

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...



Annual Jewish Guide



Let the Maccabiah games begin. P. 3



JFRI Annual Report, Pps. 13-16

Index

Calendar	2
Opinion	4-5
JFRI Annual Report	13-16
Food	17
Community	18-21
Simchas	25
Obituaries	26
Arts	27
My Voice	28

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

17 Sivan 5765

Vol. IV — Issue XXXI

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

June 24, 2005

Community School leaders meet with parents

Despite concerns, poll shows parents support school

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — The leadership of the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS), set to open in September of 2006, held two informational sessions on Tuesday to keep the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) community informed of new developments.

About 100 parents attended the meetings held at the Jewish Community Center. Their overwhelming response was: It's about time.

However, despite their concerns, a recent telephone



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

PARENTS chat after the Tuesday night information session held by the Jewish Community Day School.

poll conducted by the JCDS showed that the majority (66

percent) of Schechter parents either approved of the com-

munity school effort or were excited about it (See chart, page 8).

Community school volunteers spent several days calling 106 families with age-appropriate children (pre-K to 6th grade) for the new school, and 87 (82 percent) agreed to be quoted (See poll, page 8).

The poll also showed that some of the parents were frustrated by a lack of communication about plans for the school. Rabbi Wayne Franklin, who has a daughter at ASDS, said at one of the sessions on Tuesday, "People have been talked to and not listened to. It has been very unsatisfactory."

"I'm very excited about the idea to change the school," said Providence resident Nancy

Safian at one of the meetings. "I think a lot of people feel open to it, but we need more information."

Many others agreed. There were lively exchanges that had dozens of people staying an hour or more afterward to continue conversations about the proposed school.

At one of the meetings, JCDS President Bruce Wolpert, a former president at Schechter, left his prepared remarks to passionately express his dedication to the day school. In response to a question, he said two Schechter past presidents, a Schechter parent and a former parent are leading the transition team.

Jennifer Robinson, the
See DAY SCHOOL, page 8

Babe contract scores home run for hungry

By Marylyn Graff

CRANSTON — In 1993, Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein bought the 1919 contract sending Babe Ruth from the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees at auction for \$99,000. In 2005 that same contract brought \$996,000. The driving force behind both sales has been to alleviate hunger.

Feinstein said that his purpose in 1993 was to bring the contract back to New England to create something good out of the "awful trade." At that time he had replicas made up to give in return for charitable donations. It raised over \$2 million for Rhode Island colleges and non-profits helping the needy.



Babe Ruth
(George Herman Ruth 1895 - 1948)
American Baseball Hall-of-Famer

According to Feinstein, Sotheby's Auction House was packed for the June 10th sale and a great cheer went up when

See BABE, page 9

Rabinowitz reflects on career spent working with seniors

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — Susette Rabinowitz, the very direct and determined administrator of the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA), will be leaving her post at the end of this month. She resigned several weeks ago.

She has spent 6½ years as executive director at JSA; previously she was director of senior services for the City of Cranston.

"Working with the elderly was a rebirth for me. I can't imagine my life without working with older adults," she said one morning in her office.

Maurice Glicksman,
See RABINOWITZ, page 3



Photos by Mary Korr

SUSETTE RABINOWITZ visits the Comprehensive Adult Day Center run by the Jewish Seniors Agency.

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The Jewish Voice & Herald (ISSN number 1078-7232, USPS #465-710) is printed bi-weekly, except in July, when it is printed once a month.

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Advertising: The Jewish Voice & Herald does not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish, or attest to the kashrut of any product.

Copy Deadlines: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

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

Announcements and opinions contained in these pages are published as a service to the community and do not necessarily represent the views of The Jewish Voice & Herald, or its publisher, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to: Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions

CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

June 24 8:04
July 1 8:04
July 8 8:02
July 15 7:59
July 22 7:54



Community Calendar

ONGOING

Softball League in Barrington

Temple Habonim has joined the "Churches of Barrington Softball League." Games begin this week. Call Peter Cohn, 245-8055.

SUN., JUNE 26

Open house at Torat Yisrael

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Open House will provide information on temple programs, events, and religious school, with presentation by education director, Ethan Adler. Children's activities, refreshments. Open to anyone interested in exploring membership. Call 785-1800 with questions.

TUES., JUNE 28

Temple Torat Yisrael

Lunch & Learn in East Greenwich

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Contemporary issues with Rabbi Amy Levin at Trattoria del Corso, 223 Main St., East Greenwich. Order lunch individually; study session on "Jewish Anger Management" is free of charge. RSVP the TY office, 785-1800 or cberger@toratysrael.org by June 24.

Trauma talk at Tamarisk

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Shalom Drive, Warwick. Community room. Talk by Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior. Refreshments served. RSVP to Gina at 732-0037.

THURS., JUNE 30

Blood drive at JCC

2 to 6 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center in Providence to help a community member who is in need of a stem cell transplant.

Judaism 101 at Torat Yisrael

7:30 p.m. 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Judaism 101, an introduction to Judaism for adults, taught by Rabbi Amy Levin, concludes with "Questions about Identity and Community." Open to the public; call 785-1800 to register.

UPCOMING

FRI., JULY 8

Sinai Shabbat, sing-a-long

5:45 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Celebrate Shabbat on the lawn, sing-a-long with Cantor Remmie Brown, campfire, picnic with corn, watermelon, drinks, desserts and s'mores ingredients. Bring main course. RSVP to Betsy Shimberg at 398-0098 or kshimberg@cox.net.

Sinai upcoming event

Heavenly Havdalah

Sat., Aug. 27 at 3 p.m. Havdalah service at Goddard Park. Bring your own picnic supper.

Fun and games, watermelon, drinks, and dessert provided. Stay for Havdalah, which marks the end of Shabbat with song, blessings, a braided candle lighting, spices and wine.

RSVP to Rabbi Stein at 942-8350 or sinairabbi@yahoo.com.

JULY 12-15 & JULY 19-22

Ulpan Hebrew classes

9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE). 130 Sessions St., Providence. Beginner's conversational Hebrew and advanced conversational Hebrew from 9:45 a.m. to noon. Classes in two levels of intermediate conversational Hebrew from 2 to 4:15 p.m. Tuition is \$50 (\$18 for teachers in Bureau-affiliated schools). For more information, call 331-0956 or email bjeri@bjeri.org.

FRI., JULY 22

B'nai Israel cookout & service

6 p.m. at the temple, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket. Picnic followed by service. \$7/adults, \$5 for children, no charge for ages under 3. RSVP by July 19. See Community.

SUN., JULY 24

Blood drive

8:30 a.m. to noon at Temple B'nai Israel, Woonsocket. Also tissue paper flower making for children, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

SUN., JULY 31

Hadassah event

10 a.m. Brunch and lecture. Sponsored by R.I. Hadassah and South County Jewish Collaborative at Collaborative, 375 Kings-town Road, Narragansett. Speakers: Christina Crowder and John DeMetrick on researching Jewish Romanian music. For info, call the Hadassah office, 463-3636.

CONTINUING:

JCC Gallery

Gallery 401 exhibition of sculpture and watercolors by Ruth Emers, now-June 30. Open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. For information, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

See CALENDAR, page 18



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Attn: Calendar

Gertsacov to play rugby for U.S.A.

By Marika Gazsi

NEW YORK — In the early morning at Baker Field in the Bronx, you can catch the New York Old Blue Rugby Club players' practice game. Among the players you'll be able to spot is Rhode Island athlete Dan Gertsacov, 30, who will play in the 17th World Maccabiah Games in Israel this year.

He grew up in Cranston with four siblings. His mother was a teacher and his father an entrepreneur. His family now lives in Narragansett.

Gertsacov twice captained

the rugby team at the University of Richmond, where he earned a bachelor's degree; he then went on to captain the rugby club at the Harvard Business School, where he earned a master's degree. Gertsacov also played for the Newport Rugby Football Club.

But it wasn't until he became a Fulbright scholar, playing internationally for first-division teams in Brazil and Chile, that he discovered a true passion for the sport.

He now resides in New York

City, employed as a vice president at Univision Networks.

"It is a great honor for me to represent my country, as well as the state of Rhode Island, on the rugby field in Israel," he said. "It will be a tough two weeks of competition, against squads from South Africa, Australia, England and other top rugby nations, but with the support of my team and my family, who will be there to cheer us on, I'll do everything I can to help our team bring home that gold medal."

Marika Gazsi is a freelance writer living in Providence.



RUGBY PLAYER Daniel Gertsacov of Narragansett

R.I. athletes named to world Maccabiah swim, tennis teams

By Mary Korr

Three Rhode Island Jewish athletes have been named to the United States Maccabiah team that will compete at the 17th World Maccabiah Games taking place July 11-21 in Israel.

Daniel Gertsacov of Narragansett will compete in rugby, Kiersten Oresman of North Providence has been selected

for the junior swim team and Ruth Furman of Providence is a member of the junior tennis team.

Sometimes referred to as the "Jewish Olympics," the games attract outstanding Jewish athletes from around the world. Over 6,000 Jewish athletes from 50 countries will compete this year.

scheduled for July 11 at Ramat Gan Stadium outside of Tel Aviv.

Furman, the daughter of Martin and Robin Furman, graduated this month from Lincoln School, where she played tennis. She has also played competitive USTA tennis.

She traveled to the University of Tel Aviv for the Maccabiah. See MACCABIAH, page 9

Opening ceremonies are



TENNIS PLAYER Ruth Furman of Providence



SWIMMER Kiersten Oresman of North Providence

Rabinowitz reflects on career with seniors

From page 1

former JSA president, said Rabinowitz "has been the vital element in moving from the Jewish Home Corporation, which had closed its nursing home, to a vibrant, efficient, creative JSA, providing needed services for the elderly Jews of the community."

The crown in her reign is the success of The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence in Warwick.

"Now it's time for someone else to lead JSA into the future," she said.

Rabinowitz began her career as a teacher, and stayed home to raise two sons. Eventually, she grew restless, and, along with Patricia Cohen, worked together to form the Volunteers in Cranston Schools program.

Cohen, who has just completed her tenure as president of the seniors agency, said, "the JSA is richer for her involvement over these past six years. There is nothing that Susette couldn't do or wouldn't attempt. I saw the time and effort she expended to see that Tamarisk was built within the financial parameters and time schedule that had been agreed upon."

Now, after two decades in the elder-care field, Rabinowitz

is taking a breather — which is not something she's good at. Glicksman noted her "around-the-clock" work ethic.

"I give 500 percent and I expect at least 300 percent from those who work for me," she said.

And while her professional plans are not firm, she is not retiring and expects to continue working with the elderly.

Born in Bolivia

The issues of loss and vulnerability the elderly face resonate with Rabinowitz.

Her parents, the late Fred and Ruth Herz, both fled Nazi Germany. They met in a transit center in Spain. Although they had hoped to come to America, they were given immigration papers for Bolivia.

The couple settled in La Paz, and it was here Susette was born, and spent her early years. She has fond memories of a nice house, playing in the yard, and family celebrations.

"Each of my parents had a strong will of survival. Both were proud of being Jewish," Rabinowitz said.

When her father developed health problems, worsened by La Paz's elevation, the family

immigrated to Fall River, Mass., in 1950.

"It was scary, it traumatized me," Rabinowitz said. "I spoke Spanish and German. I couldn't speak a word of English."

Several years later, the family moved to Cranston.

Later on, tragedy struck, when her brother died from a brain tumor. He was 25 and a senior at Columbia Law School. It was a loss her parents did not get over.

In her office at JSA, adjacent to the Comprehensive Adult Day Center, which she often pops into, Rabinowitz has mementos from her career hanging on the wall. Photos of Barbara Bush are displayed, from the former First Lady's visit to Cranston to see what Rabinowitz called "one-stop shopping for senior citizens. We built a very strong program that was recognized as a model for the nation," she said.

Photos of her grandchildren are tacked on the bulletin board behind her desk. Her son, Jon, recently returned to this country from Israel, with his Israeli wife and two children, 3 and 6. They are on the top of her list to spend more time with.

She also has an older son,



SUSETTE RABINOWITZ is leaving her position this month as executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency, which she has led for over six years.

Gary, who is a teacher and hockey coach.

"How would your sons describe you?"

"I would hope they would say as a good mother and grandmother. But they would also say work came first. Balance was not something I was very good at."

Rabinowitz lives in Cranston, with her retired husband, Warren.

"How would he describe you?"

"Crazy," she said, laughing.

She described herself as "very much a German Jew. Direct. I do not stand for mediocrity."

As she walked through the adult day center, she helped a woman craft a paper flower, shared a confidence with another, and stopped to smell the spaghetti sauce cooking in the kitchen.

Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

NPR, the news and politics

Long, long ago on a planet far, far away (Los Angeles), your observer was invited to join the Board of Directors of KUSC, a National Public Radio station. Anyone familiar with the boards of not-for-profit institutions knows that such invitations are extended mainly to those who can either contribute big bucks to The Cause or induce others to do so in their stead. Preferably both.



Yehuda Lev

Since I fitted into neither category, I was puzzled by their choice until I realized, after many volunteer sessions at fund-raising telephone marathons, that I represented a significant element in the station's audience, the Jewish nouveau poor. It also taught me that a large percentage of listeners to NPR are Jewish and, by extension, a cultured, intelligent and thoroughly decent people, well deserving of whatever good fortune may come our way.

NPR has developed, over the years, the finest news and reportage service of any of the electronic media in this country. It has its faults; its announcers sometimes speak too rapidly for these failing ears and its sound bites too often simply repeat what the announcer has

already said. But day in and day out, NPR provides a welcome antidote to the cacophony of blatant commercialism and pointless noise that engulfs us whenever we turn to radio for information or entertainment.

No good deed goes unpunished, sayeth the Prophet, and the Bush administration, which turns into mud everything it touches, is now taking on NPR and, for good measure, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, including NPR and PBS, the public television system. It

to its perceived support of Israel, the government is reacting in part to a Jewish right-wing insistence that NPR and PBS are biased against Israel.

Chief among the insisters is CAMERA, a group that imagines itself the defender of Israel's interests against the media barbarians for whom Israel is the target of their devious machinations. One of the tests by which to judge the value of a self-styled media watchdog is the degree to which it grants some legitimacy to contrary opinions. This

As reported here in the past, the national president of CAMERA spoke in Rhode Island a few years ago and informed us that there is no publication in the country that is pro-Israel.

has evidently decided that the commercial-free media enables non-believers to make public some alternatives to the government's take on Iraq, Afghanistan and other contentious issues, and so out come the heavy hitters swinging their bats on the public media budgets.

Wouldn't you just know it, they are concentrating their attack on NPR's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian imbroglio. Encouraged perhaps by a five percent increase in Jews voting Republican in 2004 and the growing tendency of Orthodox Jews to vote GOP in response

test is routinely failed by CAMERA. (Another test would be to find a watchdog that reports that the media are sometimes biased in favor of its cause. Forget it.)

As reported here in the past, the national president of CAMERA spoke in Rhode Island a few years ago and informed us that there is no publication in the country that is pro-Israel. Enough said.

The Bush administration has appointed as Public Broadcasting Chairman, Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, apparently

a graduate of the Sen. Joseph McCarthy School of Public Governance. The New York Times reported on June 16 that Mr. Tomlinson, without the knowledge of his board, secretly paid over \$14,000 to "a man in Indiana...who provided him with reports about the political leanings of guests on the 'Now' program when its host was Bill Moyers." The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is also investigating the expenditure of \$15,000 in unauthorized spending for two Republican lobbyists, one of them hired by Mr. Tomlinson. Already a number of top staffers have resigned, complaining about the way in which political interference in news and programming is being tolerated by its chairman. But then, what would one expect from an administration that has paid bribes to two columnists (that we know about) and regularly submits to local TV stations short TV pieces disguised as news, praising its own governmental programs.

When I was on the board of KUSC, no one ever offered me money to check the politics of the people appearing on its programs. A pity. Who could possibly have wished for financial temptation more than a representative of the Jewish nouveau poor?

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

ALISON ON ALIYAH

Aliyah is hard to do

"There is currently a 33 percent 'failure' rate among new immigrants from America in their first three years as citizens here. That means that one out of every three of us just can't hack it."

summer, boasting that it was the highest statistic in this category in a decade, over 300 will be back in their land of origin before the check has barely cleared. That means that on a daily basis, there are a lot of people here who are either really struggling, or who have already made their decision to leave.

I see it all the time. There is an online listserv for English-speakers in the Jerusalem area, with well over a thousand members, on which people buy and sell things, ask for advice, and seek support for all things *aliyah*-related.

Every day there are at least five postings with the subject line, "Leaving the country! Must sell house contents!" Young couples who just furnished an entire house, set up their children at their new schools, bought a new car, tried to make it work, and will be gone within the month. Women in their mid-thirties who limped through for a few years but are frustrated by their lack of success at finding a husband. Middle-aged people who came with such ideological passion, along with their advanced degrees, who can't find employment other than housecleaning and telemarketing.

Some of us just get overwhelmed by how difficult it can be here. The red tape is infuriating, the lack of work is discour-

aging, the political and security situation is downright intolerable at times, and the inability to find even the most basic of American items we came to rely on in the U.S. is terribly frustrating. Some of us get worn down by the "system," some find that they just miss their family and friends too much. Others get offered jobs back in their home country that are just "too good to pass up." Some of my older friends are finding themselves contemplating leaving for the first time in decades, as they are watching their elderly parents back home struggle with caretaking issues.

And, there are those of us who love everything about it here but are pushed into a corner by circumstances out of our control. One of my closest friends here knows this is the only place he will ever be happy and truly at peace, and wants desperately to stay, and yet he just can't support himself here. He is watching his savings dribble away day by day, unable to use his college degree because of his lack of Hebrew, and unable to work at anything other than below-minimum-wage telemarketing because of his lack of experience. He doesn't have enough money to take Hebrew classes, and his resume isn't ready to apply for graduate school. He is truly stuck, and terrified that he will have to leave the country that has become both his home and his worst enemy.

And I find myself in the middle of this battle, stuck in a different way. You may have noticed that I used the word "us" when describing the plight of the new immigrant here, and this is because, in many ways, I identify strongly with this predicament. Some of my best friends here are engaged in this existential struggle, and I am reminded every day how close I could be to this fate. But I have something else on my side: a powerful drive to succeed here, the building blocks of an Israeli education that will allow me to accomplish my goals, and a great deal of good old-fashioned luck. The former is fairly common among most of us; the middle slightly less so; and the latter unfortunately quite rare.

I know how lucky I am, and I feel it every day. The friends that I have made, the support system of adoptive families around me, my rapid success in my Hebrew classes, my ease in finding apartments in two cities now, and the shocking decision of my graduate program to accept me before they even knew if I would understand the lessons — all of these coincidences, lucky breaks and personal accomplishments have coalesced into the construction of a life that just might work here after all.

Alison Stern Golub was born and grew up in Seattle, Washington and is a graduate of Brown University. You can email her at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com, and read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.

Aliyah is not an easy thing to do. It is gut-wrenching to make the decision to uproot yourself and leave your family and friends in order to build a life in a foreign country with no guarantee of success. It is terrifying to set foot on that plane, with that ominous one-way ticket clutched in your shaking hand. It is downright exhausting going through the process of "rooting" yourself in your new home, with thousands of hours of bureaucracy staring you in the face and the ever-present, looming threats of homelessness and joblessness and penilessness. And it is close to impossible to make all of this work together, month after month, year after year, and find the peace and happiness that you thought for sure existed here.



Alison Golub

Which is why most of us don't make it.

There is currently a 33 percent "failure" rate among new immigrants from America in their first three years as citizens here. That means that one out of every three of us just can't hack it. That means that of the 1,000 North American immigrants that Nefesh B'Nefesh (an American organization that has devoted itself to the cause of boosting immigration to Israel) brought over here last

Time to prepare for Israel's next battles

By Mitchell Bard

One thing the pro-Israel community is very good at is responding to crises. Unfortunately, we spend so much time on the immediate or short-term issues that we fail to anticipate the future and prepare for issues that will become crises, or might be prevented from becoming emergencies if we took precautionary measures now.

To give one example, much effort is now being devoted to explaining disengagement and the attendant risks. This issue could have, and should have been explained at least two years ago, long before it was on Sharon's radar screen. We cannot afford to wait for issues to explode in our faces if we want to have any chance of shaping media coverage or, more important, U.S. policy. Nevertheless, little or nothing is now being done to develop materials, arguments, and strategies for addressing many of the most critical scenarios that are likely to emerge in the coming months.

1. IDF versus settlers — This is one of the concerns that is just over the horizon. There are likely to be ugly scenes when Israel begins to evacuate Jews from Gaza. The situation will be even worse if and when major settlements in the West Bank are removed. If skillfully cast, the disengagement may play well in the United States because it will show the extent to which Israelis are willing to go for peace. On the other hand, the sight of Jew on Jew violence may undermine the carefully cultivated image of Israelis being just like Americans, and make them appear more like the querulous Arabs.

2. The IDF reenters the PA — Once Israel redeploys from Gaza, the world is going to expect Israel to stay out, and will inevitably protest if it crosses the frontier. Given the Palestinian Authority's record to date, and the radicals' expressions of their continued commitment to the armed struggle, it is likely that Israel will be impelled to either take preemptive or retaliatory action against Palestinians operating in Gaza or other territories it may evacuate. A strong case needs to be made in advance to explain the need to retain the right to self-defense.

3. Justifying the inclusion of settlements inside Israel — When serious negotiations begin — or another unilateral disengagement is pursued — battle lines will be drawn over which settlements are incorporated into Israel, and which must be evacuated. While Israelis have no trouble differentiating among the settlements, Americans don't know anything about Jewish communities in the territories and think of them as tents on hilltops filled with religious zealots who are encroaching on "Palestinian" territory.

4. The "Right of Return." — Mahmoud Abbas is particularly committed to the "right" of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes. While this issue has been addressed for years, Americans still have trouble understanding why a person shouldn't be allowed to go home. The argument that Israel can't remain a Jewish state if it were to absorb millions of Palestinians isn't persuasive because many Americans are uncomfortable with the notion of a "Jewish state." In addition, despite some efforts in recent years, the pro-Israel community has failed to put the issue of Jewish refugees from Arab countries on the radar screen, or to equate them with the Palestinian refugees.

5. Abbas fails or dies — All hope for a negotiated solution has been placed in Abbas, who is not a young man and recently had a heart procedure. He could die or, more likely, Abbas will simply fail to take the necessary measures to end the violence and convince Israelis he can end the conflict. Israel will then have two problems: The absence of a negotiating partner and the prospect of increased violence.

6. Israel attacks Iran — Israel considers Iranian development of nuclear weapons to be an existential threat. Israel has little faith in the Europeans or diplomacy and hopes the U. S. will take action to stop the Iranians.

If Israel believes Iran will not be deterred, it may take unilateral military action. The current U.S. administration would privately applaud the action, but might be critical in public. The international reaction would be similar to 1981, but the U.S. would be more likely to veto any U.N. condemnation this time.

The Arab world would be relieved at non-Arab Iran's capability being delayed or destroyed, but publicly will be in an uproar that might further inflame the situation in Iraq and provoke greater anti-Israel and anti-American sentiment throughout the region. The pro-Israel community has plenty of issues to deal with right now, but it would be a serious mistake to ignore the scenarios outlined above. Too often we fight the last battle, it's time to prepare for the next ones.

Dr. Mitchell G. Bard is the author of 17 books including "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict" and "Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict".

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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.

Dry Bones SENSITIVITY



Letters

Judaism teaches us to respect animals

The PETA "Holocaust on your plate" campaign was insensitive and upsetting to many people, but anyone who solely focuses on its insensitivity has totally missed the point. No matter how much we read or listen, we can probably never truly understand the depth of pain and suffering of Holocaust survivors and the distress caused them by seeing reminders on billboards.

On the other hand, animals are also God's creatures and also feel pain, fear, and suffering. Judaism includes respect for animals, but farming methods have changed drastically over recent years. Most people are totally unaware of the inexcusably horrible suffering these innocent animals endure in today's factory farms and slaughterhouses, including the kosher ones.

I think it is admirable that PETA keeps trying to make the public aware of the situation. Animals are not people but they are nonetheless also miraculous creations of God and thoughtful people should not allow themselves to remain ignorant of how they're treated and should not allow such treatment to continue.

Marge Peppercorn
Portsmouth

Animal activist questions Rabbi Shafran

Regarding Rabbi Shafran's article entitled "Veggie apology is tough to swallow."

As an animal activist, I am in continual contact with the different animal organizations that speak out against animal atrocities.

I do not condone PETA's ad equating animal slaughterhouses with the concentration camps. PETA's ads and tactics can at times be a bit hard to swallow. However, I do not believe that the undercover work they do to expose animal abuse is prophetic in a world where meat consumers no longer equate packaged meat with the violence it took to get there.

Rabbi Shafran writes that animals must not be caused gratuitous pain, yet he need only take a look inside factory farming to see this is not the case. Many people are under the illusion that the method used to kill animals for kosher meat is more humane. This is not so. In fact, one of the world's largest producer of glatt kosher meat was under investigation due to undercover footage documenting fully conscious cattle whose tracheas and esophagi were being ripped from their throats and animals struggling to stand minutes after their throats had been cut. As a result of this investigation, the company did change their practices.

I believe each animal has a beautiful nefesh (soul). Anyone with a pet can confirm this. Please remember this and be grateful when you sit down to dinner.

Karen-Lynn Siperstein
Narragansett

Federation

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Federation announces priorities for the coming year

We have just completed our ritual cycle of congregational and agency annual meetings, honoring the accomplishments of departing presidents and executive directors and welcoming the hopes of incoming leaders.

In the pages of the last several *Jewish Voice & Herald*, you have read the interviews and stories that reflect the passing of the torch that occurs at this time of year.

With a change in officers, rooted in tradition and bursting with new energy, brings the opportunity for fresh perspectives

and new ideas. To that end, Janet Engelhart and I have laid out our priorities for the upcoming year. We look forward to sharing them with our leadership team of officers and staff at a retreat we are holding next week and hearing the ways they see themselves strengthening our organization.

Let me give you a preview now. Our priorities for the upcoming year are:

- Finalize recommendations, through The Partnership, for distributing community funds according to our priorities.
- Launch the process of modernizing our governance structure and procedures.
- Revitalize the Community Relations Council for maximum impact in the non-Jewish community.
- Define an interim and

a long-term site for our Jewish community campus through The Partnership.

• Successfully launch a Capital Campaign through The Partnership and JFRI to develop that campus and programs throughout greater Rhode Island.

• Conduct a successful 2006 Annual Campaign.

• Develop and launch a donor cultivation plan.

• Begin a program to engage the 35-50 year olds at Federation, agencies and synagogues.

• Launch four levels of leadership initiatives through The Partnership and with neighborhoods and agency partners.

• Implement our new communications/marketing strategic plan.

• Enhance our technological capacity.

• Support the opening of the Jewish Community Day School of R.I. in September '06.

• Create a standing Endowment Oversight Committee that will define policies and procedures for money coming in to and being invested from the Endowment.

• Build strong relationships with synagogue leaders across Greater Rhode Island.

These are the priorities for our first year. Each department

of JFRI will set their measurable goals for the year in consideration of these priority areas. Our comprehensive plan for the next three years is to lead change, expand our identity geographically, build strong relationships and enrich our communications internally, with all of our constituents and the general public.

I welcome your thoughts about our priorities. Feel free to be in touch at hstern@ecratchit.com. With your continuing support, I look forward to our opportunities and the challenges ahead.



Herbert B. Stern

Tickling the 'funny bones' to help patients heal



The Jewish Federation of R.I. donated funds this year to support an innovative pilot program in Ha'Emek Medical Center in Afula, a partnership community. Called "Dream Doctors," the program employs three professional "medical" clowns who show that laughter heals.

The clowns work for three to five days per week in pediatric emergency services, pediatric surgical and internal medicine wards and also make "rounds" on cancer patients.

According to a hospital spokesman, a medical clown appearing at the side of a sick patient, child or adult, at the opportune moment often transforms the treatment/experience into a pleasant and memorable one — for the patient, the family and the attending medical staff.

"These wonderful clowns have the ability to bring smiles and laughter to children when they are worried, in pain or vulnerable in what is to them an uncertain hospital environment," the spokesman said.

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Study on Ashkenazi genes sparks debate

Being smart comes with a price to pay

NEW YORK (JTA) — A reported link between Ashkenazi intelligence genes and susceptibility to genetic disorders is clearly mixed news for the descendants of Eastern European Jews.

It may come as little surprise, then, that reactions to a new study linking the two are a mixed bag as well.

According to the University of Utah study, slated to appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Biosocial Science*, Ashkenazim do better than average on IQ tests, scoring some 12-15 points above the test's mean value. But they also are more likely than any other ethnic groups to suffer from diseases such as Tay-Sachs, Gaucher's disease and Niemann-Pick — related conditions that can be debilitating and deadly.

In an effort to determine the effect of Gaucher's on IQ, for example, the researchers

contacted the Gaucher's Clinic at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. Although the center did not have specific IQ numbers on patients at the clinic, the jobs they held were high IQ professions: physicists, engineers, lawyers, physicians and scientists.

Indeed, the study notes that although Ashkenazi Jews made up just 3 percent of the U.S. population during the last century, they won 27 percent of the

In some of the Ashkenazi disorders, individuals experience extra growth and branching of connectors linking their nerve cells. Too much of this growth may lead to disease; increased but limited growth, though, could breed heightened intelligence.

However, Harpending added, this is "the kind of thing that you're not supposed to say these days."

But could this research actually end up helping anybody? Gregory Cochran, one of the study's authors, hopes so.

"I don't have the cure to any disease in my pocket. I wish I did," he said. "But if this all pans out, you learn something about how the brain works. Who knows? Maybe you can do something to help some people one day."

genetic diseases.

According to the researchers, many individuals carrying the gene for one of these diseases also receive an "IQ boost."

Rabbi Moses Tendler, who holds a doctorate in biology and teaches biology at Yeshiva University, said there is "no doubt that genetic makeup determines intelligence and, indeed, predisposes as well as offers resistance to genetic diseases."

But he took issue with the study's findings.

But for some people, ascribing collective traits to entire ethnic groups — especially to European Jews — reminds them that the Nazis heaped a pile of supposed genetic characteristics on that continent's Jews and used the characteristics as a basis to exterminate them.

Indeed, the researchers say they had difficulty finding a journal that would publish their findings.

For other people, criticizing such research on this basis reeks of political correctness. This is real science, they say, with real potential to help save Jewish — and other lives.

Indeed, the study notes that although Ashkenazi Jews made up just 3 percent of the U.S. population during the last century, they won 27 percent of the country's Nobel Prizes.

country's Nobel Prizes in science and account for more than half of the world's chess champions.

"It's obviously a population with enriched IQs — big time," said Henry Harpending, a professor of anthropology at the University of Utah and one of the study's three authors. "It's no secret," he said of the Ashkenazi IQ numbers. "Your grandmother told you this."

The new study hypothesizes that the genetic disorders could be the unfortunate side effects of genes that facilitate intelligence.

"We regard this as an interesting hypothesis and are a little surprised at the attention. On the other hand, geneticists kind of know that variation between populations is almost certainly in the DNA and they kind of don't talk about that, for fear of losing federal funding for their research," Harpending said. "What we've done is started out with an idea and followed it, so what we have is a pretty interesting and pretty good-looking hypothesis" and it ought to be tested."

The study says that because European Jews in medieval times were restricted to jobs in finance, money-lending and long-distance trade occupations that required greater mental gymnastics than fields such as farming, dominated by non-Jews — their genetic codes over the course of some generations selected genes for enhanced intellectual ability.

It is for this reason, the researchers said, that many Ashkenazi Jews today have high IQs — and it may also be the reason they suffer from the slew of

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Community

DAY SCHOOL

From page 1

communications and marketing consultant working with the JCDS, acknowledged the difficult nature of the meetings. "People wanted more information, and this is why we hosted these meetings," she said.

She pledged parents will begin receiving more regular email notifications, and said that information about the school's mission and leadership is located on its website at www.jfri.org.

under the Jewish Community Day School link.

Financial woes

A number of those present at the meetings wanted to know the status of the search for a director for the proposed school. Jeff Gladstone, co-president of ASDS, said that they are "very close" to selecting one, but assured those assembled that time is not a factor in selecting a candidate — excellence is.

"Why can't they build on the old site, on Schechter property and next to the temple?" asked

Karen Baraha, of Providence, who put three boys through Schechter.

Alan Harlam, head of the transition committee of the JCDS and a parent at ASDS, spoke about some of the difficult financial realities that Schechter has faced. He said that the school has made a number of attempts to move. However, it was determined that the school could only raise \$1.7 million out of the \$5 to \$8 million needed to build a new school, and the plan was abandoned.

Harlam also said that to meet rising costs, Schechter has had to raise tuition from between 4 and 10 percent a year for the

last three years (current tuition is approximately \$11,500), resulting in a few attritions to public schools and 20 additional parents seeking financial aid.

"Parents can't afford what we're charging," Harlam said.

Trans-denominational

In regard to questions about the feasibility of having a trans-denominational Jewish school, Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, who is on the community day school task force, said that across the United States, "Pluralism is on everybody's mind. It's the wave of the future."

Rabbi Mitchell Levine, an Orthodox rabbi who will be

joining the Schechter staff next year, said he had been working with Rabbi Kaunfer and Rabbis Jonathan Blake and Sarah Mack from Beth-El for years on this subject, "and discovered we have a lot more in common than we supposed."

"Where we can't find a solution," he said, "differences will be accommodated."

Susan Hamin of Cranston said that where Jewish educational excellence was, she and her children would follow. "I felt a shift tonight that the community school heard us, and is responding to what we are saying. That feels good to me."

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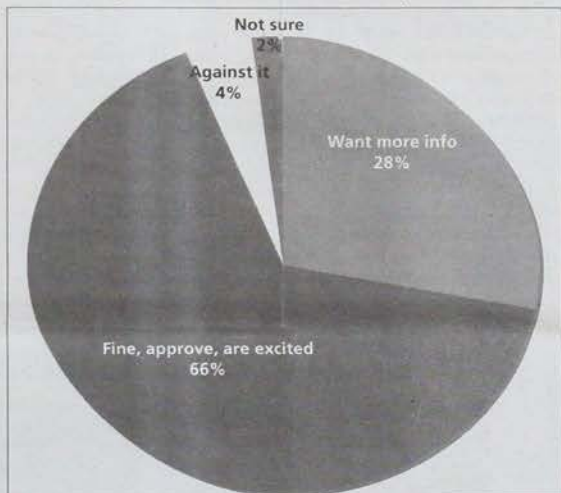
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Howard Weiss

Jon Weiss

Day school polls ASDS parents

What do you think of the Community School idea?



RESULTS OF PARENT POLL conducted by the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

Parents had a wide variety of reactions to the proposed community school. The following are some responses by Schechter parents to a telephone survey conducted by members of the Jewish Community Day School during the past month:

What are your feelings about the community day school project? Do we need it?

Please emphasize that the spirit of Schechter will live on.

We need the transition in order to overcome mediocrity.

We're doing it because our kids deserve better.

Why close a school like ASDS? We're doing so well!

It's a fresh start.

We need to expand enrollment.

We're stuck in a rut and we can't attract community support.

It's a great idea but the devil is in the details.

I am OK that the board and the leadership of the school have made this decision — it's what they are there to do.

We've outgrown the temple site and need a new location.

Jewish community members should trust each other more.

Rigorous Jewish education is important.

Having a strong Conservative day school is important to me.

How has the project been communicated so far?

ASDS has a poor history of communicating with the community, even before this.

Please acknowledge your past mistakes in regard to communication.

Please give me weekly updates.

There has been mixed messages from the leadership.

This has been badly communicated.

Very negative people are very vocal at meetings. Parents in sup-

port of the idea do not speak up.

I want to know more about the process as it happens, not after it happens.

We need to communicate the truth regularly to prevent misinformation.

I feel out of the loop as to the history of this project.



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Judy Westrick, left, of Lincoln, and Leah Ross-Coke, of Coventry, chat after the Tuesday night information session held by the Jewish Community Day School.

Community

MACCABIAH

From page 3

sity of Pennsylvania in December to try out for the games. "There were a lot of kids from warmer climates, from Florida and California, trying out. I think I had an advantage because I am used to the cold weather and playing indoors," she said.

She will play in the under-18 age group, which is made up of six young men and six young women. She expects to play singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Furman said she is eager to return to Israel, which she previously visited on a March of the Living trip.

Kiersten Oresman, daughter of Lee and Sue Oresman of North Providence, has been named to the junior swim team. She is a junior at Mount St. Charles Academy in Woonsocket, and has been swimming for 12 years. She was named MVP of her school swim team.

Also swimming are Lenny Krayzelburg (two-time U.S. Olympian swimmer, five-time gold medalist and multiple world and Maccabiah record holder) and Scott Goldblatt (two-time U.S. Olympian).

Krayzelburg was recently named the honorary captain of the U.S. contingent.

The ceremonies will be shown online at www.maccabiah17.com. For information about the games, visit www.maccabiusa.com.

Babe Ruth contract brings in almost \$1M

the bidding reached \$850,000. (He was not there at the time, visiting his new granddaughter in Washington D.C.) However, Sotheby's called him immediately with the news that the high bid was \$996,000.

He had tried to sell the contract earlier on EBay but the highest bid was \$470,100, less than the \$500,00 he had hoped for, so he withdrew it and sent it to Sotheby's, where it was auctioned on June 10 with some 350 other sports items.

The original contract, which has been called "the most valuable sports document of all time," led to what many Red Sox fans have called "The Curse of the Bambino," preventing the Sox from winning a World Series from then until 2004. (The Red Sox had won five previous World Series, three of them with the Babe as pitcher.) During the interim, the Yankees won 26 World Series.

Feinstein had promised that he would sell the five-page contract when the Sox next won the World Series and give all the profits to anti-hunger agencies. He has now reiterated that the money will be divided among hunger charities nationwide. "This will feed a lot of people," he said.

In addition, he now offers a replica to anyone who will send him a check for \$30 (or more) made out to "House of Hope," to 41 Alhambra Circle, Cranston, RI 02905. "House of Hope"

is for the creation of low-cost housing for the needy disabled of Rhode Island.

"I have trepidations," said Feinstein before the auction, "I wouldn't be too happy if a Yankees fan gets this..... the Sox slump, the curse of the Bambino, might rise from the ashes."

It seems that his fears were realized: The buyer turned out to be a die-hard fan of the Yankees, the team that went on to build the greatest dynasty in sports with Ruth's awesome slugging ability.

"I was prepared to pay almost whatever it took," said Pete Siegel, head of Manhattan-based Gotta Have It Collectibles, who purchased the contract.

\$100,000 trade

The following are excerpts from the contract dated Dec. 26, 1919, in which George H. (The Babe) Ruth was sold by "The Boston American League Baseball Club" to the "American League Baseball Club of New York, Inc."

"The purchase price of the services of the said Player Ruth...is the sum of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) Dollars..."

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World

Will Jewish groups fight for Bolton?

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The White House is pressing American Jewish organizations to speak out in favor of John Bolton, President Bush's choice for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, as Republicans push for votes to approve him.

While Bolton has been criticized by Democrats, he has been well received in the Jewish community, predominantly because he was the architect of the 1991 repeal of an infamous 1975 United Nations resolution denigrating Zionism as racism.

But Jewish groups have not expended much energy on Bolton's behalf. That has angered Bush administration officials who say that Bolton's philosophy on U.N. reform is in line with Jewish community views, and that the community should be backing a nominee who can help Israel in the international body.

The administration also hopes Jewish community support will counterbalance lingering questions about Bolton's past statements and work style, and help him win the necessary votes for Senate confirmation.

"We are surprised at the half-hearted efforts by Jewish organizations who know that John Bolton is exactly the right

guy to bring reform to the U.N., which is an institution desperately in need of reform," a White House official said.

The lack of effort on Bolton's behalf highlights the dilemmas Jewish groups face in taking policy positions. While Bolton may appeal to some groups, speaking out for him might pit them against liberal colleagues who are concerned about some of Bolton's actions, and even against some of their own members, who have been reluctant to support a White House appointee because of Bush's stances on domestic policy issues.

The White House wants Jewish figures to reach out to senators, especially Democrats, extolling Bolton's pro Israel record. But that has not happened.

Many Jewish organizational leaders said their support of Bolton is known; indeed, some issued press releases praising his nomination when it was announced in March.

"They know we are supportive of Bolton," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.



ISRAEL TRAIN WRECK — Israeli rescue workers search the wreckage for victims after a passenger train smashed at high speed into a truck on Tuesday near Kibbutz Revadim in southern Israel. As many as 180 people were wounded and at least six killed in Israel's worst railway disaster in years.

Military helps victims of Israeli train wreck

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A veteran of responding to Palestinian terror attacks, Brig. Gen. Amir Eshel did not hesitate to scramble all of Israel's military helicopters when news that a train had derailed first reached his bunker.

It turned out that Tuesday's crash near Kibbutz Revadim in southern Israel was an accident, not a terrorist attack. For many of the 180-odd casualties, the air

force duty officer's quick response might have meant the difference between life and death.

"We assumed it was a major terrorist incident," Eshel told Channel Two television. "Even though it wasn't, the ability to reach the remote site by air was very important in getting people to treatment."

At least six passengers of the southbound train, and the driver of the truck it hit, were killed. The force of the collision squashed the first two cars of the train like an accordion. Debris was scattered for hundreds of feet around the scraggly bushes in the desert.

"I heard the train's horn sound, and then we were all thrown forward as it slammed on the brakes," an off-duty soldier rescued from the scene told reporters in the hospital. "Next thing I know, there was a huge explosion, dust, and everything spun around. It was all I could do to get out of there." The worst hurt were taken by helicopters to hospitals. The walking wounded lay on the sand next to the tracks,

awaiting ambulances that took at least half an hour to reach the remote location.

Given that the train was carrying as many as 1,000 passengers, many of whom had moved up front during the voyage after the air conditioning failed in the rear cars, the death toll could have been far worse.

Authorities were quick to rule out terrorism as the cause of the collision. Transportation Minister Meir Sheetrit noted that the truck driver who was killed — apparently the truck stalled astride the tracks en route to work on a nearby highway — was Jewish.

The train conductor was hospitalized and not immediately available to give testimony. With witnesses lacking, speculation was rife that negligence could have played a part in one of Israel's worst-ever transportation tragedies.

There was talk of an excess cargo of coal aboard the train, and the fact that the site saw two similar, albeit milder, accidents in 2000 and 2003.

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World

World News Briefs

Air Force chaplain quits

A chaplain who helped raise issues earlier this year of religious intolerance at the Air Force Academy resigned from the military. Capt. Melinda Morton quit Tuesday, a day before the Air Force was expected to release a report that calls the problem at the academy "serious," according to the Anti-Defamation League, which discussed the report with school officials. Morton's attorney told The New York Times that she believed it would be difficult to continue at the school because of her outspokenness. The academy has come under criticism recently for allegedly promoting evangelical Christian beliefs and creating a hostile environment for religious minorities. (JTA)

\$7M Bar Mitzvah

LONDON — Seven million, four hundred thousand dollars may not be much compared to the national debt, but to many it seemed a bit much to spend on a Bar Mitzvah. That was the price paid by a British retail tycoon to fly 200 guests in private jets to the French Riviera. The three-day package included appearances by Beyonce and Andrea Bocelli as well as suites at a five-star hotel. There was no word on whether the decorations included a swan molded from chicken liver. A New York rabbi commented that it seemed all bar and no mitzvah. (N.Y. JEWISH WEEK)

Israeli kids read *DaVinci Code*, *Potter* books

JERUSALEM — In this age of video games and text messaging, it comes as a relief to learn that Israeli high school students still have time to read. Israel's Education Ministry has released a study showing that the books most read by 11th and 12th grade students in Israel are *The DaVinci Code* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. In junior high schools it is no contest. Number one is *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Sound familiar? (JTA)

Military aid to Israel

WASHINGTON — The House is expected to approve \$2.28 billion dollars in military aid to Israel, an additional sum to Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt, and about \$150 million to the Palestinian Authority for emergency assistance. A vote is expected at the end of this month. The appropriation for the PA doubles the amount proposed by President Bush and is an addition to \$150 million already approved by the government. The grant includes a stipulation that it will be distributed by a third party, still unnamed, to avoid any possibility of graft by PA officials. (JTA)

Bielski vs. Sharansky

JERUSALEM — The Reform and Conservative movements are backing Zeev Bielski's candidacy for chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, whose Zionist General Council meets next week in Israel's capital. Bielski, the mayor of Ra'anana, was selected as a candidate by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. His rival for the post is Natan Sharansky, the best known of the Soviet "refuseniks" who defied the Soviets and eventually were able to move to Israel. The contest is shaping up as a confrontation between disengagement doves and hawks in the Zionist movement. Sharansky is strongly opposed to the forthcoming departure from Gaza while Bielski supports it. Reform and Conservative backing is expected to greatly strengthen Bielski's chances. (JTA)

Frank supports money to PA

BOSTON — Barney Frank, (D-Mass), who rarely agrees with administration policy, is supporting President Bush's offer of \$50 million in direct American aid to the Palestinian Authority, saying he regrets that other lawmakers have refused to do likewise. Frank said that providing direct financial and other support to Mahmoud Abbas only through third parties, would "... seem to be counterproductive and directly in contrast to the best interests of Israel." Congressional critics have insisted that the funds be given through a third party to avoid possible corruption in the PA. (JTA)

Argentina repeals 1938 memo

BUENOS AIRES — It took a while but Argentina has finally agreed to repeal a 1938 memorandum ordering diplomats not to issue visas or safe-conduct passes to Jews. The memorandum has been the centerpiece of a long fight by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation. A foundation member from Argentina noted that "although the action is symbolic, it is still a very important step." Wallenberg was the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews in 1944 and disappeared into Soviet prisons after the war.

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Mideast

Settlers' homes in Gaza to be destroyed

Just as the cracks were showing in Israel's attempt to coordinate its upcoming Gaza Strip withdrawal with the Palestinian Authority, in stepped the United States to cement a deal.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, prior to meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders earlier this month, announced that both sides had agreed on a solution for a pressing issue in Gaza, the fate of some 1,200 Israeli homes to be evacuated in August.

"Israel and the Palestinian Authority agree that the settler homes in Gaza should be removed," Rice told reporters shortly after her meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "Therefore the parties will work toward a plan for destruction and cleanup."

The issue of whether the settlement homes should or should not be flattened became a major one once it became evident that Israel would leave Gaza. Many Israelis felt that the buildings should be left standing and occupied by Palestinians. This would certainly improve Israel's image abroad and might slow a growing tendency towards renewing a

violent resistance on the part of Hamas extremists.

But both Israel and the PA saw some serious side effects to such a plan. Opening the homes to Palestinians might lead to chaos if they are fought over by those who have enough clout to make a deal with the PA or if Hamas terrorists simply occupy them.

From an Israeli perspective, the sight of Palestinian flags being raised above rooftops originally built by the settlers and their new owners celebrating within sight of Jewish villages in Israel proper, could be a traumatic experience that might cost the government votes in any forthcoming election.

An internal Israeli issue yet to be decided upon is what to do about the flower and vegetable greenhouses which were the economic foundation for the Gaza settlement movement. They provide a major source of income for the settlers and much of that crop is flown to Europe for sale. The Gaza greenhouses account also for much of Israel's export trade and there has been some discussion about moving the greenhouses into Israel but no resolution of the matter.



ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Ariel Sharon meets with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, on Tuesday at Sharon's official residence in Jerusalem.

Sharon insists P.A. move against terror; Rice makes quick trip to Middle East

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon conceived the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank as a unilateral step, but it's increasingly being coordinated by Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

The two sides are working on joint military plans to stop Palestinian terrorists from firing on Israeli soldiers and civilians during the pullback, slated to begin in mid-August. They also are putting together a string of ambitious economic projects to provide incentives for the Palestinians to keep the

peace long after the withdrawal is complete.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's lightning-quick visit to Ramallah and Jerusalem over the weekend was part of a concerted American effort to encourage coordination, and Sharon's meeting Tuesday with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas also focused, at least in part, on the coordination effort.

In the two-and-a-half hour meeting, Sharon and Abbas discussed a number of key coordination issues, including deployment of P.A. police during the evacuation, arrangements for control of the "Philadelphia route" on the border between Gaza and Egypt, administration of border-crossing points between Gaza and Israel, and demolition of evacuated settler homes.

Sharon also agreed to transfer the West Bank cities of Kalkilya and Bethlehem to P.A. control within the next two weeks.

But Sharon's main message to Abbas was that Israeli-Palestinian military and civilian coordination will have little credibility unless the Palestinian Authority starts making good on its pledges to crack down on terrorism.

Israel claims there has been an increase in attacks by groups like Islamic Jihad over the past few days, and that the Palestinian Authority is doing very little to stop it.

On Monday night, Israeli forces arrested more than 50 Islamic Jihad activists after the group claimed responsibility for killing two Israelis in recent days. The message was clear: If the Palestinian Authority doesn't take action, Israel will. In her visit to the area, Rice met separately with Palestinian and Israeli leaders and emphasized to both sides the importance the

United States attaches to coordinating the withdrawal. She left no doubt that the Americans see in a coordinated, relatively peaceful pullback as the key to creating a favorable climate for renewed peace talks.

To strengthen the P.A.'s prestige and policing capacity, Israeli negotiators, headed by Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and Maj. Gen. Moshe Kaplinski, the army's deputy chief of staff, are proposing:

- Handing over more West Bank cities, such as Jenin and Ramallah, to P.A. control before the withdrawal from Gaza. The Israeli side, though, insists that the Palestinian Authority first fulfill promises to disarm terrorists on Israel's wanted list.

- Transferring P.A. police from the West Bank to Gaza to beef up their presence in key areas.

- Setting up joint Israeli-Palestinian operations rooms to coordinate movement of forces on the ground before, during and after the withdrawal.

The Israeli side has provided maps of the settlements and asked the Palestinians to come back with a detailed security plan that would dovetail with Israel's overall blueprint for protecting the withdrawal.

The civilian coordination talks aim to provide incentives for a more enduring commitment to peace. At least five major projects are under consideration:

- a rail link between the Gaza Strip and West Bank;
- completing construction of a seaport in Gaza; reopening the Gaza airport;
- streamlining border crossing points between Gaza and Israel; and
- a massive housing project for Israeli refugee resettlement.

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June 24, 2005



Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF RHODE ISLAND

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND
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"All Jews are responsible for one another"



JFRI Annual Report

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

L'Dor V'Dor. FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

No phrase could better describe our goals and efforts over the past few years, to pass on to our children and grandchildren a dynamic, inclusive and secure Greater Rhode Island Jewish community rooted in the values of learning, caring, giving and social justice. As we continue to work in our core areas of fund development, planning and community relations, we have also made significant progress in planning for the future of this Jewish community.

How are we working to do that and what has been our progress over the past year?

First and foremost, we are poised to focus our Federation to lead us into the future.



Janet H. Engelhart, Executive Vice President

\$425,000 from our Endowment as seed money to establish a new Jewish Community Day School. The goal of forming such a school is to expand the number of youngsters who receive a day school education. As we know, full time Jewish education is a key indicator of future involvement with Judaism and the Jewish community. A Board of Directors for the Jewish Community Day School of RI has been formed. A search for

In the fall we undertook an Organizational Assessment that pointed out what we do well and critical areas needing change. We have engaged a Communications and Marketing consultant to work with our officers and staff on a comprehensive communications plan, including a unified positioning statement, three priority goals for the next five years and an action plan for the upcoming year. Officers and staff will be meeting in June to sign off on that plan and to revisit our vision statement so that overall organizational goals can be defined during the following two months. We are dedicated to delivering on and being held accountable for the goals and objectives that will be laid out in the upcoming few months. The result? An organization that has considered where we are, where we need to grow stronger, with the discipline to drive the action to get there.

Next, through The Partnership and with leadership from the Bureau of Jewish Education, this winter our Board approved

Head of School has begun. An interim site is being explored. We anticipate the opening of an inclusive multi-denominational school in September '06.

We are positioned to execute three additional initiatives through The Partnership: securing and developing a metropolitan campus that can house the central operations of agencies and schools; beginning three leadership and educational initiatives that will be offered to neighborhoods around the State, as well as agencies and potential top leaders for our community; and developing a new fund distribution model that will efficiently and effectively allocate campaign and endowment dollars.

And during this year we have implemented a number of fund development initiatives aimed to demonstrate community needs to future donors. Our Annual Campaign Leadership Team is developing plans to meet with and be responsive to the next generation of our Major Donor families. We began a B'nai Tzedek program to encourage youngsters who are approaching their Bar & Bat Mitzvah ceremonies to use a portion of their gifts to form a philanthropic fund, which will be augmented by our Endowment. Everyone enrolled in the B'nai Tzedek program will be educated by the Bureau of Jewish Education and will make decisions annually about where their philanthropic dollars go. And we are initiating a pilot program through the Bureau of Jewish Education with fifth and sixth graders in religious schools and day schools to teach them about our communal services.

L'Dor V'Dor. From Generation to Generation.

Our sacred responsibility is to transmit our Jewish values in a meaningful way to the next generation. In a rapidly changing world, that mandate is a challenge. But a challenge that we welcome, that we are facing head on and that our Federation leadership is dedicated to. Please join with President-elect Herbert B. Stern and his incoming officers as we work together for our children and grandchildren to bring our community to even greater heights.



Mark R. Feinstein, President

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

The Rhode Island Jewish community is blessed with deeply committed donors and volunteers. This year, over 2,600 households contributed to the Campaign. The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Annual Community Campaign raises funds that are distributed to a myriad of agencies and organizations that fulfill our mission, namely, to meet the needs of Jews in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world, and to encourage involvement in Jewish life.

How else could someone in Barrington feed a new immigrant in Israel? How else could someone in Newport visit a sick woman in the former Soviet Union (FSU)? How else could someone in Pawtucket be a counselor at a Jewish summer camp in Argentina? How else could we help seniors in Rhode Island continue to live independently or enable Jewish college students to explore what it means to be Jewish or offer a family the opportunity to participate in an educational program to expand their Jewish knowledge? Your support of the Community Campaign goes far and helps many.

For more than a century, North American Jewry has used collective action to shape Jewish history and address basic human needs. The thread that links us to each other is rooted in Tzedakah, in living generously.

The 2005 Annual Community Campaign achieved great successes:

- We raised a total of \$4,125,000, stemming the tide of downward campaigns of recent years.
- Special guest speaker Alan Dershowitz spoke passionately and honestly to our community about the importance of feeling pride and comfort in openly supporting Israel and our Jewish heritage.
- Jewish volunteers were able to deliver more food packages and feed more of our elderly living in poverty conditions in the FSU and provide welfare relief to thousands of Jewish families in Argentina.
- Special programs were created to address the growing incidence of post-traumatic-stress among Israel's children and their families, as well as programs to keep children safe.

Whether here in greater Rhode Island, across North America, in Israel or in more than 60 countries around

the world, there is simply no other way to reach so many people, people in need and people who want to lead exciting and meaningful Jewish lives. There is

no other way except through the Federation's Annual Community Campaign.

Thank you so much for Living Generously: It Does a World of Good.



JFRI Annual Report

ENDOWMENT AND WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

ENDOWMENT

An individual left a bequest to the Federation a number of years ago to provide scholarships for students with an interest in studying in Israel. Over 1,000 students have received scholarships and this year alone \$30,000 was distributed. The generosity of a couple provided funding to over 20 different agencies and organizations, including Jewish Family Service, Camp JORI and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Annual Campaign. These two funds, as well as over 200 others, are helping to provide for basic human needs, educational, religious and social service programming both in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community and in other parts of the world.

This was a successful year for the JFRI Endowment. At the end of our most recent fiscal year, June 30, 2004, the Endowment Fund was valued at \$42,473,112. The return for this same fiscal year was 12.8%.

During the course of the year, grants and distributions are made from the 84 unrestricted funds, 73 donor-advised funds and 57 restricted funds that constitute the Endowment Fund. These funds help to support our annual campaign, our beneficiary agencies and other not-for-profit organizations here in Rhode Island and throughout the world. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, those grants totaled \$1,615,700.

A number of the gifts made to the Endowment Fund over the past year deserve special mention. Three new Lion of Judah Endowments were created by Anne Berkelhammer Krause, Ellie Frank and Mindy Wachtenheim to endow their annual campaign gifts to the Women's Alliance Annual Community Campaign. These women demonstrate their passion and commitment to worldwide Jewish causes with these leadership gifts. Their generosity will help the Federation support critically-needed programs, including those for families in Rhode Island and overseas.

The Endowment Fund does not consist of just Federation's funds but also contains the funds of communal agencies and congregations. This past year Temple Sinai placed part of its endowment with the Endowment Fund. These funds will support the growth of our endowment making us better able to serve their neighborhood and others around the state.

Recently, the Endowment Committee established a new standing sub-committee, the Endowment Distribution Oversight Committee. The charge of that sub-committee is to oversee all distributions and expenditures from the Endowment Fund in order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the monies distributed. The sub-committee will work to help mobilize all parts of the Endowment Fund to meet communal needs.

This past year, the Endowment Committee established the B'nai Tzedek Program. As part of that program, the Endowment Fund will match every Bar/t Mitzvah's con-



tribution made to a special philanthropic fund opened with a portion of the gifts he or she receives. The Bureau of Jewish Education will create programs for the B'nai Tzedek participants to help them decide how to make a real difference with community contributions and teach them about the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Additionally, Dr. James Yashar donated his medical office condo to the Jewish Federation to create a permanent endowment to fund the Bureau of Jewish Education's Dr. James and Judge Marjorie Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance which brings nearly 500 individuals together for learning opportunities. The Endowment Fund hopes that this gift will inspire others to use appreciated real estate as a tax-advantageous way of creating endowments that will benefit the Jewish community.

Lastly, the Endowment Fund held its annual event for snowbirds at the Kravis Center in Palm Beach on Sunday February 13th. One hundred and fifteen people came to hear the Boston Pops, meet their fellow Rhode Islanders at a reception before the concert, and hear from Federation President, Mark Feinstein, Executive Vice President, Janet Engelhart, and Endowment Committee Chair, Edward Feldstein, report on activities "up North" during the cold winter.

Our endowment fund holders help ensure the present and future success of our Community Campaign and these individuals have shown their commitment to a strong Jewish community in greater Rhode Island and around the world.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The Women's Alliance represents all aspects of women's philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. The centerpiece of our efforts is the Women's Alliance's contribution to the Annual Campaign. This year, women raised over \$1.1 million from more than 1,500 donors – a record amount! This represents more than 25% of the total dollars raised. It includes our 95 Lions of Judah (women donors giving a gift of \$5,000+) – with 7 new Lions and 4 new Ruby Lions (\$10,000+). These women demonstrate their commitment to building strong Jewish communities in greater Rhode Island, in Israel, and around the world.

In addition to the annual campaign, the Women's Alliance offers other philanthropic opportunities, including our very own Women's Alliance Endowment Fund. Our 67 Fund members decide annually on distributions to programs that impact Jewish women & children. We also encourage every woman to consider endowing her annual campaign gift in perpetuity. These efforts are highlighted through our Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) program, for women who leave a legacy by endowing their Lion

level gift to the annual campaign. This year we added 3 new LOJEs.

Volunteer opportunities abound within the Women's Alliance: from soliciting for the Annual Campaign, to participating in our monthly mitzvah projects, to learning with women at our Rosh Hodesh sessions, to meeting other new mothers at Babies, Kids and Kibbitzing, we provide a place for women to get involved with Federation life.

Involvement with the Women's Alliance offers women a platform and a voice that helps to shape the Jewish future – not just for our community, but on the national level as well. Endowment

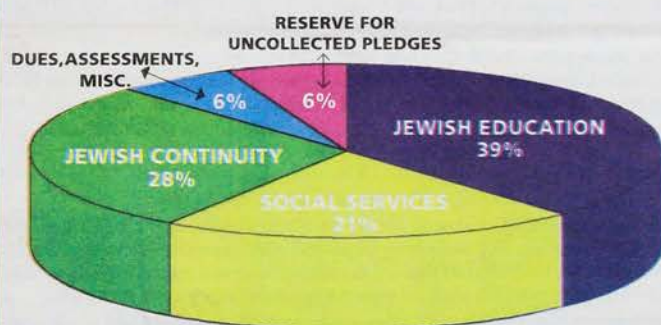


JFRI Annual Report**Fund
DISTRIBUTION****PLANNING AND ALLOCATIONS**

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's primary role is to raise funds to support the programs of our partner agencies. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Campaign team and the generosity of community donors, we were able to allocate \$4.125 million to local, overseas and national agencies for the upcoming year.

Our partner agencies and organizations enhance the quality of Jewish life wherever they do their work. We are supporting on your behalf a network of Jewish education, social service and Jewish life and continuity programs to people throughout greater Rhode Island, in Israel, in the former Soviet Union and more than 60 other countries. Our allocations save lives by providing food packages, medication and clothing to over 250,000 elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union. Our dollars provide new immigrants in Israel with the services they need to become active members of Israeli society. Your financial support helps older adults in Rhode Island maintain their independence and their connection to the Jewish community. Our funds support programs at Jewish schools, the Jewish Community Center, Hillels and Jewish summer camps that create an informed and committed next generation of community members.

In the spring, the Planning and Allocations Committee members met with volunteer and professional leaders at our core agencies and community beneficiaries, as well as meeting with representatives from our overseas partner agencies. These conversations helped our leadership understand the communal needs and enabled us to ensure our donors that community dollars are being spent wisely. After extensive deliberation, the Planning and Allocations Committee made the following allocations recommendations to the JFRI Board and the Board accepted them.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL ALLOCATIONS**LOCAL CORE AGENCIES****2005/06 ALLOCATION**

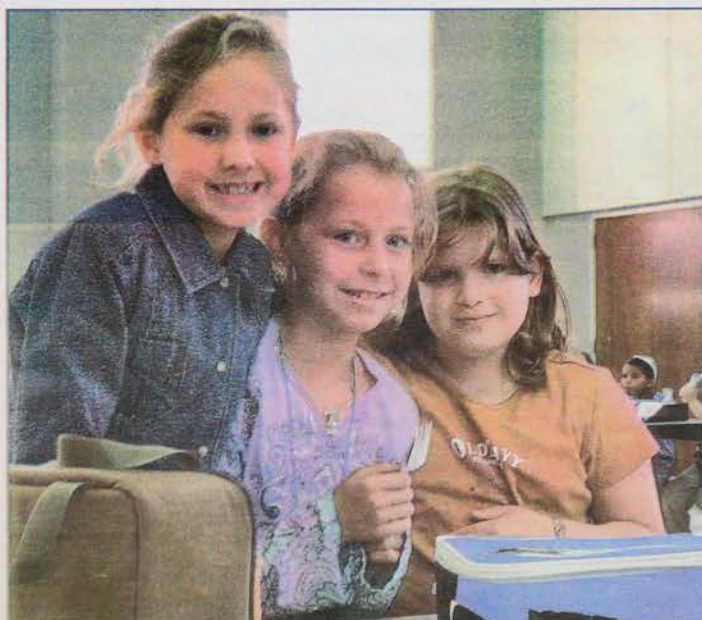
Brown Hillel Foundation	\$45,902.
Bureau of Jewish Education	\$456,304.
Grants in Aid to Day Schools and South County Hebrew School	\$176,140.
Jewish Community Center	\$348,993.
Jewish Eldercare of RI (JSA)	\$69,678.
Jewish Family Service	\$319,409.
RI Holocaust Museum	\$20,042.
URI Hillel Foundation	\$66,288.
TOTAL	\$1,502,756.

**COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES
OTHER LOCAL ALLOCATIONS****2005/06 ALLOCATION**

BBYO Regional Office	\$6,000.
Camp JORI	\$7,000.
Chabad Providence	\$3,300.
Chabad West Bay	\$3,300.
Cong. B'nai Israel Rel. School	\$8,075.
Cong. Ohave Sholam Rel. School	\$2,850.
Jewish programming @ Bryant Univ.	\$1,000.
Jewish programming @ J&W Univ.	\$1,000.
Jewish programming @ RWU	\$1,000.
Jewish Committee on Scouting	\$3,000.
JFS Cranston Mealsite @ Temple Torat Yisrael	\$8,000.
NE Rabbinical College	\$500.
Perspectives	\$28,345.
President's Discretionary Fund	\$5,000.
RI Board of Rabbis	\$650.
Samuel Z. Bazarsky Religious School	\$7,055.
Scholarships/Camperships for new Americans	\$28,520.
Torah Day Camp	\$4,000.
Touro Synagogue Religious School	\$1,495.
Va'ad HaKashrut	\$3,000.
Vestnik	\$3,500.
TOTAL	\$126,590.

NATIONAL AGENCIES**2005/06 ALLOCATION**

American Jewish Committee	\$500.
Anti-Defamation League	\$250.
Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE)	\$1,000.
CLAL - Natl Jewish Resource Center	\$500.
Hornstein Program @ Brandeis	\$1,000.
Jewish Braille Institute	\$500.
Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) Dues	\$1,500.
National Funding Council Dues	\$1,852.
National Funding Council Pool	\$56,794.
United Jewish Communities Dues	\$45,648.
TOTAL	\$109,544.



Celebrate the 4th with fish, pasta, and watermelon freeze

By Marilyn Graff

Did you know that the traditional New England meal for the Fourth of July is salmon and fresh "new" peas?

Buy fresh salmon steaks cut about 3/4 inch thick, or filets.

Season fish well with lemon juice and freshly ground pepper on both sides. Place on medium hot grill for 4-5 minutes, turn carefully and cook just until it flakes easily.

Serve with a simple sauce made by stirring chopped garlic and dill weed into good mayonnaise to taste, thin with lemon juice.

Pasta and Peas

1 lb. small pasta, such as small shells or orchiette

3-4 cups freshly shelled peas, (or frozen if you can't get fresh)



1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil, or just enough to coat

Chinese rice vinegar, 3 Tblsps. or to taste

1 small onion, diced to about the same size as peas.

Salt and pepper to taste

Cook pasta according to directions on the box and drop in peas two minutes before pasta is done. Immediately drain into a colander and run cold water over to stop cooking.

Pour into a serving bowl and add onion and mint. Mix in oil

and vinegar, salt and pepper to taste.

You can also make this a hot dish by melting 1/2 stick butter or margarine, stirring in 1/2 cup flour until smooth, and adding 1/2 - 3/4 cup milk until thickened and smooth. Mix into just cooked pasta and peas and adjust seasoning. (Do not run cold water over cooked pasta and peas.)

Serves 6 to 8

Stuffed zucchini

Select nice straight zucchinis, about 6 inches in length. Cut in half lengthwise and scoop out centers leaving about 1/2 inch shell.

For 4 zucchinis:

2 slices bread, your choice, toasted and broken into 1/4 to 1/2 inch crumbs.

1 clove garlic, crushed

1 small onion, diced

1/2 cup pitted black olives, chopped or

1 cup chopped mushrooms

Salt & pepper to taste

In a small saute pan, heat a couple of tps. oil, olive oil or butter and cook onion until clarified, with mushrooms, adding garlic when nearly done. Stir in bread crumbs and centers of zucchini, fork mashed, to moisten. Add black olives if using. Fill zucchini shells, place in a pan in a 350-degree oven or on the grill on a sheet of heavy-duty foil until shells are tender.

You can slice these diagonally in inch-thick slices for an hors d'oeuvre or serve whole as a vegetable.

Portobello hors d'oeuvre

Marinate portobello mushrooms in a garlicky Italian dressing for an hour or so. Grill for about five minutes grill side down, turn and grill for another five

minutes. Cut in fourths or sixths as an hors d'oeuvre. Spear with a cherry tomato on a toothpick.

Dessert

"Watermelon" freeze

1/2 gal. pistachio ice cream or lime sherbet or sorbet

1/2 gal. raspberry sherbet or sorbet

2 cups chocolate chips

Chill a large mixing bowl, preferably metal (I use the bowl of my electric mixer.)

Soften the green ice cream, sherbet or sorbet just enough to spread all around the inside of the bowl to about 3/4 to 1 inch thick. Return to freezer.

Soften the raspberry sherbet or sorbet and mix in the chocolate chips evenly. Remove bowl from freezer and pack the raspberry mixture in tightly. Smooth top.

When ready to serve wrap bowl in a warm, wet dishtowel and unmold onto a serving plate (you can put it back in the freezer on its plate to wait for dessert time.) If outside is not green enough you can brush it lightly with green food coloring. Cut in wedges to serve.

Learning the ingredients of kosher, Jewish cooking

By Rabbi Rachel Esserman

Every Jewish lifecycle event — from birth to death — usually includes a meal. Two recent works look at the Jewish connections to food. *How to Keep Kosher: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding Jewish Dietary Laws* by Lise Stern (William Morrow) gives an excellent overview of the rules of kashrut; in addition, it contains almost 70 pages of recipes for those looking for a taste of Jewish cooking.

Matthew Goodman's *Jewish Food: The World at Table* (Harper-Collins) is primarily a cookbook; however, readers who prefer to read rather than cook will find his essays describing Jewish cuisine a treat.

Anyone interested in keeping kosher, or in just learning more about the dietary laws, will find Stern's work an excellent place to start. *How to Keep Kosher* gives step-by-step explanations for everything from how to kasher (make kosher) your kitchen to the additional restrictions on cooking during Shabbat and the holidays. She also does a wonderful job covering a wide variety of topics, including the difference between being "ingredient kosher" and demanding kosher certification; an introduction to numerous chemical additives and preservatives, and their kashrut status; and an extensive look at the food restrictions followed on the holiday of Passover.

One of the advantages of Stern's guide is that she includes both Conservative and Orthodox rulings, explaining where they differ and why.

For those who are interested

in cooking kosher, Stern offers basic recipes for such staples as challah, matzah balls, kugel and cholent, as well as more exotic Jewish foods.

Jewish food

In the introduction to *Jewish Food*, Goodman discusses what makes a food Jewish, since Jewish cuisines differ from country to country. For Goodman, "Jewish food is a product of history and geography; it is an expression of the area in which it has been made. In this case, the area happens to span not merely a particular country... but instead much of the world."

His cookbook offers a taste of foods from all parts of the globe, from appetizers to desserts, including Moroccan orange and black olive salad; Greek fish soup; Iraqi chicken with rice; Hungarian Sabbath stew; Yemenite flat bread; and Italian baked ricotta pudding.

He also offers the following:

* The honey mentioned in the Bible did not come from bees. Instead it was "a thick syrup made from figs, grapes, and dates, a kind of syrup called *halek*, that is still made by Jews of Iraqi descent."

* "In Libya, okra was considered a food of mourning, and was traditionally eaten, with onions and tomato sauce, before Tisha B'av."

* Before the introduction of potatoes to Europe, latkes were cakes made from curd cheese that was fried in either butter or olive oil.

Rabbi Rachel Esserman writes for The Reporter Group of Jewish journalists.

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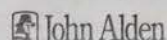
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Community



Photo by Temple Emanu-El

Emanu-El Grads

GRADUATES of the Temple Emanu-El religious school following Minhah prayer service. They are: in the back, Rosie Fine, Chloe Sondler, Rebecca Goldman (obscured), Sam Leblanc (obscured), Zachary Gaines and Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer. In front row are Alyssa Madwed, Briana Rignanese, Abby Kaye-Phillips, Dena Kaye-Phillips, Zoe Thompson and Evan Kornstein.

CALENDAR

Emanu-El Leisure Club summer session

From calendar, page 2

Programs will be in the new chapel at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Use the new entrance on Taft Ave. On the left is an elevator to the chapel. Refreshments served, participants invited to bring a brown bag lunch and stay for conversation after classes. Open to all adults regardless of temple affiliation. Annual membership \$18. For more info, call the temple at 331-1616.

THURSDAYS

JUNE 30 — AUG. 18

10 - 10:50 a.m. followed by a coffee break:

June 30: "How the Jews did NOT Invent Hollywood," Prof.

Phillip Rosen

July 7: "Memoirs of an Old Lady," Tema Gouse

July 14: "The Experience of Four WAVES during World War II."

July 21: "Administering Justice in Rhode Island," Judge Richard Israel

July 28: "Interesting Stuff," Bob Hill

Aug. 4: "A Columnist Rambles!" Bob Kerr

Aug. 11: "The Future of Social Security," Prof. George Borts

Aug. 18: "American Jewish Music," Cantor Richard Perlman

11:10 a.m. to noon:

June 30: Book reviews, *Fabulous Small Jews* by Joseph Epstein and *Breaking Ground* by Daniel Libeskind, reviewed by Mara Sokolsky

July 7, 14, 21, 28: "Musical Mornings at the Leisure Club," Norman Jagolinzer

Aug. 4: "The Universal Appeal of Sherlock Holmes and the Nature of his Admirers," Prof. Al Silverstein

Aug. 11: Book review, Dr. Penny Stein

Aug. 18: "Russian Animation," Steven Subotnick and Amy Kravitz.



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Community

Miriam People dinner honors donors



MIRIAM PEOPLE — In attendance at the annual Miriam People dinner held recently were, from left, Jeffrey G. Brier, chairman of The Miriam Hospital board of trustees; Alfred E. Buxton, M.D.; Kathleen C. Hittner, M.D., president and CEO; Edward Spindell, M.D.; Judith Spindell; Joseph Zwetckhenbaum, M.D., and Rissy Zwetckhenbaum, co-chairs of the dinner; and Benjamin G. Paster, chairman of The Miriam Hospital Foundation board of trustees.

PROVIDENCE — The Miriam Hospital recently held its 33rd annual Miriam People dinner to recognize and show gratitude to a select group of donors. Edward Spindell, M.D., a retired orthopedic surgeon, was

honored at the dinner for his dedication and commitment to The Miriam Hospital.

In addition, Alfred Buxton, M.D., director of the division of cardiology at The Miriam and Rhode Island Hospital, spoke on

"Sudden Cardiac Death: a Rhode Island Crisis."

The Miriam People program was founded by chairman Stanley Grossman to honor donors who have given either \$25,000 cumulatively or who make a \$1,000 annual donation.

Bone marrow donor sought

A member of the Providence Jewish community is searching for a bone marrow donor match. Blood drives and marrow donor registration will be held at the following:

1. Thursday, June 30, 2 to 6 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence
2. Wednesday, July 6, 4 to 8 p.m., Congregation Ohave Shalom, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket
3. Sunday, July 10, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston
4. Sunday, July 24, 8:30 a.m. - noon, Temple B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket

For more information, call the Rhode Island Blood Center at 800-283-8385, ext. 418 or check www.marow.org.

The cost of testing is paid by health insurance or Michael's Fund of Fall River.



Photo courtesy of Hadassah

Hadassah medical center

Cranston resident Lorraine Rappoport and her son, Joshua, recently traveled to Israel for the dedication of the Judy and Sidney Swartz Center for Emergency Medicine at the Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem.

The Hadassah Medical Organization has been nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

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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

Am David names board

WARWICK — Temple Am David elected its new executive board at a congregational meeting on May 15. Also named were eight members of the general board of directors.

Ron Freeman was elected for a fourth term as president.

Joining Freeman on the executive board are: Ed Fink, first vice president, finance; Roberta Duhamel, second vice president, ways and means; May Ronny Zeidman, third vice president, program; Richard Levenson, fourth vice president, membership; Arthur Mossberg, treasurer; Paula Olivieri, financial secretary; Garrett Sock, recording secretary; and Herb Singer, corresponding secretary.

Newly elected to the board of directors, who will serve through 2008, are Howard Byrnes, Aaron Rosen, Carl Levin, Leonard Green, Beth Veltri, Deb Johnson, Sadie Muffs and Joan Tebrow.

Touro Synagogue installs new officers

NEWPORT — The Touro Synagogue held its installation of officers on June 5, followed by a brunch and a hardhat tour of the synagogue, which is undergoing restoration.

David Bazarsky was honored for his 12 years of service as president and co-president.

The newly installed officers are: Laura F. Pedrick, president; Donna Pimental and Saul Woythaler, vice-presidents; James Leach, recording secretary; Richard Casten, treasurer; Paul Silver, assistant treasurer; and Jeffrey Koval, financial secretary.

Trustees elected to serve until 2007 are Renee Talewsky and Paul Trombly. They join Francine Aaron, Meryle Cawley, Bertha Faintych, Samuel Frieman, Bea Ross and Naftali Sabo for 2007.

Elected to serve until 2009 are Barbara Epstein, Brian Gillson, Herbert Meister, Zal Newman, Bernice Schweber, Rita Slom, Louise Teitz and Paul Tobak.



Photo by Stephanie Alvarez

Mitzvah stack

(From left) Ben Goldstein, Daniel Freeman, and Jacob Wilmot, students at Temple Am David's religious school, make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless in memory of their departed classmate, Max Dwares. This mitzvah project was conceived by Max and some of his friends a few years ago, and hundreds of sandwiches are made each month for Crossroads Shelter in Providence. Max was 18 when he succumbed to leukemia a little more than a year ago.

Free Loan elects officers

PROVIDENCE — The South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association held their election and installation of officers for 2005-6 at their annual meeting on March 24.

The president is Herman Wallock; Philip Rosenfeld is vice-president, Samuel Buckler is treasurer, and Carl Lefkowitz is secretary.

Elected to the board of directors were Benjamin Gilstein, Robert Diner, Michael Diner, Phillip Rosenfeld, Joseph Margolis, Stevan Labush and Samuel Kerzner as honorary board member.

For more information, call 781-1949.

JWV meet

WARWICK — The Jewish War Veterans held its 60th annual convention June 5. Newly elected officers are: Sanford Gorodetsky, commander; Sid Kramer, vice commander; Martin Weisman, junior vice commander; and Murray Cohen, quartermaster. Carol Rodkin was re-appointed as adjutant.

The delegates voted to support the Holocaust memorial in downtown Providence and the moving of the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga to Quonset to be used as part of a museum.

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Here's the Little Known Secret to Creating a Beautiful Backyard

By Bob Langille

Do you genuinely long for a beautiful backyard? A backyard that's a showplace? One that all your neighbors will envy? A yard where your family and friends are awestruck every time they visit? If that's you, then let me tell you about a little known concept that can make you the talk of the whole neighborhood. It's called a "pond."

If you've ever seen a pond before, please don't presume that you know what I'm talking about. I'm not talking about one of those pea-green soup cesspools that take you hours to maintain everyday. No, I'm talking about a sparkling, clear freshwater pond with fish, turtles, blooming flowers and a magnificent waterfall. These ponds are alive, overflowing with life, and they take very little time to maintain. You don't even have to feed the fish! But you'll love doing so.

Don't be surprised if you shut off the TV and start spending time around the pond. You will be spending hours outside sitting and talking to each other (imagine that) and enjoying your pond. So you've been warned! Your friends and family members will want to spend time around your pond, too!

One of the best parts is that a pond can increase the value of your home by thousands of dollars. In other words, installing a pond is a good, sound investment in your home. A July 2002 USA Today poll ranked water features very high among enhancements Americans would choose to improve their property.

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The Jewish Voice & Herald will be on its summer schedule and will be published only once in July. Watch for your issue on July 22. Regular bi-weekly publication will resume in August.

A bit of Torah

The Impossible Dream?

By Rabbi Shraga Simmons

Numbers: 13-15 (Schlach)

This week's parsha (Torah portion) features the famous story of the 12 spies — one from each tribe — who are sent into Israel. Their mission seems rather innocuous at first: Determine a strategy for battling the Canaanites and settling 3 million men, women and children in the new land. The spies are sent (ostensibly) to survey practical matters like geography, opportunities for farming and commerce, the best access routes, etc.

Yet there's an obvious question: since God had long ago promised to give the Jews the Land of Israel, and it was God Who had so ably led them to this point, (arranging the Ten Plagues and splitting the Sea) — what were the Jews worried about? Did they really need strategic military data to conquer the land? Of course not! So why didn't they just walk in confidently and let God handle all the details?

The answer is that God gives us a gift: the chance to be involved and partner in the process. It's what every human being longs for.

So the 12 spies are sent on their merry way. In Israel, God shows them encouraging signs that the land is indeed plentiful and rich. God also plans the death of a Canaanite nobleman to coincide with the spies' visit — as a way to divert their attention from the reconnaissance mission! Everything was perfectly orchestrated; nothing could possibly go wrong. Yet, somehow, things do go wrong. After 40 days, the spies come back and recommend against entering the land.

The spies lost their anchor. They got so wrapped up in the pragmatics of conquering the land, that they took God out of the equation — and never put Him back in! The original question they'd been assigned to answer — "How to conquer the land" — suddenly became a question of "Should we or shouldn't we?"

What caused this twist to occur?

God's presence was palpable in the desert: a rock supplied a steady supply of water, Clouds of Glory kept enemies at bay, and a daily supply of manna fell from heaven. Yet these "open miracles" were to cease upon entry into Israel. Thus, the spies reasoned, God's guidance and protection would cease as well.

From this skewed perspective, all the positive signs that God had shown them — the fruits, the funeral and the city walls — were turned into negatives. From a purely pragmatic perspective, their conclusion was — not surprisingly — "This is not possible!"

Moses, the great leader, foresaw this danger. So before the spies departed on their mission, he changed the name of "Hoshea" to "Yehoshua" (Joshua.) The name "Yehoshua" means "God will save." It also begins with the letters of God's Name — Yud and Heh. This was Moses' attempt to keep the spies focused on that crucial transcendent connection.

To some extent, Moses was successful; Joshua was one of two spies who protested the negative report — and was rewarded with entry into the land.

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B'nai Israel sets July events

WOONSOCKET — Congregation B'nai Israel is planning a family cookout on July 22, at 6 p.m. The cookout will be followed by Friday evening service, conducted by Cantor Jeffrey Cornblatt. The charge for the dinner is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children over 3. RSVP to the synagogue office.

On Sunday, July 24, from 8:30 a.m. — noon, a blood drive and bone marrow donor registration will be held at the temple. In addition, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., children are invited to participate in making tissue paper flowers and bouquets for patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital. For more information, or to register



TEMPLE SINAI held a reception for Cantor Remmi Brown, center, to celebrate his 25 years of service to the temple.

Sinai honors Cantor Brown

CRANSTON — Temple Sinai recently hosted a brunch honoring Cantor Remmi Brown for his 25 years of service. Brown's wife of 37 years, Margie, their four children (Marsha, Suellen, Ana and Meyer) and their spouses, along with the Browns' 15 grandchildren, many other family members, friends and temple members added up to 220 attendees.

Sandra Gertz was emcee. Other speakers were Rabbi Peter Stein, Rabbi Emeritus George Astrachan, Educational Director Leonore Sones, President Barry Rose, Betsy Gertz, and Cantor Brown's daughter, Marsha.

Brown has been a lifelong resident of Rhode Island. His parents, Louis and Miriam, were the owners and operators of Campus Florists in downtown Providence.

He is one of seven children, all of whom were musical in the tradition of his mother's family. He is continuing at least eight generations of serving as a cantor from Europe to the United States. His grandfather and

teacher, Meyer E. Smith, was a cantor and mohel in Rhode Island for over 60 years. Smith's son, (Brown's Uncle Jacob "Jack" Smith,) was the first cantor of the Cranston Jewish Center, now Temple Torat Yisrael.

Brown has been active over the years in musical programs and plays, youth programming and religious school education at Temple Emanuel, Temple Beth-El, Temple Habonim, and the Jewish Community Center as well as Temple Sinai and has served as cantorial soloist at Temple Beth-El and Temple Habonim.

He graduated in 1969 from

Rhode Island College with a major in elementary education and a minor in psychology, and received a master's degree in educational psychology in 1971, and certification as a principal in the 1980s. He was a teacher in the Providence school system from 1969-2001.

In July of 1980, Brown came to Temple Sinai, as cantor for Shabbat services and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

The congregation presented Brown with a plaque on the Tree of Life, a sculpture and a donation to the Torah Fund at Temple Sinai.

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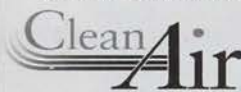
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I never played golf or learned to ski. My tennis class in college almost jeopardized my graduation. I never learned to swim.



Tema Gouse

Hence, none of the above is among my lost skills.

I did have other proficiencies of which I was quite proud but I am no longer able to list them as part of my life or abilities.

I was once regarded as a tolerable cook and somewhat better than average baker. (Modesty has never been one of my attributes.)

Because I loved inviting people to dinner, I cooked and baked more than most young housewives.

When I recall the demands of my schedule in those days, I wonder where I found the time and energy for such occasions. But you can always find time and energy for things you enjoy.

I had been the family cook since age 14 (that is another story), so was not intimidated by kitchen responsibilities. I wallowed in being praised for my flourless chocolate cake, my potato pancakes and an easy-to-make brisket.

You notice that all of this is described in the past tense. The latkes are now created by my daughter-in-law who makes even

better ones (albeit from a mix). My younger son has achieved great fame with my flourless chocolate cake recipe. I no longer make brisket because the children and grandchildren do not like it, and my peers should not eat that much red meat. My current culinary expertise is limited to doing a bang-up job of reheating leftovers from restaurants.

Then there were crafts. I knitted and needle-pointed in volume until I retired at age 62. There is no real relationship between my age or my retire-

ment and the end of needlecraft. When I stopped going to the office, the yarn and needles just stayed in the box. I was left with enough needlepoint kits and yarn to open a craft shop. They stayed in boxes in the attic until we sold the house, and then were given to my only remaining friend who still does that.

I did handiwork at professional conferences, on my lunch

hour, on long distance trips, and in front of television each night when I was too tired to do anything else. I even covered my dining room chairs with decoupage — six different patterns, of course. Contributing to my decline in crafting was the awareness that the son who likes the sweaters was allergic to them and my granddaughter would not be caught dead in my productions. The walls and couch had no more room for my artwork or pillows.

So I stopped. Aging eyes

with a haughty indifference to the feeling of others. Unforgivable.

We stop writing letters. We e-mail, an easy form of communication that is devoid of personal content. Phoning people who live far away is better than e-mail but nothing can replace the feelings that one experiences in re-reading a letter from someone dear.

I have compassion for the elderly who are addicted golfers, skiers, swimmers, etc., for whom achievement in the physical arts are important. Their diminish-

At the risk of losing many friends, I agree with the young folks that drivers of Social Security age should have a mandatory road test every two years in order to renew their drivers' licenses.

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ment and the end of needlecraft. When I stopped going to the office, the yarn and needles just stayed in the box. I was left with enough needlepoint kits and yarn to open a craft shop. They stayed in boxes in the attic until we sold the house, and then were given to my only remaining friend who still does that.

I did handiwork at professional conferences, on my lunch

make for imperfection in details. I do not miss it, but it is another lost skill.

The list of lost talents varies. Let's start with my driving ability. An unofficial poll says that 90 percent of seniors over the age of 80 will not drive at night and 80 percent of women over the age of 75 will not drive on the freeways. At the risk of losing many friends, I agree with the young folks that drivers of Social Security age should have a mandatory road test every two years in order to renew their drivers' licenses. Let's face it; our capacity to react to road conditions is poorer. It isn't only teenagers who are hazards on the highways.

Our social skills are often on the wane. The tact or diplomacy of our youth is often replaced

ing skills can be less of a handicap if the former athlete can learn to compromise on the goals of the sport. If, occasionally, that is frustrating, remember that senior citizens have unique permission to use cuss words.

Most of us make peace with these losses. New stimulating and less taxing options are available. We may even like them better. I recall that I always said that a hot dog in a restaurant tasted better than a steak at home. And most store-bought sweaters are really better than the ones I used to knit. (Well — maybe.)

Philosophize — "been there, done that." We no longer have to prove anything.

Tema Gouse of Cranston writes a regular senior's column for the Voice & Herald.

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

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Mazal Tov

People



Alfred and Ruth Weiner
Weiners receive

Hebrew Day award

Alfred and Ruth Weiner received the Dor L'dor award from the Providence Hebrew Day School at the annual Amudim dinner. Russell Raskin president, and Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of the school, thanked the Weiners for their contributions to the Jewish community of Providence for over 50 years.



Dr. A. Gerson Greenburg

Miriam names
'Physician of Year'

A. Gerson Greenburg, M.D., Ph.D., a Barrington resident, has been awarded the Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., "Physician of the Year Award" at The Miriam Hospital. He was presented the award at the hospital's staff association meeting on June 6.

Greenburg is currently chief of clinical quality management at The Miriam and previously served as surgeon-in-chief.

JFS worker honored

Mary Caine, a Jewish Family Service certified nursing assistant for 27 years, was recently named "Homecare Worker of the Year" by the State of Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs. She was honored at a ceremony at the State House on May 26.

'Schechter Inspector'
wins award

The "Schechter Inspector," the school newspaper of the Alperin Schechter Day School, won 4th place in the Best Middle/Junior High School Newspaper category at the Providence Journal Scholastic Journalism Competition. Kara Kaplan, of Barrington, an eighth-grader at ASDS, also won 3rd place in the competition's writing category.

College Graduates

Daniel Sammartino, son of Michelle (Salk) and Edward Sammartino, Jr. received a bachelor of arts degree in biology from the College of the Holy Cross at its 159th commencement on May 27.

Jonathan A. Jagolinzer and Sarah E. Jagolinzer, son and daughter of Rabbi Marc S. and Barbara N. Jagolinzer, received degrees from George Washington University at its 184th commencement this year. Jonathan earned his bachelor of arts in economics from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Sarah was awarded a master of arts in higher education from the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

Rabbi Jagolinzer delivered the invocation at the graduation ceremonies.

R.I. student honored at Pratt

Lee Rubenstein, son of Barry and Judy Rubenstein of Coventry, a junior majoring in animation at Pratt Institute, an art and design college in Brooklyn, N.Y., was recently appointed to its board of trustees as the undergraduate student trustee for the 2005-2006 school year. In addition, he was selected to be an ambassador in the college's Embassy program, which hosts prospective students in the school's Embassy House to introduce them to the school.

Local teen to explore medical career

Charles Winkleman, son of Joseph and Roberta Winkleman of Providence, will be participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Boston from July 3 to 12. He will join 350 other high school students from around the country who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential and interest in a career in medicine.



Ben Closson

Closson named Lacrosse
All-American

Ben Closson, class of '05 at Providence Country Day School, was named to the United States Lacrosse Coaches Association All-American team. He has played at PCD for four years and has been team captain for two. He will attend Roanoke College in the fall.

Birth

Neal and Ana Goldstein of La Crescenta, Calif., announce the birth of a daughter, Tamara Michelle, on May 30.

Paternal grandparents are Barbara Goldstein of Woodland Hills, Calif.; and the late Judge Abraham Goldstein of Cranston.

Maternal grandparents are Georgina and Heliodoro Guerrero of Santa Rosa, Calif.

Tamara was welcomed by her big brothers, Eric and Ronald.

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Wedding

PROVIDENCE — Meredith Elaine Jones and James Arthur Armstrong III were married on Oct. 10, 2004 at Manning Chapel, Brown University.

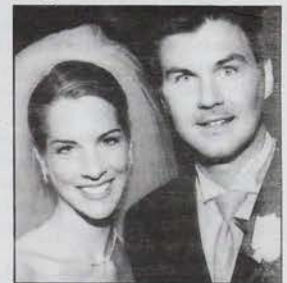
The bride is the daughter of Raymond and Anita (Pritzker) Jones of Cranston and the granddaughter of Rose Pritzker of Pawtucket and Hallandale, Fla., and the late Myer Pritzker.

She is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College and is a social worker in the Cranston School Department.

The bridegroom is the son of James A. Armstrong, Jr. of Warwick and Peter and Janet Ruggiero of North Providence.

He is a graduate of Boston University and is employed at TV Fox 25, Boston, as a reporter.

The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica and lives in North Providence.



Meredith Elaine Jones and
James Arthur Armstrong III

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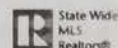
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Obituaries

Munroe Abowitt, 82

PAWTUCKET — Munroe Abowitt, 82, a retired jewelry manufacturer, died June 10. He was the husband of Beatrice Dworman Abowitt and the late Sarah R. (Fox) Abowitt.

Born in Fall River, a son of the late David and Rebecca (Zwiebelson) Abowitt, he had lived in Pawtucket for 55 years, previously residing in Providence.

He was the owner of the former Commercial Polishing and Casting Corp. in Central Falls for 20 years.

He also worked as a supervisor for the Robbins Company in Attleboro for many years, retiring 17 years ago.

He was a WW II Army veteran, serving in the European Theater and was a member of the DAV and the Jewish War Veterans Reback-Winsten Post #406.

Mr. Abowitt was an avid fisherman, and loved woodworking and gardening.

He leaves a son, Bruce M. Abowitt and his wife, Cheryl, of Barrington; a daughter, Barbara L. Abowitt of Maui, Hawaii, and Florida; a stepson, Tracy Dworman, of Pawtucket; a stepdaughter, Amy Dworman-Bianco of Calif., and a grandchild, Misha.

He was the brother of Morton Abowitt and Mildred Lazar, both of Warwick; Joseph Abowitt of Carlsbad, Calif., and Dr. Lee Wilkins of Englewood Cliffs, N.J. He was also the brother of the late Harold Abbott, Irving Abowitt, Frances Katz, Jessie Steingold, Marion Schimelman and Helen and Leah Abowitt.

Contributions may be made to Home and Hospice Care of RI, 169 George St., Pawtucket, RI 02860.

Joseph Ernstof, 90

STUART, Fla. — Joseph M. "George" Ernstof, 90, died in Stuart on May 22. His wife of 67 years, Mildred (Horton) Ernstof, passed away in 2004. He was the son of the late Samuel H. and Perl (Schachter) Ernstof.

He was a graduate of Hope High School and the owner/operator of RI Cutter Grinding Company for many years before retiring.

He was a past member of the R.I. and Barrington Yacht Clubs and was the winner of the 1969 Atlantic tuna tournament.

He leaves three daughters, Judith (Jack) Rovniak of Mentor, Ohio; Laura Seixas of Florida, S. Lee (Paul) Ripley of Duxbury, Mass., and seven grandsons and eight great-grandchildren. He also leaves his sister, Claire Ernstof, of Warwick. He was the brother of the late Freda (Jack)

Rosenberg.

Interment was private.

Sara Greene, 90

WARWICK — Sara Greene, 90, a former restaurant owner, died June 13. She was the wife of the late Julian Greene. Born in Philadelphia, she was a daughter of the late William and Fannie (Herman) Green.

She attended college in Philadelphia and worked as an accountant for the federal government in Richmond, Va., and Philadelphia during World War II.

She moved to Providence in 1948. In 1958 she and her husband opened the Greene Manor Restaurant in East Providence and operated it until 1969.

Mrs. Greene was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Sisterhood, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and Social Seniors, where she was the treasurer and the Hope Link.

She leaves a daughter, Maureen Greene, and her husband, William Dunn. She was the sister of the late Charles Green and Sylvia Alperin.

Contributions may be made to the American Lung Association or VNA of Warwick Hospice.

Dr. Sydney Koret, 89

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Sydney Koret, Ph.D. died June 19 in Rochester. He was the husband of Alice Elsie Lecht Koret for 46 years until her death in 1993. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Hyman and Anna Weiss Koret. He graduated from Thayer Elementary School and Hope High School, and was an Eagle Scout active in the Jewish Community Center.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in World War II and rose to the rank of Captain, completing 37 missions in Europe as a bombardier and navigator, decorated for his accomplishments and bravery including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the French Croix de Guerre. On two occasions his planes were shot down and once he landed behind enemy lines, returning to safety via the French Underground.

Following his Army service, he completed his B.A. at the University of Rhode Island and later received his M.S. and Ph.D. at Boston University. He served for two years as a psychiatric social worker at the Rhode Island State Hospital for mental diseases. From there he moved to the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital in Riverside where he served as chief psychiatric social worker.

In 1958 Dr. Koret went to the Convalescent Hospital for Children in Rochester to construct and direct a new residen-

tial treatment center. Over 30 years as the hospital's director, he was instrumental in converting it into the first comprehensive community mental health center for children in the United States, with residential and day treatment, preschool, summer camps, consultation, outpatient services, research and training, foster and group homes.

In 1988, Dr. Koret became president of the American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children.

He leaves two sons, Richard Koret, his wife Simona of Israel and their children Lironne and Eylon; and Peter Koret of Thailand, a sister Bernice Koret Sachs of Swampscott-Lynn, Mass.; two nephews, Robert W. Sachs and his wife Kathy of Georgetown, Mass. and Philip Sachs and his wife Diane and children Michael and Jennifer of No. Andover, Mass., Also the children of his late sister, Delores Koret Book; Renee Gould of Richmond, Va., Ronald Book of Aventura, Fla., Patrice Weinroth of Petaluma, Calif., and Gale Horton of Largo, Fla.

He leaves his dear friend Mary Segal, his companion in later years.

Bette Macktaz

EASTON, Mass. — Bette (Sloane) Macktaz, formerly of Woonsocket, died June 14. She was the wife of Louis Macktaz. Born and raised in East Orange, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Dora Sloane. She graduated from the New Jersey school system and completed dental hygiene school there.

She was a resident of Woonsocket for over 40 years.

Mrs. Macktaz was a life

member of Hadassah, the Miriam Hospital Women's Auxiliary and the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel in Woonsocket.

She leaves a son, Jeffrey Macktaz of Anchorage, Alaska; a daughter and son-in-law, Judi and Lawrence Siskind, of Brockton; a brother, Albert Sloane of New York; two grandchildren, Neal and Marc Siskind, and two great-grandchildren, Solomon and Myles Siskind.

Burial was in B'nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket. Contributions may be made to the Louis and Bette Macktaz Endowment Fund, Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, RI 02895 or to the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, 164 Summit Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Melvyn Seltzer, 73

PROVIDENCE — Melvyn Seltzer, 73, died June 13. Born in Providence, a son of the late Paul and Bertha (Zura) Seltzer, he was a lifelong city resident.

He worked for the City of Providence for 20 years, retiring 23 years ago.

He was the brother of Sheldon Seltzer of Coventry, Jerome Seltzer of Providence, Harvey Seltzer of Chatham, Mass., and the late Morton Seltzer.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center, c/o Home & Hospice Care of RI, 169 George St., Pawtucket, RI 02860.

Irving J. Zaidman, 83

WARWICK — Irving J. Zaidman, 83, a former manufacturer's representative, died June 11. He was the husband

of the late Doris (Cohen) Zaidman. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Getzel and Sima Zaidman and the late Anna Zaidman.

He was the head of Irving Zaidman Associates for 30 years before retiring.

He was a WW II Army Air Corps veteran and a graduate of Classical High School, class of 1939.

Mr. Zaidman served as the treasurer of the Chased Schel Amess Association, was a board member of Jewish Family Service and a past board member of Temple Torat Yisrael. He was also president of the United Moes Chitum Fund for 20 years, a past president of Providence Hebrew Free Loan, a past president of Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club, and a past president of the former Ladd School Parents Association. He belonged to the Nathaniel Greene Masonic Lodge and the Jewish War Veterans, Post 23, and was a former member of Temple Beth Am.

He leaves a nephew, Sherwin Zaidman, and his wife, Rhoda, and their family, as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was the father of the late Rae and Stephanie Zaidman, brother of the late Isadore and Abraham Zaidman, step-brother of the late Frances Goldman, Dr. Samuel Shuster, and Pauline Libman and brother-in-law of Esther Cohen of Walnut Creek, Calif.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service, Stephanie Zaidman Endowment for Home Care, 229 Waterman Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

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'Cinderella Man' recalls Jewish fighter

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — "Cinderella Man" chronicles the fall and rise of Depression-era heavyweight champion James Braddock, but the movie also revives the memory of another title holder, Max Baer.

In the climactic scene, the movie depicts the 15-round fight between Braddock (Russell Crowe), the victorious underdog, and a menacing, beady-eyed Baer (Craig Bierko). But Baer's greatest fight was in June 1933, when he faced a heavily favored German, Max Schmeling. Hitler had come to power a few months earlier and the Nazis were busy smearing Stars of David on Jewish-owned stores.

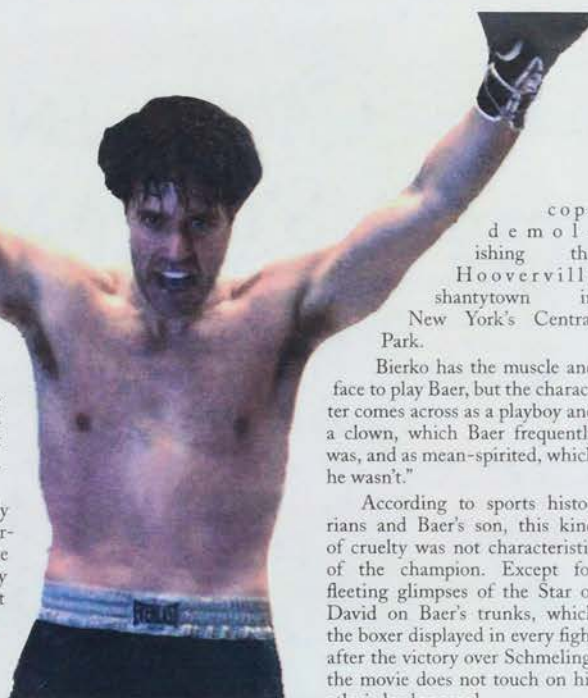
When Baer strutted into the Yankee Stadium ring, his trunks sported a prominent Star of David, and he then proceeded to demolish Schmeling, knocking him out in the 10th round.

This pugilistic victory, coming in the depth of the Great Depression and amid rising anti-Semitism in Europe and the United States, lifted the spirits of Jews throughout the world,

regardless of Baer's actual Jewishness.

Under Ron Howard's direction and in the screenplay by Cliff Hollingsworth and Akiva Goldsman, Baer is portrayed as the designated bad guy to deepen the contrast to the gutsy, family-loving, Irish-American Braddock.

Though the realistically staged boxing scenes in "Cinderella Man" carry the action, the movie essentially is the story of a man overcoming defeat and poverty through his own courage and the devotion of a loving wife. Except for ardent fans of the sport, the most wrenching scenes are of Depression-ridden America, with men clawing for a few hours of work and



CRAIG BIERKO as James Braddock opponent and world heavyweight champ Max Baer in 'Cinderella Man.'

cops demolishing the Hooverville shantytown in New York's Central Park.

Bierko has the muscle and face to play Baer, but the character comes across as a playboy and a clown, which Baer frequently was, and as mean-spirited, which he wasn't.

According to sports historians and Baer's son, this kind of cruelty was not characteristic of the champion. Except for fleeting glimpses of the Star of David on Baer's trunks, which the boxer displayed in every fight after the victory over Schmeling, the movie does not touch on his ethnic background.

His genealogy has been frequently debated and misconstrued, but was clarified by the

fighter's son, Max Baer Jr., better known to 1960s TV audiences as Jethro in "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Speaking from Las Vegas, the younger Baer said the champ's father, Jacob Baer, was a German Jewish immigrant, who worked as a butcher, cattle dealer and rancher in Colorado and California.

The idea of wearing a Star of David for the Schmeling fight, said Baer, "came from my father's Jewish manager. At that time, the great boxers were Italian, Irish or Jewish, and there was a lot of ethnic pride and rivalry among the fans, especially in New York. I think it all started as a publicity ploy, but over time my father might have convinced himself that he was defending the Jewish people."

The younger Baer described his late father as cocky, "sort of like Muhammad Ali," who liked to clown around and would rather party than train.

But Baer trained hard for the Schmeling match. After watching that fight, the legendary Jack Dempsey observed that Baer was so good that night he could have beaten anybody in the world.

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My Voice Afterword — A mother's passion for poetry

(Editor's Note: The author's mother, Providence resident Laura Chakrin Cable, passed away in Feb. 2004 at the age of 50. A collection of her poems, *Crossing the Stream*, was published posthumously by friends and family.)

By Anna Cable

Compiling this collection brought me closer to my mother's poetry than I ever came during her lifetime. This might sound strange, since my mother and I were always close. My father used to shake his head in amazement at how much we could talk — at midnight over cereal during one of our many concurrent bouts of insomnia; in the back seat of the car on the way to grandparents in Queens or upstate New York; even, or perhaps especially, when I left for college.

I remember hours spent almost every day, curled up in the chair with my shoulder hugging the phone to my ear, the first two awkward sentences of a paper I needed to write glaring at me from the computer screen. I've forgotten which of those conversations over the years led to the discovery that my mother and I had independently invented the same metaphor to describe the relationship between god and religion. We both preferred chewing an entire pack of gum at a time to just one piece — my mother joked that it was a tastier version of chain smoking. We even looked alike. I grew so used to being called "Laura" that I still turn around sometimes when I hear the name, wondering if someone is talking to me.

Thus I knew about my mother's passion for writing as I grew up. I knew, for example, that she met regularly with three women for a "writer's group," though my understanding of the content of those meetings was shrouded in vagueness. Sometimes, on Yom Hashoah, my mother's poetry would appear in the leaflet for the memorial service at my synagogue. I have distinct memories of standing in the Holocaust memorial garden, shivering and cradling the fragile flame of my *yahrzeit* candle against the wind of the falling April night, as I watched my mother step to the podium. She read one of her poems, her tone was soft, as though the words needed to be handled delicately, and strong, like the potent force within her — something burning, blooming out of sight. As she spoke, I shifted from one foot to another, trying not to look up at the figure standing before the microphone.

My discomfort stemmed from more than the unremarkable embarrassment of a pre-teen daughter about her mother. I rarely read and even avoided her poetry until the last months of her life. By then, the endless cycle of illness and treatment had persuaded her to close her practice as a social worker, and my mother mentioned more than once during our regular phone rituals that, "It's so nice to have time to just work on my writing." During Thanksgiving break that year, I found her hesitantly pressing a manila folder into my hands. I flipped through the pages inside, neatly typed, the crisp edges nearly untouched. "That's all I've managed to get together," my mother said. "I'm finally going to try and publish some of them." She paused, and added, "I've always been a little intimidated at showing you my poetry, for some reason..."

I felt intimidated at the thought of reading it. My mother laughed so loudly during my high school plays that, even from backstage, I could hear her; she giggled when we made cranberry sauce because she liked to watch the berries pop; she could

CROSSING THE STREAM

POEMS BY
LAURA CHAKRIN CABLE

tell when I needed a good cry from the tone of my voice. These qualities, so warm and reassuring and connected to me, seemed alien to the world her poetry described.

"Ugly smells curl out from safe looking places," the poems told me. "For me, all joy sheds tears."

I did not recognize these demons. I managed to read the first 10 poems, really reading, not just skimming, never saying "how nice," as I turned a page. But I did not really understand how to fit the pieces together.

I read more and more as time went on:

December, with the seizure and the rattling midnight phone calls;

January, when I felt the world constricting to fit within the four walls of our house, within spans of time between compartments of the pill box;

February, when I learned how to hook up IV tubes and read aloud to my mother as she had once read *Alice in Wonderland* to me.

Despite not really knowing where to place them, I shed my discomfort with her poems. Perhaps the illness made that burning, blooming force I caught sight of at Yom Hashoah services less unnerving and more of a fact of life.

My father once compared watching my mother die to watching the wilting of a brilliant flower. I always



A high-spirited Laura Cable as a young woman.

thought of it as a peeling back of layers that time and trial had cocooned around the soul, until one glimpsed the vanishing flicker of the raw spark beneath. My mother and I talked less about shopping, weight, politics. More often than we ever had, curled up together with the pages spread around us on her bed, we read her poetry.

Even after the funeral, I kept stumbling across her poems, left tucked away in unlikely places. My father, brother and I found them in her files in between outdated tax forms, or in notebooks left on bookshelves throughout the house, or in boxes in the attic among letters from her middle school friends.

In a similar manner we unearthed an old photograph from her college years that now looks out at us from the mantle piece. In the picture, my mother grins in black-and-white, her eyes wide and laughing, tongue sticking out at whoever held the camera. My father says that it's his favorite photo of her. "Your mother had a lot of intense feelings, you know," he said once, contemplating it. "But somehow she always knew how to be silly."

His words stay with me as I read her poetry now. Once, her poems had filled me with a feeling of vertigo, of tumbling from the safety of her presence into unfamiliar depths. Now I stare into the pages, trying to catch a glimpse of the fingers around the pencil, the wrist brushing the page, a hint of those warm, reassuring layers that had once seemed so outside these words. I still look eagerly for traces of her handwriting when I fumble through papers in the filing cabinet or on her desk. Finding it, reading it for the first time, feels almost like finding another conversation.

The discovery of those long-lost poems might be evidence for the desire to conceal some mysterious inner reality. One might then find the irreconcilable incongruity that I once found. I think of the found poems as gemstones, glowing slightly among the mundane where they had been scattered, giving color to those ordinary corners we all took for granted. I often pause on my way past my father's favorite photograph, thinking of how deep her joy must have run, to carry all the heaviness of her poems up into that smile. "Spirits sing in sadness, inside me incessantly," my mother wrote once. "Delight in the forest in our memory. You will find a true path. I pray for cleansing, purity of purpose; I cross the stream."

VENICE'S JEWISH GHETTO

How to get there

Take the vaporetta (water bus) Nos. 1 or 81 to the S. Marcuola-Ghetto stop; Nos. 41-42 and 51-52 to the Ponte delle Guglie/ghetto stop on the Fondamenta di Cannaregio. Walk through the opening on the right side of Gam Gam Restaurant.

Tip: Buy a multi-day vaporetta and museum pass when you arrive in Venice.

Photos by Mary Korr



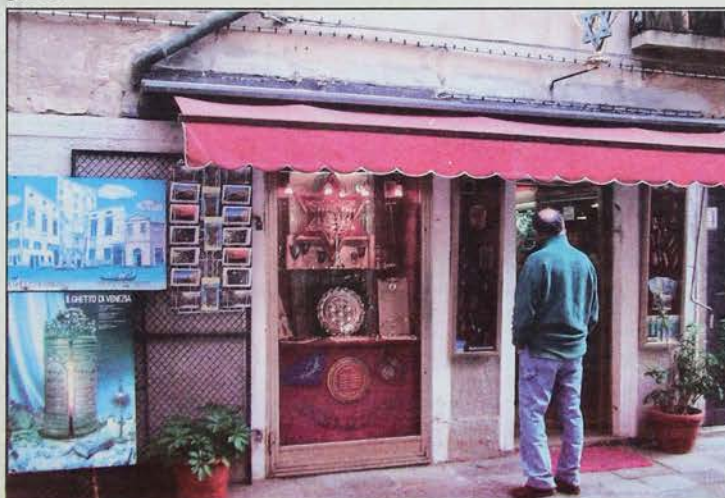
'MUSEO EBRAICO' — The Jewish Museum in the "Ghetto Novo," at left, contains Jewish ritual objects that were made or used in Venice. It offers tours and takes visitors into several of the synagogues, which are only open for services or by appointment. It is open every day except Saturday and Jewish holidays.

Three of the ghetto's five synagogues are located here. The "Schola Grande Tedesca" or German synagogue is the oldest synagogue in the ghetto, built in 1528; it can be found on the fifth floor of the building. It was restored in 1975 and houses the Museum of Hebrew Art.

The Canton Synagogue next door was built in 1531. It was the center for Jews from Germany, France and Switzerland. It has been restored and is still used for weddings. The Italian synagogue, built in 1575, served the poorest group in the ghetto and was restored in 1970.



'GHETO VECCHIO' — Jews from the Levant, countries bordering the eastern Mediterranean, many from the Ottoman Empire who practiced Sephardic traditions, moved into the annexed "Ghetto Vecchio" (Old foundry area) in 1541. Spanish and Portuguese Jews came to Venice in the late 16th century and were the wealthiest community in the ghetto.



The Juda gift shop is located in the main campo, or square, in the "Ghetto Novo."



'GHETO NOVA' — The first Jewish ghetto in Europe was founded in Venice in 1516 by the Doge, the governor of the Venetian Republic. The Jews were confined from sunset to sunrise in "Ghetto Nova," which still exists today. The word "ghetto" is from the Venetian "geto," a foundry. Today Venice has a Jewish population of about 500, only a few live in the former ghetto.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL — Holocaust memorial in the "Ghetto Novo" was designed by Lithuanian sculptor Arbit Blatas, whose mother perished in the Holocaust. The seven bas-relief panels depict the Nazi brutality against the Jews. Over 1,000 Jews were living in Venice when German troops occupied the city in 1943. Hundreds were deported to concentration camps.



'RISTORANTE EBRAICO' — Gam Gam is a kosher restaurant at the entrance to the Jewish ghetto. If you're in the mood for some Lox con Baighele, Blintzes del giorno, Zuppa con kneidlach, Gefilte Fish della casa, Cholent vegetariano, or Latkes di patate, this is the place to come. Chabad also holds Shabbat dinners here, where visitors are welcome.