pears are barely tender. Remove fruit to serving dishes and reduce cooking liquid until syrupy. Pour liquid over pears and sprinkle with sliced almonds. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Marylyn Graff is copyeditor at the Jewish Voice & Herald.

Jackie Mason to appear in Providence

By Marvin Glassman

Special to the Jewish Voice & Herald

When comedian Jackie Mason was brought up on New York's Lower East Side through the depression and the 1940s, he was expected to continue his family's legacy of five generations of rabbis. Mason himself was ordained as a rabbi (as were his three brothers,) at age 25, but opted for a career in comedy three years later "so that I [could] make a living," laughs Mason from his hotel room in Miami Beach.

Mason's destiny was to turn

his rabbinic commentary from sermons into satire. He transformed comedy into art for over 40 years throughout the United States and the world, on television, and in movies as well as the stage. He will share his craft in his new show on March 13 at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Mason is the last of the overtly Jewish comedians who will talk about his life in Jewish terms. Unlike modern Jewish comedians, who may acknowledge being Jewish, but keep their material generic, Mason is open about who he is — whether he

is in England, Canada, South Africa or in Des Moines, Iowa.

"I believe in telling the truth. My field is that of being a commentator. I don't tell funny stories about Jews, but like to point out basic differences between Jews and non-Jews and focus on how Jews live, think and work, without being nasty or creating stereotypes," said Mason.

See JACKIE MASON, page 26

Dorothy Williams



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AS WE GROW OLDER

Unfulfilled ambitions

Young children are often heard saying, "When I grow up



Tema Gouse

I want to be (something)." As we mature, the phrase is modified to say, "Someday I would like to (do something). And when we grow old, with dwindling amounts of time for accomplishment or satisfac-

tion, we change the phrase to, "I wish I had (done something)." Unfulfilled ambition is often an itch that never goes away.

Even the luckiest and most achieving of us can look back and realize how many disappointments we experienced and how often we had to settle for less. Or often, for nothing. Feelings of frustration or deprivation can color unrelated parts of our lives.

If we could scan the psyches of each older person, we would

find some unfulfilled ambition or aspiration in each one. For some, the regrets are superficial. Others bury them because surfacing them is too painful. It is the fortunate person who can bury them so that they do not affect our accomplishments.

If we listen carefully to the description of an unfulfilled aspiration, we sometimes detect the underlying disappointment. Others make the statements but successfully mask the depth of their feelings of failure.

Young children and teen-

professional achievement.

Later on I wanted to become a famous writer. But I never saw my name in print until after my 70th birthday. This fantasy was so entrenched that I thought I would have to have a name change because I could not envision the Pulitzer Prize being awarded to Tema Raisa Pomrenze Gouse.

When I started to study piano at age 62, I was certain that the critics at my Carnegie Hall debut would really be impressed that such an aged person could be so talented. Never happened.

I am not a bundle of frustrations. But was it too much to want a shapely figure? Half of my life I was painfully thin and the other half I was pleasingly plump. I have never been indigent and never been rich. But would it have upset some great and happy plan if I were a little bit richer?

The disappointments of senior citizens are quite varied. Some mothers feel unfulfilled because they never had a daughter — just sons. (Foolish ladies—sons are much easier to

Joint Adult Education Temple Sinai and Temple Am David

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When I started to study piano at age 62, I was certain that the critics at my Carnegie Hall debut would really be impressed that such an aged person could be so talented.

agers have wonderful dreams that evolve and change with each year of emotional growth. The wishes of the young are often fantasies. Even they realize they may never be fulfilled. In the 5th grade I was sure that if some fairy godmother gave me enough angora sweaters that I would be the most popular girl in my class. (You do remember angora sweaters, don't you?) In high school I was convinced that my scarcity of admiring beaus was completely attributable to my undersized bosom. Ambitions can be relative to social situations as well as

Neither did the writing award.

On a more serious level, most of us aspire to making significant contributions in our professions and to receive the corresponding accolades. Few are so blessed.

When we are young, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, we have visions of helping to cure the world of some of its evils and making life better for the underprivileged. In our middle years we invest some of our energies in those pursuits. When we are old we make peace with the fact that there are limits to the capacity of an individual to have a real impact and that society may really be on a downward course. That resignation is high on my frustration list.

So you make peace with what you have accomplished. I can proudly say that I earned my salary every day that I worked and maybe helped a few people in their troubled times. And if I did not cure the ills of the world maybe teaching my children to value others was a fulfilled ambition.

raise than daughters). Many men feel unsatisfied because they did not reach their professional goals. (Foolish men — the incidence of GERD and cardiac diseases is much higher at the executive level). Symphony orchestras usually have only one conductor and one concertmaster, so there are multiple disappointed musicians. Private enterprises are loaded with failures and depressed men. And if we expected our offspring to be more achieving than we are, we may experience more unfulfilled ambition.

Dreaming and aspiring are natural. Accepting mediocrity or failure is painful. It is the wise (but rare) senior who lists life's presents before narrating his disappointments. There is a healthy aspect to having ambitions, even if we never satisfy them. Without ambition there would be no achievement. It is better to struggle than to never aspire.

Tema Gouse, a regular columnist, lives in Cranston.

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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.

Community

Adult Ed at Torat Yisrael

CRANSTON — Temple Torat Yisrael's second semester of Adult Education began March 1 and continues Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. through April 19.

Rabbi Amy Levin is teaching "The Jewish Bookshelf: What is Talmud? What is Mishnah? What are the basic texts of our tradition?" "An Introduction to Mishlei (Proverbs)" is taught by Ethan Adler. The fee is \$18. The temple is located at 330 Park Avenue, Cranston.

For information, or registration, call (401) 785-1800 or e-mail: cberger@toratyisrael.org.

USY Purim carnival

The Cranston-Warwick USY will host a Purim Carnival Sunday, March 20 at Temple Am David in Warwick from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The program is open to the community.

The carnival will feature games for children of all ages, as well as Purim mask-making and other arts and crafts. Costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Refreshments will be available.

Temple Am David is located at 40 Gardiner St. in Warwick. Call (401) 463-7944.



BABY BALANCE — Emilia and son Atlas practice "baby yoga" in a class taught by certified Iyengar yoga teacher Naama Gidron. The baby-friendly class at the Jewish Community Center helps new mothers restore their alignment and posture, increase muscle mass and learn poses that alleviate strain from lifting, carrying and breastfeeding. Mom/Baby Yoga meets Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence. The cost is \$9 for JCC members, \$12 for non-members. To register, call Lisa Morgeau at (401) 861-8800, ext. 210., or visit www.iyengar.yogaprovidence.com.

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Community

Purim mask workshop sponsored by Bureau of Jewish Education & PHDS

SEEKONK — The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island and the Providence Hebrew Day School will sponsor a mask making workshop for children and their families on Sunday, March 20, at Michael's Arts and Crafts, 85 Highland Ave., Seekonk. The program will be offered at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

an ancient victory—when Queen Esther, a Jewish woman, risked her life to save the Jewish people from Haman, the king's

share gifts of food, give tzedakah (charity) and, most of all, to celebrate! It is customary to wear colorful masks and costumes, parade in a carnival-like procession, and eat hamantaschen, triangular-shaped pastries shaped like Haman's hat.

Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. To register contact Robin Kauffman, director of adult education, at the BJE/RI at (401) 331-0956, ext. 180 or Rkauffman@bjeri.org.

This workshop, sponsored by Celebrations: Discovering Jewish Life in the Marketplace™, is a program of the BJE/RI and the Partnership and is supported through the Endowment Fund of the JFRI.



evil advisor, who plotted to destroy the Jews of the ancient Persian city, Shushan. On Purim it is considered a mitzvah (good deed) to hear the Megillah, the Book of Esther,

Participants can create their own colorful masks facilitated by a Michael's craftsman. Refreshments will be served. This program is free and open to the public.

Purim, one of the most festive holidays of the Jewish calendar, celebrates Jewish deliverance from tyranny. The holiday marks

Interfaith 'Pathways to Freedom' lecture, The Themes of Exodus, arrives in March

CRANSTON/WARWICK — "Pathways to Freedom: Perspectives on Redemption — The Themes of Exodus," a series of four lectures at Temple Am David in Warwick and Temple Sinai in Cranston, features religious leaders from a variety of faiths discussing the

themes of the Exodus. The final program of this joint adult education series will present a discussion from the Jewish point of view and how it relates to the prior weeks' presentations.

Reverend Paul Terry of Faith Presbyterian Church will speak on March 10; Ken Johnson of the New Mormon Church will speak on March 17. Both programs will be held at Temple Am David. The

March 31 program, at Temple Sinai, will feature Leonore Sones, R.J.E., Cantor Richard Perlman, and Professor Alice Goldstein. Father Ron Brassard of Immaculate Conception Church led the March 3 discussion.

All classes are at 7:30p.m. For directions, call Temple Sinai at (401) 942-8350 or Temple Am David at (401) 463-7944. For more information contact Rabbi Stein at Temple Sinai.

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The art of Jewish healing

PROVIDENCE — *Sha'arei Refuah* (Gates of Healing) will feature a free evening presentation, co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of R.I. and Jewish Family Service of R.I.

This event will take place at the JCCRI at 401 Elm Grove Ave. Providence, RI on Thursday evening, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat on the following morning Friday, April 1 at 10 a.m.

A monthly workshop begins next month when examples of healing techniques will be demonstrated at the program.

Sha'arei Refuah was formed by Wally Spiegler, a member of Temple Emanu-El in Providence

and a Massachusetts resident.

Sha'arei Refuah is an organization dedicated to bringing Jewish healing to the community. Spiegler is a long-time student and teacher of Jewish mysticism and a certified Polarity therapist. He has been practicing this kind of energy healing for nearly 20 years. Wally has written numerous articles on Jewish healing and spirituality and has taught Jewish mysticism in adult education classes in Rhode Island.

The Jewish healing movement has been flourishing throughout the country for about the past ten years. The emphasis has been on caring, supporting

and comforting individuals and families that are either facing serious illness or mourning the loss of a family member.

"Jewish people all over the country are now clamoring for the kind of healing that addresses the physical and emotional illness from which we all suffer," Spiegler said. "Jewish people are seeking help from the therapies of the Eastern religions, but now they're looking towards Judaism for answers."

Space is limited. Call the JCC at 401-861-8800 to make reservations.



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Friedman to advise West Bay youth group

The Cranston Warwick United Synagogue Youth (CWUSY) has recently hired Elijah Friedman to be its advisor for the chapter. The announcement was made by Marty Cooper and Fran Cohen, Co-Chairs of the Youth Committee.

Friedman is a past president of the chapter, a joint effort of Temple Am David and Temple Torat Yisrael. A graduate of Toll Gate High School in Warwick and the Harry Elkin Midrasha, he is currently enrolled at Rhode Island College where

he is majoring in education. In 2003 he participated in Panim in Washington D.C.

Last year Friedman spent 10 months with City Year, an Americorps program working with children on the south side of Providence. In this capacity he ran an after school program for 30 kids while tutoring high school students as well. He also served as an assistant director for the City Years Martin Luther King Celebration and was director of City Year's spring camps, serving over 100 children during

spring vacation.

In addition to serving as the CWUSY chapter president, Friedman acted as vice president of communication. He was also a membership chairperson for the New England Region, USY.

Elijah Friedman's goal for the year is to challenge the chapter's membership into becoming more involved with the USY process by attending regional USY events along with chapter programs. He aims to provide leadership while motivating the chapter to become stronger and more vibrant.



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Holocaust Museum receives grant from R.I. Foundation

PROVIDENCE — The R.I. Holocaust Museum is embarking on a year-long program to modernize and improve the structure of its board of directors. The museum has been accepted by Executive Service Corps as an agency to receive services from its professional management consultants. The cost of these services is being

underwritten by a grant from the R.I. Foundation.

Consultants Sue Belles and Lise Holst have learned about the museum through visits and interviews with key members of the board and staff. They will coach the members of the board and staff how to utilize the best strategies to move the organization forward.

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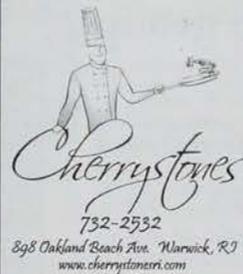
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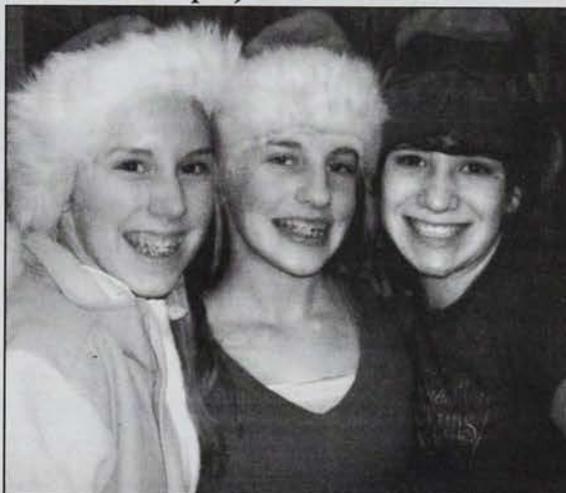


Simchas

Bat Mitzvah project

PROVIDENCE — For her Bat Mitzvah project in her Temple Emanu-El class, Rachel Kerzer organized a toy drive for needy children, and distributed over 120 wrapped gifts to children and families at the Rhode Island Free Clinic during the holiday season.

Rachel has helped out at the clinic with her father, Dr. Martin J. Kerzer, a volunteer physician. The clinic provides free medical care to uninsured people and many on the staff participated in the mitzvah project, as well as Brown University medical students and friends from Rachel's Lincoln School class.



RACHEL KERZER, center, collected toys for children as part of her Bat Mitzvah project. She and many helpers distributed them over the holidays at the R.I. Free Clinic.

Katzman named to Chevra Kadisha

NEWPORT — Portsmouth resident Leonard B. Katzman, an attorney, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Chevra Kadisha Association of Newport County. The organization is responsible for the plan-

ning, care and upkeep of Jewish cemeteries in Newport County. Responsibilities also include maintaining a small chapel for funeral services and providing charitable support to those who are eligible for a Jewish burial

in Newport County but are not able to afford it. Katzman is also assistant vice president and member of the board of trustees of the congregation at Touro Synagogue.

Send Simchas to: E-mail: voiceherald@jfri.org — mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, Attn: Simchas. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope for photo return.

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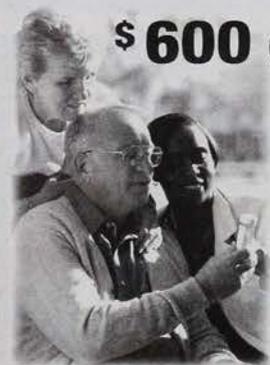
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Obituaries

Lillian Abedon, 97

PROVIDENCE — Lillian (Stein) Abedon, 97, died Feb. 22. She was the wife of the late M. Louis Abedon. Born in New Britain, Conn., a daughter of the late Bernard and Sarah (Gimbel) Stein, she was a resident of Providence most of her life.

A 1929 graduate of Simmons College, Mrs. Abedon was a member of Temple Emanu-El and Hadassah.

She leaves a son, Michael Stein Abedon of Waban, Mass.; a daughter, Roberta A. Levin of Narragansett; a sister, Ruth Gross of West Hartford, Conn.; seven grandchildren, Carl, Bari, Sean, Stephen, Bruce, Genevieve and Ari; and eight great-grandchildren, Elicecer, Gabriella, Rebecca, Benjamin, Talia, Noadiah, Brian and Liana, and a niece, Joy, (Cowen) LePattner of Calif.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to Make a Wish Foundation of R.I., 757 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910.

Carol Jane Barnes, 80

PROVIDENCE — Carol Jane (Logan) Barnes, 80, died Feb. 15. She was the wife of the late Martin Barnes. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Leo and Sarah Logan, she was a lifelong resident of the city.

Mrs. Barnes was a graduate of Wellesley College.

She leaves a son, Lee Barnes of Needham, Mass.; a daughter, Nina Eidell of Chicago; and three grandchildren, Daniel, Matthew and Michael. She was the sister of the late Shirley Young.

Burial was in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.

Contributions may be made to Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL.

Richard Ehrens, 76

WARWICK — Richard L., Ehrens, 76, died Feb. 15. He was the husband of Sheila M. (McGuire) Ehrens. They were married for 29 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Theodore and Nellie (Metz) Erenkrantz, he lived in Warwick for over 30 years, previously living in Cranston for 20 years.

 Graduating from Classical High School at age 16, he majored in engineering at Brown University. He was an Army veteran, serving in Korea.

He was the regional director of electronic sales for several national companies.

He was a former member of Temple Sinai and Temple Torat Yisrael and a member of Providence Hebrew Free Loan.

Mr. Ehrens was a charter member of Quidnessett Country Club and an avid golfer and sports fan.

He leaves a son, Alan Ehrens of Ashland, Mass., two daughters, Susan Ehrens of Oakland, Calif. and Alisa Garner of Weston, Conn.; a sister, Joan Bergel of Warwick; and four grandchildren, Lauren and Rachel Garner and Timothy and Naomi Ehrens.

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

Alfred Fain, 91

PROVIDENCE — Alfred Fain, 91, died Feb. 11. He was the husband of Sylvia (Kniznik) Fain. Born in Providence, a son of the late Nathan and Lena (Salk) Fain, he was a lifelong resident of the city.

He attended Northeastern

University.

He was the co-owner, with his twin brother, of the former Fain's Department Store for 53 years, retiring in 1982.

Mr. Fain was a member of Temple Emanu-El, an honorary member of Jewish Family Service, a charter member and past president of the North End Businessmen's Association and a member of the Allocation Committee of the United Way of Southern New England.

He and his late brother were the first honorees of Wanskuck Boys Club of Providence. He was a former member of Ledgemont and Kirkbrae Country Clubs.

Gardening and fishing were his passions.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Larry G. Fain; a grandson, Marc Fain; and three great-grandchildren, Brandon, Shannon and Cameron. He also leaves a step brother-in-law, Pat Gordon of Los Angeles; a step sister-in-law, Natalie Roseman, and a number of nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Jeanette Rosofsky, Leonard Fain and Dora Paster, and grandfather of the late Brett Fain.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St., Providence, 02906; or Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Marian E. Kolman, 85

JAMESTOWN — Marian E. (Axelbaum) Kolman, 85, died Feb. 15. She was the wife of the late Albert Kolman. Born in St. Louis, Mo., a daughter of the late Boris Harry and Sophie (Zlotznikoff) Axelbaum, she lived in St. Louis until moving to Rhode Island in May of 2004.

She leaves three daughters;

Nancy Kolman Ventrone of Jamestown, Patricia Forsyth of Piedmont, Calif., and Maxine "Mikki" Steckel of Portage, Ind.; a sister, Lillian Dudzik of St. Louis; and two grandsons, Ross Mirkarimi of San Francisco and Jeremy Forsyth of Piedmont.

Burial was in Cedar Cemetery, Jamestown.

Contributions may be made to Stray Rescue of St. Louis, 1463 S. 18th St., St. Louis, Mo. 63104.

Zelda Kudish 74

CRANSTON — Zelda C. Kudish (Ladow), 74, a retired buyer, died Feb. 13. She was the wife of Robert Kudish. They were married for 53 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Hyman and Dora (Spiegel) Ladow, she lived in Cranston for 47 years.

She was a graduate of Hope High School.

She and her husband owned the Nyanza Mills Department Stores for over 30 years. Mrs. Kudish was active in the business as a ladies apparel buyer.

She wintered in Pompano Beach, Fla., for many years.

She was an avid golfer and a member of the Crestwood Country Club for over 30 years.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Brian Kudish of Millis, Mass.; two daughters, Beth Shuman of Southboro, Mass., and Joy Abrams of Coral Springs, Fla.; a brother, Joseph Ladow of Cranston and five grandchildren, Dana, Marisa, Marc, Kara and Matthew.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Ada Slobin, 77

WARWICK — Ada (Rottenberg) Slobin, 77, died Feb. 7. She was the wife of Myron Slobin. They were married for 52 years. Born in Boston, Mass., a daughter of the late Louis and Rose (Lichter) Rottenberg, she had lived in Warwick since 1962.

Prior to her marriage, she was a medical lab technician in the Boston area.

She was a former member of Temple Am David.

She was a member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Patients' Dialysis Association.

She leaves a son, Neal Slobin of Old Saybrook, Conn.; two daughters, Marcia Slobin of Warwick, and Wendy Cartica of Pleasant Valley, N.Y.; two sisters, Lillian Tarlin of Spring Hills, Fla., and Toby Gillman of Hamden, Conn.; and seven grandchildren, Brandon, Daniel, Ryan, Chelsea, Deanna, Alycia and Travis.

Contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 205 Hellane Rd., Warwick, RI 02886 or National Kidney Foundation, 125 Carlsbad St., Cranston, RI 02920.

Arnold Wasserman, 60

Arnold Wasserman, 60, of Burlington, N.J., formerly of Cranston, died Feb. 15 at the Masonic Nursing Home, N.J.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Herman and Esther (Kotlen) Wasserman, he lived in Cranston most of his life, moving to New Jersey two years ago.

He was a graduate of Cranston High School East, Class of

See WASSERMAN, page 26

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Obituaries

WASSERMAN

From page 25

1962 and Hanover College, Class of 1966.

He was an Army reserve veteran of Vietnam, serving in the 455th General Hospital from 1966 to 1972.

The owner of the former Day-O-Lite Mfg. Co. in Warwick from 1967-1995, he served as president from 1976-1995.

He was the past president of Cross State Trail Ride, Inc. and a member of the Maswansicut Riding & Driving Club.

He was past master of Redwood Lodge No. 35, the past Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of R.I. and a member of numerous other lodges throughout the country.

He was the father of Lindsay Wasserman of Alexandria, Va., Tori Wasserman of Harrisburg, Penna., and Adam Wasserman of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

He was the brother of Molly Robertson of Sequim, Wash.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to The Masonic Home of New Jersey, 902 Jacksonville Road, Burlington, NJ 08016.

Sidney Waxman, 81

STORRS, Conn. — Dr. Sidney Waxman, 81, died on Feb. 10. He was the husband of Florence (Dix) Waxman. Born in Providence, he was the son of Harry and Rebecca Waxman.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following the

war, he entered the University of Rhode Island, graduating in 1951. He pursued graduate work at Cornell University, receiving a master's degree 1954 and a Ph.D. in 1957.

That same year, he joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut. While there, he founded the University Nursery. He retired in 1991 as professor of plant science, after a distinguished career as a teacher and researcher.

Dr. Waxman was internationally known in his discipline, participating in international horticultural meetings. His research interests centered on plant photoperiodism, and the study of a plant abnormality called Witches Brooms, which garnered international attention among nurserymen and botanical gardens for his cultivars. In 2004 the New York Botanical Garden dedicated the

Sidney Waxman Plant Collection, featuring his conifer introductions.

For his many achievements, Dr. Waxman was awarded the Jackson Dawson Medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the International Plant Propagators Society's Award of Merit, and other honors. He also served for many years on the Mansfield Beautification Committee. He will be remembered each spring as the Cornell Pink azaleas bloom in the region, having discovered the technique for propagating them.

Contributions may be made to the UConn Foundation — Waxman Fund, U-66, Storrs, CT 06269-4066.

Philip S. Zalkind, 81

NEWPORT — Philip S. Zalkind, 81, co-owner of the

former Zalkind Sewing, Inc., died Feb. 15. He was the husband of the late Elaine (Schneier) Zalkind. They were married for 49 years.

A son of the late Samuel and Bessie (Dondis) Zalkind, he was a resident of Fall River and Newport all his life.

He served as a corporal in the U.S. Army during World War II, receiving the Victory, Good Conduct and ATO medals.

He leaves a daughter, Lisa Remy of Portsmouth. He was the brother of the late Norman and Charles Zalkind.

Burial was in Temple Beth El Cemetery, Fall River.

Contributions may be made to the American Lung Association.

MASON: Jackie Mason in Providence

From page 17

One would think that Mason's persona would become too familiar, or as he often quips, "too Jewish," but the truth is that he has hit it big on every stage in the world because he researches and writes new material for every show.

Over the last year, Mason sold out in England with his observations on the Royal Family, how the British differ from the Americans and his view on British politics. In Toronto, Mason commented on the French-English problems in Canada, Toronto's lousy restaurants, and Canada's acceptance of gay marriage.

When Mason takes the stage in Providence, expect him to comment on local issues and local people, as well as the world at large.

"I spend most of my time reading newspapers and meeting as many people as possible in a city where I am performing. Nobody should pay money to see a stale routine. I have been per-

forming for so long because I love to work — to create new material and still be myself," said Mason.

One well-known Mason quip: "Jews love Chinese food so much that Chinese restaurants would go bankrupt if they were not in or near Jewish neighborhoods. For once, I would like to see a Chinese person go into a Jewish delicatessen and order gefilte fish."

Mason's work has earned high praise, awards and standing-room only audiences. He received his first Tony Award in 1984 for his nearly three year tenure on Broadway in "The World According To Me" and appeared on Broadway in 1990 and 2002. His HBO special "Jackie Mason Live On Broadway" won an Emmy and Ace awards. His film work was praised in the comedy "Caddyshack."

Mason has accomplished all he wanted in his career and has no further aspirations. "I have done all I ever wanted to do. I am so happy being where I am and having many standing ova-

tions at my age. I can't think of anything else to do but continue my success."

His devotion to his career has prevented him having a family life. "I do not feel I made a sacrifice for my career. I am happy with all the decisions I made in my life and have no regrets about anything," said Mason.

He also has a serious side. He and his friend, attorney Raoul Felder, write a weekly commentary on politics for *Jewish World Review*, in addition to a weekly radio talk show and guides to New York and Los Angeles.

He remains very proud of supporting Israel throughout his life and doing benefits.

Jackie Mason will appear on Sunday, March 13 in a one-night performance at The Providence Performing Arts Center. Tickets range from \$37.50-67.50. For further information, call (401) 421-ARTS or go to www.ppacri.org

Marvin Glassman is a freelance writer who lives in Aventura, Florida.

BUSH: Push for 'Palestine'

From page 11

ing, Bush's calls for Palestinian statehood have never been so frequent or emphatic.

"I'm also looking forward to working with our European partners on the Middle Eastern peace process," Bush said last month after meeting with top European Commission officials.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair "is hosting a very important meeting in London, at which President Abbas will hear that the U.S. and the E.U. is desirous of helping this good man set up a democracy in the Palestinian territories, so that Israel will have a democratic partner in peace," Bush continued. "I laid out a vision, the first U.S. president to do so, which said that our vision is two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace. That is the goal. And I look forward to working concretely with our European friends and allies to achieve that goal."

More substantively, Rice last week broke with years of U.S. policy and told Congress that \$350 million in aid Bush has requested for the Palestinians — including \$200 million

to be delivered as soon as possible — will go directly to 34 P.A.-run projects, and not through non-governmental organizations. The administration believes "that's the quickest way to do it," Rice said. "This is not the Palestinian Finance Ministry of four or five years ago, where I think we would not have wanted to see a dime go in."

One reassurance for anyone skeptical of the administration's plans: The Israeli government is at ease with the aid plans and is happy to sit out the London conference.

But while Israel welcomes European assistance with economic and political reforms in Palestinian areas, it looks askance at any European attempt to help with security. Israeli officials prefer to channel all security measures through the Americans, fearing that multiple security initiatives run by different partners will create chaos.

The Europeans have not entirely abandoned the idea, however. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, secretary-general of NATO, said sending troops to keep the peace might yet be considered.

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My Voice

Blundering into the Battle for Beersheba

By Yehuda Lev

Recently we were treated to an essay by my colleague in the Commentary pages, Alison Golub, writing from her new home in Beersheba and detailing some of the bureaucratic delays she faced in dealing with the local authorities.

I read her words with great interest because I too once made my home in Beersheba, albeit for a much shorter period of time than Alison intends and under vastly different circumstances. In fact all of the following occurred when Beersheba's population consisted of no Jews, about 5,000 Arabs, millions of fleas and even more grains of windblown sand.

In 1948, Beersheba was then, as it is now, the major trading center in the Negev. It had one paved road which led from a mosque on one end of the town to an old British police station and World War I British cemetery on the other.

One evening, Beersheba was ringed by Israeli troops from the Brigade of the Negev, including your observer, well aware that the next morning we were to assault its Egyptian defenders. It was warm and dark; around midnight I felt what is delicately described in Victorian novels as a "call of nature." Without any identification and dressed only in a tee shirt and shorts, I went to find an abandoned sand dune. My mission completed, I tried to return to my unit.

In the dark, one sand dune looks very much like another. I was first confused and then lost. Finally I rounded one dune and stared into the face and rifle of a very nervous sentry who asked me in Hebrew what I was doing there. My Hebrew being non-existent at the time, I answered him in English. Total impasse. He motioned me towards a tent. I went inside while he had some brief but voluble conversations, all in Hebrew, with his fellow soldiers. I learned later that he was convinced he had caught a British spy.

I had mixed feelings about my misadventure. Certainly it might serve to excuse me from the next day's activities, always a positive sign for those of us not genetically disposed towards heroism. At the same time, in my elder years I would lose the opportunity to tell my grandchildren stories about the Battle of Beersheba which was promising to develop into a major confrontation between the two armies.

I fell asleep, only to be awakened at dawn by the sounds of artillery and rifle fire in the distance. Suddenly the tent flap opened and an officer strode in. "Can you drive?" he barked in English. "That's my job," I replied. "Come with me," said the soldier. He undid the rope with which my hands had been tied around the tent pole and led me to his jeep. "My driver's bought t." I could see that. There were glass shards everywhere and a small puddle of blood in the driver's well. Every time I lifted gears it sloshed around beneath my shoes.

We drove towards the town and soon



Today, Beersheba is a modern and growing city in Southern Israel. Photos by Alison Golub

although a few buildings were burning. It was impossible to tell where our men or the Egyptians were and I waited for his instructions to stop the jeep. "Keep going," he ordered, as if we were simply touring the town.

Suddenly the quiet ended and gunfire broke out all around us. Evidently the halt in the shooting had been because of a scarcity of targets. Then we appeared on the road and everyone's desires in this regard were fulfilled. The officer leaped out of his seat, I jumped out of mine and we sprinted toward buildings on opposite sides of the road. The jeep, when I returned to it later, resembled a jumbled pile of vermicelli.

The front door of the building on my side was open. Panicking, I raced inside and found a hallway leading to a large room that stretched the entire length of the floor. Along each wall were beds and in some of them lay ill and wounded people, many of them moaning in pain. Alone and unarmed, I had captured the Beersheba hospital.

My medical experience to that point consisted of enduring an appendectomy and delivering two babies, one in the Italian Alps and the other in a small Arab village in the Negev. Neither offered much guidance as to how to proceed in these circumstances so I looked around and found, shut away in a corner, a small kitchenette complete with large pot, running water, a kerosene stove and an assortment of vegetables. My culinary knowledge was, if possible, even less than my medical knowledge but I did know that if you boil water and drop in vegetables, you produce soup, and soup, as any child raised in a Jewish household can tell you, will cure anything.

I did all this, keeping a wary eye on the door because I had no idea who might walk in next and short of hurling wet carrots, no weapons with which to defend



I'll say this in my behalf; it didn't kill anyone or, as far as could be seen, make anyone worse.

Then I heard footsteps in the hall and the door opened. In came a strapping young man dressed, thank heavens, in our uniform complete with rifle. I recognized Moshe, one of the jeep commandos with whom I served. He took in the situation and was about to speak when the door was violently flung open and in staggered four or five members of a French-speaking commando unit attached to our brigade, who had evidently been testing the products of a liquor store they had broken into.

It seemed that the conquerors were outnumbered by the conquered, at least in our small sector of the war and our French-speaking comrades (they were actually from Morocco) decided to even

develop, fired two shots into the floor and announced, in flawless Hebrew, which they may or may not have understood, that the first man to shoot would be dispatched to join his maker forthwith. After a brief conference, during which I practically stopped breathing, they decided they had better things to do and shambled back onto the road.

By this time the noise outside had dropped off, the battle was over, the Egyptians had retreated and Beersheba was in the possession of the Israeli Army. The way was clear for the development of the bureaucracy that so frustrated Alison Golub, 57 years later.

L'ENVOI: Two months later, on a dusty road along the Egyptian border, Moshe's jeep rode over a mine and he died instantly. Fifty seven years later, I am sitting in my Providence...

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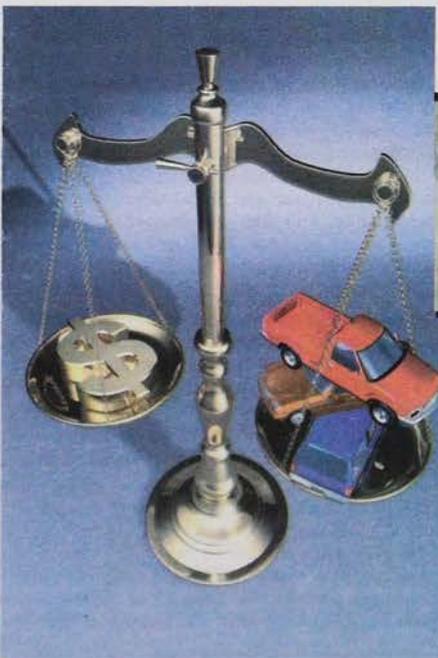
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INSIDE

Women in Philanthropy	2-3
Financing College	8
Kids and Money	9
Retirement tips	7
Identity Theft	11
Tax Tips	5,10

The Givers



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Women's Alliance event chairs, from left, Barbara Lavine, Selma Stanzler and Stacy Emanuel are shown at Jaffa Gate/Pomegranate recognition dinner last spring held at Trinity Repertory Theater.



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Mission to Russia, Israel

MITZI BERKELHAMMER traveled to the Former Soviet Union to see first-hand how Jewish giving is helping the elderly and most vulnerable of the Jews who remain.

Number of women philanthropists up

By Mary Korr

Call it the "Million Dollar Baby." That's the amount (and counting) the Women's Alliance (WA) has raised this year for the Jewish Federation's annual campaign. It's a repeat performance of last year's.

But you don't need to have a million dollars to be a philanthropist.

"Women are committed to helping those less fortunate," said Sharon Gaines, WA president. "But we didn't raise a million dollars from a few big donors. It's the \$1- and \$10- and \$100-dollar donations that add up.

Outside of the annual campaign, a woman can endow a gift for \$1 a day for three years," she said.

Sally Lapidis, active in philanthropic causes, said she learned the importance of giving from her grandmother. "She used to say for every dollar you make, give back 10 cents. She was not a professional woman who ran a corporation; she was a widow who worked in a shoe store."

Lapidis has been the chair of many boards, supporting them financially and with her time. She asks the same of others, only she encourages women to "stretch. Think about how much you can afford to give, and stretch a little." Her business, Residential Properties, follows her lead.

And Lapidis is passing her grandmother's message and example to her children's generation. She started a philanthropy club when her son was at the Wheeler School. She put in \$2500 to seed it, and asked the students to "fundraise and friend-raise." She challenged them to double her money, and then gave them the task to research and decide how it would be spent. She hopes to start one in her younger son's school this year.

Competing for dollars

A campaign takes organization, hard work, dedication — and heart. With so many secular causes to contribute to, the WA is, in effect, competing for dollars. And as Lapidis pointed out, with the rising number of interfaith families, a revolvment around the Jewish community is not central to their lives.

To be successful, the cause has to resonate with donors — where the dollars are distributed is important today for women who give.

"Giving comes from a drive within, a passion for giving with the understanding we must reach out," said Lisa Shorr, mother of two toddlers. She sits on a WA program committee. Children's causes are close to her heart. And while she doesn't have much time to attend women's programs, she feels whatever a woman can give in time and a contribution is an investment in the vibrancy of the Jewish world. She said she is inspired by the women she has met in R.I. Jewish philanthropy.

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PHILANTHROPY

From preceding page

Lisa Davis, who also has two young children, became involved with the Jewish community as a way to meet people when she married her husband, a R.I. native. And she wanted to give back to the community she now calls home. This has led to her involvement on a national and international level. First, she attended a young leaders' conference in Washington D.C. several years ago; and in the fall she attended the General Assembly of Jewish federations in Cleveland. She has also gone on a mission to Israel. These experiences have brought global Jewish issues into sharp focus for her.

"I think younger women in their 30s spearhead giving in their households. They take the initiative and give their time and money to organizations that have a personal meaning for them. I think it's important for women to stand up and be counted," she said.

Numbers up

Women's giving is the fastest growing component of annual campaigns, representing 22 percent and rising every year said Susan Stern, chair of National Women's Philanthropy, a United Jewish Communities organization.

"This should come as no surprise," Stern said. According to a survey on Jewish women and philanthropy at the UJC website (www.ujc.org):

- 56 percent of married Jewish women work outside the home; for those under 44, 70 percent work outside the home.
- 60 percent of the wealth in this country is owned by women.
- 60 percent of women run family foundations.

Mitzi Berkelhammer, chair of this year's campaign, became involved in Jewish women's philanthropy when she was 26 and living in Pittsburgh. "A friend took me to an event and I was sold," she said. "I realized how lucky I was. And I am so lucky to be able to give."

As she speaks to women, she paints the face of tzedakah. She tells of her mission to Russia a year ago, where she saw how overseas dollars are spent — to buy eyeglasses, medicine and food for the elderly and most vulnerable. Then she went on to Israel, to participate in a birth-right Israel event; this program sends young people to Israel who have not been there before.

Gloria Feibish is a very active volunteer in the Jewish community. She said it is in the tradition of tzedakah to personally give what you can. She also noted that



Listening closely to several visitors from Israel speak about their experiences in the "Faces of Aliyah" program, which is supported by Jewish donations, are Women's Alliance member Michelle Miller and her son, Adam.

the Jewish community worldwide needs to increase its commitment to Jewish causes. She cited an essay in the Feb. 11 edition of the *Jerusalem Post* by Michael Steinhart, which argued the case for increased Jewish philanthropy:

"Philanthropists have not risen to the challenge of shoring up Jewish identity... According to *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, the biggest individual gifts of 2002 ranged from \$100 million to \$375 million. Of the 10 philanthropists, six were Jewish.

Not a single one gave anything meaningful to a Jewish cause. The absence of philanthropic investment is painful for those of us who care about the Jewish future."

Feibish agrees wholeheartedly. When it comes to women, as they achieve parity with men they must accept the responsibility and give sustenance to Jewish life in their own communities and worldwide, she said.

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Use birthdays for financial planning markers

As you go through life, your birthday may seem less important. But for financial planning, tax or retirement reasons, your birthday may be significant.

Here's a list from the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants of those birthdays that change your tax treatment and give you cause to celebrate.

• **Day One** — Shortly after your child is born, he or she needs a Social Security number to be claimed as a dependent on your income-tax return. A Social Security number is also required to open a bank account or buy savings bonds for a child.

• **Age 14** — When your child reaches age 14, the kiddie tax disappears. Under the kiddie tax, net unearned income exceeding

a specific threshold (\$1,600 for 2005) that is received by a child under age 14 is taxed at the parents' highest marginal tax rate. At age 14 and older, income tax is paid at the child's tax rate.

...birthdays that change your tax treatment and give you cause to celebrate.

• **Age 17** — If your child turns age 17 during 2005, you can no longer claim the child tax credit (\$1,000 for tax year 2005 in accordance with the Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004). This is also the last year for contributions to a child's Coverdell

education savings account, unless the beneficiary qualifies as a "special needs beneficiary."

• **Age 18** — This milestone means your child can do whatever he or she wants with any money you have put into a custodial account in his or her name.

• **Age 30** — All funds in a Coverdell education savings account must be distributed to the account's beneficiary 30 days after his or her 30th birthday. The balance of any unused funds in the account can be rolled over to a Coverdell for another qualified family member under the age of 30.

• **Age 50** — This is the first year you're eligible to take advantage of "catch-up" retirement provisions. For 2005, anyone age 50 or older can contribute



an extra \$500 to an IRA. The catch-up amount for qualified retirement plans, such as a 401(k) plans, is \$4,000 in 2005.

• **Age 59 1/2** — After reaching age 59 1/2, you may be able to make withdrawals from an IRA or qualified retirement plan without incurring the 10 percent early-distribution penalty.

• **Age 60** — Sixty is the age at which a surviving spouse becomes eligible for Social Security benefits based on the deceased spouse's work record.

• **Age 62** — You can start collecting Social Security at age 62, though your benefits will be reduced by 20 percent or more.

• **Age 65 to 67** — The age at which you begin to collect full Social Security benefits is gradually being shifted from 65

to 67. You're eligible for Medicare beginning in the month you turn 65.

• **Age 70** — If you postponed collecting Social Security benefits beyond your normal retirement age to maximize your payments, don't delay any longer. Your benefit amount stops increasing after you reach age 70.

• **Age 70 1/2** — If you are a participant in a company retirement plan or a Keogh plan and you are not more than a 5 percent owner,

the required beginning date for distributions is generally the later of April 1 following the year you reach age 70 1/2 or April 1 following the year you retire.

This article originally appeared in the Jewish Exponent.



Accounting & Attestation

John J. Brough, Jr.
CPA/ABV, MST

Emilio N. Colapietro
CPA, MST

Robert A. D'Amico
CPA, CFP®, MST

Richard A.
DeMerchant
CPA, CVA, MST

David P. DiSanto
CPA, MST

Martin I. Dittelman
CPA

Tax Planning & Compliance

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CPA, MST

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Save with home office tax deductions

Working from home is full of perks. You have an office space that you don't have to dish out rent for every month. And one of the best perks is that you can deduct the expenses of running a home office from your taxes.

What's so great about a home office tax deduction is that any kind of business deduction – whether it's for your home-office or basic business expenses – reduces your net business income. In turn, you have less self-employment tax to pay on your net business income.

The law applies to anyone working at home for the convenience of the employer or someone who is self-employed full- or part-time. "For the convenience of the employer" means that your employer doesn't have work space and expects you to work primarily from home.

If you use part of your home for business and you meet the requirements of the law, deductions are based on what percentage of your home is used for the home office. You can deduct a percentage of the cost of home-related expenses such as utilities, rent, depreciation, mortgage interest and real estate taxes.

Proving yourself

"Home" is loosely defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a house, condo or apartment. It can be a mobile home or boat, as long as you can cook and sleep there. Whether you rent or own – it doesn't matter.

You must meet two requirements:

1. You must regularly use part of your home exclusively



MAKE SURE you take the home office deductions you are entitled to.

for a trade or business on a continuing basis. A few hours a day might not be enough. And the area must only be used for business, not for business and personal purposes.

2. You must be able to show one of the following:

a. You use your home as your principal place of business

b. You meet patients, clients or customers at home.

c. You use a separate structure on your property exclusively for business purposes. It doesn't have to be a full room – it can be part of a room where you keep your business equipment and supplies. For example, it can be a studio or a converted garage or barn.

Document your deductions

You may be required to document your office deductions. Here's how to establish your right:

* Keep an appointment book

of clients or customers and the date and time of all meetings. That way, you can document your work even if you are audited by the IRS.

* Have your business mail sent to your home.

* Use your home address on business cards, stationery and ads.

* Get a phone line for your business that is separate from your home one.

* Keep track of the time you spend working at home.

Don't overlook home-business tax-saving deductions. For more information, visit www.irs.gov, or consult your accountant or tax adviser.

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Financial Planning



RETIREMENT PORTFOLIOS should be reassessed annually.

Retirement dos & don'ts

By Mary Korr

Planning is essential for a secure retirement. The following are suggestions from financial planners on what you should and should not do to avoid the risks of overspending, not planning for a long retirement, market risk, inflation and health care expenses.

- **Don't count on Social Security** to provide you with enough retirement income. With average earnings, you can expect your Social Security income to account for 40 percent of what you will need, less if you are in a high-income tax bracket. (www.socialsecurity.gov)

- **Don't expect Medicare** to cover all of your health costs. A good idea is to purchase long-term care insurance; 50-year-olds are the fastest growing consumer in this market. For latest information on supplemental plans, projected healthcare costs, drug discount cards, see www.Medicare.gov.

- **Do use your company's plan.** Financial advisor Roberta Zuckerman at Mass-Mutual Financial Group says: "Just do it." She means stop making excuses for not putting money away in a pension or IRA. "Don't get caught up in the logistics and say the plan is too confusing. Don't say you don't have any money left after expenses or that you are too busy making money. Just do it."

- **Do maximize your 401(k), 403(b)** or retirement plan at work. Don't lose out on savings with pre-tax dollars, which may be matched by your employer, and which will grow over the long-term with the magic of compounding.

- **Do catch up.** If you are over 50, you may be able to add to your contributions with a "catch-up" plan. 401(k) plans permit participants age 50 or over to make additional "catch-up contributions" of up to \$3,000 in 2004. (For changes in the tax laws this year, check www.irs.gov/taxtopics)

Greater longevity today means you have to save more. "If you think you're saving enough, put a little more in," Zuckerman said. She advises people to think in decades: the first decade of your retirement, and then the second and third. "Be conservative with the money you need in the immediate future but plan for the longer term as well."

She said the rule-of-thumb after you retire is not to spend more than 4 to 5 percent a year from your retirement account.

- **Do balance** your portfolio, according to your age and risk tolerance. The younger you are, the more aggressive you can be. Review your portfolio annually, at the minimum. Many employees can go online to their employer website or that of the brokerage or company investing the funds and check their portfolios.

At MBF, Inc., financial advisor Laurie Turchetti said investment companies now offer products tailored to the investor's timetable and tolerance for risk. An investor can select a conservative, moderate or aggressive portfolio, comprised of five or six stock, bond and money market mutual funds in a single fund, such as Fidelity's Freedom Funds, to achieve the balance, or asset allocation, they feel comfortable with. The funds are dated; investors can select the fund with the nearest date to their retirement. The asset allocation is adjusted over time.

- **Do calculate your retirement needs.** Just about every financial website has a calculator to help do this quickly.

"People who are approaching retirement need to have a good picture of what their individual retirement needs are going to be. You typically hear that 70 to 80 percent of their current expenditures is a reasonable amount. However, each person's vision of retirement is different, so a calculation of retirement expenditures is important," said financial consultant and adviser Jerrold N. Dorfman, of Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi & DeRienzo P.C.

"Also, having a reasonable withdrawal rate is important. If the withdrawal rate of the total portfolio is too high, they may run out of money as people are living longer. A withdrawal rate range of 3 to 5 percent is reasonable," he said.

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Financing college: steps the family can take

It is important to encourage students to further their education and receive a college degree – it greatly impacts their future financial status. According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, people with a bachelor's degree earn over 60 percent more on average than those with only a high-school diploma. Over a lifetime, an individual with a B.A. or higher degree may earn \$1,000,000 more in the workforce than someone with just a high school education. However, with college tuitions continually skyrocketing, many parents wonder how they can ever afford to send their children to school, even though they realize its future financial rewards.

Rising cost of college

According to recently released reports from the College Board, a company that provides testing materials and guidance for students, most students and their families paid, on average, from \$231 to \$1,114 more for tuition and fees in the 2004 school year than for the 2003 school year, depending on the type of college. The average annual cost for tuition and fees is



BOTH PARENTS AND CHILDREN can deal with rising tuition costs by saving early and taking advantage of financial aid resources.

\$20,000 for a private college and \$4,500 for a public college.

Parents: start a savings plan

The best way to financially prepare for college tuition is to start saving early on. In fact, if you set up a college fund as soon as your child is born, you'll be even further ahead of the game. Here are some other tips for beginning tuition savings:

- * Start small. Don't feel like you have to set aside large amounts of money. You will find that you can gradually adjust your spending habits and can periodically increase the amount you put away.

- * Create a savings schedule. Saving money randomly won't allow your account to grow; instead, set a schedule. Take out a percentage from every paycheck, or put away a yearly sum from a tax-return check. Interest can help your money grow faster.

- * Open a separate college-funds account. An account specifically for college will prevent you from dipping into these savings.

- * Put extra money toward college. If you get a bonus, win big at a casino or get an inheritance, immediately deposit that money into your college fund.

- * Ask for family members' help. Grandparents can contribute to a 529 savings plan, an education-savings plan operated by a state or educational institution designed to help families set aside money for college. As long as the plan satisfies a few basic requirements, the federal tax law provides special tax benefits to plan participants. In fact, many grandparents are delighted to help contribute to their grandchildren's college education.

- * Put old payments toward savings. If a regular monthly bill ends, set aside that money for college. For example, if you pay off your car loan, put that money into the college account. Since you were already used to spending that amount, saving it should be relatively painless.

- * Reassess your finances. See if there are any ways to cut your expenses. Do you really need that premium cable package? Can you forgo high-speed Internet access for a while? That extra money can help pay for college.

- * Get the kids involved. Have your future collegiates chip in. It will help give them a sense of financial responsibility and help them recognize early on the importance of a good education.

Students: consider financial aid

Maybe your parents didn't start saving early enough, or they had a financial emergency and couldn't set aside as much money as they would've liked. Don't despair; there are other ways to help finance school, namely

financial-aid resources.

- * **Loans** – The government subsidizes loans offered through private lenders. Generally known as Stafford Loans, these lower-interest loans are available specifically for college education purposes. Repayment usually begins six months after college graduation, or at the time you stop attending classes. Your parents can also take out personal loans to help make up the difference in college costs.

- * **Scholarships** – The lure of "free money" makes many students anxious to find scholarships. Research local scholarships first, because there's a better chance of winning them. Consult your high-school guidance counselor. Turn to the local library for further research. Then look for national scholarships offered by large corporations. Visit corporate websites to learn more about their scholarship opportunities.

- * **Grants** – After assessing your financial need, the school or government may provide you with a grant that doesn't have to be repaid. Apply for financial aid regardless of your household income – you may be surprised to find out what you can actually qualify for. In fact, nearly half of all college students receive some sort of financial aid, according to the College Board.

- * **School employment** – You may be eligible for free tuition or a tuition discount if your parents work at the school. Also, many schools offer work-study programs that pay salary toward college tuition.

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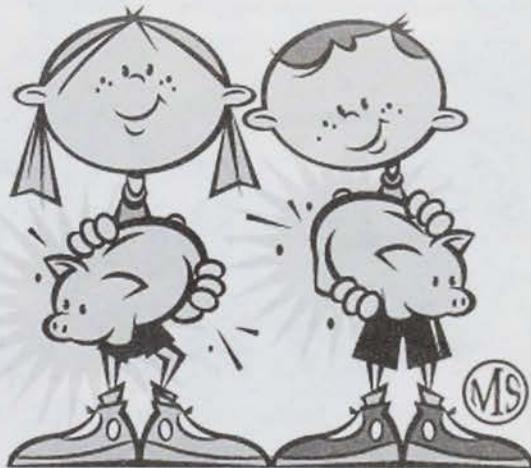
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Teaching kids to mind their money

At an early age, children learn to understand the power of money as well. As much as they pick up language as they grow, they also see their parents pay for the things they want with money, and kids are ready to imitate those around them. They know that a dollar or two will purchase a treat from the ice cream truck, or a few coins can get them a toy or candy from a vending machine. What they may not yet grasp is how to save money and spend it wisely. That is why lessons about money and spending habits should begin at an early age, so you can actively use your values and beliefs to shape your children's knowledge of money.



Learning by doing

The first step in educating your children about money is making sure they have their own money to learn how to handle it. You may give your kids an allowance, or they may earn money from assisting other adults. Either way, day-to-day handling of money offers practical training. Parents who just hand over money or foot all the bills will find that as their children grow, they are at an educational disadvantage compared to children who learned how to buy and save on their own.

Expert advice

Financial experts agree on many aspects of teaching children about money habits. Here are some points to consider during your own lessons:

1. Providing guidance and advice about money are more effective teaching tools than dictating how money should be spent. Allow your children to grow by making mistakes or achieving successes.
2. Create an environment in which the family openly discusses money issues. If your children are old enough to understand, clue them in when you are paying bills, and allow them to see the additions and deductions from a checkbook. They should understand that there is a limit to the income you have and know where the money goes.
3. Express that you also desire to have things, but you may not be able to afford them. Children should know that parents say no to themselves as well.
4. Setting goals is a good way to encourage saving and responsible behavior. If your child has a particular toy purchase in mind, use it as a goal-setting session. As your child saves money to reach the goal, he or she will be inspired and motivated.
5. Share the benefits of saving. Explain how saving money (rather than spending it all at once) will prove beneficial

in the long run. Use examples like it will allow them to make larger purchases. Illustrate the process of how saving money builds interest to children who are old enough to understand this concept.

6. When giving your children allowances or other funds, use denominations that are easy to break up and save. For example, if you're giving \$5, pay out in all \$1 bills and encourage them to save at least one or two of the bills.

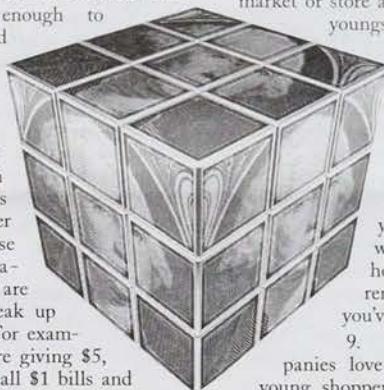
7. Introduce your children to banks and banking accounts. Open one up in his or her name to encourage saving. At first, putting money into an account will seem like a game, but once your children learn how savings

accumulate, they'll likely become more inclined to save rather than spend.

8. Make trips to the supermarket or store a lesson for youngsters. Pay in cash so they can physically see how much money you started with and how much remains after you've shopped.

9. Companies love to target young shoppers through commercials. Show children how to weed through the products that just may be too good to be true.

10. Be cautious when using debit or credit cards around children. Explain that there is no free money and that the bill will be paid at a later date.



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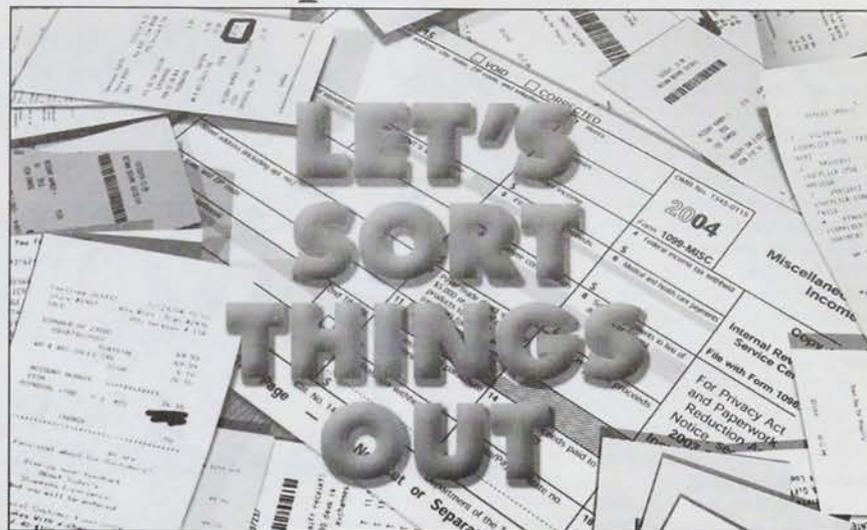
Ten tax traps to avoid

Tax filing is like going to the dentist — no one really looks forward to either event. You have to collect the forms. Then you have to fill them out. And then you have to hope you filled them out correctly!

Many people make the same mistakes, guaranteeing the process will be even more painful. Such mistakes can be costly: You might have to pay more taxes or you might not get your returns in a timely fashion. Are you guilty of any of these common mishaps?

1. You don't ... sign and date the return. The IRS won't process your forms if they don't have your signature. If you are filing a joint return, you both need to sign and date it (Be sure to spell all names correctly and write them legibly). Note: When filing online, you use a pin number so you don't have to worry about signing something at all.

2. You don't ... include your Social Security number. It's important to write your Social Security number accurately and legibly because all your transactions (income statements, sav-



ings account interest, etc.) are connected to this number. Plus, it helps you claim tax credits for the Child Tax and other costs.

3. You don't ... do the math right.

Yes, something as simple as adding and subtracting is a common mistake. Such errors can reduce your tax refund, or make you think you owe more than you thought. You'll get a correction notice that will only delay your return.

4. You don't ... use the label provided to you. The label helps the IRS to easily read your personal information. Make any corrections right on the label,

and be sure to enter your Social Security number in the space.

5. You don't ... check the correct filing status on the return and check the right exemption box.

6. You don't ... include all your forms. Be sure to attach your W-2, which verifies how much income you reported on your return. Forms should also be organized in the order specified on the returns.

7. You don't ... claim charitable donations. If you gave cash, clothing or household items, you should factor them in when you file. Make sure you save your receipts and get them dated to

qualify for the deduction.

8. You don't ... track your interests and dividends properly. It can be hard to track investments but don't mess up the math on this one. You don't want to double pay on taxes when you sell anything.

9. You don't ... take all the tax breaks. You might not be getting all the tax credits you're eligible for including education costs and child and dependent care expenses. Contact the IRS to make sure you are filing for everything you qualify for.

9. You don't ... bunch deductions.

Many deductions are only permissible if you reach a minimum amount. So you might need to shift or "bunch" some costs.

10. You don't ... use the right tax table. Make sure the taxes you owe are right by using the correct column for your filing status. Using the wrong one can impact how much you owe or will get refunded.

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Identity theft: what to do

PROVIDENCE — With Rhode Island residents among those who have been victimized by identity thieves who infiltrated one of the nation's largest databases of personal information maintained by ChoicePoint, Inc., Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch said that those who suspect they are victims of ID theft, or those whose identities have actually been compromised, should take the following steps.



1. The first and most important step is to contact the fraud department of each of the three major credit bureaus, TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian. Request that a "fraud alert" be placed in your file, as well as a statement asking that creditors call you prior to opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. At this same time, ask each credit bureau to send you a copy of your credit report. Review each report to confirm the information is accurate. Dispute any inaccuracies directly with the credit bureau.

The contact numbers for the credit bureaus are:

- TransUnion: (800)-680-7289
- Equifax: (800)-525-6285
- Experian: (888)-397-3742

2. The second step is to contact all individual creditors for any accounts that may have been opened or used fraudulently. Creditors may include credit card companies, banks, and utility providers. If you have proof you have been a victim of ID theft, it's also important to file a report with your local police department. Be sure to obtain a copy of the report in the event that any of your creditors require proof of the crime.

"If you have even the slightest suspicion that you have been victimized by identity theft, take

these steps immediately," Lynch said. "I can't stress enough how important it is to be diligent in protecting, as best as possible, all personal information and accounts. We can no longer take it for granted that our own precautions are enough to keep sensitive information, such as birth dates, account numbers, and Social Security numbers, from being accessed by identity thieves. As the nation's fastest-growing crime, identity

theft demands that consumers be more sophisticated and proactive in protecting not only their assets, but also their very identities."

Lynch said that consumers can gain more information on identity theft by calling the Consumer Protection Unit of the Attorney General's Office at 274-4400—pressing "1" at each of the first two prompts—or by contacting the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338.

Plan power of attorney

There are a few different types of power of attorney, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). They differ on when they start and end. These types include:

- * Conventional power of attorney — begins when you sign it and continues until you become mentally incapacitated.
- * Durable power of attorney — begins when you sign it and is effective for life until you cancel it.
- * Springing power of attorney — begins when a specific event happens (such as incapacitation).

You can give your agent as much power as you want. Let him sell your car, manage real estate, sell stocks or sign your income tax return. When designating power of attorney, it makes the most sense to give your agent a range of powers so he will be allowed to take care of everything for you — even things you haven't thought about. Note that all powers of attorney end at your death, meaning that the agent can't make any decisions after your death.

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