

Seattle shooting prompts R.I. security check

FBI visits Federation, assures that attack was 'not organized'

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — The Seattle Jewish Federation seemed like a secure, locked facility. Last week, a gunman hid behind a tree, snuck up behind a teenager with an access card and forced his way into the building. He shot six, killing one.

When the news spread, the Jewish community in Rhode Island immediately took precautions and reviewed emergency procedures and security. A meeting of nearly 30 directors of synagogues, schools and Jewish social service organizations was quickly assembled by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) to collect data and share tips.

Federation reviewed emergency protocol and initiated steps toward developing a statewide Jewish security infrastructure.

"Paper plans are useless in an emergency...You need to practice what's on that paper," said Kevin Olson, director of the Community Relations Council at the Federation and the lead point person for threats to the Rhode Island Jewish community.

Other communities are taking similar actions in the case of an emergency — Milwaukee held a security

See SECURITY, page 7

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

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Book, Voices From Armageddon. See page 15.



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Photo by Julia McCann

RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG — Abigail and Orli Mintz smile at the July 20 Israel rally held at the Jewish Community Center in Providence.

R.I. Jews show support for Israel

Almost 300 attend rally at JCC

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — As Israel and Lebanon clashed, and international condemnations flared across both sides, many American Jews were unsure of what to feel about the latest military escalation. At an Israel rally at Providence's Jewish Community Center July 20, however, Providence Mayor David Cicilline brought the painful issue into sharp focus:

"Some have argued that in response to a rogue act of terrorism, Israel is taking military action on the scale of a nation that is fighting for its survival.

See RALLY, page 8

JFRI launches
\$1.5 M
campaign
for Israel

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — As a direct response to the escalating crisis in Israel, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is joining with federations across the country to raise at least \$300 million dollars

See ISRAEL CAMPAIGN, page 8

UPDATE

Returning home with heavy hearts

(This is a follow-up to the story, "Israelis, Rhode Islanders return home with heavy hearts," which ran in the July 21 edition)

By Mary Korr and

Laura Berlinsky-Schine

Simcha and Shimon Pe'er arrived home safely last Wednesday — but in the two weeks they were here in Providence, everything about home, in Gan Ner in the Gilboa mountains in the north of Israel, had changed.

"On Friday, while we were in Eilat, a missile hit in the Gilboa area, in Ramat Tevi," Simcha said on Tuesday from Israel.

See RETURNING HOME, page 12



Photo by Mike Meyerheim

BARRINGTON RESIDENT SHELLEY MEYERHEIM, center, was in an Israeli Scouts-IDF youth program in Israel when the war broke out. Her father flew over to meet her.



Photo by Mary Korr

SHIMON AND SIMCHA PE'ER, Hebrew ulpan teachers.

Community Calendar

FRI., AUG. 11

Music series at the JCC

11 a.m. Featuring Lloyd Kaplan and the Aristocrats. Cost \$4 includes a hot kosher lunch! Such a deal. For more information call Sue Robbio 861-8800, ext.107

Aug. 18th will feature violinist Hagop Annahian. Same time, place.

SAT., AUG. 12

Sinai Havdalah picnic

3 p.m. Temple Sinai will celebrate Havdalah at God-

dard Park (sites 40 to 54) with a service. Bring your own picnic dinner, or cook on one of the grills. Watermelon, drinks and dessert will be provided. Fun, games, crafts and kite-flying, with songs, blessings, a braided candle lighting ceremony, spices and wine. RSVP to Betsy Shimberg at 398-0098 or rshimberg@cox.net.

TUES., AUG. 15

Music event at Tamarisk

3 p.m. Dr. Steven Kane presenting the life and music of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong.

Refreshments. The community is invited. Tamarisk is located at 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. For information or to RSVP call Gina at 732-0037.

WED., AUG. 16

"No Way Out" returns

1:30 p.m. Play at Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elm-grove Ave. Story of a Jewish family's efforts to escape from Germany. Professional actors. Free performance, reserved seating for donors to the R.I. Holocaust Museum. For reservations call the museum at 453-7860 or rhodeslandhmm@aol.com.

WED., AUG. 23

Tai Chi class at Tamarisk

9:30 a.m. "Tai chi for Health" a form of Asian slow-movement exercise, with instructor Bob McManus in the Tamarisk Gardens or the sunroom in case of rain. Community is invited for this session. For more information or to RSVP call Gina at 732-0037.

TUES., AUG. 29

Vocalist at Tamarisk

6:30 p.m. Maany Brandao will sing selections from the top 40 hits at Tamarisk Cabaret.

Refreshments. The community is invited. Tamarisk is at 3 Shalom Dr. in Warwick. For more information or to RSVP call Gina at 732-0037

SUN., AUG. 27

Lower East Side festival

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The JCC and the Providence Dept. of Art, Culture and Tourism will be holding a Jewish cultural festival with food, Klezmer and fun, based on the Lower East Side of N.Y. more than 100 years ago.



Lower East Side festival. See listing above.

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Holocaust films at IMAX

PROVIDENCE — The largest movie screen in Rhode Island will show many Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) features and documentaries on the nights of Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 9-12.

This is the first year RIIFF films will be screened at the Feinstein IMAX Theatre which offers images up to six stories high plus 12,000-watts of wrap-around digital sound.

The RIIFF line-up at the Feinstein IMAX Theatre includes: "The Bigger Picture" — Short

film about an eight-year-old's accidental encounter with the legacy of the Holocaust which forces her to take her first step into a larger world.

"Secret Courage: The Walter Suskind Story" — Suskind, a German Jew living in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation was forced to serve as the Jewish head of deportation. He and resistance workers orchestrated the escape of 1000 Dutch children who were marked for death camps. Secret Courage shares the stories of five

of the saved children and eleven resistance workers. Their stories paint a picture of an incredible rescue operation fraught with intrigue and danger.

They will be screened on Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 7:20 p.m. Tickets: Adult \$10, child \$6.

Film showings are at the Feinstein IMAX Theatre Providence Place. To purchase tickets, contact the ticket booth at (401) 453-IMAX or online at www.imax.com/providence. Reserved seating is available for all shows.

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For greater Rhode Island

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Aug. 25 7:11



Israel: destination for students

By Reuven Yavner

Earlier this morning, I paid a visit to the Israel Consulate in Boston, receiving my visa so I can travel to Israel, a symbolic reminder that the start of the school year is right around the corner.

For I am headed off to Israel, to a different reality. A place that only a few years ago seemed as far off as the moon. I used to view myself as just another teenager who seemed as if he's working up a mystery without any clues, just another kid throwing things against a wall and hoping they stick. I seemed like just another teenage stereotype, a kid headed towards an uncertain future. That's why I decided to go to Israel. It's because of these questions that hover over me like fog over a coastal resort. Questions in search of answers.

Why Israel?

Call it spirituality. Call it the Jewish homeland. Call it warm weather. Call it undefinable. Call it anything you want. Israel has it.

When did I decide to go?

Throw a dart at a calendar, it's as good as guessing.

My preparations have included everything from studying Hebrew, and purchasing hiking boots, to hitting the weight room (beach!)!

While in Israel, I am planning to study at a Yeshiva in Jerusalem, while supplementing my religious studies with periodic tours of the country. I hope to deepen my Jewish faith and my love for the country, while engaging in every day life there.

And I'm not the only one. Throughout the summer, numerous Rhode Island teens have journeyed to Israel. This mystical country we all hope to call home.

Recently, however, the situation has grown more complicated.

In Israel for summer

One R.I. teen who has been spending his summer in Israel, is Michael Goodwin, a recent high school graduate. He is participating in Hadassah's Young Judea program. Since the war began, he has spent much of the time at youth hostels near Jerusalem. There has been only one incident where they had to quickly vacate an area.

Michael has been in great spirits. He never expressed any interest in wanting to return early. He's also having "loads of fun."

Each of the four Mitchell children, of Providence, will be in Israel during the next few months. Gabi, serving in the IDF, has just started tank training at a base near Eilat. Ezra is on a summer teen tour. His program has been radically altered to accommodate the situation, spending most of their time in Jerusalem and the Negev. Ilan and Nomi will be leaving for a year of study within the next few

weeks.

Their mother, Fran Mitchell, has this to say regarding all of her children traveling to Israel. "In spite of the fact that the situation is tense and our eyes are glued to TV and internet news, we stand by their desire to be in Israel."

Michael Mintz, also of Providence, is on a Bnei Akiva trip, called "Mach Hach." The conflict has altered his trip in that all the group's buses have been diverted from the north. At no time has he said anything about not wanting to be there.

The ministry in charge of student programs is very careful about protecting student groups, and issues continual advisories to the program directors to have them stay out of areas at risk. Michael's older sister, Abigail, is scheduled to leave in two weeks for Israel, and is going "no matter what." She will be on a program called "Orzma," which is for college graduates who want to volunteer for a year. She feels that Israel needs her more now than ever, and there is no way she won't be going.

Another R.I. teen, who'll be heading off to Israel at the end of August, is Daniel Jacobson. He hopes to participate in a five-month kibbutz ulpan, located in northern Israel just outside of Haifa, and then an Israeli internship for another few months. Daniel has this to offer, "I would choose to stay with my plans despite the situation if it were up to me, but my parents have said that if the bombings continue with the same frequency and intensity, they will want me to either relocate to a kibbutz in southern Israel or put off my Israel plans entirely. So the war in



REUVEN YAVNER is going to study in Israel in the fall.

Israel is affecting me in that it's causing me to ask how much of a perceived danger is necessary to keep me away from the country that I hope to call a second home."

Adam Freedman was in Israel on a BBYO trip for three weeks. He came home as scheduled five days after the fighting in Lebanon started. His mother, Linn, feels that "the hardest thing for 14-year-old Adam is knowing that he was just in Haifa, Netanya, and the Golan and now there are bombs going off there — right where he was just a few weeks ago. It is a harsh sense of reality for a teenager as to how fast things can change and deteriorate."

She added, "Needless to say, while he was there, we were anxious because of the tension in Gaza, but even more so after the conflict with Lebanon started.

He called from Eilat one day and said, "Mom, we are in the south, so don't worry." I said that was like being in Newport while there are bombs going off in Providence. It is such a small country, and the conflict really affects everyone in the entire country. We were happy to touch him and hug him as he rounded the barrier in customs at Kennedy Airport."

Though, through all of this, all of us teens do share one common thought: By experiencing the country first hand, we all hope to strengthen our love for Israel.

Reuven Yavner is a summer intern at the Jewish Voice & Herald. He graduated from Yehiva University High School for Boys in New York City. He will be attending Yehivish Torat Shraga (in Jerusalem) for the year, then the University of Maryland. He can be reached at ReuvenYav@aol.com.



AVI SALLOWAY of Barrington, right, enjoys camel ride on birthright Israel trip this year.

Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Israel coverage: Not ready for prime time

Readers of these columns know their author to be a man of propriety and refinement, an easy-going, laid-back sort of fellow, not just a beta dog but an omega dog, the one driver on I-95 who hews to the speed limit;



Yehuda Lev

a believer in compromise and cooperation; in short, a model citizen. If I were Catholic, the Pope could nominate me for sainthood.

How, then, is it possible that I awake every morning and fall asleep each night feeling angrier and angrier about one aspect of Israel's latest war

and equally upset that so few people are calling attention to it? I refer to the TV reporting on the war, not (as CAMERA would have it), as an extension of the media's anti-Israel bias, but as an example of simple incompetence.

Nothing more clearly demonstrates the vacuous nature of television news than the reporters who are covering this war, beginning with a standard question, "Tell me sir, what's the mood on the Arab street? Arab street?"

What Arab street, two cab drivers and a hotel porter? How would you respond if someone asked you for the mood on the American street? In democratic societies at least, you can use the media as a guide. How do you gauge public opinion in countries where expressions of public opinion are severely restricted by authoritarian gov-

ernments? The very question bespeaks the ignorance of the person asking it.

Then there are those who are labeled "experts" on Middle East warfare, usually retired army generals. Each network seems to have its own stable of "experts," none of whom have been on the winning side of a war since 1945. And another set of what passes on TV news for the "genus literati" are the native spokespersons for either side, living proof of the old adage that sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees. The editor of the *Beirut Daily Star*, Rami Khouri, was interviewed at length last week by Charlie Rose and in discussing the evils inflicted upon Lebanon by Israel these past 30 years never thought to mention that it has been Syria, not Israel that controlled that hapless nation for so long a time. Worse, Mr.

Rose never thought to remind him of this salient fact.

Then there are the news programs themselves. The editors must have trained for their jobs at ESPN. No viewer is permitted to view a picture uninterrupted for more than five seconds. It is hop, skip and jump all over the place. When you are watching a baseball game you can turn off the sound and still follow the action. You can't do that with news, especially with BREAKING NEWS! and MID-EAST CRISIS! and Wolf Blitzer pontificating in his stressed-out voice. Last I saw he was doing it from Jerusalem. It didn't make the news any more comprehensible or add anything but flash to the broadcast.

Which is really what it is all about, flash and glam, as the Brits say. Thankfully there

is a solution. Turn off the TV and settle down each morning with the New York Times or some other newspaper you respect. The Times is covering this story like a blanket and its op-ed pages provide plenty of material for discussion. Then fold up the newspaper and read a good book.

You'll be amazed at how rapidly the anger dissipates. Afterwards with patience, perhaps you will be able to make sense of the whole sordid mess. And when you have done that, please share your insights with the rest of us. I for one would appreciate some clear thinking in place of what passes for television news coverage on a crisis so important to all of us.

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

VIEWPOINT

March of the Living: Trip of a Lifetime

By Becky Mer

For about a month before I left for March of the Living my thoughts were scattered. How would I react to the camps in Poland? Should I have done more to prepare myself? Although I had a yearlong Midrasa preparatory class, trip orientation, and a lifetime of Jewish formal and informal Holocaust education, I realized that my knowledge was amazingly limited. I wanted to learn, take advantage of my resources, and explore the depths of my emotion.

It was with this attitude and mindset that I embarked on the March of the Living. A New England Region Shabbaton in New York preceded our flight to Poland, giving us the opportunity to build relationships and open discussion in our new community. At the time, this weekend seemed an awkward way to start the trip—seventy people on Shabbat with different levels of religious observance, some people coming with established friends and others not, unpacking our huge suitcases for only one night, and even sharing the weekend with another region we would eventually leave. In spite of these concerns, the pre-March Shabbat proved a significant transition for what would follow in

the next two weeks.

What followed were the most powerful weeks of my life. To be in Poland for Yom Ha'Shoah, to be in Israel for Yom Ha'Zikaron and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, and to be one of 7,000 Jewish teens from around the world was, in the simplest of terms, extraordinarily momentous. For two weeks we rushed to flights immediately after Shabbat, arrived jetlagged to a week of intensive "touring," engaged in group discussions, participated in international marches, met with local youth, all the while trying to write everything in our journals, lean on our devoted staff for answers and support, make friends, and deal personally with the magnitude of the trip. The impact of such experiences was inconceivable during the short period in which they were happening.

Traveling with the New England Region under the R.I. Bureau of Jewish Education is an opportunity I am extremely privileged to have had. The March is really a trip of communities, and unlike other youth group trips that I've joined individually, this group brought together several New England communities. Our exceptional staff of educators, a rabbi, mental health professionals, first, second, and third

generations of survivors, plus several other supportive adult leaders shaped our community and experience on the March. Another advantage to traveling with New England is the region's years of experience. Unlike other groups that met in the airport and went straight to Auschwitz, the leadership of New England understood the value of a pre-trip Shabbaton and ensured that we tour in a natural sequence of locations. Whether in Krakow, Warsaw, or smaller villages, we visited first the historical centers of Jewish life, then the ghetto walls, ghetto, and transport site, and finally drove to the camp. Such a path not only reconstructed the proper chronological journey, but also "prepared" us step by step for the impact of the camps.

Looking back personally on the trip, I value the existence and beauty of the State of Israel. Although I have made the trip many times before, it was a monumental gift to visit after a Holocaust trip in Poland. In Auschwitz, I realized the horror of a life without family, when I could not bring myself to look down a long hallway of photographs for fear I would see someone who looks like my mother. For a week I cried, I couldn't cry, I

questioned, I remained silent; I stood in silence, I danced and sang; I was scared, but I was at peace. Although I learned more about the Holocaust and our people's history, I understood less and less about "how" and "why." I could ask all the questions in the world to our educators, have long discussions with friends on every bus ride, and listen to all that the survivors could communicate, but still, I do not know.

There are, however, some things of which I am certain. I am still the same person, the same Becky I was before the trip began. I hold the same ideals, like the same foods, laugh at the same jokes, and retain my identity. I am still me. However, the March has added a depth of experience to my life, caused me to think about things I have never before considered, and greatly enhanced my pride as a Jew. One of my friends turned to me during the March in Poland and said, "This is, by far, the coolest thing I have done in my lifetime." To even attempt to summarize the entirety of the March of the Living is impossible. All I can begin to articulate is the historical, international, communal, individual, and lifetime journey that is the March of the Living.

Becky Mer, of Lincoln, is an entering freshman at Brown University.

Letter to the Editor

Dreyfus also served in World War 1

The article about Captain Alfred Dreyfus in your issue of July 21 contained an error. Dreyfus may have retired from the army in 1907 as the author states, but he came back to duty during the First World War and served with distinction.

Daniel Nussbaum II
New Bedford

Submission Guidelines

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

THE OLD OLIVETTI Shakespearean tragedy

Last Saturday I woke to the news of the shooting at the Seattle Jewish Federation. The war in Lebanon dragged on. I felt the need to get over the gloom, so we drove to Wilcox Park in Westerly to see Shakespeare. He's been dead for quite a while now, but the magic of his words lives on quite nicely, thank you very much. The play was "Romeo and Juliet," the first half of which, you will recall, is comedic, the second part less so.



Josh
Stein

Things start to go bad when Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, kills Mercutio, Romeo's quick-witted friend, and in a rage, Romeo kills Tybalt. All this on the day Romeo of the house of Montague secretly married Juliet, daughter of Capulet. Juliet's mother, unaware of her daughter's marriage, curses Romeo; she wants him dead. Attempting to impeach the credibility of the one reliable witness, she wails: "He is kinsman to the Montague,

Affection makes him false, he speaks not true...
I beg for justice, which thou, Prince, must give —
Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live."

Instead, Romeo is exiled. Friar Lawrence, in an attempt to bring the warring houses together, has arranged for the secret marriage, and now he comes up with a plan to re-unite the lovers. Juliet will take a potion to feign death. Friar Lawrence will send a note to Romeo informing him of the ruse and inviting him back to Verona to sweep her away to the safety of his exile in Mantua. But the plan fails. Romeo doesn't get the note. He buys acting goos to the Capulet tomb where he drinks the quick acting stuff. Almost immediately upon his death, Juliet awakens, sees her dead lover, tries to find a few more drops of the poison to swallow, but when that fails, takes Romeo's dagger and stabs herself to death.

The prince of Verona, who has been trying to impose peace between the warring factions within his city, finds the bodies and summons the fathers. Montague enters the crypt tearfully announcing that his wife has died of a broken heart as a result of Romeo's banishment. The prince, upon discovering the truth of what has happened, bellows in rage:

"Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!
See what a scourge is laid upon your hate
That Heaven finds means to kill your joys...
And for winking at our discords too
Have lost a brace of kinsmen. All are punish'd."

Later he modifies the hasty decree as the play ends. The families reconcile, but it is too late. The children still lie embraced by the eternal sleep of death. The prince sums up:

"A glooming peace this morning with it brings,
The Sun for sorrow will not show his head.
Go hence to have more talk of these sad things:
Some shall be pardon'd and some punished.
For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."

Listening to Juliet's mother and later to the prince, looking to the sky and seeing the dagger-like image of the constellation Cygnus, the nature of man was suddenly revealed to me in all its horrid simplicity. In Lebanon it is being played out dramatically these past few weeks, though it's been simmering to the occasional boil ever since at least 1936. Are we Jews the house Montague? Are the Arabs Capulet? I do not know. I do not care, but either way we are:

"Two households both alike in dignity
...From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean."

Shakespeare reminds us of two contradictory truths. The enmity between the houses was as self-destructively stupid as it was inevitable in the nature of man. The calls for vengeance bring on more vengeance. It is the human condition. As a student of history I try to pretend that we humans are reasonable creatures, and yet what crimes, wars, murders do I relate to my students on almost a daily basis? That being the case, though I know it will ultimately do no good, I'm for Israel being triumphant over Hezbollah and Hamas fighters until the world (the prince—for a while in 2000, I thought that the prince would be President Clinton; I'm pretty sure it won't be Kofi Annan) imposes a peace that will last, how long!

ALISON ON ALIYAH

Wartime musings and intolerable dilemmas

So we're officially in a war now, and most Israeli news channels have begun to refer to it as the War in the North, or Lebanon War II. However, we all really know that this is simply a continuation of the same war Israel has been fighting since it was established as a state — that of its existence against those who are intent on destroying it. Most



Alison
Golub

Israelis have already accepted the dismal likelihood that this "campaign" will continue for quite some time, and many comment on the unfortunate similarities between this and the previous war in Lebanon, which grow with every passing day. There is great worry that our soldiers will become mired in Lebanon and/or that things will escalate to include Syria and potentially even Iran.

Today, as I read over my previous article, barely two weeks after writing it, I can't believe how calmly I spoke about the events at the time. Today, however, after two weeks of constant rocket barrages on the north of Israel, two weeks of retaliatory strikes on Lebanon, and two weeks of fear and pain and suffering on both sides, the country is (and I am) in a totally different place emotionally. It feels like a lifetime has passed in these mere two weeks.

When I wrote the last article, I was all for retaliation and revenge for this horrendous and unprovoked attack on Israel. I do believe that Israel is fighting a noble battle that needs to be done, and in fact, much of me wishes we were doing it faster and with more ferocity. However, the relative detachment I enjoyed before has vanished, replaced with intense fear and an increasing sense of dread.

I had been receiving periodic phone calls from my boyfriend, Mikhael, assuring me that he was fine and nowhere near any potentially dangerous areas. Regardless of Mikhael's protestations to the contrary, my uneasiness grows with every news story about the dangerous operations being conducted inside Lebanon by the elite units of the IDF. This is only exacerbated by the booms

clearly perceptible in the background of his increasingly rare phone calls. And then, last week, he managed to get out of the army for an evening and chose to spend it getting transportation down to meet me in Tel Aviv. When we finally saw each other, he told me what he had actually been doing for the past week and a half.

Although I was not surprised that he had decided to conceal the truth in favor of keeping my fear levels down, I was stunned to hear about his experiences in Lebanon. I am starting to understand on a very intimate level—the scope of the national trauma that this war has wrought on the soldiers and civilians of this country. In a way, we are all on the front lines, and we are all terrified of the possible outcomes.

I tremble with fear when I think about what Mikhael may be doing at this moment, and I spend too much time imagining the unimaginable.

Indeed, I am finding it close to impossible to function in any real, productive way these days. I cannot concentrate for more than five minutes on anything, save for the news, and I spend all day, every day watching the reports, checking the internet and radio, and waiting for any information that can come my way. I tremble with fear when I think about this moment, and I spend too much time imagining the unimaginable. He has already told me that I am first on his army file of people to contact in an emergency. I think often of the statistical possibility of his coming out of this alive or even in one piece, and I frequently find myself picturing an army commander coming to knock on my door, as has happened far too often to far too many families in these past two weeks.

While part of me was relieved to finally find out the truth, and is grateful to at least be able to know when and what to worry about, most of me was devastated by the time Mikhael and I spent together that night in Tel Aviv. As much as we tried to enjoy what was actually the one-year anniversary of our relationship, we, in fact, spent most of it essentially saying what may end up to be our good-byes. In a very real sense,

we were preparing ourselves for the worst, making sure to say the things we wanted the other to know "if...". Of course, I know we both hoped this would fall under the "just in case" category, and that the mutual tying-up of loose ends was only out of fear of potential events and not out of a sense of certainty. But still I could not shake the feeling that I was looking into the eyes of a young, robust man in the peak of physical condition and saying goodbye as if he had a fatal disease. I felt at once grateful and deeply pained to be given the opportunity with which so many others have not been blessed in the past few weeks.

And this is only the tip of the iceberg of the dilemmas I am wrestling with these days. Indeed, I don't feel sure of any of

my feelings or opinions on anything anymore. One minute I feel so much rage against these terrorists and against the radical Muslim world for making life in Israel so miserable and for causing us absolutely constant existential fear. The next minute I hear how many civilian casualties have been caused by the Israeli Air Force, and I feel deep sorrow and regret. Then again, I often find myself infuriated by the fact that Israel is expected by the international community to sacrifice its own soldiers in order to protect Lebanese civilians, who are more often than not used as human shields by Hezbollah. This is only made more intolerable when one remembers that Hezbollah actively and intentionally targets Israeli civilians in their rocket barrages. The fact that these double standards are never really presented as such in the media makes me furious.

There are times that all I want is for the IDF to smash every battalion and every brigade we have and just annihilate whatever is left of Lebanon, and there are other times that I ache for a cease fire just so I can breathe again. Most of the time I know that a cease fire will only exacerbate our problems in the long run, and will allow Hezbollah to flare up and

FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

EPhilanthropy, training, and inspiring moments

Last week, much of the Federation staff is planning or wrapping up events and reports.



Harris N. Rosen

The Campaign folks are of course up to their ears. They are developing the Case For Giving as well as campaign materials. There have been numerous meetings of the Campaign Leadership Team as well as divisions of the campaign. They are also working on using philanthropy in a more sophisticated way. And planning a retreat for the cancelled Chazon Worker Training mission, which will now include not only the Chazon mission participants but also the Campaign Leadership Team.

(If you're experienced enough to be on the Leadership Team, do you still need training?)

Let me answer that with a question: Does Ortiz still go to batting practice?

You know that we changed our old Third World Campaign computer software to one that is state-of-the-art and is used by over 80 federations throughout

the country. Yes, we blocked off a week (the end of June) for training, but it's not a magic wand. There's still cleanup to do—being sure that we've transferred everything necessary and what we transfer is accurate. It will go on for several more months. (I hope it's not longer. I'm trying to clear away as much as possible for the New EVP so we still can be friends six months from now.)

The Voice and Herald continues to roll along—not without much effort on everyone's part, as, for the last issue, the staff member who does the layout was attending a family member's medical needs and Mary Korr, the editor, was out also for medical problems, so the Managing Editor, Jon Rubin, got back into the trenches and got the paper out. Kudos to him! (Both are fine fortunately.) Their Editorial Board met last week and went over the next and last issue with a fine tooth comb. Nothing, but nothing is sacred in those meetings. And the result is a good one.

I know you've heard about changes to our governance system until you're blue in the face. The report is in its final stages. And, if necessary, the Governance Committee will be meeting the first week of September to make their report final. THEN, I can

talk about it.

You should know that the JCC has signed up over 140 households (over 275 new members) since the new Fitness Center opened up. If you haven't seen it or if you are not using it, you're missing a good bet.

And a local story: a 13-year-old youngster, after spending three weeks in Rhode Island was leaving for home in Jerusalem last week. Minna Ellison, executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education, asked him how he felt going back home to a country that had changed. "Not only a different country," he replied, "but I no

longer have a bedroom. My parents have taken in a couple from the north. I'll sleep on the floor. It'll be OK."

And all we have to do is give money.

You should know what others are doing as well. This afternoon, two community leaders, independent of each other, came to Federation and dropped off checks payable to the UJC's Israel Crisis Fund. Each check was for 4 digits (over \$1,000), and together with the checks that were collected the night of our Solidarity meeting, there are four such checks. And we don't have

an accounting yet from UJC for gifts made on line. But remember, large or small, it's a quality that counts.

So does being able to put your head down on the pillow at night and knowing you've done the right thing.

Shabbat Shalom, have a good weekend, and whatever you do, please help our brothers and sisters in Israel by giving to the Israel Crisis Fund. You know how—just click onto our website (www.jfri.org). Or come to Federation as did the two people last week.

Wartime musings and intolerable dilemmas

do this again and again. I know that Israel is fighting an existential battle (and in fact, fighting this battle for the rest of the democratic world as well) and I feel infinitely grateful to at least the U.S. for giving us the green light to do what we need to do. But then I think about those who I love who are up there fighting that battle with their own hands, and all I want is for this to be over.

Whenever I tell other Israelis which unit my boyfriend is in, it is clear that they are impressed. My immediate reaction is a potent mixture of equal parts

fierce pride, and intense fear that he will not return to me after one of his operations. I think this is perhaps the most gut-wrenching dilemma of all, and I am certain that it affects every Israeli citizen in one way or another. Every single one of us is a parent, sibling, child, spouse, or friend of a soldier, if not a soldier myself, and every single one of us is intimately and painfully connected to this collective struggle. Because of its civilian army and the scores of was fought on its own territory, Israel faces a constant and powerful dilemma between personal and national needs and

interests.

In this, I know that I have yet to become fully Israeli. I love this country with all that I am, and I am here because I wish to support her in every way. On the other hand, I am just not yet willing to sacrifice my own loved ones in the process. It is a terrible push-and-pull, and I have no idea how Israelis are able to handle it with such grace and selflessness. When I see an interview with a wounded soldier sitting in his hospital bed begging the doctors to patch him up so that he can return to the battlefield, I simply cannot bear it. I wish that I could, because I truly believe this is the absolute height of bravery and sacrifice. But I just can't.

Mikhael is so devoted to the cause, and so convinced of the righteousness of his and Israel's actions, that he is utterly willing to die for this struggle. All he wants from me is my support and belief in his choice, and he deserves it. And yet, it causes me physical pain to tell him that he belongs up north right now, fighting for us, and to stifle my intense desire to tell him I need him here with me more than the country needs him. I fear I will never reconcile these conflicting needs, and I deeply fear that I will be grappling with these very same issues in a short 20 years when my children will be fighting these same battles, but for now, I just want this all to end.

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

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at 421-4111, ext. 163

Jewish Federation of RI seeks Women's Alliance Director

JFRI is seeking candidates for an exciting and meaningful opportunity in the Jewish communal field. The full-time position of Women's Alliance (WA) Director has overall responsibility for all sources of women's philanthropy that come into the Federation system.

This position oversees:

- Women's Alliance Annual Campaign
- Women's Alliance Endowment
- Women's Alliance Governance
- Women's Alliance Programs & Committees

Viable candidates must possess a Master's degree in Jewish Communal Work or comparable area, as well as at least two years experience in federation, developmental or organizational work.

Contact Elisa Heath, Campaign Director,
at 401.421.4111, ext. 171 or — עהאט@jfri.org.

The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island operates in collaboration with the overall mission of the organization in identifying and reaching out to women as philanthropists and as active community members within the greater Rhode Island Jewish community.

Seattle shooting prompts R.I. security check

From page 1

briefing with Jewish agencies and synagogues, Hartford has been in touch with the Anti-Defamation League and the FBI, and is practicing lockdown drills; Cincinnati has brought off-duty police into their building until negotiations with security firms are completed.

Detective Larry Reall said that "no evidence exists" that something like the Seattle incident could happen in Rhode Island. He urged people to get to know their local police, to be proactive in calling in security concerns and to ask police for security evaluations if they have questions about their facilities.

When it comes to suspicious individuals, he said, personal encounters with visitors can yield a lot. "It's easy to size people up. It's a gut feeling. If you feel uncomfortable with a person, don't let them in. Tell someone."

On the Monday after the shooting, the Federation also brought in Agent Michael Scully of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to speak to the staff. Scully said that "lone wolf" attackers, like the one in Seattle, are best dealt with by "hardening your targets" so attackers will decide to move on. The idea, he said, is to stay alert and to keep them outside the building so the situation doesn't escalate.

He spoke favorably about the JCC — the largest Jewish community building in the state— and which has ID card locks and security cameras. "You've probably got about as much security as you need," he said.

It showed; feelings at the federation were pretty calm. Michelle Gallagher, campaign assistant at the JFRI, said she didn't feel particularly nervous walking into work on Monday, although she "was a little more watchful around the front entrance."

Tightening up

Jewish organizations in Rhode Island are no strangers to security — prior to the Seattle shooting, an Israel rally held at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) July 20 had police and FBI agents present. The Federation spent \$300,000 in 2001 beefing up security at 13 synagogues and other facilities statewide. Temple Beth-El and Temple Emanu-El, the two largest synagogues in Rhode Island, have been hiring police details at High Holiday services for the past few years.

There are no instances of Rhode Island's Jewish community being targeted by organized terrorist activity. A few of what police believe are "isolated incidents" have happened over the past few months: a security breach at Temple Am David in Warwick, swastikas spray-painted on the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, and a BB pellet fired through the door of the Jewish Federation.

Hy Tabatchnick, interim director at the JCC, said he received a few concerned calls this week, but that "people generally just want to be comforted."

Jewish Family Service and Jewish Seniors Agency, both located in the United Way Building, decided a few years ago to remove identifying signage from the building's exterior. Representatives from Touro Synagogue, a National Historic Site in Newport, didn't want to comment about their systems but said that they use "multiple measures" to protect the property.

Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai in Cranston, says he seriously reviews security systems after every alert and has found them to be "pretty tight."

School is out of session so no immediate changes were reported at either day or synagogue schools. The Providence Hebrew Day School has been involved in numerous Federation security briefings over the years, and the school has a "buzz-in" system during school hours.

Camp JORI, in Wakefield, is also proud of one particular component of their security system — two former Israeli Defense Forces soldiers, who joined the staff a few years ago. The back entrance to the camp has been closed and all cars are stopped upon entering the camp. Camp president Mike Shuster said he has reviewed security at the camp immediately after they heard about the Seattle attack and alerted all adult staff.

"We're in good shape — we didn't have to change very much," Shuster said.

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Providence, RI 02906

Attn: Israel Emergency Campaign

*Israel Emergency Campaign,
Judy and Robbie Mann, Co-Chairs*



300 R.I. Jews show support for Israel at rally

From page 1

"But here is what I think those critics don't understand: Israel is a nation fighting for its survival. Hezbollah explicitly seeks the destruction of Israel. It is a very real threat, and it is constantly on the mind of every Israeli."

As the conflict unfolded in early July, it soon became clear that the fighting was not a minor event that was going to end soon. The Jewish Federation of R.I. (JFRI) joined with the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis and acted quickly to assemble the evening's events.

More than 275 attended, including Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, former State Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse, and Sen. Elizabeth Roberts. Cranston Mayor Stephen Laffey sent a message of support, and Michael Yochai, head of the Film and News Production branch in the Israel Defense Forces and spokesperson for the Consul General of Israel to New England, gave updates on the situation.

Yochai said that Iran, as the likely perpetrator of the war, "has already gained the biggest possible benefit: The world's attention has been shifted from its developing of nuclear weapons to the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah." He said that each day of war costs more than \$20 million



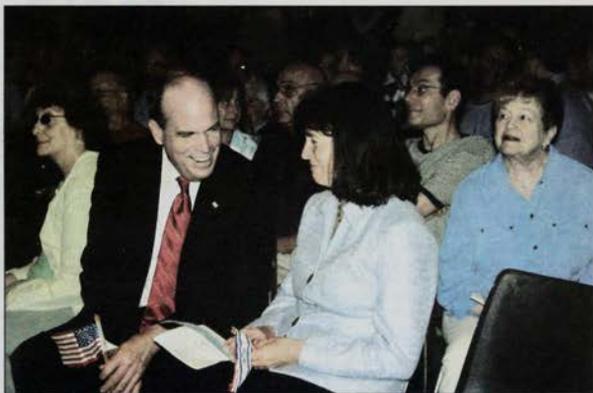
DANI STEINER, dean of the Jewish Community Day School and a former major and commander in the Israeli Defense Force, addresses the crowd.

dollars, and that "Two million Israeli citizens live under shelter, days and nights."

Rabbi Amy Levin, from Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, led the group in a prayer. "We stand together to express our support for the State of Israel, and to pray that God will send Birkat Shalom, the blessing of peace, to our family members, our friends, our fellow Jews, to all citizens of Israel and to all citizens of the Middle East."

JFRI is launching a \$1.5 million Israel campaign — see sidebar or visit www.jfri.org for more information. Nearly \$3,000 was raised at the rally.

The Rhode Island Federation holds an annual campaign which has raised approximately \$4 million over the last several years and gives approximately 50



Photos by Julia McCann

LT. GOV. CHARLES FOGARTY shares a joke with Sen. Elizabeth Roberts (D 28 Cranston-Warwick) at the Israel solidarity rally. More than 250 attended the July 20th event at the JCC.

'Two million Israeli citizens live under shelter, days and nights.'

percent of its net income to overseas Jewish communities, including a large portion to Israel.

A volunteer campaign training mission to Israel was cancelled last month amidst family concerns about safety. The participants training will continue locally. A mission led by JFRI President Herb Stern set for early September was cancelled Wednesday.

Doris Feinberg, 2007 Community Campaign Chair, was in Israel setting up the mission when the war began. Speaking about the rally, she said, "I was moved to see everyone show

support and passion for Israel during these trying times. My feelings of hope for the future were renewed through this

show of compassion and solidarity.

ISRAEL CAMPAIGN

From page 1

for the embattled Jewish State. Robbie and Judy Mann, of Providence, will be chairing the rapid six-week Rhode Island campaign, whose goal is \$1.5 million.

The campaign seeks money for temporary housing, medical assistance, relief for soldiers and trauma support in the short term, and economic aid, rebuilding infrastructure, victims' assistance and disabled services for the long term.

The monetary need is urgent; donors are asked to pay their emergency pledges immediately.

Campaigners will be asking donors to give generously, or a significant percentage of last year's gift, to the "Help.Give.Hope" Israel Emergency Campaign.

"This is a real emergency," said Hershey Rosen, JFRI interim executive. "By the time the gates are closed on Yom Kippur, we need to close this campaign."

Donations can be made to the JFRI IEC Campaign, 130 Sessions St., Providence RI 02906 or you can visit www.jfri.org to make a pledge online.

The "second line" emergency campaign comes only weeks before the Federation's main annual campaign, which raises more than \$4 million for Jewish communities locally and around the world.

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Seattle reeling after federation shooting spree

SEATTLE, Aug. 1 (JTA) — The sentiment in Seattle's Jewish community is "keep calm, and reassess your security," but Jews and Muslims are both shaky in the wake of last Friday's fatal shooting at the city's Jewish federation.

Leaders of Jewish institutions in the city met Sunday afternoon with Seattle's mayor and police chief at the Jewish Community Center, part of their scramble to determine the next steps for keeping synagogues and service agencies operating and secure.

Beyond Seattle, the shooting rampage, which left one employee dead and five others wounded, has reverberated throughout the country. A new security alert was issued to Jewish institutions, instructing them to establish contact with local law enforcement officials and be vigilant about monitoring buildings and pedestrian traffic.

Further, it brought close to home the violence flaring in the Middle East. The alleged gunman, identified by police as Naved Afzal Haq, identified himself as an American Muslim upon about what was going on in Israel.

At the meeting in Seattle, police officials promised an increased security presence at Jewish institutions, and said

Jewish groups should have local police give them a security assessment. Counseling was also offered to employees at Jewish organizations, particularly those at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, where the attack took place.

Officials said they did not know how long the federation building is expected to stay closed, pending a police investigation. Employees will be working at a different location in the meantime.

In the aftermath of the shooting, the Harborview Trauma Center near downtown Seattle served as a de-facto Shabbat gathering place last Friday evening as Jews from around the city met to console each other.

One area Conservative congregation canceled services for that evening, but most other synagogues were determined to hold Shabbat services — though with an added police presence.

"You can't let hatred stop holiness," Rabbi Jonathan Singer of Reform Temple Beth Am told his congregation that night, according to the Seattle Times.

Jews from around the city expressed disbelief and sorrow.

"It was shocking," said David Sabban, a former federation employee. "I remember when we would do our safety discussions



Flowers adorn the outside of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, where on Friday a lone gunman shot dead one employee and wounded five others.

there was always this scenario, if this guy came in with a gun and started shooting people, what would you do? It just happened so suddenly, in an instant.

Streets surrounding the federation's office were closed for hours as police and Seattle's SWAT team searched for a possible accomplice to Haq, 30, originally of Pasco, Wash., a small city about four hours from Seattle.

Haq's last known address was in Everett, another small city 20 miles north of Seattle, though he disappeared from his residence there about two weeks ago, the Seattle Times reported last Friday. Citing a statement of probable cause, The Associated Press reported that Haq had told a 911 dispatcher, "These are Jews and I'm tired of getting pushed around and our people getting pushed around by the situation in the Middle East."

On Saturday, King County District Court Judge Barbara Linde set Haq's bail at \$50 million. The shooting began at approximately 4 p.m. last Friday, when a man suspected to be Haq took a teenage girl hostage, forced his way through the first-floor security door and walked upstairs to the federation reception desk, where he began his rampage.

Campaign head slain

Pam Waechter, 58, the director of the federation's community campaign, died at the scene. Waechter had worked in various capacities at the Seattle federation for nearly a decade, and at Seattle's Jewish Family Service, a social service agency for seven years before that. She was also president of her congregation and



Photos: Thomas James Hurst, THE SEATTLE TIMES

DURING A MEMORIAL SERVICE, Nicole Waechter reads a letter she wrote to her mother, Pam Waechter, following Pam's murder during an attack on Seattle's Jewish federation.



A WOMAN FROM SEATTLE'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY stands in the back of Temple B'nai Torah as hundreds pay tribute on July 31 to Pam Waechter.

a board member of the Union for Reform Judaism. Waechter was "really sort of a model for everybody else," Sabban said. "Pam was one of the sweetest people I ever worked with. She was great at her job and just a really wonderful person."

The funeral, at Temple

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War Briefs

U.S.-born soldier dies

A North American immigrant to Israel was among three soldiers killed Tuesday in southern Lebanon. The soldier, 1st Sgt. Michael Levin, 22, from Philadelphia, had been living in Jerusalem for the past five months. He had been visiting his parents in the United States but returned to Israel when the fight-

ing broke out, an official of the Jewish Agency for Israel told The Jerusalem Post. Two other soldiers, Staff Sgt. Yonatan Einhorn and Lt. Ilan Gabai, also died in Tuesday's fighting. JTA

Commandos snatch Hezbollah men

Israeli special forces captured several Hezbollah members in a Leb-

anon raid. Commandos backed by helicopter gunships and warplanes landed in Baalbek, a Hezbollah stronghold near the Syrian border, before dawn Wednesday, grabbing five combatants. Several Hezbollah fighters were said to be wounded or killed as they tried to stop the Israeli forces from getting away. Israel suffered no casualties. According to Lebanese reports, at least three of the detainees were seized at a hospital, and one could be a relative of Hezbollah chief Sheik Hassan Nasrallah. The raid appeared to be part of efforts to boost Israeli intelligence on Hezbollah or gather bargaining chips to gain the release of two Israeli soldiers held by the group. JTA

Israeli killed in rocket attack

One Israeli was killed and six wounded in Hezbollah rocket attacks. The death occurred Wednesday as the rocket attacks intensified on cities and towns in northern Israel. Also Wednesday, a rocket landed in Palestinian Authority territory near Beit Shean, the farthest the rockets have traveled so far. JTA

France to boycott peacekeeping meeting

France is refusing to participate in a U.N. meeting aimed at discussing peacekeeping troops in Lebanon. France's refusal to participate in Thursday's meeting stems from its opposition to discussing such a force before an Israeli-Hezbollah cease-fire takes place. The United States has been more reticent about pushing for an immediate cease-fire.

400 Hezbollah said killed

Israel estimates that it has killed 300-400 Hezbollah combatants during three weeks of

fighting in Lebanon. Tourism Minister Isaac Herzog, a member of Israel's Security Cabinet, told reporters Tuesday that as many as 400 enemy fighters had died in air and ground strikes. This estimate was offset by Justice Minister Haim Ramon, who put the number at around 300. Hezbollah denied the Israeli reports, saying it has lost no more than 40 men. But Israeli officials accuse Hezbollah of obfuscating or, at best, being unable to gather full information on casualties as many of the southern Lebanese battlegrounds are now off-limits to it.

Blair backs Israel

Tony Blair Tuesday backed Israel in a speech strongly in Los Angeles. The British prime minister said the "issue of Israel is just part of the same wider struggle for the soul of the region." Blair also said he wants the war in Lebanon to end and that he considers any loss of civilian life unacceptable. But, he said, Hamas and Hezbollah triggered the current problems by kidnapping Israeli soldiers.

Hamas ready for ceasefire

GAZA: In what has become the almost-forgotten "second front," Hamas leaders in Gaza have indicated that they are prepared to accept a cease-fire with Israel and begin negotiations for the release of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, whose kidnapping in June began the present round of violence. Last Saturday Hamas leader Khaled Meshal said that Shalit is being held somewhere in the Gaza Strip and that he makes him available in the event of an agreement. Meanwhile, a year has gone by since the evacuation of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and a group of former

settlers plan to drive in convoy from Kissufim, on the border, to Jerusalem where they will hold a memorial service at the Western Wall. THE JERUSALEM POST, JTA

Peace Now supports war

JERUSALEM: Peace Now, the Israeli organization formed in 1982 to protest the Israeli incursion into Lebanon, has switched sides dramatically in this war. One of the founders of Peace Now, Amir Peretz, is Israel's minister of defense and another, Yuli Tamir, the present education minister, is one of the most vocal government supporters of the war. The organization itself has gone on record as declaring the war to be justified because it resulted from attacks by Hezbollah that threatened Israel's very existence. On the other side of the ideological divide there are reports that some West Bank settlers eligible for call-up in the reserves, have said they would refuse the order unless the government agrees to cancel its plans for an evacuation of many of the West Bank settlements. HAARETZ

Tikkun calls for halt

NEW YORK: A U.S. Jewish group has sponsored a full-page ad in the New York Times demanding an immediate end to the violence in the Middle East. The ad was organized by the Tikkun Community together with the Network of Spiritual Progressives and the Shalom Center and demands that Hamas, Hezbollah, the U.S. and the international community "stop the slaughter in Lebanon, Israel and the occupied territories" which, it says, is "utterly disproportionate to the initial provocation by Hezbollah." JTA

(The war briefs were compiled by Yehuda Lev)

SEATTLE

From page 9

Bnai Torah in Bellevue, drew individuals from across the local Jewish community as well as Muslims and Christians. The surviving victims are Christina Rexroad, 28, a bookkeeper; Layla Bush, 23, receptionist and office manager; and Cheryl Stumbo, 43, the federation's director of marketing, all of whom were upgraded to serious condition Saturday. Carol Goldman, 35, a coordinator for the federation's community campaign, and Dayna Klein, 37, the director of planned giving, were reported as being listed in satisfactory condition. Klein, who was shot in the arm, is credited with convincing Haq to speak to 911 operators, who persuaded the gunman to put down his weapon and surrender, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Another employee sustained minor injuries from jumping from her second-floor office into a dumpster in the alley behind the federation building. She was treated at the Starbucks a block away where federation employees who had escaped the shooting through a back door gathered and spoke with police. The blood of one of the shooting victims sat in a pool outside the coffee shop's front door as police rolled out yellow tape to secure the area.

Shooter's parents apologize

Several Arab and Muslim groups condemned the crime. And Haq's parents publicly apologized for their son's actions. In their letter to Jewish groups, Mian and Nahida Haq said they don't want the July 28 act to create any hatred between Jews and Muslims, a lawyer for the family said. James Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute, said Saturday, "There is no room for the kind of despicable action that occurred in Seattle." He added: "The tragic conflict raging in the Middle East cannot be used as justification for any criminal act of hate in this country. It is wrong and we reject it."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations issued a similar statement. Messages of condolence and support have been coming in from Seattle's Muslim community. Two Muslim women helped lay flowers last Friday at Bnai Torah, Waechter's synagogue. Muslim leaders have told local reporters they fear a backlash similar to what they experienced after the 9/11 attacks.

(JTA correspondent Sue Fishlock in Oakland, Calif., contributed to this report.)

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The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in the pending case of *Shelton v. United States* that the federal government is not subject to a special rule in any field or industry.

Nation

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Jewish groups back Bolton as confirmation is back on agenda

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA) — What a difference a two-front war makes. John Bolton's tough pro-Israel rhetoric at the United Nations during Israel's recent crisis has galvanized Jewish support for the once-embattled nominee — and may have helped secure his nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), a key Jewish opponent of Bolton a year ago, said he now is undecided, principally because of the Israel issue.

"I'm assessing it," Schumer said on CNN last weekend. "A lot of Democrats are deciding, weighing the positive of Bolton that he's been for Israel and negative that he has almost an antagonistic, 'go it alone' attitude to the nations of the world, which we need with us to fight a war on terror." Bolton has been steadfast in supporting Israel in its crisis in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

"The current conflict is a direct result of the terrorist acts of Hezbollah and Hamas and their state sponsors in Iran and Syria," Bolton said July 27 during his latest nomination hearings in the U.S. Senate.

"Lopsided resolutions, such as the one the United States vetoed this month, would do nothing to promote a long-term

solution and would only prolong the suffering of innocent civilian populations in the region." Bolton also is credited with shepherding through this week's Security Council a resolution setting an Aug. 31 deadline for Iran to come clean about its nuclear capabilities or face sanctions.

He also was instrumental in dismantling the discredited U.N. Human Rights Commission, which often singled Israel out for disproportionate criticism. President Bush resubmitted Bolton's nomination to the Senate last month. Bush appointed Bolton during the congressional recess after last year's nomination failed; such appointments are good only for the life of the Congress, which will expire Dec. 31.

After two days of U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony last week, the committee decided Monday to delay consideration of Bolton's nomination until the Senate returns from its summer break after Labor Day.

Last year, Democrats had the minimum 41 votes in the Senate to block Bolton. This year, Schumer said on CNN, he doubts his party has the numbers for a similar filibuster. That could be due partly to enthusiastic Jewish lobbying this time around.

The American Jewish Committee reversed its policy of not weighing in on nominations, and sent a letter to all 100 U.S. senators urging them to vote yes.

"As a general rule, AJC, with a proud history of nonpartisanship, does not endorse nominees for government offices," the letter said. "But Ambassador Bolton, with whom we have worked over the course of two decades in his various federal posts, is a rare exception."

AIPAC

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which held back last year, also weighed in.

"John Bolton is an important and very effective representative of the United States at the United Nations and has consistently been a strong advocate for the U.S. on issues that matter to the pro-Israel community," AIPAC spokesman Josh Block said.

Similar endorsements have rolled in from the Anti-Defamation League, Orthodox Union, Agudat Israel, Zionist Organization of America and Republican Jewish Coalition.

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RETURNING HOME

From page 1

Her daughters are in the center of the country with family; the oldest, 18, is worried about her friends and wants to go home; the youngest, at 11, is too afraid. And Shimon, an education counselor and consultant, can't get to his work in the northern towns and villages; many are Arab communities.

"But still, he is trying to help the people in Nazareth," Simcha says. "To tell you the truth, I am afraid when he goes out. He is doing much of his work in bomb shelters. But it is more important to go on with life than staying at home."

"My oldest son is a soldier in the north working with kids in the shelters – ironically, he works with kids from two Arab villages near the border."

And, just as she did while here, she jumps when her cell phone rings, and then is reassured when she hears her son's voice.

'I hope some day the world will understand the feeling of life under war, and how we have struggled for 58 years to live as a normal nation surrounded by Arab nations who want to kill us every day.'

— Simcha Pe'er, Hebrew ulpan teacher

Simcha says many of her friends have retreated south to safer ground. "The problem is that their husbands need to go to work in the north. The men either stay at home alone or commute several hours every day. Families are separated; old people who can't move stay and have difficulties living their lives.

"Among my friends the wish is to come back home only if the situation is safe and there is a guarantee that it won't happen again. They have had enough of living in a war all the time."

She adds, "I am sure that many people are angry about this war, but just as the Lebanese are suffering, the Israelis have been suffering for many years. I hope someday the world will understand how we have struggled for 58 years to live as a normal nation surrounded by Arab nations who want to kill us every day."

Mission trips

Doris Feinberg, current campaign chair for the Jewish Federation of R.I. (JFRI), was in Jerusalem with Elisa Heath, JFRI's campaign director, as the crisis escalated. They had just completed a United Jewish Community mission to Odessa, the Ukraine, and Israel and were awaiting the arrival of campaign volunteers from Rhode Island on a training mission.

"It felt like an emotional roller coaster," says Feinberg. "We determined that we unfortunately needed to cancel that mission because of the war."

She and Heath felt torn. "We were able to leave when our Israeli friends couldn't. We wanted to reach out to our Israeli friends," Feinberg says.

A pediatrician in Afula told her that there was an increasing number of teenagers coming into hospitals. "There was just sheer panic from the trauma of leaving homes and going into bomb shelters."

Afula medical center

Larry Rich, development director at Emek Medical Center in Afula, which has a partnership with The Miriam Hospital in Providence, said Wednesday, "Our trauma center has not (as yet) been

See facing page

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RETURNING HOME

From page 12

'It was also remarkable to see religious soldiers praying at the side of their tanks with their tallit and tefillin.'

— Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of Providence Hebrew Day School

overwhelmed. We are on war and mass casualty alert and more missiles landed near us today. We are standing firm and ready for every eventuality."

He described what continues to happen every day at Enech: "Pregnant women from Nahariya, Kiryat Shmona, Tiberias, Haifa, the Bay Area, Zefat and our northern communities have been flocking here to give birth in EMC. It's a celebration of life and the Israeli answer to rockets and bombs. We just assisted four separate sets of twins being born into our world within a span of 24 hours. The multi-ethnic nature of EMC symbolizes the slender thread of hope for our troubled region. We prove, every day that Jews and Arabs are capable of caring for one another." (See related story: Voices from Armageddon, on page 15.)

But after continual rocket attacks and then longer-range missiles hitting the area, the medical center last week evacuated its upper wards and moved patients to safer locations in the hospital, said a hospital spokeswoman. Only emergency surgery will be performed until further notice. Dialysis, oncology and hematology institutes remain open, as does coronary catheterization labs.

Family updates

The war broke out in the second week of Alla and Sam Goman's trip. As they prepared to return to Rhode Island, "all I had on my mind was that we were going home, but these families have to stay and face the reality and worry about their loved ones."

Their overseas calls are frequent. "I really worry about my

family. My cousin and uncle, who live in Haifa, told me that sometimes they have to go to the bomb shelter as many as six times a day. My niece in Carmiel went for a walk with her baby and a rocket hit near her house. They packed everything and left," Alla said.

Glady and Sheldon Sollosy of Cranston, (she is a proof-reader and longtime volunteer at the Voice and Herald) have a daughter, son-in-law and their seven children living in Jerusalem. Glady says she talks to them every day except Shabbat, on a special phone line which is a direct connection.

The grandchildren range in age from almost 10 to 26. The oldest is a full-time yeshiva student, which exempts him from Israeli military service.

Glady says that when she talks to her family they don't discuss the war because they are so accustomed to conflict that they prefer to just go about their daily business. Perhaps they don't want to worry her. So far, she said, they haven't been affected as to food, water and other supplies and haven't had contact with any refugees from the north.

Barrington father and daughter

Mike Meyerheim of Barrington, who lived in Israel for 11 years and has served in the Israeli army, didn't let the war stop him from flying to Israel to meet his older daughter, Shelley. She was participating in a month-long program called Chezt V'keshet. It's a dual program of the Israeli Scouts and IDF, he says.

"My plan was to meet up with her in Israel for an extra week, exploring the country and

taking pictures for her senior project. And although the war had started several days before I arrived, I have kept myself involved with what is going on in the north as well as I can. There are areas where you can not even find a cat in the streets."

Meyerheim called his former Army unit and volunteered to help. He went up North and to Haifa to reconnect. "Last night our ground units lost eight lives and several were wounded. I sit here writing this to you with a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes..." he wrote in one email last week.

He is also assembling food packages for families in bomb shelters in a program run by the Supersal chain of supermarkets. He says he feels it is his honor and obligation, as an American and Israeli citizen, and as a Jew, to help out.

Power of prayer

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School, recently returned from Israel. He wrote this account:

"Having stopped by to study and visit friends, one notices no change in their daily lives or schedule. Many are unaware of the war as they are busy studying, and don't follow the news. They believe that Torah study is what ultimately defends the Jewish nation. While the Israeli soldiers are fighting on one front, they view their job in yeshiva as being the soldiers on an equally important different front."

(Laura Berlin-Schine is an intern at the Jewish Voice and Herald since May. She will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall.)



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News Briefs

Gibson loses Holocaust project

LOS ANGELES: Actor-director Mel Gibson has requested a meeting with Jewish leaders who are outraged at his rant against Jews that followed his arrest on charges of drunk driving. "I am not asking for forgiveness," he said. "I would like to take it one step further and meet with leaders of the Jewish community with whom I can have a one-on-one discussion to discern the appropriate path for healing." Gibson said he has begun "an ongoing program of recovery but I cannot do it alone." Hollywood studios are reacting in different ways to Actor-Director Mel Gibson's obscenity-laced, anti-Semitic tirade. Gibson, who has big clout in Hollywood because his pictures are so profitable, lost a major project when ABC canceled a projected TV series about the Holocaust that he was scheduled to produce. At the same time Oren Aviv, the new head of Disney Studios, said he was prepared to forgive and forget. Gibson issued a public apology and said he was entering a rehab center to deal with his alcohol problem. HAARETZ, SLATE

Orthodox council:

No smoking
NEW YORK: The Rab-

binical Council of America, the nation's largest Orthodox group, has unanimously ruled that Jewish law bans smoking. "We should have done it years ago," said Rabbi Basil Herring, RCA's executive vice-president. "But it is never too late to put an end to certain things that should be formally recognized for the evil that they are." The ban is expected to have the greatest impact on young men and women who develop mentor relationships with their rabbis. NEW YORK JEWISH WEEK

Chabad/campus campaign

NEW YORK: College students around the world are sponsoring the writing of a Torah scroll that will be sent to an academic institution in Israel upon its completion by a scribe in November. Students are purchasing letters of a 304,805-letter scroll. The effort is part of Chabad on Campus Unity Torah Campaign. JTA

Kosher in Cleveland

CLEVELAND: Ghazi Faddoul, a Lebanese Christian now living in Cleveland, might be the last person you would expect to be running a kosher restaurant, and in a Jewish Community Center of all places, but those who remember when the Cuyahoga River caught fire in Cleveland will not be surprised at anything that happens there. Mr. Faddoul has a friend who is a member of the JCC and knew it was looking to upgrade its eating facilities. Mr.

Faddoul is in the food business so presto. The world's first kosher Subway restaurant was born, featuring turkey ham, soy cheese, a mashgiel and all the fixings. FORWARD

Poet, scholar Fleischer dies

JERUSALEM: Ezra Fleischer, a poet and scholar who shed new light on the history of Jewish prayer, has died in Jerusalem at the age of 78. Fleischer showed that modern Jewish prayer developed after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. Born in Romania, he helped in the study of the Cairo Geniza, a medieval set of documents found in the late 1800s. Fleischer won the Israel Prize for poetry in 1959 and immigrated to Israel in 1960. JTA

Jack the Ripper, Jewish barber

LONDON: In case you were wondering about the real identity of Jack the Ripper, London's notorious serial killer in the late 1890s, you may set your mind at rest. Turns out it was Aaron Kosminski, a Polish Jewish barber who had been a suspect at the time. The Chief Inspector who handled the case left some notes which have only now become known in which he names Kosminski as the culprit although it is not clear why he didn't make this known at the time. The suspect died in an insane asylum some years later. JTA

(Compiled by Yehuda Lev.)

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My Voice Under the Stretcher

(The following is an excerpt from the recently published book "Voices From Armageddon," by Larry Rich, development director of Emek Medical Center in Afula, the R.I. Jewish community's sister city in Israel.)

By Larry Rich

In 1973, I was living on a kibbutz—a communal farm settlement—in the Jordan Valley when Syria and Egypt attacked Israel. It was on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, and my new home was ill prepared for the onslaught. All the young men on the kibbutz mobilized and went off to fight. Within minutes, they all seemed to be gone. I was among the few that remained and in the middle of the second night of the war, I was woken up and hustled away to help pull up the perimeter fence adjacent to the main road and dig bazooka positions. We were located on the southern end of the Sea of Galilee, several hundred meters below the menacing plateau of the Golan Heights, just to the east. Syrian armor had broken through the minimal Israeli forces and was a mere half hour away from us. We suddenly became the last line of defense and I had no idea how to operate a bazooka. The Syrians stopped to regroup and wait for logistic support to catch up. Fortunately, the lapse in their attack was the window of opportunity that the Israeli air force needed to pummel and drive them back.

It was 1975 when I volunteered to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). I was 28 years old, married with a pregnant wife, 10 years older than the other Israeli conscripts and highly motivated to become a great soldier. Israel was in firm control of the West Bank, had soundly defeated the Syrians and Egyptians in '73 and was a power to be respected. I was about to take my place as a proud member of that force.

Basic training in the IDF was the anvil on which men were pounded into shape as the nuts and bolts of an uncompromising military machine. We were forced to adapt our bodies and minds to function automatically without sleep while under the harshest physical duress. It was as if the officers waited for us to cry out in utter fatigue and stress. "No more!" That was when they pushed us beyond the limits we even knew we possessed.

Stretcher drills
A stretcher drill is where one man (the "wounded") lies upon a canvas cot while four other men lift it by the handles onto their shoulders and carry him to

"safety." Three or four other men follow closely behind to replace a comrade whose legs begin to fail him while everyone is outfitted in full combat gear that includes helmets, flak jackets, ammunition belts and automatic rifles. The drills began with walks of a few hundred meters to get us used to the load and within weeks they evolved into tortuous marches of tens of kilometers—up and down steep rocky hills. They taught us how to function as a team and to depend upon one another.

I went under the stretcher to carry a load that I would have preferred not to transport. I was part of a team who had a collective responsibility to our "wounded" comrade and to those who forced us onwards. We all cursed the pain that bore down into our shoulders, caused our back muscles to spasm and our knees to buckle. Nevertheless, I dared not drop the burden that I loathed.

We marched like that through a West Bank Arab village. I was so proud to be there under the stretcher. The homes were shuttered and closed with nobody in sight. I so wanted those Arabs to look upon me so they would see us as strong tough Jews who were a force to be reckoned with. They never looked, or if they did, I couldn't see them.

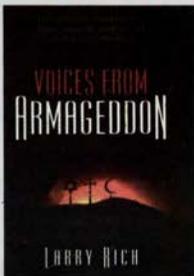
My military training culminated in my becoming a tank commander in the artillery corps. One and a half months of active reserve duty each year honed those lethal skills.

1978: Emergency call-up

One sunny morning in 1978 as I was working in the banana plantation, a jeep drove up and somebody handed me a "zav 8." That is an emergency call-up order from the army that is only issued if war is about to break out. I was in shock as they hauled me into the jeep and raced me back to my home so I could gather my gear. I found my wife, kissed her goodbye and was off. Just like all those men who suddenly disappeared from the kibbutz in 1973.

While traveling to my base, I learned that Arab terrorists from Lebanon had infiltrated and commandeered a passenger bus. They were randomly shooting out of the windows at passing cars as the bus sped along the coastal highway towards Tel Aviv and certain disaster. A military blockade was set up to intercept them and in the ensuing shoot out, tens of Israelis on the bus, including a five-year old girl clutching a toothbrush in her hand, were killed.

Because of that unprovoked assault, Israel invaded southern Lebanon to attack the terrorist



infrastructure that was responsible.

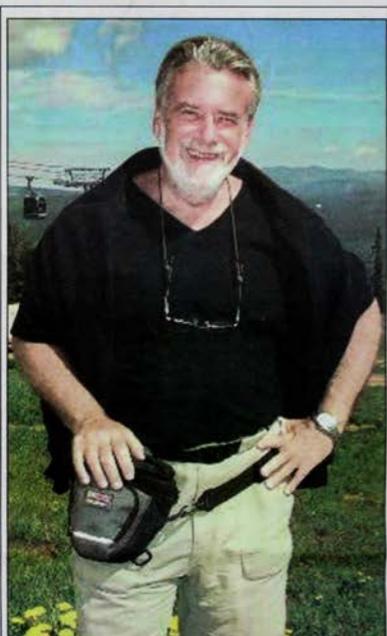
One battalion was among the first into the fray. Images of that five-year-old girl on the bus and other memories of Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust seared my brain as I shouted out coordinates, aimed our cannon and fired—again and again. The thunder cacophony of canon fire, smoke and the sweat of battle added to my rage and glee to be hitting back.

The years went by and I continued to do my annual reserve duty, even though the brilliance of my uniform began to fade. Meeting up with my old army friends was pleasant, but not as much fun as it used to be and the passion for the fight gave way to a creeping personal apathy.

1982: PLO, Syrian build-up

1982 witnessed the culmination of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) buildup and rape of southern Lebanon that borders Israel's northern Galilee region. Terrorist attacks across the border were answered by Israeli air force reprisals and the Arabs began attacking Jews in Europe. When Israel's ambassador in London, Shlomo Argov, was nearly assassinated by PLO gunmen, Israel had had enough.

The IDF mounted a massive invasion of southern Lebanon for which I received another "zav 8." Goodbye again wife, bye-bye kids. Operation Peace for the Galilee had begun. Our battalion was again first in and we fought day and night as we advance steadily along the eastern flank. My crew went seven days without sleep but we somehow continued to function and fight. All those years of training enabled us to act and react. After routing out who we thought were PLO terrorists, we discovered that we had been fighting the Syrian army which had slowly been creeping up towards Israel's northern border. We soon were sitting within artillery range (20 km) of Damascus.



Larry Rich

Brief Bio

Larry Rich left the United States in 1972 to live in Israel, in the Jezreel Valley. He works as the development director of Emek Medical Center in Afula, which has a new partnership with The Miriam Hospital.

The book jacket notes: "Here he tells the story of an extraordinary multi-ethnic medical center dedicated to the saving of lives of whoever comes through the door—whether children or suicide bombers, Jew, Christian or Muslim."

A ceasefire was called.

We settled into our position and secured our immediate area. There were dead Syrian soldiers lying around and we had to move them, or what was left of them. One lay on his back with his green army cap over his face. I noticed a gold wedding band on his finger and I felt sorry for him and his widow. I wondered if he had children waiting for him at home, as I did.

There is no glory in war... only survival.

After about a month, we drove our tanks all night back into Israel. That dusty, noisy ride through the mountains of Lebanon numbed my senses. There were no cheering crowds to greet

us or fanfare of any kind. We were not heroes...only a bunch of tired guys glad to be going home.

In 1992, after serving for 17 years in the IDF, I received my honorable discharge. It was not a sad day for me when I returned my uniform and kitbag to the base where I had been inducted. I watched as the young inductees were being shouted at across the field and I never looked back when I passed through the gate...

Israel is not an easy country, socially, economically or politically. Life here is like being under the stretcher; having to carry a heavy load that we would rather not be burdened with and one that we dare not drop.



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mgraff@fri.org

4111, ext. 204).

The daily question is what to pack in the school lunch to make it nutritious, tasty and something children will actually eat and not trade or (God forbid) throw away. Of course the lunch has to fit the age and personal preferences of the young person for whom it is lovingly prepared. You also want to add variety, not just peanut butter and grape jelly alternating with tuna salad.

Herewith: suggestions, not recipes. If you need more specific advice, don't hesitate to call me here at the *Voice & Herald* (421-

You'll need containers ranging from plastic sandwich baggies to a lunch box, or bags, including various size reusable containers and a thermos for hot drinks, soup or other hot dishes.

First you want to balance the lunch with protein, carbs, (not withstanding the teenage girl's constant dieting,) and assorted phyto, which I think is the good stuff in fruits and veggies.

You also want the breads, wraps, and other carbs to be as close to whole grain as possible. Try to stay away from high sodium, strange chemical cold cuts.

Cut the sandwiches into halves, quarters or even strips for the younger kids.

Ideas for sandwiches:

Peanut or soy butter mixed with raisins or layered with sliced apples or pears, instead of jelly.

Cheese with lettuce and tomato in a wrap. (My daughter uses large spinach leaves in sandwiches as more nutritious than lettuce.)

Leftover brisket, chicken, roast beef, turkey or meat loaf on good rye bread.

Chicken or egg salad with mixed greens in a wrap.

Veggie burger on a whole wheat bun.

Cream cheese and raisins, apple slices or sliced tomatoes

Sandwich dressings

You can use mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup or chili sauce straight from the container or mix them together using one part each mayo, and ketchup or chili sauce

and a little mustard. A squeeze of lemon adds a bit of tang.

Salads

This is the preference of many teenage girls.

Start with greens, either from a bag or your own assortment. I would always include some raw spinach, either baby or large leaf,

See BROWN BAG, page 19

Lunchbox 101: More ideas

Sandwich alternatives. Change it up. Make lunch interesting while adding more protein, fruits and veggies. The trick to veggies is to cut them up into dippers and include a container of ranch dressing, low-fat cheese dip or hummus. Along with carrots and celery, try peppers, cucumbers, sugar snap peas, or even jicama. For protein alternatives, bean dip with tortillas or pita bread with hummus, are good choices. As for fruits, apples are old standbys, but kids like them pre-cut! To avoid having them turn brown, pour a little orange or lemon juice over them.



Munchable knockoffs. Pre-made lunch kits sold at the supermarket can be made even better

by you! These slick packaged entrees get much of their calories from fat and sugar. Pack a healthy

alternative: low-fat crackers, low-fat lunch meat, low-fat cheese,

See LUNCHBOX 101, page 19

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Is your child a sugar addict?



SUGAR may affect a child's behavior and make it more difficult for her to concentrate.

Parents may want to put a lock on that cookie jar. Too many sweets in a child's diet may affect your child's mood — even lowering their concentration and performance at school, says Kathleen DesMaisons, an expert on addictive nutrition and author of "Little Sugar Addicts" (Three Rivers Press).

Not only can too much sugar in children's diets put them at risk for obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure, but research shows sugar can become addictive and affects the brain similarly to drugs, leading to similar withdrawal symptoms of mood swings, shaking, anxiety, and anger.

DesMaisons offers some tips to healing sugar addictions:

Gradually reduce sugar intake. Don't get rid of sugar completely, but gradually get children on the path by establishing timely eating habits — three meals a day with two snacks.

Make substitutions. Pick your first target, such as sugary sodas. Replace it with water, such as offering it in playful water bottles to make it more tempting. Then, look for additional substitutions, such as offering fruit for desserts and vegetables for snacks and meals. Also, replace white breads — which are high in sugar and calories — with healthier whole-grain breads.

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LUNCHES, MUNCHIES

From page 17

stemmed and torn up, for its nutritional value.

Add tomatoes (in winter the baby ones still have some flavor,) your choice of cucumber, carrots, cut up raw green beans, pea pods, snow peas (frozen get a little limp but are okay in a salad,) well-rinsed canned chick peas or other beans and any other vegetables the youngster will eat. You can also add some chunks of cheese, tuna or other fish; or leftover chicken, or other meat. Use a favorite bot-

tle dressing or make your own with lemon juice, vinegar, a little olive oil, some dried herbs such as basil, thyme, parsley etc., and just a hint of garlic.

Hot dishes

It's a good idea to cook extra for dinner, looking ahead to the next day's school lunch. A wide mouth thermo can hold a hearty soup, pasta, stew or chili for a hot lunch on a cold day.

Other ideas

Many youngsters enjoy a con-

tainer of yogurt in addition to or as the main part of a lunch.

For variety, you can buy unbaked biscuits or croissants in the dairy case, roll them out thin, add a meat or fish filling, fold in half, seal edges and bake. You can freeze them and put into the lunch to thaw by lunch time.

Sticks of celery make nice containers for peanut or soy nut butter, tuna, and chicken or egg salad.

Hard-boiled or devilled eggs. Add baby carrots, tomatoes or celery sticks for a snack.

Dessert

Fresh fruit; apple, pear or other.

Cookies; When I had kids in

LUNCHBOX 101

From page 17

fruit and 100-percent fruit juice. Or pack a pizza by including a pizza round, some sauce in a container, shredded cheese, olives, or whatever. Kids will have fun putting it together.

Add a smile. While it is hard to compete with the colorful packaging and hype of store-bought lunch foods, you can definitely include some fun from home as well as a hug. LunchPackers are pop-open notecards that parents can add a quick note to or just send as is. Kids love them because it's like tearing open a lottery ticket and being a winner every time. The pickle-shaped PickleDillies open to jokes, knock-knocks, and riddles; the One Smart Cookies (chocolate chip, of course) provide brainteasers; the Twisted Trivia are pretzels with trivia questions; and the Banana VanGoghs open to a four-step art lesson.

To learn more, visit www.lunchpackers.com or call 1-888-484-1997.

Keep it cold. You can keep lunches cool simply by placing frozen applesauce, pudding, yogurt or a juice box (100-percent variety) in the lunch box or bag. Remember to wrap the item in a napkin or plastic bag so it won't get other foods soggy while thawing. You can also freeze sandwiches the night before — a great trick during hot weather. Just place the trimmings, lettuce, tomato or whatever in a separate bag so that your child can add them when he or she sits down to lunch. That goes for mayo, too, as it does not freeze well.

3 o'clock munchies. For kids who have a long bus ride home or after-school activities there's one thing for sure, they're bound to get hungry! Pack lunch boxes with extras. Pretzels, baked chips, whole oats cereals, granola snack bars, rice cakes, popcorn, and peanut butter sandwiches are all good because they won't spoil. Make sure your kids know which foods need to be thrown away right after lunch.



back to school

school and was always, it seemed, making cookies, I used to sneak in what flour oatmeal, peanut butter or molasses in the interest of nutrition. Now there are plenty of good recipes. The kids, especially the small ones, will love to help with this. You can also buy

good cookies, just watch out for the trans fats.

A small container of pudding, jello or applesauce.

Don't forget the milk or 100% fruit beverage (with added calcium).

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back to school 

JEWISH PARENTING

How to prepare your 'rookie' for the first day of K



Sharon Duke Estroff

Preparing our child for the first day of kindergarten — it's among the most bittersweet tasks of our parent-career. But wist-

fully tracking down the coolest Batman or Barbie backpack on the market is only a fraction of the job description. The following suggestions will help ensure your little slugger enjoys a successful start to his rookie school year.

Visit the school. A summer-time sneak preview of the school, kindergarten classrooms and play-

ground will help minimize fear of the unknown and make your child more comfortable during her first days of school.

Get into the kindergarten swing. A week or so before the start of school, begin easing your child into the school-year schedule. That way he'll be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on his first day.

Play down your own mixed emotions. Rather than rambling on about how you can't believe your baby is growing up, emphasize how excited you are that she's going to kindergarten.

Send a security object. The promise of being able to bring a favorite blanket or stuffed animal — albeit stashed safely out of sight in his backpack — will be worth its weight in lunch money in building your rising kindergartener's courage.

Celebrate. Boost your child's excitement about school with a special celebratory dinner the night before he starts kindergarten. Use colorful school supplies to decorate the table or the occasion. (Just don't go overboard on the sugar!)

Talk about your first-day-of-school experiences. Psychologists believe that sharing family stories is one of the most effective ways for parents to emotionally strengthen their children. During your celebratory dinner, take turns sharing

first day of kindergarten stories.

Ease into aftercare. Many children's after-school situations change with their entrance to kindergarten. If your child will be attending a Jewish community center or other daycare program after school, see if the facility offers a camp and enroll her there for a week or so over the summer; that way she'll be settled when school kicks off in the fall. If you'll be utilizing the school's aftercare program, talk to your child about where she should go, who's in charge and what to expect there.

Make sure she has a familiar face at school. Having at least one friend on the first day of kindergarten can make all the difference to a child; so call the school over the summer, ask for the names of a few of your child's future class-

mates, and arrange a play date or two.

Find your place in the kindergarten circle: Truth be told, even after our child is primed and ready for his elementary debut, our work is not done. To the contrary, it's just begun. Researchers have identified that the one factor constant in students who do well in school is parent involvement. So volunteer in your kindergartener's classroom; make sure he's geared and ready for school each day; and provide him with steady educational guidance and unwavering moral support for the next 13 years.

Sharon Duke Estroff is an internationally-syndicated Jewish parenting columnist. Her first book Jewish Parenting, will be released by Broadway Books, in 2007.

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JCC pre-school to open at Temple Sinai

Website: www.jccri.org
E-mail: earlychildhood@jccri.org

CRANSTON – Registration is underway for the Jewish Community Center's (JCC) new pre-school at Temple Sinai. An open house is set at Sinai for Aug. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the temple at 30 Hagen Ave. The center offers a newly refurbished pre-school classroom and outdoor play area.

It is the JCC's second satellite program; one opened at Temple Hahonim in Barrington in 2002.

The pre-schools are open to three- and four-year-old children, with a schedule that meets from 9 a.m. to noon.

Jewish educator Sarit Ferreira has been named head teacher at the Sinai location. She has worked at the Striar JCC and has taught at several religious schools at temples in Massachusetts. A teaching assistant will also be on staff.

The pre-schools are open to Jewish and non-Jewish students with a focus on community, and sensitivity to individual needs. The curriculum blends Judaic and secular programs. Two national JCC programs are offered: An Ethical Start teaches Jewish

values based on the text "Pirkei Avot" (Ethics of the Fathers); and a creative curriculum using a developmental approach through learning centers.

Temple Sinai is licensed by

the R.I. Dept. of Education.

The main location, in the JCC on the East Side, is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and offers

childcare for children starting at three months old, and also offers a kindergarten.

It is licensed by Rhode Island's Department of Chil-

dren, Youth, and Families. To register for any of the programs, contact director Sue Connor at 861-8800, ext. 142 or Shirley Moskuluk at 861-8800, ext. 130.

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back to school

College Trends

Thoughts before leaving for college

By Laura Berlinsky-Schine

Knowing that I will leave for college in a month strikes me as surreal. It is disconcerting to realize that the city I have called my home for 18 years is now my hometown, and that my best friends will now be my

high school friends. I'm sad that my friend is on a two-week trip in Italy, and that another friend is leaving for Eckerd in Florida next week, because I feel like I'm running out of time to spend with the people I will not see for months.



Laura Berlinsky-Schine

I was originally set on Columbia, but later decided that there I would be just another liberal, Jewish, northeastern English major.

In the months leading up to the day my college acceptance letter would arrive, my happiness

depended on "getting in." An acceptance letter was like a prize that would enable me to say, "Yes, I got into college." Even when I learned that I indeed had been accepted early decision to Johns Hopkins, my first choice school,

it occurred to me only briefly that I would actually go. For me, it wasn't about going; it was having that permission to go.

I chose Johns Hopkins mainly because it has one of the best creative writing programs in the country. It also fit my other criteria: it was in a city, it was a medium-large school, and it would challenge me academically. But I didn't fall in love with it until the day I visited. Outside the campus, a pro-life group had congregated to hold a small-scale protest, complete with posters of dead babies, and, inexplicably, the Holocaust, as a pro-lifer stood by spouting non-scientific nonsense about abortion causing breast cancer. My parents exchanged anxious glances, worrying that I would cross another school off of my already diminished list. Their concern was for naught, because a girl wearing a shirt that I would later learn identified her as a member of the Hopkins pro-choice group pushed her way through the crowd and began challenging the confused pro-

See COLLEGE, next page

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BROWN

College Trends

back to school

COLLEGE

From page 22

lifer, demanding to see the evidence to back-up the claim that abortions caused the various illnesses, and repeating the breast cancer claim incredulously. Any concerns about Hopkins' borderline-southern geographic location and reputation for breeding reserved, antisocial students were washed away. Her adamancy and uninhibited declarations convinced me that this school was the place for me.

In the past few weeks, as I have become increasingly anxious about leaving for college, I have questioned my decision. I was originally set on Columbia, but later decided that there I would be just another liberal, Jewish, northeastern English major. Now, standing out isn't quite as appealing as it seemed then. I have become accustomed



to people assuming I'm pre-med, and acting baffled when I say no, I'm in creative writing, and yes, such a major does exist. I can't deny that it bothers me when they refuse to believe that Hopkins actually does have one of the highest-rated writing programs in the country, and even argue

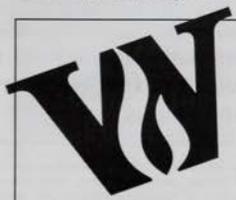
with my decision, saying it's such a waste to attend the best medical school in the country for a degree that will get me nowhere in life. I am a bit concerned with the fact that I will be living in a state that, while not red, is still not precisely the shade of sky blue that colors Rhode Island politically. My

anxiety heightened when a Hopkins sophomore, also Jewish, told me that she'd shared a triple with two evangelical Christians who believed she was going to hell; I am comforted somewhat by the fact that I am a single.

The question of the summer seems to be "Are you excited?"

and I can honestly say yes. College is something I have anticipated all through high school, and despite my concerns, I know I've been ready for it for a very long time.

Laura Berlinsky-Schnee graduated from the Lincoln School and has been working as an intern at the Jewish Voice & Herald for several months.



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back to school College Trends

Finding Jewish life when visiting campuses

By Susan Jacobs

Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle

PITTSBURGH — It is summer, which means that many high school students and their parents are visiting colleges and universities in search of the right school. In addition to academics, extra curricular activities and cul-

tural diversity, there is one more element for Jewish families to consider.

"When I meet with high school seniors, one of the things we talk about is their concerns for a Jewish population on campus," said Eva Gelman, a former associate director of admissions for

Carnegie Mellon University, who is now a private consultant.

But the role that Jewish campus life plays in the decision-making process is different from student to student.

When Hannah Posner begins

"It didn't play that much of a role," she said. "It was more a matter of diversity as a whole."

Recent surveys of Jewish college students show they are proud to be Jewish, but express their Jewish identity more often

activities is still essential.

David Ungar wanted to opportunity to be part of an active Jewish community in college.

"It was a deciding factor," he said. This fall, the Upper St. Clair resident will attend Case Western

"When I meet with high school seniors, one of the things we talk about is their concerns for a Jewish population on campus."

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classes this fall at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, she will be part of a relatively small contingent of Jews. About 10 percent of Kenyon's 1,500 students are Jewish.

"I wanted to go to a small, liberal arts school," said Posner.

While she did not have time to visit the Hill on campus when she toured Kenyon, Posner said she was attracted by the knowledge that many non-Jewish students attend Jewish events there.

"They are very open-minded, interested in learning about other religions," she said. "I thought that was really cool."

But Jewish life on campus was not her number one concern in choosing a college.

through cultural and social action activities, rather than through religious observance and participation in traditional Jewish events on campus.

"We're a people, an ethnicity," said Aaron Weil, director of the Hill Jewish University Center in Pittsburgh. "You can put it on or take it off."

That approach, said Weil, allows students to attend a variety of activities without feeling that religion is being thrust upon them.

"I can go to a Shabbat dinner or Darfur event, and I don't have to stop being me," he said.

But for some students, the presence of traditional Jewish

Reserve University in Cleveland.

As a regular attendee at his congregation who enjoys leading services, Ungar anticipates being very involved at Hillel in college.

David Levari also wanted to make sure that his college choice would offer a community in which to celebrate the Jewish holidays. During his college search, he looked only at schools with strong Jewish populations, and decided to go to the University of Chicago.

"I would not have chosen a school that didn't have a good amount of Jewish content," he said.

While schools like Case Western and the University of

See VISITING CAMPUSES, page 26

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back to school

Grandparents day at Jewish day school

By Joan G. Friedman

I have learned a great deal from having grandchildren. The experiences have been phenomenal and my time with grandchildren in school has been extra special.

Imagine my surprise when I realized I am old enough to have a grandchild in school! Who will be taking care of my baby? Can we trust this teacher?

Fortunately, my children made the wise decision. Every experience I have had at Abrams Hebrew Academy has been a wonderful one. Daniel has loved his schooling from the pre-school on up.

During his first year there, I was pleased to hear they have a Grandparents' Day. It was a wonderful celebration of singing and arts and crafts — thoroughly enjoyed by students and grandparents.

For every holiday the grandparents, along with the parents, are invited. As a grandmother, I can honestly say that I never grow tired of watching Daniel perform. In addition to all the regular festivities, I was allowed to attend on still another day. When the teacher gives permission, the grandmother (or prob-



ably anyone else) may come and read to the class.

What could be better (before the child is old enough to become embarrassed) than to go to your child or grandchild's class and read a special story? The first year I read Daniel's favorite story. The second year I knew I wanted to be more creative and innovative. I decided to make up a story book titled "Daniel and his friends visit Israel."

The cover of my book had a sketch of the plane with all his friends looking through all those windows. It was a wonderful story ending up with everyone in

Israel singing "Yad b'Yad" which is Hebrew for "Hand in Hand." My inspiration was the wonderful Israeli musician/songwriter/performer Ehud Manor, of blessed memory, who wrote the song by the same name. I brought a portable CD player with the disc of the Israeli group singing that song, and tried to teach the words to the class. We marched and sang and then got back in a circle on the floor — holding hands — for the ending.

It lasted a bit too long and I did not have all of the children's interest for the whole routine. The best point is that there was a little

boy from Israel who was new and very disruptive. He understood no English. When he tried to run away, I called out "Lo!" which (I had learned from the above song)

was Hebrew for "No!" After that, he joined us.

(Joan G. Friedman is a nationally published freelance writer.)

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back to school

College Trends

VISITING CAMPUSES

From page 24

Chicago have long attracted Jewish students, in part because of their location in cities with large Jewish populations, some colleges have been working to increase their Jewish enrollments.

"A lot of schools are seeking Jews; they want to build diversity on campus," said Gelman. "They want the smart students on their campus."

The involvement of parents plays an important role in college choices, especially with regard to emphasizing the importance of Jewish life on campus.

This fall, Andy Pollack will be attending Goucher College in Baltimore, which has a large Jewish enrollment.

"I think it was a combination of the academics, the campus, the fact there was a Jewish population and the fact it was an overall nice area," said the Allderdice graduate of his decision.

"We wanted him to end up in a place that would offer Hillel," said his mother, Connie Pollack. "I want him to be in an environment where he might have an opportunity to meet a nice Jewish girl."

Connie Pollack was more prepared than most parents to help her son pick a college. She is a college admissions specialist, who often helps other Jewish families find schools with strong Jewish populations.

Whatever their level of Jewish involvement, most Jewish families are concerned about having Jewish activities on campus. "It's not the most important part of the college search; it is a piece they're looking for," said Pollack.

Both Pollack and Gelman said students and their parents should visit the schools they are considering and ask specific questions about the Jewish activities on campus, such as the availability of religious services, which streams of Judaism are represented at the school, whether kosher meals are available and how the school handles absences for Jewish holidays.

Students whose parents showed them the importance of living a Jewish life are those who are most likely to be Jewishly involved in college, said Weil.

(Susan Jacobs can be reached at sjacobs@pittchron.com.)

Hillel leader from Barrington



Photo courtesy of Amy Olson

URI HILLEL — Leah Schechtman of Barrington, a junior majoring in Biology, is the incoming President of the URI Hillel Student Board. Leah will be attending the 2006 Hillel Schusterman International Student Leader's Assembly August 22-27 at Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia. She will spend the week in an experiential learning environment, developing her leadership skills and learning campus-organizing and relationship-building strategies.

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Touro to celebrate 59th Washington letter reading

NEWPORT — The Touro Synagogue Foundation will celebrate the annual reading of George Washington's historic letter "To the Hebrew Congregation at Newport" on Sunday, Aug. 20, at 1 p.m. at the synagogue at 85 Touro St.

The letter, written a year before the Bill of Rights was ratified, provided an unequivocal guarantee that the new country would be a safe haven for Jews and other religious minorities.

Judge Fausto Pocar, president of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and world-renowned international legal scholar, will present the keynote address, and share his thoughts on the famous words penned by President George Washington on August 17, 1790 in response to an epistle he received from Moses Seixas, warden of the congregation.

Washington's letter promises that the new nation would "give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

During the ceremony, David Logan, Dean of the Roger Wil-

liams University School of Law, will present the Slom Scholarship Award, established in March 2003 in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Aaron and Rita Slom. The award provides two \$500 college scholarships for high school seniors. Graduating students submit an interpretive work focusing on the George Washington Letter in the context of the present time. This year, due to the overwhelming number of creative applicants, three scholarships will be awarded. The recipients are Elizabeth Burrows (New Hampshire), Jessica Gordon (Rhode Island), and Rebecca Pomfrey (Virginia).

Sen. Jack Reed will be the master of ceremonies. Marcia Riesman, wife of late community and civic leader Robert Riesman, will read the Moses Seixas letter. Matthew Bronfman, managing director of ACI Capital, and past president of the 92nd Street Y, will read the George Washington Letter.

The Artillery Company of Newport, a ceremonial unit of the Rhode Island Militia, Council of Historic Military Commands, will be in attendance to serve as

color guards. Rumea Ahmed, Associate Chaplain at Brown University will offer the invocation, award-winning soprano Katherine Jennings will sing, and Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz of Congregation Jeshuat Israel will deliver the closing benediction.

Individuals wishing to attend the program are also invited to attend the Touro Synagogue Foundation annual meeting that will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Hotel Viking. Members of the Foundation will vote on the proposed slate of officers and board of directors for the upcoming year. Judge Pocar will receive the Alexander George Teitz Award, given each year to an individual or organization that, through word or deed, exemplifies the ideals set forth by Washington in his letter.

Registration is required. There is a fee of \$50 for Touro Synagogue Foundation members and \$75 (which includes a one-year membership) for non-members. For additional information contact Robin Kauffman at the Touro Synagogue Foundation at 401-847-4794 x14 or robin@toursynagogue.org.



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COMMUNITY



From left, Professor Shlomo Mor-Yosef, Hadassah Medical Organization director general, Harriet Keir-Klein and Michele Keir of Warwick attended the national organization's convention recently.

Hadassah members attend nat'l convention

WARWICK — The annual Hadassah convention took place in Nashville, Tenn., from July 23-26. Among those from Rhode Island were Karen Danin (Hadassah national vice president), Barbara Forman (R.I. Hadassah board chairwoman), Harriet Keir-Klein, who also represented Broward Co., Fla.; Michele Keir, Lorraine Rappoport, Meredith Drench, Jan Ziegler, Shelley Parness, and Betty Ann Israelit.

At the founder's dinner, Keir-Klein made a generous pledge of support for medical research at the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Israel, which was nominated for a Nobel Prize this past year. Hadassah's national president, June Walker, and the director general of HMO, Professor Shlomo Mor-Yosef, extended their thanks to the chapters she represented.

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Tamarisk residents called to the Torah

Adult education series concludes with first Bar/Bar Mitzvah ceremony

WARWICK — There is an old proverb that proclaims, "The older the tree, the sweeter the fruit." Seven 'older students' proved how true this is, when they recently celebrated and re-celebrated their Bar/Bar Mitzvah. Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence was the setting as residents completed a nearly year-long journey of study by being called to the Torah on Shabbat morning, June 24. Friends and family filled the community room to capacity, as the happy celebrants led prayers, were called for an *aliyah* and recited their Torah portions.

Lev Poplow, director of programming, of Tamarisk, and Ethan Adler, assistant director of Jewish Eldercare of R.I., led the morning's rituals. Smiles and tears of joy abounded as children



From left to right are celebrants and their instructors, Mildred Chaika, Ethan Adler, Dottie Lippman, Donald Zeman, Carolyn Marks, Shirley Halzel, Claire Ernstof, Harold Halzel and Lev Poplow.

and grandchildren "kvelled" on this very special day.

Each of the participants received a special certificate to mark the occasion, and some personal gifts to add to the beautiful memories of having reached this important milestone in their lives.

Adult education

B'not Mitzvah celebration at Beth David



Pictured, from left to right, are the Rev. Ethan Adler, Nancy Stein, Susan Woodford, Beth Dvoretzky, Lorrie Adler, Hinda Kreiger, Denise Rubin and Karen Markin.

NARRAGANSETT — Congregation Beth David, in Narragansett, served as the setting for a group of women who celebrated their B'not Mitzvah during services on both Friday evening, July 7, and Shabbat morning, July 8. The women led many of the prayers, chanted sections of the Haftarah, read their own Torah portions and shared their thoughts on reaching this special day. This event culminated in an in-depth study of Judaism and Hebrew reading.

Rev. Ethan Adler, Spiritual Leader of Beth David, facilitated the courses and coordinated their training. Each of the participants received a gift and a certificate to mark the occasion of having accomplished their goals. In appreciation, the class established the Ethan Adler B'not Mitzvah Endowment, to provide future Bar/Bar Mitzvah families with financial aid.

Adoption session set

PROVIDENCE — Adoption Options is holding a free informational meeting for those exploring the possibility of adoption. Licensed adoption workers with significant experience working with adoptive families, birth mothers and children will be available to provide information and answer questions about the adoption process, home studies and other pertinent questions.

In R.I., the next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the United Way building at 229 Waterman St., Providence (second floor). The meetings are always held on the third Thursday of the month.

In Mass., call 1-800-337-6513 for the next scheduled meeting. The Adoption Options Massachusetts office is located in the Community Counseling Building at 366 Winthrop St. in Rehoboth.

Adoption Options is a non-sectarian, non-profit, comprehensive adoption program of Jewish Family Service working with prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and people who have been adopted.

For more information, contact Peg Boyle, LICSW, at 401-331-3437 or visit www.adoptionoptions.org.

COMMUNITY

Walking tours of Jewish Newport

NEWPORT — The Touro Synagogue Foundation conducts walking tours of historic Jewish Newport and Touro Synagogue.

During the walking component, participants will amble through colonial Newport and have the opportunity to view the historic homes where Newport's Jewish residents lived, and continue on to a visit to the historic Jewish cemetery, purchased and consecrated in 1677, followed by a tour inside Touro Synagogue.

The "Touro Experience," led by Dr. Stephen Kaplan, will be held on Thursday evening,

August 10th and 24th and will be limited to 20 persons. Participants will meet at 7 p.m. at the Touro Synagogue Foundation Bookstore located at the corner of Touro and Spring Streets. A fee of \$15 per person will be collected on the evening of the tour. Reservations are recommended, as tours will be limited to 20 individuals.

For reservations and additional information, contact Robin at Touro Synagogue Foundation at 401-847-4794 x14 or robin@toursynagogue.org.

Summer hours for Syna-

gogue tours now through Labor Day, Sunday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fee: \$5 for adults. Children under 13 are free.

Tickets can be purchased at the Touro Synagogue Bookstore located at the corner of Touro and Spring Streets.

Tours will run every half hour beginning at 10 a.m. The last tour begins at 4:30 p.m. Arrive approximately 10 minutes prior to your tour.

For additional information contact: Arlene at TouroSynagogue Foundation @ 401-847-4794 x23 or arlene@toursynagogue.org.

Healing Center plans environmental retreat

PROVIDENCE — Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener, director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, a faith-based initiative in environmental theology and practice, will lead a day-long Rosh Hashanah retreat on Sunday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Brown Hill. The retreat is being sponsored by the R.I. Center for Jewish Healing.

The intent of the retreat will be to help the community to prepare for *teshuvah*, or return to God, through singing, meditation, chanting, and movement. Participants will look back over the year with clarity and compassion, and will be encouraged to open their hearts to healing and renewal in the new year.

Rabbi Kiener is the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Or in Connecticut, and is frequently invited as a guest speaker at synagogues and retreats across the country.

A vegetarian lunch will be served. The suggested donation is \$45, paid pre-registration is required by Aug. 22. Seating is limited. Registration and other information can be obtained at 401-267-0029, or by email at rcenter@jamestownr.com or by visiting <http://www.jamestownr.com/healing>. Payment may be sent to R.I. Center for Jewish Healing, 230 Lantern Lane E, North Kingstown, R.I. 02852.

Agudas Achim plans fair

ATTLEBORO — Congregation Agudas Achim announces plans for its first Fall Fair, scheduled for October 22, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Included will be a rummage sale, craft items for the holidays and all year items from the synagogue gift shop, food and more. Crafters are invited and welcomed to rent spaces for \$35 each. Call Ken Perlow at 508-285-5047 to register or on the website: www.agudasma.org.

Proceeds from the fair will support the work of the synagogue. Agudas Achim is located at 901 North Main Street in Attleboro, Mass.

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AS WE GROW OLDER

To life! to life! — What are you waiting for?

I had a wise father who would jokingly tell us that he was spending our *yerushub* whenever he bought himself a new car or a new suit.



Tema Gouse

A *yerushub*, to the unlightened, means "inheritance." Since we were never rich, my sister, brother, and I were not threatened by the possible lessening of our inheritance. I tell this story because nowadays many seniors think that it is somehow wrong to spend money on indulgences and only essentials are appropriate. For most of them, that is, of course, hogwash. I am not touting the purchase of precious gems or gas-guzzling ostentatious cars that would shock the bank bal-

ance. If you always traveled tourist class, I am not suggesting you book first-class air travel. But don't you think it is time for the special treats to sometimes be your entitlement?

What I am talking about is that while our families were growing we were cautious to the point often of penuriousness in our spending. Well, the kids have grown; the

Most children raised during the Great Depression had fewer opportunities and more responsibilities. Most of us maintained nice standards of living, never feeling that our parents were obliged to make life easier for us. Many friends recall the financial deprivations of their childhoods and are

There is no age-limit on pleasure. As a matter of fact, when we have adequately served the needs of others, we are even more entitled to it. So it is time to assess your financial assets and evaluate your stamina and live it up.

If you always wanted a fur coat and never felt you could afford it, check the bank balances

at the level that feels most comfortable, not what you think is most affordable. Eat out often. Since we can no longer finish meals in restaurant, the doggie bags make restaurant dining good value.

It sounds like I am spending your money (limited or not) with great abandon. I am not. What I am trying to convince you is that you are entitled to the pleasures you have earned and I have been unable to find a calendar that tells how many tomorrows are left.

I am realistic — not morbid. We have lived long enough to have witnessed multiple wars, disabilities and deaths that impacted on us and those we love. There is no replacement for losses. But to enjoy what we can ease the unchangeable.

I have a rather weird logic for my recommendations. Think of it this way—if you leave large amounts of money to your kids, their spouses (whom you never thought were good enough for your wonderful offspring) will quickly blow all of it on things you never valued.

Life is short; enjoy every minute of it!

Tema Gouse writes a regular seniors' column for the Voice & Herald.

...there is no reason to feel obligated to support grown children...

mortgage is paid, as are tuition bills. And unless you are foolish or loaded with guilt, it is now your turn and there is no reason to feel obligated to support grown children, pay their kids' tuition bills, or finance their dream homes. (We bought houses when we could afford them).

determined that their children should never experience them.

While this reaction is understandable, it is not the wisest parenting. The greatest gift we have to offer our children is teaching them to be independent. Allowing them to achieve what they aspire to is better than handing it to them. You get the point.

No age limit

Enough of the lecturing. (I am getting bombastic in my old age.) All of this leads up to the main premise, which is that now it is your turn. You help others when they need it. You do not waste money. You are a good citizen. But it is now YOUR TURN — so let's get to the good stuff.

and head for the store. PETA be damned! (OY, am I going to get in trouble!) If the man of the house spent a lifetime driving Chevies and aspiring to Volvos, head for the showroom and bargain the salesman down to a good value. (Rationalize it—a Volvo will last longer than a Chevy.) It may even last longer than you.

If for a variety of reasons you never got to Israel, drown your apprehensions, go, and have one of the best experiences of your lifetime.

If you are healthy enough to live independently, do it in the most pleasant affordable way you can. If the responsibilities of the housework or home maintenance are sapping your energy, buy the services. And keep the thermo-

Tamarisk plans varied events

The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living is planning a varied list of late summer events for its residents and the community.

First on the agenda is Dr. Steven Kane presenting the life and music of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, the legendary King of Swing, on Tuesday, August 15 at 3 p.m. Armstrong was a charismatic, innovative performer who helped make American jazz into a celebrated art form.

On Wednesday, August 23, "Tai Chi for Health" will be given by instructor Bob McManus in Tamarisk Gardens at 9:30 a.m. (In case of rain, it will be held in the sunroom.) Tai Chi is a form of slow, dance-like exercise that improves balance and flexibility and may significantly reduce the risk of falls in older adults. Tamarisk invites community members to be its guests for this session.

Tamarisk "Cabaret" will welcome back on Tuesday, August 29, at 6:30 p.m., vocalist Manny Brandao, who sings with a Latin lilt. His selections are chosen from the top 40 hits, ranging from Tom Jones through Al Martino, Steve Lawrence, Julio Iglesias and other well-known performers.

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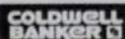
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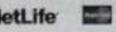
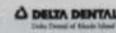
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D'Var Torah

Never Abandon Zion: Thoughts on the *Haftarah* for *Devarim*

ISAIAH 1:1-27

By Erica Brown

In preparation for the upcoming fast of *Tisha B'Av*, the ninth of Av, we traditionally read a number of *haftarah* in the approaching weeks that set the mood for reflection and sadness. This week's *haftarah* from Isaiah does not disappoint. It bewails the distance between God and man and mentions ancient Zion as a forlorn and sinful nation that has lost its moral compass.

One particularly painful image drawn up in prose is that of biblical Zion as lonely and isolated:

"Fair Zion is left,
Like a booth in a vineyard,
Like a hut in a cucumber field,
Like a city beleaguered.

Had not the Lord of Hosts Left us some survivors,
We should be like Sodom,
Another Gomorrah."

That Sodom and Gomorrah are mentioned here as examples of places that have lost their way is not surprising. The story in Genesis 19, as a cautionary tale of what happens to an area steeped in illicit behavior. It illustrates Abraham's shining leadership; Abraham challenges God to find those worthy in the city before destroying it.

Throughout the Bible, these cities are held up as paradigms of poor real estate choices. To illustrate, in Deuteronomy 29:22, we read: "The whole land is brimstone and salt and burning; it is not sown, nor flourishes, nor does

any grass grow on it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah." Cities that are barren of those with good deeds are locations to avoid. Isaiah states that Zion has not yet reached that point but is on its way. There are still some survivors, people of integrity, but Zion is becoming "like" these places of ill-repute.

The image that the prophet uses, which is more confusing, is that of the booth in both a vineyard and a cucumber patch. Not being farmers, most modern readers will be perplexed by this comparison. Sodom and Gomorrah is understandable; a cucumber garden seems a little too tame for what the prophet is trying to achieve with his language.

If we were ancient readers living in an agrarian society, the image would be immediately

meaningful. Booths were placed in vineyards and fields that were usually far away from the owner's home. At the time of harvest, predators and thieves would often steal crops. Booths were places where farm hands and workers could seek refuge from the hot Middle Eastern sun and also held guards who would shoot away or scare away potential thieves.

A booth standing empty in an uncultivated field is a sign of loss and alienation. It means that there is no one to protect the field or vineyard. It means that a place of growth and productivity is lying in waste and desolation. This meaning is backed up by the reference to Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities are not mentioned because of what happened in them during the heyday of

their pranks. They are mentioned because after they burned down, their remains laid empty and lonely with no signs of renewal. These cities became places of isolation, with no human habitation or protection.

When we think of Zion, we think of a flourishing ideology and the physical homeland that it embodies. That homeland, the prophet says, should never be abandoned and desolated. It is our job to protect it. This ancient message for the farmer is just as relevant for us today. We cannot abandon Zion at this time. It cannot stand alone and be isolated but must be actively protected, embraced and supported in every way we can.

This article originally appeared on jofa.org.

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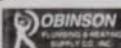
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Obituaries

Lea Eliash, revered educator, Holocaust survivor, dies at 89

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Lea Eliash was a woman of stories. She had them, had lived them, and dedicated her life to telling them. When she passed away, the stories continued. About how she'd press Sunkist candies into your hand on Shabbat. How she'd remember your Hebrew name, and be the only person on earth to still call you by it. Or how special she made you feel when she was teaching you Hebrew, how attentive she was, as if you were her only student rather than one of hundreds.

To some, Lea Eliash was the "ultimate Jewish educator." To others, she was their "honorary bubbe," a woman you couldn't help but love the minute you met her.

On July 24, the Jewish community in Rhode Island lost one of its treasures, when Mrs. Eliash

passed away after a stroke.

She dedicated her life to two tasks. The first was her strong belief in the Hebrew language as a way of perpetuating Jewish life. The second was to speak in schools, colleges and churches throughout the state about her harrowing experiences in Nazi-controlled Eastern Europe, where her parents and sister were murdered.

For many, the kindly woman was a local celebrity; at her funeral, Minna Ellison, longtime friend and executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education, spoke about taking Lea grocery shopping and seeing so many of her former students — age 26 or 66 — coming over to say hello. She had taught in Providence's Jewish community for a half a century, and parent and child alike often shared her tutelage. The Bureau created an award for Excellence in Jewish



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

LEA ELIASH, center, with Alice Goldstein, at left, and Lilian Birch.

Education in her honor.

Mrs. Eliash had been one of the diminishing number of Holocaust survivors remaining in Rhode Island, and was deeply involved with the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum (RIHMM). Whenever she addressed students in the public schools, they would be transfixed by her strength and gentleness, especially in the face of the horrors she had experienced.

"The younger students would often hug her and whisper that they were happy she had lived," recalled Selma Stanzler, president of the RIHMM.

"She always concluded her message by repeating that not everyone was evil, that she and her daughter had survived through the kindness of strangers."

Amazing escape

Born in Lithuania, Lea

Eliash decided at the age of 14 that she wanted to be a teacher. She received an intensive Jewish education from what might have been the first Hebrew High School in all of Europe. In 1941 her husband, Solomon, was taken away to the Dachau concentration camp. She smuggled their baby daughter Asya out of a ghetto in a shopping bag, and entrusted her to a Christian family she barely knew. They kept her safe and also kept their promise to return her when next they met. After two years of living on the run, she was reunited with Asya. Mrs. Eliash spent time in a displaced person's camp and reunited with her husband in 1947.

The Hassenfeld family of Rhode Island provided the affidavit that allowed the Eliash family to emigrate to the U.S. and come to Providence in 1951.

Mrs. Eliash loved Hebrew — speaking it, writing it and teaching others about it. She taught at Temple Emanu-El's Hebrew school for decades and was a substitute teacher at the former Solomon Schechter Day School. She also enjoyed teaching Yiddish classes to adults. After retiring, she taught regularly in her home up to the week of her death.

She especially loved working with adults with no Hebrew background, teaching new or prospective converts and teaching the words of the Shabbat prayers.

When her husband passed away in 1978, she vowed to continue telling the story of the Holocaust and refused to live anywhere but in her own home. As she grew older, a wide network of community members helped walk her to Temple Emanu-El, which Rabbi Wayne Franklin referred to as "her second home."

Friends recalled that her hearing, which declined slightly in later years, became perfect if you spoke Hebrew or Yiddish to her.

She is survived by her daughter, son-in-law Ted, and her grandson Jonathan.

Contributions can be made to Temple Emanu-El or to the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

Author's note: Lea Eliash counted my brother, my sister, my mother and me among her Hebrew students. Ruth Page contributed to this report.

Hella (Spira) Berger, 90

PROVIDENCE — Hella (Spira) Berger, 90, died July 19. She was the wife of the late William Berger.

Born in Austria, a daughter of the late Simon and Hanne Spiro, she lived in Providence since 1938. She was the owner of the former Betty Schloss Handcraft Studio in Providence for 52 years, retiring in 2003.

She was a member of the former Congregation Shaare Tzedek and was active in the Providence Hebrew Day School.

She is survived by a son, Paul Berger, of Westport, Conn.; three grandchildren, Gideon, Alisa and Benjamin and three great-grandchildren, Marcello, Lily and Penelope.

She was the sister of the late Pepi Stark and Rosa, Bernard and Sammy Spiro.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

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Rose Davidson, as a little girl, sporting bows and hose.



Louis, left, and Joseph Rubinstein, bundled up for a long-ago winter.



Goodman brothers, Samuel, Jacob and Joseph. Ca 1914.



Irene Cohen, 10 year-old news girl. Ca 1912.



Norman and Irwin Silverman with a cute little girl (their sister?).



Rose and Hyman Port in bottoms and bows.

If anyone knows more about these photos, we'd love to hear from you. E-mail to voiceread@jfri.org.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNE SHERMAN,
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Simchas

Births



Sebastian Nathaniel Brochu with mom, Alexia Brochu.

EAST GREENWICH — Sebastian Nathaniel Brochu, son of David Francis Brochu and Alexis Jennifer (Walman) Brochu, was born on July 1 at Women and Infants Hospital. He weighed 9 lbs., 3 oz.

He was welcomed home by his siblings Julian David, 4; Cosette Concetta, 3 and Gabriel Francis Brochu, 1.

Maternal grandparents are the late Elaine (Revkin), Rakatansky of Pawtucket; Myron Richard Waldman, and Marie Younkun, of Narragansett, and Herbert Rakatansky and Barbara Sokolof, of Providence.

Paternal grandparents are Norma (Dandy) Dickerson and Bob Dickerson, of Wells, Maine and Francis Emanuel Brochu, of Concord, N.H.



Hailey Rose Homonoff

ARLINGTON, VA. — Matthew and Sophie Homonoff announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Rose Homonoff, on July 1. She weighed 7 lbs., 4 ozs.

Maternal grandparents are David and Alice Fridgwood of Des Moines, Iowa. Paternal grandparents are Marvin and Linda Homonoff of Barrington. Paternal great-grandparents are Phyllis and Harold Homonoff of Boca Raton, Fla.

WARWICK — David and Ang Sheer announce the birth of a son, Ram Alexander Sheer, on July 11. He weighed 8 lbs. He was welcomed home by big brother Jodd.

The maternal grandmother is Pan Pechkul of Thailand. Paternal grandparents are Arthur and Barbara Sheer of Providence. Eva Sheer of Providence is the baby's great-grandmother.

Bat Mitzvah



Kaley May Siegel

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. — Kaley May Siegel, daughter of Harlan and Rise Siegel of Farmington Hills, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on March 11 at Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield, Mich.

Kaley, an honor student, is active in theater and plays the piano and violin.

She is the granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Siegel, and Mrs. Evelyn Glatt and the late Irving Glatt, all of Cranston.

Graduations

Evan Saltzman, son of Richard A. Saltzman and the late Andrea Saltzman, graduated from Bryant University, earning his MBA. His bachelor's degree is from the University of Vermont. He is currently general manager of Saltzmann Watches & More Inc.

PROVIDENCE — Adam B. Slutsky graduated from Dartmouth College in the spring with a bachelor of arts degree, with majors in anthropology and engineering science. He is the son of Dennis M. Slutsky and Fran Z. Slutsky.

People



Bonnie Sekeres

Sekeres named to Housing Commission

PROVIDENCE — Bonnie Sekeres, executive director of Shalom Housing, a part of the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, has been appointed by Gov. Donald Carcieri to serve as the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission's senior advisor.

She has served as a member of the Long Term Coordinating Council where she has lent her expertise on issues of senior housing.

She has been a Rhode Island delegate and presenter at the National Conferences of the American Association of Housing and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). Over the years, she has served on various other task forces and committees. In the past year, she was able to secure for Jewish Seniors Agency, a federal Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) grant that was used in collaboration with other agencies and health professionals in developing a Falls Prevention Program for elderly residents. This NORC grant was the first of its kind in Rhode Island and the program has been replicated in other housing complexes throughout the state where funds have been made available.

Books

Sometimes you can judge a book by its cover

By Sally Brown

COLUMBUS, Ohio (JTA) — As a librarian, I think about book titles. What does one consider when choosing a book? Can the title make a person read or reject a book? Why use a tiresome word when you can captivate the reader with something of interest?

A book title can make you smile long before you read the book. "When the Chickens Went on Strike," adapted from a story by Sholom Aleichem, is one such example. The book appeals to the children even before I read it to them. Lately, a few catchy titles have come across my desk:

"Love with Noodles: An Amorous Widower's Tale" by Harry Freund — I found it to be an enjoyable, lighthearted

book at a time I was adding too many heavy reads to our collection. What is more, the author has some wise and moving things to tell us about Jewish life in the big city: "My father always said that love is good, but love with noodles is better and Violet needs to have lots of noodles."

The book tells the story of a widower who begins to date again two years after his wife's death. There are many women vying for his attention, and there are several funny scenes. Is there a little bit of tongue-in-cheek or is it the way his New York friends really behave?

"Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of Its Moods" by Michael Wax — The subtitle suggests that it is a serious book with some fun thrown

in. The author gives a historical context of the Yiddish language with features of Jewish life and faith that were crucial to the development of the language. Wax has plenty to tell us. For instance, the definition of kvetch is not quite what we usually think it is. The word kvetch actually means "press, squeeze, pinch, strain."

"Blue Nude" by Elizabeth Rosner — This is a new novel by the author of "Speed of Light," which received numerous literary awards. Rosner's latest piece is about an artist and his model, an Israeli child of Holocaust survivors and a German. It is a tale of hatred that becomes love, and great care has gone into the excellent writing. The story moves back and forth through time. The book jacket is a deep color blue,

while the title refers to the artist's model. I am reading this book right now and hoping to select it for one of my book discussion groups.

"Zayda Was a Cowboy" by Jane Levin Nulick — This is indeed a catchy title, especially if you have no idea what a zayda is. The book is a fine example of historical fiction for older children. It tells the story of family members in 1980 whose grandpa comes to live with them. He tells them the story of his flight from Eastern Europe to America — how he became a cowboy, and how he assimilated into American culture.

Sally Brown is librarian of the Minnie Cusby Library at Congregation Tifereth Israel in Columbus, Ohio.