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## Breast cancer survivor shares her story

*The fear, and then hope, in testing for BRCA*

By MARY KORR  
Senior Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE — For Barrington resident Maxine Richman, genetic screening for the BRCA1 and 2 gene mutations was truly the "gift of life."

She was first diagnosed with breast cancer 23 years ago, at age 43. Twelve years later, she was again diagnosed with breast cancer, in the other breast, after a biopsy of a cyst revealed cancer cells in the fluid. She again underwent lumpectomy, followed by radiation.

A chance attendance at a lecture on genetic testing and health insurance several years ago proved to be enlightening.

"I was so misinformed. I thought the BRCA gene only passed down from the maternal side. There was no history of cancer on my mother's side," she said.

But she learned a father can pass it down to his children as well, and there was cancer on her father's side of the family.

In 2006, her doctor advised her to get tested for the BRCA gene. Her test was positive. She carried the BRCA1 mutation.

See GENES, Page 8



Photo by Mary Korr

MAXINE RICHMAN AND HER DAUGHTER, WENDY RICHMAN LEVINSON, spoke about genetic testing at the hereditary cancer forum held last week.

## Hadassah, NCJW hold forum on genetic screening

By MARY KORR  
Senior Contributing Writer

A forum on hereditary breast and ovarian cancer (HBOC) and genetic screening was held last week at an event organized by the Rhode Island chapters of Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

The information was especially relevant for those of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) descent, who are at a significantly elevated risk of breast and ovarian cancer due to a mutation, or alteration, in either of two genes: BRCA1 and BRCA2.

The presenters included Dr. Robert D. Legare, medical director of the Cancer

See FORUM, Page 8

## Akko riots: a sign of Arab-Jewish troubles

*Israeli expert warns of tinderbox in Akko*

By LESLIE SUSSER  
JTA Staff Writer

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The rioting in the mixed Jewish-Arab city of Akko, which erupted after an Arab man drove through a Jewish neighborhood on Yom Kippur, shows just how combustible Arab-Jewish relations in Israel are.

Yet after four successive nights of clashes, in which rampaging Arabs stoned Jewish-owned shops and cars as Jewish mobs torched Arab homes, there was no sign of the violence spreading to other mixed-ethnic cities such as Haifa, Jaffa, Nazareth or Lod.

Nor did the current Jewish-Arab tensions appear likely to reach the proportions they did following October, 2000, when Israeli police shot 12 Israeli Arabs and a visitor from the West Bank in clashes across

See VIOLENCE, PAGE 24

## One-on-one with Leonard Nimoy

Leonard Nimoy, narrator at the Nov. 9 "Shining Through Broken Glass" concert, talks about his strong Jewish roots

See NIMOY, Page 10

'Quarterback' of rescue package talks about bailout, blame, and a new New Deal

By MARY KORR  
Senior Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE — It was three days post-bailout and Congressman Barney Frank, his acid wit

intact, strode on a Brown stage and told students, "I hope I won't lose a lot of fan interest by appearing without my partner,

Bill O'Reilly." The YouTube crowd roared. He was referencing the vitriol

## A very frank Barney Frank

O'Reilly hurled at him during an appearance on his show the previous week. O'Reilly branded Frank a "coward" who was not "manly" enough to admit culpability in the sub-prime mortgage meltdown, as well as troubles at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

"Didn't you say, in 2003, that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were not in a crisis stage?" O'Reilly had challenged the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

In case students didn't hear his answer over what Frank called O'Reilly's "rantings," he repeated it. "I did say that. And you know who else wasn't in a crisis stage? Lehman Bros., AIG, Wachovia, Countrywide, Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs. The financial community was not in a terrible crisis in 2003. What happened was sub-prime lending spun out of control."

See FRANK, Page 12



Photo by Mary Korr  
U.S. REP. BARNEY FRANK spoke at Brown University on Oct. 6.

## Dave Shalansky: not yet a household name, but gainfully employed in Hollywood

*Local actor reveals: "parents made him watch Jackie Gleason"*

BY DAHLIA NEEMAN  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**A**LTHOUGH he's not yet a household name, Providence's Dave Shalansky has achieved success that many "Hollywood wannabes" only dream of. Shalansky, son of Len and Ruby Shalansky, grew up in Providence, graduated from Boston University's School of Dramatic Arts, and moved to New York, before winging his way west to Los Angeles, his current residence. With roles in commercials and such television shows as *Bones*, *ER*, *NCIS*, *Gilmore Girls*, and others, Shalansky recently finished shooting a film, *Greta*, with Hilary Duff and Ellen Burstyn.

Classical High School freshman and admitted fan, Dahlia Neeman, interviewed Shalansky, now age 35, by email. *The Voice & Herald* thought a bit of humor and Hollywood fantasy might brighten these tough days of economic turmoil.

*Voice & Herald:* What was

*your inspiration and motivation for becoming an actor?*

**S**halansky: My motivation? My inspiration? Laughing! I loved laughing growing up. I started making kids at school laugh and that was better than my algebra homework. It stuck with me and became quite infectious.

But, honestly, my parents, especially my father, influenced my taste - he made me watch Jackie Gleason and all the greats like Marlon Brando. I had a major film and television influence as a child. But I think, at the end of the day, that I was born with something. It may be a cliché, I know, but it's true.

*V&H:* How did you get started in your career? What was the first part you had?

**S**halansky: I was studying at Boston University and it was Christmas break. I needed a job while all of my friends went to the Bahamas and I landed

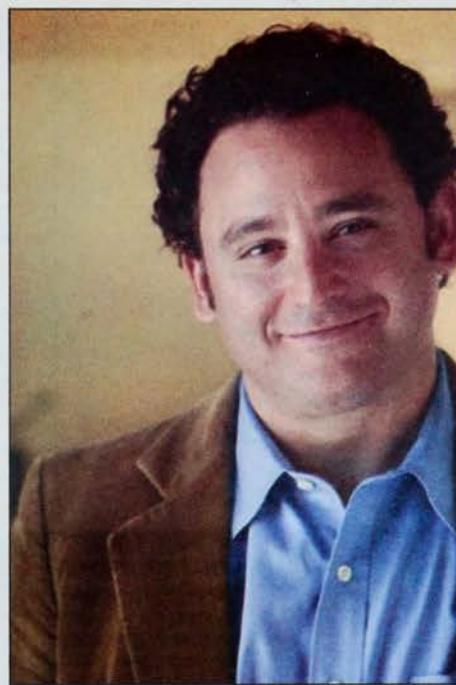


Photo courtesy of Dave Shalansky

a gig with the Lyric Opera of Boston. I got paid \$400 for three weeks of work and I just thought it was amazing. I played a "super" (a non-singing role) in the opera, *Carmen*.

*V&H:* When you were filming ER, what were the props like?

**S**halansky: Amazing! They really have their act together over there. They've been on the air for what? Fourteen seasons? They have the best make-up artists around. I took pictures of myself - when I looked in the mirror, I thought

that they all spoke. I'm not a 15 year old girl and I don't speak at

my nose was broken for real. The set and props are all real. The sad thing is that the *ER* set at Warner Studios is more of a functioning hospital than most inner-city hospitals in the United States.

*V&H:* How long did it take to make you up to look like you'd been beaten up?

**S**halansky: Two hours, and my make-up job was basic. One person in that episode had a compound arm fracture - his call time was for 5:00 a.m. on the set. I was so not envious of that!

*V&H:* What was it like working on *Gilmore Girls*?

**S**halansky: Hard. It was my first television gig; that show had such a special rhythm. It was very, very difficult to get the pacing and speed

**S**halansky: Well, I have met many. But, the most interesting was definitely Al Pacino. I met him when he came into the restaurant where I bartended in New York. He's nuts, funny, but definitely an interesting character. It just must be so hard to be someone like Al - you can't go anywhere without somebody screaming at you. That's enough to make anybody crazy.

*V&H:* Growing up in Providence, could you ever have imagined that one day you would have parts in movies and television shows?

**S**halansky: I always had the drive and the tenacity to make it. I would visit my Grandma Celma in Hollywood, Florida and would pretend that I was visiting Hollywood, California. I always had the bug.

*V&H:* Is there a big Jewish community in Hollywood?

**S**halansky: There is a huge Jewish community in Hollywood. I mean: DreamWorks Pictures: SKG: Spielberg, Katzenberg and Geffen? Enough said.

*V&H:* Is there a movie or TV show that you will appear in soon?

**S**halansky: I am looking forward to the release of *Greta*. But, I am also producing my own pilot right now. It's called *Fitz & Slade*, and we're pitching it to networks as we speak.

Cross your fingers.

*For more information on Shalansky's career, check out [www.daveshalansky.com](http://www.daveshalansky.com).*

**"The ER set at Warner Studios is more of a functioning hospital than most inner-city hospitals in the United States."**

## Brown students study Zionism

*Born in the U.S.A. and living in Israel, professor enlightens students about Israeli issues*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
[nkirsch@jfri.org](mailto:nkirsch@jfri.org)

**A**Schusterman Visiting Scholar with Brown University's Program in Judaic Studies for the 2008-2009 academic year, Professor Sam Lehman-Wilzig traveled some 7,000 miles from his home in Israel to come back to his Eastern seaboard roots.

Born and raised in New York City, Lehman-Wilzig received his Ph.D. at Harvard University where he met his wife, Tami Lehman, who made aliyah a condition of their marriage. Legally combining their family names, on the other hand, was a mutual decision. After getting involved in the volunteer organization North American Aliyah Movement (NAAM), he was elected its national president in March, 2007.

Lehman-Wilzig and Tami made aliyah in October, 1977, after he was offered an academic position in Israel. Since that time, they have resided in Petach Tikva, a suburb of Tel Aviv. The former chairman of the Israel Political Science Association, he is a professor at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan. From 2004 to 2007, he chaired the university's political studies department.

The visiting scholar program was established three years ago, Lehman-Wilzig said, to counter the growing anti-Israeli sentiment on many college campuses. According to information from the nonprofit American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), several foundations underwrite the visiting scholars. Of the 27 visiting professors here this year, AICE reported, 18 - including Lehman-Wilzig - were sponsored by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

The visiting professors have two obligations during their time in America - to teach four college courses and to

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

#### For Greater Rhode Island

Oct. 17	5:41
Oct. 24	5:30
Oct. 31	5:21

For holy day candle lighting times refer to Sept. 19 issue, page 19, Rosh Hashanah section.



See CULTURE, PAGE 11

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"I was so misinformed. I thought the BRCA gene only passed down from the maternal side."**

Maxine Richman  
Breast cancer survivor

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Breast cancer survivor shares her story

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Barney Frank shares his views on 'bailout'.

See Pages 1, 12

### COMING NEXT ISSUE:

ELECTION GUIDE 2008



## New Hillel rabbi wants to open the door to Judaism

*Students' commitment to Hillel initiatives and programs gratifies Rabbi Rackover*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

**A** STRANGER has come to town, but in the classic Rhode Island tradition of "one degree of separation" he wasn't a stranger to the entire community! Rabbi Mordechai Rackover, Associate Chaplain for the Jewish community of Brown University and the rabbi at Brown/RISD Hillel, was delighted to discover that Asher Oser, his friend from his undergraduate studies at Montreal's McGill University, is the rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom on Providence's East Side.

Nearly twice the age of the youngest undergraduates he counsels and prays with, Rackover, with a youthful looking face and wearing jeans, a fleece pull-over and a *yarmulke*, looks more like a graduate student than a 34-year-old rabbi. He's only been in town three weeks, having come from Rockville, Md., where he'd worked as the director of education and the assistant rabbi at a 450 family Orthodox shul, Beth Shalom, so he's still learning about Rhode Island.

"The tempo of life is very different here," he says. "I live near campus, so I don't have that hour or more commute that so many people do in Washington, D.C. It's definitely more mellow here."

Rackover, who had two phone interviews and eight to nine in-person interviews in New York and Providence during the application process, said, "I am unbelievably impressed with students

and their capabilities, their intelligence, eagerness and sense of responsibility. Even in the interview process, the leadership was apparent – people were serious about the interviews and very respectful of people's privacy."

Students responsibilities and capabilities come into play daily, Rackover explains, as the activities and programs Hillel offers are – and must be – student-driven and student-led. "Hillel has four full-time program staff and there are some 1,200 Jewish students at Brown," he says.

"We don't have a custodian here who installs the , the students do it. There's a tremendous amount of sweat equity here."

The core group of 40 to 50 student leaders are involved in everything from coordinating Torah readings and Shabbat greeters to proposing and implementing tzedakah activities for Israel, programs for Jewish gay

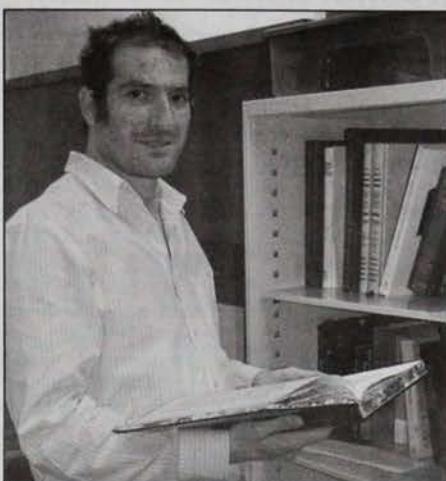


Photo by Nancy Kirsch  
**RABBI RACKOVER** in his office at Brown/RISD Hillel

unaffiliated, Rackover is committed to ensuring that everyone feels that their voices are being heard in this project called Judaism. "Hillel offers so many initiatives to help our students' Jewish identity become stronger," he says. "My duties and responsibilities are quite diverse. For example, right now, I'm counseling several students whose grandparents have recently died and

in the Czech Republic; their first two children – sons Tuvya Shalom and Simcha Avraham – were born in Israel – and their daughter, Eden Sara Sasha, was born in Maryland...certainly, a family with geographic diversity! Momentarily speechless, he quickly ticks off these attributes: curious, autodidact, cook, husband and father; later, he emphasizes how important teaching is to his spiritual life.

Rackover is eager to teach – both within and outside of Hillel – on some of his favorite topics, including mid-19th century Polish Chasidism, the connections between biblical and

rabbinic texts, and biblical realia – check out <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realia> for more information. Rackover is interested, for example, in discovering what frankincense and myrrh actually looks like, and what kinds of foods did people from biblical days eat?

"I do miss eating out in restaurants," bemoans Rackover, who enjoys cooking – and eating

– kosher food, and plans to host an Israeli brunch soon for several Hillel students. Growing up in a nonobservant but traditional Jewish home, Rackover felt that something was missing in his Jewish education and, as a result, interrupted his studies at McGill University [where he was involved in Hillel, he notes] to study in Israel for three years. He returned to McGill, graduated with honors with a degree in Jewish studies and then returned to Israel where he studied for two and a half years in a neo-Chasidic yeshiva and then at the Pardes Institute's Educators' Program that trains teachers to teach in the diaspora. He took

**"It's important that everyone feels their voices are being heard in this project called Judaism."**

and lesbian students, inter-faith initiatives, and more. One staff-led initiative includes a Birthright Israel trip. Students who participate in Hillel activities run the gamut – from those who were super-involved in their synagogues or other Jewish organizations before they came to campus to those who haven't had much exposure at all, he says. With students coming from all backgrounds – Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and

another student whose mother is seriously ill. And, I have students who are desperate to learn more, study more. 'Is cheese kosher?' they ask or 'Do people have to fulfill mitzvoth?' The layers and layers of conversation are great." When asked to describe himself in five words, he might have done so with "A man of the world," given these facts: he was born and raised in Montreal; he lived in Israel for several years where he met and married Nechama Lea, who was born and raised

exams and was ordained by an Orthodox rabbi in Jerusalem in 2004.

The first rabbi, at least in recent memory, in his family, Rackover is eager to fulfill the spiritual and intellectual needs of the entire Jewish community at Brown, RISD and in Providence.

To contact Rabbi Rackover, email him at [rabbi@brown.edu](mailto:rabbi@brown.edu) or call 401-863-2733. For more information about Brown/RISD Hillel, at 80 Brown St., Providence, call 401-863-2805 or [www.brown-hillel.org](http://www.brown-hillel.org).

### People are talking about Rabbi Rackover:

**H**ILLEL BOARD MEMBER David London says: "Hillel's student trustees are wise beyond their years. [Of all the candidates] Rabbi Rackover was the candidate who the students felt was most engaging in terms of connecting with them in their Jewish journeys. They loved him, the other trustees loved him, everyone loved him – he was unanimously selected. These students are our mission and if he turns them on, he's doing the job he was brought here to do."

The Reverend Janet M. Cooper Nelson, Chaplain of Brown University [and Rabbi Rackover's supervisor] says: "From the time of his first visit to campus, his learning and energy were abundantly clear. These radiant qualities ignited enthusiasm among students, board members and colleagues at Hillel. Mordechai's imagination and warmth are important strengths that enable him to build upon our strong tradition of rabbinic leadership and the university's marvelous collaboration with Hillel."

## How to contact us

### Executive Editor

Richard Asinoff/rasinoff@jfri.org/421-4111, ext. 168

### Interim Editor

Nancy Kirsch/nkirsch@jfri.org/421-4111, ext. 204

### Contributing Senior Writer

Mary Korr

### Correspondents:

Dr. Stanley Aronson, Barbara Fields, Temsa Gouse, Alan Krinsky, Yehuda Lev, Rabbi James Rosenberg, Daniel Siegeltz, Joshua Stein, Alan Zuckerman

### Editorial Board:

Howard Tinberg, Interim Chair  
Members: Barbara Fields, Eleanor Lewis, Toby London, Rabbi Sarah Mack, Rabbi Jacqueline Sattlow, Richard Stein, Joshua Stein, Ezra Siegeltz

### Advertising Representative

Frank Zasloff/fzasloff@jfri.org/421-4111, ext. 160

### Production & Graphic Design

Leah Camara

### Direct extension to advertising:

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**The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD**

130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906  
401-421-4111-401-331-7961 (fax)  
E-mail: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org)

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**FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
**Joe six-pack, Vietnam  
and Yom Kippur**

**DOWNTURN: We  
need to increase our  
generosity**

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jffri.org

**I**N FEBRUARY 1975, I moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as an editor of a new weekly newspaper, which planned its launch that spring. However, for lack of startup money, the launch was delayed for six months. I was left with a title but no salary, and to survive, I freelanced. I soon fell upon hard times.

It was not from lack of gumption. I sold an item to *Rolling Stone* (Joe Klein was the Washington desk editor then) on the opening of the film documentary, "Hearts and Minds." There was a brief piece sold to *New Times* on the pandas mating at the National Zoo. I sold a longer news story about a hijacked tuna boat in Peru to the newly revived *Harpers Weekly*. I covered the Ali-Wepner fight from a bar in Bayonne, the hometown of the fighter/liquor salesman known as The Bayonne Bleeder, but couldn't find a buyer. An assignment from the Village Voice about the arrest of Susan Saxe, a radical fugitive, was spiked, and, despite promises, they never paid me a kill fee. I covered a Bruce Springsteen concert (a month or two before the album "Born To Run" was released), but the editors at a local newspaper said they weren't interested. Never heard of him, they said.

Out of money, I took a job as a cook at a new Mexican restaurant, inexplicably named Rocky Racoons Saloon and Rosa's Cantina. What happened in that basement kitchen is a tale I have never written about and rarely shared.

The owners of the restaurant were the sons of executives at Riggs National Bank; it was, according to the head of the construction crew building the new eatery, a huge money laundering operation by the bank. This construction chief, who explained how he was paid off the books, had been a key operative — an assassin — working for the CIA's Phoenix program in Vietnam. He talked proudly about his killing prowess. The night prep man was a former Green Beret who had handled prisoner interrogation; he always spoke in a gentle whisper. The head cook running the kitchen was a former grunt from Vietnam. He was also addicted to speed.

One morning, after I had been working at Rocky's for four months, the head cook showed up in the

See DOWNTURN, Page 6

**Going to shul to connect  
with our fellow Jews**

**HARRY GOLDEN** (1902-1981), the warm-hearted American Jewish humorist, author of the best-selling *Only in America*, once quipped: "Garfinkle goes to temple to talk to God; I go to temple to talk to Garfinkle."

We find ourselves in synagogue, particularly during this High Holy Days season, for all kinds of reasons: to talk to God, to search out the deepest places in our own selves, and — yes — to assuage our guilt for not showing up more frequently.

Yet I would suggest that our desire to "talk to Garfinkle" is among the most powerful forces pulling us to *shul*; it is our "home" synagogue that offers us the best opportunity for connecting and reconnecting with our fellow Jews.

As many of you know, on July 1, 2007, I retired as rabbi of Temple Habonim in Barrington after 33 years of intense involvement with this growing, dynamic congregation.

Following the long-established protocol of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, both my wife Sandy and I absented ourselves from the public life of our home synagogue for approximately nine months, an appropriately symbolic gestation period to allow my most capable successor, Rabbi Andrew Klein, sufficient time and space to establish new rhythms for study and worship, time and space to challenge the Barrington Jewish

**Local philanthropist lauds Gouse**

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoy your articles in *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.

I'm in my slowing years and I wonder, too, where my energy has gone. Thankfully when there are things I HAVE to do, my energy

**IT SEEMS TO ME  
The call of Garfinkle**

community to move in new directions.

Both Sandy and I found this self-imposed exile quite difficult, but our discomfort at staying away from Temple Habonim was mitigated by the warm reception we received from both colleagues and laity at Temple Beth El and Temple Emanu-El here in Providence, where we attended Friday evening services on a number of occasions during our months of "wandering" and, perhaps I should add, "wondering."

I also owe a debt of gratitude to my recently retired colleague, Rabbi Neil Kominsky, my friend of 40 years, who welcomed Sandy and me with open arms to his congregation, Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley up in Lowell, Mass., for the 5768 High Holy Days.

It is indeed heartening to feel part of an ever-expanding circle of

— my physical, emotional, and spiritual home. Worshipping once again at Temple Habonim during this *Rosh Hashanah* was, for both Sandy and me, a home-coming.

There were so many Garfinkles with whom to catch up. Before the first words of prayer were spoken on *Erev Rosh Hashanah*, Sept. 29, Rabbi Klein set precisely the right tone when he addressed the community: "These are scary times." (The Dow Jones had plunged almost 800 points just hours before.) "These are scary times, uncertain times, but tonight we are in a safe place, a place where we can take comfort in each other."

With that, Rabbi Klein asked us to take a moment to introduce ourselves to the people around us whom we might not yet know.

Home at last. Time to talk to Garfinkle — if only through a brief exchange of pleasantries, a handshake, a smile; time to re-establish relationships with those many individuals with whose lives we have become enmeshed.

Returning home to Temple Habonim for this High Holy Days season has reinforced my sense of how central the synagogue community is to the very survival of our people. I have also been reminded that Harry Golden's quip does not necessarily imply that when you go to synagogue, you need to choose between talking to Garfinkle or talking to God. My own experience has taught me that at times talking to Garfinkle provides a most supportive context for talking to God.

Rabbi James Rosenberg can be reached at rabbieremeritus@templehabonim.org.

**"Worshipping once again at  
Temple Habonim during this Rosh  
Hashanah was for both Sandy  
and me a home-coming."**

Jewish communities; over the years I have had the privilege of worshipping in dozens of different synagogues in the United States and Canada as well as in London, Rome, Budapest, Moscow and, of course, Jerusalem.

While I have felt welcome in all of these synagogues, wherever they happen to be, these synagogues have not been "home," for home is where I can talk to Garfinkle.

For more than three decades, Temple Habonim has been my synagogue home

**Letters to the Editor**

**Binder's challah looks  
nothing like those  
featured in  
The Voice & Herald**

CLEARLY, the ovens at The Jewish Voice & Herald have miraculous properties!

As pictured in the *Rosh Hashanah* issue, a *challah* shaped into a circle straightened into a perfect braid.

I'm sure that if your readers tried my recipe's directions at home, they would be hard-pressed to have similar results.

In fact, I can almost 100 percent guarantee that any round *challah* placed into the oven will come out "roundish."

All the best for a happy New Year.

Mark Binder  
Providence, R.I.

**More on kosher meat and communal debate**

NOT wishing to beat a dead horse, or cow in this case, in the Haftarah read on Yom Kippur (Isaiah 57) the people ask God: "Why did You not see when we fasted?" to which God answered: "Because on your fast day you sought out personal desires and you oppressed all whom you aggrieved." Did the owners of the Rubashkin slaughterhouse ever hear

the words of this *Haftarah*? The answer isn't to change how kosher is defined. The answer is to assure that all of God's laws and admonitions are adhered to. (Which, it was my understanding, is the whole point of having a *Mashgiach*.)

David Mandelbaum, M.D., Ph.D.  
Providence, RI

**Solar power: no bargain for this consumer**

IN the Sept. 5 edition of *The Jewish Voice & Herald* appeared an article, written by Richard Asinof, advocating a residential solar system. The estimated total cost would be \$50,000. The annual

savings would be \$3,102. Therefore, the payback would be sixteen years, which is no bargain.

Barrie Shore  
Providence, R.I.

**Submissions**

Send submissions to: *Jewish Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or e-mail to: voiceherald@jffri.org.

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.

## FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

# Ancient holy books aren't necessarily sources of all wisdom

**Prayer matters, but only for those who believe it does**

THERE ARE several things not suitable for nice Jewish boys. Somewhere on that list will be found becoming a tyrant, but even higher up is believing that the earth is the center of the universe because for



**Josh Stein**

thousands of years, that's what people knew to be true. Take the first no-no. Americans (I use my students as exemplars) often conflate the words "tyrant" and "dictator," an easy mistake as both are loathsome. But, like so many things, the terms (which go back to the ancient world) mean two very different things. Tyrant is the older term. In ancient Athens, for example, democracy led to chaos. Parties could not agree, law and order broke down; the economy

was in a state of collapse. Into this chaos emerged a man with the unfortunate name of Pisistratus (you can only begin to imagine how my students have mangled that moniker on their essay exams). He said, in effect, give me all power and I will resolve the crisis. No more duly elected officials. I will hold power indefinitely and promise that in return for your liberties I will restore law and order and improve the economy.

And he came through. After seizing the reins of government, he ordered building on a massive scale which beautified the city and employed the workers. His police enforced the law. Everybody was happy. Until they weren't, and he was overthrown.

But then, not content to retire to his estates, he hired a beautiful statuesque woman who rode into town on a magnificent chariot declaring herself to be the goddess Athena and demanded that Pisistratus be restored to power. Sigh; he was; the gullible were overawed, as often is the case.

A dictator does not seize power unlawfully, not in ancient Rome, anyway. There, when

things were darkest, when the enemy was at the gates or the people were riotous, the Senate could appoint one person, called a dictator, to have all power for six months to resolve the crisis, at the end of which he would surrender his extraordinary power, be tried and either rewarded or punished. (In

**"I figure HaShem isn't into hypocrisy and so those who don't believe in the efficacy of prayer shouldn't actually pray."**

answer to your unstated question, yes, towards the end, dictators didn't surrender their power and the Republic collapsed.)

In New York City, of which your faithful correspondent is a native son, the people voted for term limits a few years ago. Mayors could be elected twice, then no more. Now, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has announced that he will propose that the law be amended to allow current incumbents (not future ones) to seek a third term. After all, the city and the nation are in economic crises. Who

better than he, financial genius that he undoubtedly is, to resolve matters? But there's that pesky term limits law. So...change the rules! In this way tyrants are born. Not Bloomberg, but those who follow his example. Amazingly (to me) the liberal-leaning *Times*, the conservative *Daily News* and the reactionary

*Post* support the power grab. It's as though the goddess Athena had descended on their board rooms and told them what to write.

As to the Jew who declares that the earth is the center of the universe and defends this by pointing to all the scientific texts and philosophers who ever since Aristotle have maintained the obvious truth of this, I must confess, I made him up. I do have a colleague, however, who has made the same sort of assertion about prayer.

Those who know me know that I don't pray, exactly; I go to shul and sometimes sing, and I begin Friday nights by saying *Kiddush* after my wife has lit candles, but prayer? No. I figure HaShem isn't into hypocrisy and so those who don't believe in the efficacy of prayer shouldn't actually pray. But my colleague

insists that in the High Holy Days season there is a moment for prayer (OK, no problem there), but then he continues that we can be sure of this "because our forebears told us so." Whoa! This is proof? He also contends that prayer matters. "How can we be sure...?" Again, there is a simple answer: The *Torah* tells us so. God... taught us how to pray for repentence and forgiveness. Very interesting.

Athena taught the Athenians how to govern themselves. Do we believe that? Aristotle and all the wise men taught us that the sun revolves around the earth. Do we believe that?

Hinduism is at least as old as Judaism and in the *Bhagavad Gita* (ca. 500 BCE), Krishna taught Arjuna (and by extension all of us) that reincarnation and caste are the ways of the gods. Do we believe that just because it's in the ancient holy books and taught by the Brahmins?

Let us pray: "Dear Lord, give us wisdom and not reliance."

*Joshua Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. He can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.*

## In good faith: can't we all respect one another's different views?

**Americans' diverse viewpoints make for a stronger, more vibrant country**

**A**S THE presidential election finally nears, I offer some last thoughts for your consideration.

First thought: An American Jew's vote ought not to be determined by the single issue of what is best for Israel. As Americans, we ought to consider what is in this nation's interest. In addition, there are a whole host of other issues, including healthcare, education, energy, and the economy that ought to motivate us as well, especially given some significant differences in the platforms of the candidates.

These are crucial issues having nothing to do with Israel, and many people would argue that the candidates' differences on these matters are much greater than their positions on Israel.

Second thought: It is not even clear what or who is best for Israel. Does support for Israel mean supporting the current government, whatever it might be? Does it mean supporting a particular party within the wildly diverse Israeli political spectrum? Does it mean leaving Israel alone to do as it pleases? When the Israeli government unilaterally left Gaza, did support for Israel mean upholding the government's policy or opposing it? Is the exertion of diplomatic pressure in the pursuit of peace necessarily a demonstration of lack of support? What if rhetoric supports Israel but actual policy destabilizes the region? In brief, there is not necessarily one single definition of what is best for Israel and what it means to support Israel.

Third thought: Whether concerning support of Israel or

many other issues, individuals can hold, in good faith, very different, even contradictory convictions - and we therefore ought not to condemn as immoral or ignorant those with whom we disagree. In the case of Israel, this means one should not say, "My view of Israel's best interests is the

**"Indeed, difference of opinion, protest, and freedom of speech are all important American and democratic values."**

only true or sensible position, and anyone who disagrees and would vote for a candidate with different views obviously does not care about Israel's welfare or security." No, individuals can genuinely disagree about how best to ensure Israel's welfare and security and yet remain equally concerned about these goals. In the presidential election, there are many passionate supporters of Israel advocating for both Senator McCain and Senator Obama.

Just as we discard the notion that someone who disagrees with us does not really feel concern for Israel, we must likewise reject the oft-repeated accusation that to oppose a war, the Iraq war or another, is by definition to oppose the troops. A person can support the troops while at the same time think a war is mistaken policy producing disastrous results.

Supporting troops can mean trying to bring them home and not only supporting a continuation of the war effort. Two citizens can be equally patriotic and yet take opposing positions on the wisdom of engaging in a military conflict. Indeed, difference of opinion, protest, and freedom of speech are all important American and democratic values.

And so I see as particularly dangerous the assertion that one candidate is for our country, with the implication that the other candidate is not, that the other candidate is for himself or for some outside interests different from those of "our country." Such language risks

defining not only a candidate - but many millions of Americans - as unpatriotic or un-American. How can we live together constructively if we suspect our neighbors of working to undermine our nation? Or worse, what policies become reasonable once we have defined others as enemies or enemy sympathizers?

Often, we simply fail to understand how someone can support the other candidate. How can they watch the very same speeches or debates and see things so differently? How can they think that candidate is better for the country? How can they not see that what the candidate is saying does not match his or her history or voting record?

Whenever we begin to assume that our fellows are simply ignorant or blinded by what they wish to see, we have to assume we are just as likely to see the world in our own image, to see the best in our candidate and the worst in other candidates. We see how our candidate is sincere and

**See POLITICS, Page 6**



**Alan Krinsky**

interest. In addition, there are a whole host of other issues, including healthcare, education, energy, and the economy that ought to motivate us as well, especially given some significant differences in the platforms of the candidates.

## There shall be no needy among you

**More than 7,000 Rhode Islanders will be homeless this winter**

By MARTY COOPER  
mcooper@jfri.org

**T**HREE shall be no needy among you," Deuteronomy (15:4). Our faith values call on us, as Jews, to respond to those in our community who are in need.

Whether in Rhode Island, which ranks second in the nation in unemployment at more than 8 percent, or across the country and around the world, people are having a difficult time. As banks and other financial service companies around the world are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy and collapse, families in Rhode Island face foreclosures, job-

lessness, high heating, grocery bills and health care issues.

To make matters even more troubling, the State of Rhode Island significantly reduced social services to those in need. Programs such as Meals on Wheels and those that benefit the senior community have experienced significant cutbacks in government funding. The RIte Care, the health insurance program for the working poor, and Head Start, an early intervention program to assist three and four year old children living in poverty, have both been substantially cut.

Not since the Great Depression has there been a greater

**"No senior citizen, no child, no individual should go to bed hungry or homeless."**

need to help our neighbors.

The Rhode Island Inter-Faith Coalition (RIIC) was formed this summer to help



Marty Cooper

fight poverty with faith.

The coalition, comprised of nearly all the state's faith-based organizations, includes the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, the American Baptist Church of Rhode Island, the Ministers' Alliance of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Conference of United Church of



**CHAIRS IN FRONT OF THE STATEHOUSE** rally for Head Start. Each of the 400 symbolized a cut in education for a poor child.

Christ and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence.

RIIC is partnering with such social justice and community action organizations as Progreso Latino, Kids' Count, The Poverty Institute of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless.

Several Jewish agencies – including Jewish Family Service and Jewish Seniors Agency and many of our nearby synagogues – belong to the coalition as well.

The RIIC has a lofty, and challenging goal – to reduce poverty by 50 percent within 10 years. However, in the short term, there is an immediate need to help our neighbors who live in poverty – a population that is growing daily in these challenging economic times.

As Jews, we are obligated to help those in need. Most synagogues already have programs for food and clothing donations.

If you gave one bag of food last year, consider digging deep into your cupboards and give two bags this year. If you gave one coat last year, donate two this year. On the other hand,

if your synagogue does not yet have such a *tzedakah* program, I encourage you to start one.

Members of our General Assembly often do not hear from constituents – talk to them, they will listen and take it to heart. When you see your state representative or state senator in the grocery store, greet him or her and express your concerns about poverty and ask what he or she is doing to help address this concern.

This winter will be a cold one for everyone. Experts anticipate some 7,000 individuals will be homeless in Rhode Island. Many will live in shelters that desperately need more food, clothing, toiletries, blankets and volunteers.

Now is the time for us to help make fellow Rhode Islanders a little warmer, a little more nourished, and a little more hopeful. No senior citizen, no child, no individual should go to bed hungry or homeless. Your support is needed and appreciated.

*Marty Cooper is JFRI's Community Relations Council Director*

### POLITICS:

**differences are not a sign of weakness**

From Page 5

how the others are self-serving and deceptive.

However much we are mystified by the convictions of others, we ought to set our wonder aside and assume that our fellows are acting on deeply-held values and have arrived at their convictions and choices in good faith. Perhaps there are political operatives who are insincere and intentionally deceptive, but most of us care about and act on a set of values.

Last thought: Both major candidates for the presidency have promised to engage in bipartisanship. Such prom-

ises are typically followed by increased partisanship and jockeying for position in place of solving difficult problems. After this election is over, we ought to hold our new president to this promise and to recognize the good faith of our allies and our opponents alike, to work together to make our country a better place, one of greater prosperity for all.

*Alan Krinsky, a Providence resident, works in healthcare quality improvement and as a freelance writer. He can be reached at adkrinsky@netzero.net.*

### DOWNTURN: we need to increase our generosity

From Page 4

kitchen holding a brown paper bag, pulled out a pistol from the bag, went up to the broiler cook, put the gun to his head, and pulled the trigger. The gun was empty; the hammer clicked on metal, the broiler cook soiled himself. I resigned that afternoon.

Within a week, I left the city. Even to my friends and family, I never told the truth about why I departed so suddenly.

This Yom Kippur, as I acknowledged my shortcomings and my failings, my thoughts returned to those days when I was down and out in Washington, D.C.

Why? In part, I think, the memories were jarred from my unconscious in reaction to

our economic and financial world collapsing around us. In the coming months, so many of our friends, neighbors and colleagues will be faced with difficult choices, through no fault of their own.

It's never easy to ask for help; it's even harder when so many will be competing for so few services as a result of cutbacks. The importance of our ability to give – both in terms of philanthropy and in being good neighbors in our community – will grow. We need to be even more generous, and to resist the temptation to respond to the fear-mongers who point fingers and try to divide us.

Also, so much of what occurred in that basement kitchen three decades ago,

I realize now, was about Vietnam. For all the current pandering of politicians and pundits about Joe six-pack, what's missing from our current political dialogue is an honest discussion about what really happened in Vietnam – a conflict built upon the deceptions and lies by our political and military leaders.

That same lack of honesty seems to prevail in our current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wonder: What if the next presidential debate were held at the Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C., with the podiums in front of the deepest part of the black granite V, with the tens of thousands of names etched into stone as a backdrop?



The Vietnam memorial with 58,000 names inscribed on it.

## How the March of the Living changed my life

*To me, Hineni means that I am part of the Jewish community*

BY ALANNAH JOHNSON  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**I** LOVE BEING Jewish. I love my Jewish community. I am actively involved at my synagogue, Temple Am David, and in USY. I'm in my senior year at school and at the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School. But, I never felt so much like I was proud to be Jewish, and part of a community as I did when I went on the March of the Living last spring.

I was apprehensive about going to Auschwitz and Birkenau and Treblinka and all the other places we visited. But on *Yom HaShoah*, the day of the March of the Living, we lined up on the pathways in Auschwitz to do the march to Birkenau.

There were thousands of us. All around me, I could hear

Jews speaking in a variety of languages. Imagine, though, what it was like to hear so many of those people also speaking a common language — Hebrew. Jews from Belgium, Greece, Mexico, Jamaica and more than 20 other countries could communicate with each other in Hebrew. So, my idea of what it means to be Jewish now means that I am part of a worldwide community.

On *Yom HaShoah* and on *Yom Ha'atzmaut* in Israel, approxi-



ALANNAH JOHNSON prepares a memorial placard for "planting" at Birkenau on *Yom Ha'Shoah*.



ALANNAH JOHNSON (right) lights memorial candles in the Lodz Cemetery in Lodz, Poland.

**"I will never think about the Holocaust or the importance of the State of Israel in the same way again."**

mately 9,000 Jewish teenagers stood, marched, cried, danced and sang together. All of us said

up for what is right, by being an advocate for Israel.

I came back from the March

Hineni, here I am.

To me, Hineni means that I am part of the Jewish community, and that it is my responsibility to stand up for that community.

Sometimes that might mean remembering and honoring those who came before us, like we did in Poland, where we also brought prayer, spirit, strength and a sense of hope. Sometimes that means standing

of the Living trip tired and inspired. I think that when you take part in something so powerful, you can't help but be changed. In some ways, it was life-changing because I will never think about the Holocaust or the importance of the State of Israel in the same way again.

For me, inspiration comes from the combined strength of the Jewish people. The Nazis tried to destroy the Jewish people. There are others in the world today who would like to do the same thing. But here I am. Here we are.

Without the support of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, I would not have been able to participate in the March of the Living. The March is a program that every teen in our community should have the opportunity to participate in. On behalf of my fellow March of the Living travelers, I thank our community for its continuous support.

## Women from Young Leadership Network help launch 2009 annual community campaign

*When women give, it's based on who will benefit*

VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
[voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org)

**T**HE Young Leadership Network of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) is participating in the launch of the 2009 annual community campaign. On Sept. 23, Michelle Noble's home was the site of the second annual Home Sweet Home for young women.

Lisa Shorr, chair of the Jaffa Gate & Pomegranate Divisions for the Women's Alliance, shared some "aha" moments that motivated her to become more engaged in our community campaign efforts.

Shorr said she's learned that, "When men give, it is based on who is asking. When women give, when you and I give, it is based on who will benefit."

Lisa Shorr

to New England, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and top Israeli fashion designers for the city's Fashion Week 2008.

Bonnie Steinberg Jennis, vice president of campaign for the Women's Alliance, said to the more than two dozen women present: "We women take care of each other — it is what we do."

The Young Leadership Network is a new effort by JFRI to engage the next generation of Jewish community leaders. The women involved in "The Network," as it is familiarly known, are committed to supporting Federation's development efforts and serving as leaders in the Jewish community, and also come together to share in Jewish life and learning opportunities.

Just recently, 10 women picked up fashion tips at "Get Stylin'" with the Hottest Israeli Designers in Boston, an event sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel



Photo courtesy of Women's Network

Gathering at the 'Get Stylin' event in Boston are, from left, Lisa Davis, Randi Beranbaum, Lauri Friedman, Jordana Jaffee, Nadav Tamir, Israeli Consulate General, Rachel Mersky Woda, JFRI's Director of Next Generation Philanthropy, Julie Bromberg, Alison Walter, Susan Gertsacov, Bethany Sutton and Laura Schaffer.

The Young Leadership Network is active and growing. Young adults interested in getting involved in The Network can contact Rachel Mersky Woda, director of next generation philanthropy, at JFRI by e-mail at [rwoda@jfri.org](mailto:rwoda@jfri.org), or call 421-4111, ext. 206.

### Jewish Federation of Rhode Island 2009 Annual Community Campaign

**Sunday, November 16**  
**Super Sunday**  
(The annual phonathon)

**Sunday, December 14**  
**Campaign Closing Event**  
(details to follow)

## GENES: Testing for BRCA mutations can be the gift of life

From Page 1

Her worst fears were realized, not for herself, but for her daughter, Wendy Richman Levinson, and her precious granddaughter.

She also dreaded calling her paternal first cousins with the news.

"There are no words to describe the emotions that I felt," she said. "Hearing all this was too much to absorb. And, as a carrier, I was told I had a 50 percent risk of developing ovarian cancer."

She was informed of her treatment options.

"I could reduce the risk of ovarian and breast cancer by having my ovaries and

both breasts removed." She underwent the sur-

mom share her story, along with husband, Scott Levinson.

"I admire her more than anyone than anyone in the world," she said. "I'm 43, the same age my mom was when she was first diagnosed with breast cancer." She shook her head.

"Have you been tested for the gene?" I asked her.

She nodded.

"It was the longest five weeks of my life.

All I could think about was my daughter," Wendy said.

Her tests were negative — a gift of life there were no words to describe.

Wendy Richman Levinson, talking about her mother

ies. "I am a survivor of breast cancer twice," she said. "Once again, I realize how lucky I am."

Her daughter Wendy sat in the front row of the breast cancer forum listening to her

## FORUM: Genetic screening, hereditary cancer put into focus

From Page 1

Risk Assessment and Prevention program and the Breast Health Center at Women & Infants Hospital; Jessica Kent, a cancer genetic counselor there, as well as Maxine Richman, who has had breast cancer twice and who carries one of the mutant genes, BRCA1.

**'FOUNDER' MUTATION**  
Kent described the mutations in the breast cancer genes as "founder" mutations, which refers to the chance presence of these genes among the Jewish "founders" or ancestors who immigrated to eastern Europe

at the time of the *Diaspora* (70 A.D.) They are not believed to occur spontaneously today.

For *Ashkenazi* women, the statistics are sobering: 1 in 40 is estimated to be a carrier, as compared with 1 in 1,000 among the general population. The mutated gene can be inherited from either a father or mother; if either parent is a carrier of a BRCA mutation, each child has a 50 percent risk of inheriting it.

### CANCER RISKS

The BRCA mutations substantially increase the risk (33 to 50 percent) for developing breast and ovarian cancer, often

before the age of 50, compared to the general population, which has only a 2 percent risk.

Kent showed data of lifetime risks for developing breast or ovarian cancer in BRCA1 and 2 carriers.

### BRCA1:

Breast cancer, 40 to 85 percent, often early onset. Second primary breast cancer, 40 to 60 percent

Ovarian cancer, 16 to 44 percent

### BRCA2:

Breast cancer, 50 to 85 percent  
Ovarian cancer, 10 to 20 percent

### BRCA2:

Breast cancer, 40 to 85 percent, often early onset. Second primary breast cancer, 40 to 60 percent

Ovarian cancer, 16 to 44 percent

Male breast cancer, 6 percent

Additionally, a male with a BRCA mutation can carry a 3- to 4-fold increased risk of prostate cancer by the age of 80

### LIKELIHOOD OF CARRYING BRCA1 AND BRCA2

The likelihood that an *Ashkenazi* woman has mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes is greater if one or more of the following statements is true:

- She has been diagnosed with breast cancer (below age 50);
- Has a mother, sister or daughter with breast cancer before age 50 or ovarian cancer at any age;

- Has a woman in the family who has had both breast cancer and ovarian cancer;
- Has a woman in the family who has had bi-lateral breast cancer (in both breasts);
- Has a male in the family who has had breast cancer.

### THE BRCA TEST

The BRCA analysis is a blood test designed to analyze the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes for the founder mutations. Insurers generally cover the expense of the testing in high-risk patients.

It is appropriate for women with a personal and/or family history of breast cancer.

See ASHKENAZI, Facing Page

## Save The Dates!

### PJ Library Book Fair @ Barnes & Noble Warwick

Wednesday, December 10th 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

PJ Library Story times \* Live Music \* Raffle \* Hanukkah foods  
Jewish jewelry design \* Jewish adult book club  
Book fair discount on purchases \* And so much more

### Shira Kline in Concert

Thursday, December 11th 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
at the Jewish Community Center

Featuring "outrageously hip Jewish music for kids"  
Activities for kids \* Kosher food available for purchase

Full program details upcoming in *The Jewish Voice & Herald* and on [www.bjeri.org](http://www.bjeri.org).

Questions? Contact Nicole Katzman, PJ Library Director, at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island: nkatzman@bjeri.org or 401.331.0956 x180.

**BEE** Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island  
130 Sessions Street Providence, RI 02906  
401.331.0956 [www.bjeri.org](http://www.bjeri.org)

The PJ Library



Photo by Mary Korn

THE MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK will be held Sunday, Oct. 19, at Roger Williams Park. Registration: 7 a.m.; walk: 8:30 a.m. For information, [www.ncjwri.org](http://www.ncjwri.org), click on events.

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[jointouretroop@verizon.net](mailto:jointouretroop@verizon.net)

CHECK OUT THESCOUTZONE.ORG

From Page 8

history that includes any of the above; particularly if the family is of Ashkenazi Jewish descent.

Kent said the decision to have the blood test should be made only after genetic counseling. The decision to have the test is a very individual one; but should someone take the test and be shown to have the gene/s, medical management can begin early.

The options include: increased and earlier screening for breast and ovarian cancer, and medication to reduce the risk of cancer and preventative surgery.

Kent said it is important to remember that a positive test result does not mean the person will develop cancer, just that they are at a higher risk.

Dr. Legare gave the latest screening recommendations and treatment options.

#### MRI SCREENING

The recommendation for annual mammography in the general population is to start at age 40; however, for those in a high-risk category, at age 25.

The American Cancer Society's guidelines for the early detection of breast cancer vary depending on a woman's age and include mammography and clinical breast examination (CBE), as well as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for women at high risk.

Dr. Legare said MRI screen-

ing is an adjunct tool for high-risk patients, but the key is to have it done at a facility that does a lot of these studies with experienced radiologists reading them. MRI offers increased sensitivity and the potential of earlier stage diagnosis; the earlier cancer is diagnosed, the better the chance of long-term survival.

In 2007, an expert panel convened by the American Cancer Society reported new recommendations for the use of MRI for women at increased risk for breast cancer. The panel recommended annual screening using MRI in addition to mammography for women at high lifetime risk (20 to 25 percent or greater) of the disease.

Women at moderately increased risk (15 to 20 percent lifetime risk) should talk with their doctors about the benefits and limitations of adding MRI screening to their yearly mam-

## ASHKENAZI: Jews have higher risk factors



Photo by Mary Korr

**DR. ROBERT LEGARE, Jessica Kent, at right, and Maxine Richman spoke at a breast and ovarian cancer forum given last week at the Providence Marriott. It was organized by Hadassah and NCJW.**

the risk of cancer by 45 percent in high-risk women who have never had breast cancer.

**Mastectomy:** If a woman has a BRCA 1 or 2 mutation, prophylactic breast cancer surgery, total simple mastec-

the risk of a small increase in breast cancer in these women.

**Removal of ovaries (oophorectomy):** Recommended for women with BRCA mutations after age 35, or completion of child-bearing; it reduces the risk of getting ovarian cancer by 95 percent and breast cancer by nearly 50 percent.

It is hoped that the above therapies will become arcane in 10 years, and replaced by gene therapy. That, said Dr. Legare, requires the requisite research funding be available through the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and others.

*Mary Korr can be reached at [mkorr@verizon.net](mailto:mkorr@verizon.net).*

**"For Ashkenazi women, the statistics are sobering:  
1 in 40 is estimated to be a carrier, as compared  
with 1 in 1,000 among the general population."**

mogram. Yearly MRI screening is not recommended for women whose lifetime risk of breast cancer is less than 15 percent.

Dr. Legare also cited results of studies of the different medical and surgical options:

**Tamoxifen:** Shown to reduce

tomy, reduces the risk of breast cancer by 89.5 to 100 percent.

**Oral contraceptives:** Can decrease the risk of ovarian cancer by 60 percent in women with BRCA mutations who used oral contraceptives for more than six years. However, there remains

## Breast Cancer Websites



**Nancy Brinker, sister of Susan G. Komen and founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure**

- Susan G. Komen for the Cure: [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)
- [www.yourcancer-risk.harvard.edu](http://www.yourcancer-risk.harvard.edu)
- National Cancer Institute: [www.cancer.gov/bcrisktool](http://www.cancer.gov/bcrisktool)
- Gloria Gemma Foundation: [www.gloriagemma.org](http://www.gloriagemma.org)

## JEWISH GENETIC DISORDER ORGANIZATIONS

- Jewish Diseases Consortium: [www.jewishgeneticdiseases.org](http://www.jewishgeneticdiseases.org)
- Victor Center for Jewish Genetic Diseases: [www.einstein.edu/jewish-genetics](http://www.einstein.edu/jewish-genetics)

**save the date**

# kidstuff ALE

Sunday, November 2  
Monday, November 3  
9am - 4pm

got kidstuff to donate?

The JCCRI is now accepting donations for our annual Kidstuff Sale. We are looking for gently used children's items, such as toys, books, games, furniture and more.

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## Nimoy: Rooted in Jewish history, culture and religion

*One-on-one interview with Leonard Nimoy*

BY PENNY SCHWARTZ  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**O**N SUNDAY evening, Nov. 9, noted actor, director, producer and photographer Leonard Nimoy will narrate "Shining Through Broken Glass," a concert commemorating Kristallnacht. The program is produced by Temple Emanu-El, in partnership with the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island.

Leonard Nimoy was born in Boston in 1931. Best known for his iconic role as Mr. Spock in the television series, *Star Trek*, Leonard Nimoy is now

widely recognized as a photographer, a life-long passion. His work has been published in several books including *Shekhina* (2002) and *The Full Body Project* (2007). Leonard Nimoy's photographs are on display at R. Michelson Galleries, in Northampton, Mass., which has mounted several exhibits of his work.

*The Voice & Herald* recently caught up with Leonard Nimoy. In a phone conversation from Los Angeles, Nimoy spoke about his Jewish roots from Boston and the relationship between Judaism and his work as an actor and artist.

**Voice & Herald:** You grew up in Boston. Did you have any connection with Providence?

**Nimoy:** The fact is, when I was in my late teens, maybe 17 or 18, my buddies and I were beginning to have cars. We would drive to Providence and have a cup of coffee and go home. It was an exciting thing to do. We did have a good time.

**V&H:** You've returned to Boston over the years. What brings you back?

**Nimoy:** I get to Boston less now than in the past. I had relatives and they're gone. I directed a movie, some years ago, in Cambridge, *The Good Mother*,



Photo courtesy of R. Michelson Galleries

**THE COVER IMAGE of Leonard Nimoy's book of photography, Shekhina.**

with Diane Keaton (1988). I love Boston, I love the whole area. I still feel like a New Englander. I feel very lucky that I grew up there. There was so much enrichment for a kid, cultural, artistic, theater, art, music and dance.

**V&H:** *Shining Through Broken Glass* presents a grand sweep of Jewish cultural history over 1,000 years. Is there some period you most relate to?

**Nimoy:** What resonates with me is a strong attachment to Judaism and the history and culture, the contributions Judaism has made to the world, and the difficulties Judaism has experienced at various times.

"Art cannot always play it safe. Art is supposed to explore our deepest personal feelings."

I was an early teen during the Second World War. My parents were Russian immigrants. We were very conscious of what was happening to Jews in Europe. I felt rooted in history and culture and religion as well.

I've had great experiences in my career related to Judaism. One of the greatest experiences was working with Ingrid Bergman on the film, *A Woman Called Golda* (1982). I spent a month in Israel and had a great time. I also made the TV film, *Never Forget* (1991). It's the story of a Holocaust survivor who went to court against a Holocaust denier. I portrayed Mel Mermelstein [the survivor].

I acted in Yiddish theater and in my early 20s, acted with Maurice Schwartz. I was able to introduce the [hand] symbolism of the *Kohanim* into *Star Trek*.

There were great moments for me to connect my Judaism

**V&H:** In *Provvidence*, you'll be narrating the musical composition, *A Survivor from Warsaw*, written by Arnold Schoenberg.

**Nimoy:** I first did this piece in Philadelphia and have done it

a couple of times since. It's sort of stream of consciousness [where a survivor] recounts his experience. It's very powerful and very beautiful. I am looking forward to doing it. It has a great impact on audiences, and it's great as a performer.

**V&H:** You've done a lot of narration, including a newly released recording, *Taste of Eternity: A Musical Shabbat, with Western Wind*. What do you like about narrating?

**Nimoy:** I don't have to wear makeup. A lot of the work I've done I've had to wear a lot of makeup. This is kind of a come-as-you-are party. I love it [narrating]. It gives me a chance to get in touch with interesting literature and work with thoughtful people

**V&H:** How is your own art as a photographer informed through a Jewish lens? Your work has stirred some controversy. Do you set out to challenge?

**Nimoy:** *Shekhina*, my first book, was deeply rooted in my Jewish experience. Through research, I discovered that there's a legend associated with the hand gesture used by the

See PHOTOGRAPHY, Facing Page

### Shining Through Broken Glass

An ecumenical concert of memory and hope.

Sunday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

Box office (401-421-ARTS) or online at [www.vmari.org](http://www.vmari.org).

Ticket prices from \$25-\$100, discounts for students and seniors.

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Questions? Contact Jamie Richman, Community Education Coordinator, at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island: [jrichman@bjeri.org](mailto:jrichman@bjeri.org) or 401.331.0956 x181.



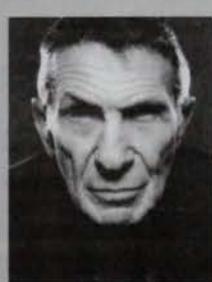
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# Shining Through Broken Glass

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GUEST NARRATOR  
**Leonard Nimoy**

Arrangements for the appearance of Leonard Nimoy made through Greater Talent Network, Inc., NYC.

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11/09/38 • 11/09/08



Photograph courtesy of R. Michaelson Galleries

In his character as Mr. Spock, on *Star Trek*, Leonard Nimoy introduced a legendary hand gesture that was used by the *Kohanim* when they recited their priestly blessing, "May the Lord Bless You." When the *Kohanim* do that, according to Nimoy, the feminine aspect of God comes into the congregation.

## PHOTOGRAPHY: is Nimoy's new passion

From Page 10

*Kohanim* when they recite their priestly blessing, "May the Lord Bless You." When the *Kohanim* do that, the feminine aspect of God comes into the congregation. That's why you cover your eyes, it's too powerful for a human to stand. That was a profound influence on my art.

I wasn't looking for controversy. I was looking to explore an unusual idea. There's no question that some [photographs] were sensual. When you cross sensuality with religion, you will create some conversation. The fact is the vast majority was very

positive. Art cannot always play it safe. Art is supposed to explore our deepest personal feelings. It's a work of art and I'm proud of it. It did just exactly that.

*V&H: What about some of your more recent work?*

**Nimoy:** I'm editing *Who Do You Think You Are?* It's a series of portraits of people coming to deal with their inner selves. *The Full Body Project*, some people are having difficulty. I don't set out to make trouble [chuckling] but I do set out to explore the human condition. That is the function of the artist.

From Page 2

speak to synagogues, JCCs or other Jewish organizations in the community in which they reside and, if desired, around the country.

Lehman-Wilzig can speak, free of charge, in the greater Rhode Island area, on Zionist ideology and history, Jewish history, and especially on Israeli media, the overall political system and elections, social tensions, and general cultural matters.

"The goal is to whet the appetite of the local Jewish communities and the universities so that they will set up an endowed chair or even a full-blown Center of Israel Studies," he said. "The Schusterman Family Foundation can then devote its resources to fund professors in other communities, and expand the reach and influence of the program."

The Schusterman Family Foundation, with operations in Jerusalem; Tulsa, Okla.; Vancouver, Canada; and Washington, D.C., pays a portion of the professor's salary, he said, but the program requires the local university to help underwrite some of the costs.

This semester, Lehman-Wilzig is teaching a course

## CULTURE: shock exists even for U.S. professor long-gone from the country



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

PROFESSOR SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG relaxing in the East Side home he and his wife have rented.

called "Zionism, Anti-Zionism & Post-Zionism." Next semester, he will teach "Power and Powerlessness in the Jewish Political Tradition" and another, in Hebrew, on Israeli current events.

"American students are definitely different than their Israeli counterparts," Lehman-Wilzig laughed, as he explained: "I have to pull teeth to get Brown's students - who are very smart and intellectually capable young people - to speak; they are so circumspect. In contrast, I have to practically use a gavel to get Israeli students to be quiet!"

During their non-working hours, the couple is delighted with all the enticing cultural events that Rhode Island offers; he mentioned that they've gotten tickets to a dozen or so plays, concerts and dance recitals. They are especially taken by the great

hospitality shown them by families from Congregation Beth Shalom, Temple Emanuel and the Providence Hebrew Day School congregations, and very much appreciate the many dinner invitations they've received. "At this pace," he said, smiling, "it is going to be very hard to keep our weight down this year!"

To contact Lehman-Wilzig for a speaking engagement, email: [wilzis@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:wilzis@mail.biu.ac.il), Sam\_Lehman-Wilzig@brown.edu or call his office at 401-863-3912. Those who worry they won't comprehend a thick Israeli accent need not worry - he's a New Yorker by birth and training!

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### Our next program:

Thursday, October 30, 8:15pm  
"How Should Jews Vote?"  
Featuring Ed Koch, William Kristol and Rabbi Michael Lerner

### Coming soon:

Tuesday, November 25, 8:15pm  
"Why Faith Matters,"  
Featuring Rabbi David Wolpe and Jonathan Safran Foer

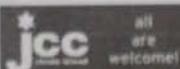
Thursday, December 18:  
Henry Paulson

The series is free and open to the community.

The JCCRI is able to offer these programs free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Starr-Tobak Fund of the JFRI Endowment Funds in memory of Charles L. Fox, father of Joyce Starr and Bill Tobak.

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## FRANK: Crisis caused by total lack of regulation in some financial entities

From Page 1

### THE 'QUARTERBACK'

U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, who introduced Frank at a press conference prior to the lecture, called him the "quarterback" of the rescue package.

One reporter jumped on this. "If you're the quarterback for getting us out of this mess; as chairman, why aren't you responsible for it?"

Frank shot back: "Because I became chairman in January 2007. The Democrats weren't in power for 12 years." He added that two months later, the House passed a bill to re-regulate Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The rescue plan, Frank said, was the consequence "of a total absence of regulation in some financial entities. It was the investment banks and the funding of them by hedge funds and private equity that was the problem. Only 5 percent of the commercial banks and credit unions, which are regulated, made sub-prime loans; 34 percent were made by unregulated mortgage finance companies."

Frank honed in on the roots of the crisis. He described a brave new world of sophisticated market instruments. "Thirty years ago, when you borrowed money to buy a house, you were going to pay back the person who lent it to you."

"Now, the financial community has developed great innovations called securitization, credit default swaps, and un-collateralized derivatives – products

not perfectly understood even by the people who sell them."

"They go like this: I lend you money. I then sell the rights of repayment to others, who repackage it with a bunch of other mortgages. And it recycles and multiplies. And it can lead to abuses."

"Most people are a lot more careful with their own money than someone else's," he wryly noted.

He referred to the rescue package as a "new deal" for Americans.

"We are saving capitalism from itself, just as FDR did. We need to restore investor confidence, or investors will not only *not* invest in the financials, but in the universities and the hospitals and infrastructure."

"This is a messy bill," he continued, "but we need to avoid a situation like this in the future; we've got to put regulations on these unregulated entities. Our job now is a lot like Franklin Roosevelt's in the '30s – to get the benefit of market innovation but curb the excesses."

### A LOAN, NOT A BAILOUT

Congressman James Langevin said Frank's leadership ensured taxpayers would be protected, through a provision allowing the government to hold financial institutions responsible if any shortfall exists when the government sells the troubled assets it has bought.

"The taxpayers will not be on the hook; this is not a bailout plan but a loan," Langevin said.



BEFORE HIS TALK, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (right) held a news conference with U.S. Reps. James Langevin and Patrick Kennedy.

**MARY KORR**

"We are not spending \$700 billion we will never see again," said Frank.

As he spoke, the stock market tanked, as fears of a wider, global credit retraction grew.

Despite the plunge, Frank defined the situation as a credit crisis.

Kennedy brought it home. He stated Rhode Island, with an 8.5 percent unemployment rate, cannot afford to be in a further credit crunch with a wide array of businesses unable to access short-term credit to pay bills and payroll. He said Rhode Island has the greatest number of universities and colleges per capita and student loans that have become unaffordable.

### NO CRISIS TOO GREAT FOR A QUIP

The appearance by Frank at Brown, as keynote speaker for this year's Noah Krieger Lecture through the Taubman Center for Public Policy, was planned well before this fiscal crisis.

It gave students the opportu-

nity to quiz Frank, on financial and a range of social issues.

Frank told students McCain's suspension of his presidential campaign was "Mighty Mouse McCain putting on a cape and coming to the rescue."

After Frank finished speaking to students, *The Voice & Herald* caught up with him. Did you catch yourself

in the bailout spoof on *Saturday Night Live*?

"No, but I heard about it."

Would you go on the show if you were asked?

"Absolutely."

**MARY KORR** can be reached at [mkorr@verizon.net](mailto:mkorr@verizon.net)

## Highlights of the rescue plan:

\$ Enables Treasury to buy up the troubled sub-prime mortgages and reduce them. Allows homeowners facing foreclosures to restructure their loans and reduce principle.

\$ Restricts CEO compensation. If companies get any aid from the federal government, there are no golden parachutes. Said Congressman Frank: "In the recent past, if CEOs took a risk and it worked out, they were paid in bonuses. But if it didn't, it was: 'Heads I win, tails, never mind.'"

\$ Senator Jack Reed added "warrants" to the bill so that when the government ultimately sells assets or shares in a company it has bought, it will also share in any profitability, over and above the value of those assets.

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## JERUSALEM JOURNAL

**The new immigrant style of the Israeli army**

*Putting my life on the line for my new country*

By DANIEL STEIGLITZ

Special to The Voice & Herald

**F**OR THE LAST few months, my Hebrew vocabulary has been saturated with phrases such as "Ken HaMefakedet" (Yes, Commander) and "Tiflechu HaSheonim" (literally meaning, Open your watches). In the civilian world, phrases such as these may seem somewhat out of the ordinary.

This is not the case, however, within the context of the Israeli army.

It is commonly known that a very large percentage of the Israeli population is required to serve in the army for a certain number of years. These are generally Israelis between the ages of 18 and 21. The exceptions are



Daniel Steiglitz

Israelis who are given permission to perform acts of community service during this time.

They may divide up their time in the army with learning in *yeshiva* or they may be exempt from serving in the army altogether. Either way, serving in the military is a major life experience embedded within Israeli society that has functioned and thrived throughout the years.

But beyond the required service that begins in one's late teens, there is a somewhat less commonly known service in the Israeli army that gives *olim Chadashim* (new immigrants) in their mid-20s the opportunity to get a taste of military life.

This is done through a program known as *Shlav Gimmel* – recently renamed after more commonly being known as *Shlav Bet*. The Israeli army established this program for males making *aliyah* between the ages of 22 and 25. The idea is that, while this group should not be required to serve the more common three year span in the army, they are still young enough to contribute to the army in some way or another for six months of service. Several months ago,

while comfortably established in a new apartment and excellent job, I decided that the best way to enhance my integration into Israeli society was to join the Israeli army, and the *Shlav Gimmel* program seemed like the way to go.

And, though I was approaching the age of 27 by the time I began my army service, I would soon find out that I

**"I decided that the best way to enhance my integration into Israeli society was to join the Israeli army."**

was not the oldest person in my *Shlav Gimmel* unit.

My fellow *Shlav Gimmel* draftees and I spent the majority of our first day in the army being processed at the main base in Israel. After that, we were bussed to a base in the north where we would be stationed for the entirety of our initial nine weeks of basic training.

It was there that we were introduced to our *mefakdot* (the feminine plural for "commanders"), the 19- and 20-year-old young

women who would be responsible for training us new recruits.

Besides the unique fact that all the draftees were several years older than our commanding officers, we were also distinguished from them by what is referred to as "distance."

For the vast majority of the time, we were training on our base we didn't even know simple details about them such as their first names, where they came from, or any other personal detail about their lives outside the army.

This was done so that the *mefakdot* would be in a better position to order us around and condition us for the trials and tribulations of serving in the

Israeli army.

Our *mefakdot* did their best to push us to our limits during these initial three weeks in the army. From waking us in the middle of the night to sending us on long runs in the dark, to punishing us with constant push-ups for things as seemingly insignificant as our making the slightest movement while standing in formation, they pushed us.

At the conclusion of these initial three weeks of training, we went on our first "massa" – the

traditional several kilometer long hike that is one of the rites of passage in the Israeli army.

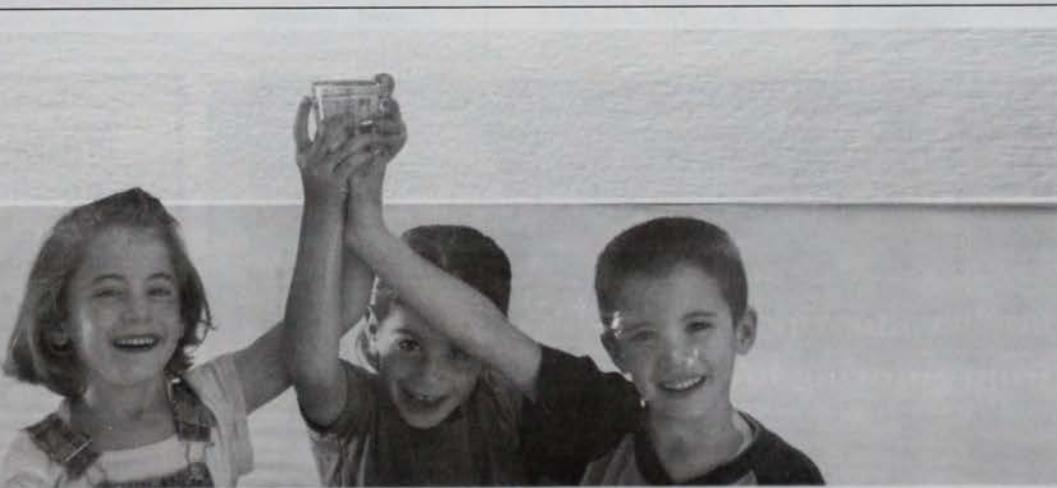
At the conclusion of this hike, we gathered in formation where we were then told by our commanders to do push-ups. However, rather than giving us these push-ups as a punishment, they got on the ground and joined us as we counted the push-ups with words indicating our pride in our group, rather than just simple numbers. The commanders then came around to each person and, with proud smiles on their faces for the first time since the beginning of our training, gave each of us shoulder emblems with the symbol for *chinuch* (education).

Later that evening, we gathered with other companies from our base for our swearing-in ceremony. In honor of Israel's 60th anniversary, this ceremony took place at the famous Acco Prisoners' Museum. Joined by family and friends at this historic site, we were officially sworn into the ranks of the Israel Defense Force.

#### A NEW STATUS

Besides the pride one feels for helping to serve their country, there is also a sort of celebrity

See ARMY, Page 29



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## Hineni is the answer

*A call to action  
for the Jewish  
community*

BY BRADLEY LAYE  
*blaye@jfri.org*

THE JEWISH Federation of Rhode Island selected "Hineni – Here I am" as our 2009 Annual Campaign theme because of its connotations in Genesis, when Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac. Of course, we are familiar with this story from just two weeks ago when we read it on *Rosh Hashanah*. As Abraham is about to carry out God's command to sacrifice his son, an angel of God appears and calls to Abraham saying his name twice, "Abraham, Abraham." Abraham answers, "Hineni – Here I am."

The past two weeks have given us all pause with what is happening in the world. Our financial markets are affecting every one of us in some way. So how does our connection to Abraham inform our connection to each other today in light of what is happening in our world?

Hineni  
הִנֵּן  
Here I am.

will answer firmly and with passion, "Hineni," not just because we can, but because we have to.

I thank you for your continued and resolute commitment to supporting our community.

*Bradley Laye is the chief philanthropy officer of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.*

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are keeping you  
from enjoying life..."**

...you should know that several new treatments are available to make things better. Some are gentler than older treatments; others address problems that couldn't be helped in the past. If you're getting up 3, 4 or more times in the night, if you dread

sneezing, coughing or even laughing, I invite you to call my office to arrange for an evaluation. Then we'll talk about how these new treatments might relieve the urinary issues and help you get back to enjoying life."

Daniel C. Jaffee, MD  
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Ehud Barak

### Labor appears on board with Kadima

**JERUSALEM:** (JTA) - Israel's Labor Party reportedly has agreed to join Kadima's coalition government. Labor leader Ehud Barak will become senior deputy prime minister, a newly created position, while Livni will be prime minister. The agreement is expected to be signed later this week, according to Israeli media reports. The move brings Livni her first major governing partner, but she needs more to complete her coalition and take office as prime minister. The partnership with Labor likely will make it harder for Kadima to bring another large party, the Orthodox Shas Party, into the coalition.

### Christian tourists to fuel Israel's economy

## Jewish News Briefs

**JERUSALEM:** (JTA) - Some 7,000 Christian tourists from all over the world will visit Jerusalem for *Sukkot* and are expected to inject \$18 to \$20 million into the country's economy. "Our Christian pilgrims are coming up to Jerusalem once more to join the Jewish people in marking this traditional feast of joy," said the Rev. Malcolm Hedding, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem's executive director. "But their presence here at this particular time also constitutes a major statement of solidarity with Israel as it confronts the growing threat of a nuclear Iran, while also bringing a major financial injection into the local economy at a very critical moment."

**Iran's nuclear threat is real, says CSIS report**

### WASHINGTON, D.C.: (JTA)

- The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) issued a comprehensive, smart and scary report on Iran, its nuclear potential, what to do about it and what it means for Israel. Some of its conclusions: Iran's nuclear program is continuing to improve and is becoming steadily more threatening. Because of Iran's deceptive behavior, policy makers must plan to deal with

a possible Iranian force with unknown characteristics, delivery systems, basing and timelines.

*The full 178 page report is available at [www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/081006\\_iran\\_nuclear.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/081006_iran_nuclear.pdf)*

### Will the economic crisis spur anti-Semitism?

**NEW YORK:** (JTA) - According to the comedy writers at "Saturday Night Live," (SNL), the pyramid of complicity in the current financial crisis runs like this: On the bottom are poor and minority homeowners victimized by predatory lending. Next come condo-flipping yuppies out for a quick buck. They're followed by rapacious bankers who cashed out before the economy crumbled. And, on top, are billionaire financiers who pocketed the government bailout and quickly moved it offshore.

In the SNL imagination, the top two categories seemingly are populated by Jews.

In a recent skit, broadcast a day after Congress authorized a massive bailout of the ailing financial industry, the jesters at SNL conjured a post-vote news conference in Washington featuring these four categories of characters.



Dr. Jaffee is a Diplomate of the American Board of Urology and a member of the Medical Staff at The Miriam Hospital.

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Email [religious.school@temple-beth-el.org](mailto:religious.school@temple-beth-el.org)



## Jewish Community Calendar

### SUNDAY

#### October 19

##### Political Breakfast

Sponsored by Temple Sinai Brotherhood. Listen to candidates for U.S. Senate, House District 2, and representatives from the presidential campaign. Currently scheduled to speak are Sen. Jack Reed at 9:15 am and U.S. James Langevin at 10:15 am.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 9 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

##### The Power of Good: Film Screening

A documentary film about Nicholas Winton, known as "Britain's Schindler." In 1939 he saved the lives of 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Guest speaker is Hanna Sloane, a "Winton Child." Sponsored by Temple Am David, The Holocaust Education Center & The Gelman Education Foundation

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

##### Family Sukkot Celebration

Scavenger hunt, decorating, and story time will be followed by a family dinner of veggies, pizza, and fruit

**WHERE:** Temple Etz Chaim, 900 Washington St., Franklin, Mass.

**WHEN:** 4 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 508-528-5337

The Jewish Community Calendar in *The Voice & Herald* lists events that are open to the public and of interest to the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. The deadline for calendar items is two weeks before the actual publication date of the issue.

For instance, for the upcoming Nov. 14 issue, the newspaper needs to receive the information by Oct. 31. Please send all potential items to: Calendar, voiceherald@jfri.org. Space and editorial considerations may determine what items are included.

### TUESDAY

#### October 21

##### Musical Leadership

Conductor Benjamin Zander of the Boston Philharmonic will speak on leadership.

**WHERE:** Belo Center, Bryant University, 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** gep@bryant.edu

### WEDNESDAY

#### October 22

##### Simchat Torah Celebration

Hasidic dancing, Torah reading, supervised children's play and buffet Kiddush Luncheon

**WHERE:** Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Rd., Warwick

**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 884-7888

### THURSDAY

#### October 23

##### PJ Library Story Time

**WHEN:** 3:30 - 4:30 pm

**WHERE:** Epoch Assisted Living, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence

**MORE INFO:** 273-6565

##### Book signing

Ariel Sabar will read from his new memoir, *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq*

**WHERE:** Brown Bookstore, 244 Thayer St., Providence



THE BROOKLYN COFFEE TEA HOUSE in Providence will be filled with klezmer music again on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 -10 p.m., featuring Fishel Bresler and Shelley Katsh, in the first of five concerts planned for this fall and winter.

**WHEN:** 4 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 863-3168

##### Ocean State Follies

Charlie Hall is at it again. He is writing a fresh satirical script just in time for the presidential race. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts included.

**WHERE:** Silverstein Meeting Hall at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**COST:** Donation requested, beginning at \$45 per person.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

##### Community Outreach

Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island

**WHERE:** Temple Am-David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

**WHEN:** 10-11:30 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

##### Community Outreach

Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island

**WHERE:** Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingston Rd., Narragansett

**WHEN:** 1:30-3:00 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 789-3437

### SUNDAY

#### October 26

##### Searching for Jewish Past

Pamela Weisberger leads a Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston workshop on immigrant research using newspaper records.

**WHEN:** 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Gann Academy, 333 Forest St., Waltham, Mass.

**COST:** \$5/non-members

**MORE INFO:** 617-796-8522

##### PJ Library Story Time

**WHEN:** 9:30 - 10:30 am

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

### MONDAY

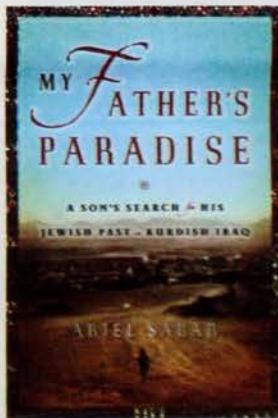
#### October 27

##### Flu Shots for Adults

Age 19+. All insurances accepted, bring insurance card. Flu shots by VNA of Care New England.

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

See CALENDAR, Page 30



ARIEL SABAR will read from *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* at the Brown Bookstore in Providence, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23.

## FREE DESSERT

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## Israeli artist teaching others that disability is not "the end of the road"

*Autism spectrum disease impacts individual and family members*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

**T**HROUGH her art, jewelry and book of poetry, Michal Maoz, an Israeli woman, is teaching others about Asperger's syndrome, a form of high functioning autism, and "making lemonade out of lemons." Michal, who now lives with her husband and their two sons in North Smithfield, is exceptionally well-qualified to do so — she and both their sons have been diagnosed with Asperger's.

It is her calling in life, she explained, to educate people about the syndrome, so that children today won't feel as she did when she was a child in Israel.

"I was different than other kids — I was strange, annoying, and no one liked me much, but no one knew anything about Asperger's or autism," she explained in her lightly accented English. Nine months old when her father

was killed in the Yom Kippur War, she was raised with her older sister who, she said, "was the good one."

Michal would come home from school black and blue. "School was torture socially and kids bullied me. I couldn't understand the rules of the games kids played and I wanted them to play by my rules, so I could win," she said. "When they wouldn't, I'd have meltdowns."

She knew she was different, she said, from a very early age; over time, she developed a "mask" to acclimate to and participate in social encounters.

"Not all people can accept the 'real me,' and some friendships ended when people saw me without my mask. I feel much more comfortable at home than I do anywhere else," she said, adding that her comfort level ranges, on a 1 to 10



Photo by Nancy Kirsch  
**MICHAL AND ITZIK MAOZ** in *The Voice & Herald* offices



pretense.

Declining to name her sons, now 15 and 12, citing privacy issues,

Michal explained that their behaviors were familiar to her. "I felt like an alien, so I knew something similar was happening for them, too."

Michal and Itzik sought evaluations for their older son when he was six, though it took time to get a diagnosis. "He was eight when he finally had a name for it," Michal said. "He was always

a difficult child with all kinds of issues, and I knew something was wrong."

"In Israel, we were told that he was simply gifted and bored; Michal, with her mother's instinct, insisted that something wasn't kosher," said Itzik. Speaking of their sons, Itzik said, "Do you label, do you not — it's always a conflict, but with the label, you can help them, and get

resources for them in school." After the eldest was diagnosed, Michal felt some sense of relief, knowing that the problem had a name, that others had the same challenge, and that they could receive help from her son's school. Later, their second son's same diagnosis reinforced their belief in genetic connections. "In our minds, there is no doubt that it's inherited," said Itzik. "We can trace similar traits and habits to other relatives on both sides of the family."

After their children were diagnosed, Michal was evaluated and received the same diagnosis of Asperger's, though her condition was more difficult to assess, as she'd adapted more to societal norms. "I decided to change myself so people would like me more, so I learned how to laugh at jokes that I didn't understand and how to pretend to make eye contact with others."

It's a conflict between the 'real me' and my mask, she added. "I want people to know the 'real me,' but it's scary — will they like me?" She even worried that her husband might not be able to accept her.

See ASPERGER'S, Page 27

**"I felt like an alien, so I knew something similar was happening for them, too."**

scale, from 10 — at home completely alone to 3 — in most social settings. There are times, though, when she desperately wishes she could shuck the mask and simply be Michal Maoz, without any



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**Shalom Playgroup** is a program of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Department of Outreach and Engagement. For more information about the program at Four Town Farm, or about Shalom Baby, Shalom Playgroup, or Shalom Rhode Island, contact Wendy Joering, Director of Outreach and Engagement, at 401.421.4111 x169 or [wjoering@JFRI.org](mailto:wjoering@JFRI.org).

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Thursday, October 23rd  
10:00 am - 11:30 am



## A Jewish singer towers over country western scene

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER  
*JTA Staff Writer*

France (JTA) - Think Jews and country music and you'll probably come up with Kinky Friedman, the front-man of the *Texas Jewboys*, who is also a humorist and failed but flamboyant candidate for Texas governor.

The real Jewish king of country music, however, is Ray Benson, the nine-time Grammy-winning leader of the country western swing band *Asleep at the Wheel*.

At 6-foot-7, Ray Benson has been described as a "Jewish giant" and "the biggest Jew in country."

By his own estimate, he is

the only Jewish singing star in the country western scene.

"I didn't want to be known as a Jewish country western singer; I wanted to be known as a country western singer who happens to be Jewish," he said.

Benson got his musical start as a child in suburban Philadelphia, where he grew up in a Reform Jewish home. He and his sister put together a folk group, and he was only 11 when he played his first professional gig.

"I always felt myself to be an ambassador," he added. "I'm not a great practicing Jew on a daily basis, but I'm Jewish."

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## Shake your 'boothy' and lulav

Interactive dance workshop promotes Jewish cultural awareness at UMass Dartmouth

By RICHARD ASINOF  
*rasinof@jffri.org*

DANCER, choreographer and Jewish education consultant Jodi Falk is scheduled to bring her special talents to the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth on Thursday, Oct. 14, for a special interactive workshop, with dancing in the *Sukkah* in the campus quad.

The celebration will include 40 to 50 students from local Hebrew schools, integrating the traditions in the celebration of *Sukkot* with dance.

"This will be a fun, multi-generational celebration," said

Rabbi Jacqueline Romm Satlow, director of the Center for Jewish Culture, which is sponsoring the workshop. "I am bringing her to campus to promote Jewish cultural awareness for both students at UMass Dartmouth and individuals and groups in the region."

Falk, who has worked exten-

sively with Jewish day schools in Longmeadow and Northampton, Mass., in bringing movement into the classroom, and embodying prayer and ritual in movement. She says the *Sukkot* workshop will focus on the traditions of shaking the *lulav* in six directions, north, south, east and west, and backwards and forwards.

As part of the workshop, the participants will create their own dances, accompanied by an African drummer. The best *lulav* shaker and the most original 'boothy' shaker will receive a prize, according to Falk.

Falk, who lives in Greenfield, Mass., said that her educational approach is "kinesthetic learn-



Jodi Falk

At the Heritage Academy in Longmeadow, students have been working with her on how to bring movement into their classrooms to embody prayer.

"Movement helps students understand that it's more than words, it's more than what's written on a page," Falk said. "When they use *tefillin*, say the *Sh'ma*, and say the morning blessing, they learn to use their body to express gratitude."

For information about Jodi Falk, visit [www.dancingsoul.org](http://www.dancingsoul.org).

For information about the Center for Jewish Culture at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, visit [www.umassd.edu/cjc](http://www.umassd.edu/cjc).

## Creative movement helps students find ways to make the educational concepts come alive through the body.

ing," where "creative movement helps students find ways to make the educational concepts come alive through the body."

In her work with Jewish day schools, Falk says that the focus is often on how to make prayers and understanding of the *Torah* come alive through the body and movement.

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## Healthy foods: celebrate good health by eating good-for-you foods

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jvfi.org

**A**S OCTOBER is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, *The Voice & Herald* wanted to feature some healthy recipes from the American Cancer Society's website. [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

The website encourages people to take a number of steps to reduce their cancer risks. In addition to maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking, getting plenty of exercise, getting cancer screenings and limiting alcohol consumption, the organization recommends people consume a healthy diet, with an emphasis on plant sources. It specifically recommends that people:

- Eat five or more servings of a variety of vegetables and fruits each day. The more colorful, the better.
- Choose whole grains over processed (refined) grains.
- Limit intake of processed and red meats.

These recipes, on the organization's website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), are in the American Cancer Society's book, *Celebrate! Healthy Entertaining for Any Occasion*, which is available by calling 1-800-ACS-2345.

Virtually any cuisine – from Mexican to Italian and more – can be made in a way that tastes good and is good for you. Here's a sampling of palate-tempting and healthy recipes:

### BLACK BEAN & CORN SALAD

This salad is a great side dish for Mexican entrées or can be used as a dip for tortilla chips to start the meal. Use the measurements as a guide, but feel free to tinker. Remember this salad

when you have leftover corn on the cob.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup fresh, frozen, or canned no-salt-added corn, drained
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1 red, yellow, or green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 small red onion, chopped
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

#### Method:

In a bowl, combine black beans, corn, tomato, bell pepper, onion, and jalapeño. In a bowl, combine lime juice, oil, and cumin and drizzle over bean mixture. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with cilantro.

Serves 8 people.

### TUSCAN WHITE BEAN SALAD ON CROSTINI

This quick and easy recipe makes an elegant appetizer or a flavorful side dish for meals. Begin tossing the ingredients together about 45 minutes before serving so the salad can chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

The beans, tomatoes, onions, and parsley are rich in cancer-fighting nutrients and the calorie count easily fits within most diets.

Serve this salad with simple crostini.

#### Ingredients:

- Salad Dressing:
- 2 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano

1/4 cup cider vinegar

### BEAN SALAD:

2 16-ounce cans cannelloni beans or other white beans, rinsed and drained

1-1/2 cups diced plum tomato  
1/2 cup chopped Vidalia or other sweet onion  
1/2 cup (2 ounces) crumbled blue cheese

1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground pepper  
Two loaves deli-style bread for the crostini (French, Italian, or whole-wheat, for example).

#### Crotoni Method:

To prepare the salad dressing: In a nonstick skillet, heat 1 teaspoon of olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and oregano; sauté for 30 seconds. Remove from heat and stir in vinegar.

To prepare the salad: In a large bowl, combine remaining teaspoon of olive oil and the next seven ingredients (beans through pepper). Add the dressing to the bean salad; toss lightly. Cover and chill for 30 minutes before serving.

#### Crotoni Method:

Slice bread thinly. Toast under a broiler or in the toaster. Top with bean salad.

Serves 8 people.

Note: Cannelloni beans are large, white Italian kidney beans. Great Northern beans, which look like white lima beans, can be substituted for cannelloni beans in most recipes.

### CHICKEN WITH OLIVES, TOMATOES & FETA

Lemon, mint, and a garnish of crumbled feta cheese bring the flavors of Greece to this

See CANCER, Facing Page

**CHICKEN WITH OLIVES,  
TOMATOES & FETA**  
From Page 18

easy chicken dish. If fresh Roma tomatoes aren't available, canned tomatoes will provide the same cancer-fighting nutrients and vivid color.

**Ingredients for Greek  
seasoning salt:**

Combine:  
2 teaspoons of garlic salt  
2 teaspoons of lemon pepper,  
2 teaspoons of oregano  
2 teaspoons of dried mint.

**Ingredients:**

4 boneless, skinless  
chicken breast halves, cut  
into bite-sized pieces  
1/4 cup flour  
8 teaspoons Greek sea-  
soning salt, divided  
1 teaspoon olive oil  
1 large onion, sliced lengthwise  
1 green pepper, cored, seeded,  
and sliced lengthwise into strips  
3 Roma tomatoes,  
cut into eighths  
3 tablespoons Kal-  
amata olives, chopped  
3 tablespoons feta  
cheese, crumbled

**Method:**

Dredge chicken in flour mixed  
with 4 teaspoons of Greek season-  
ing. Heat oil in a large skillet over  
medium heat and add chicken,  
sautéing for 3 to 4 minutes  
until cooked through. Remove  
chicken from pan and set aside.

Add onion to skillet and sauté  
until tender, about 2 minutes.



**Black bean and corn salsa**

Add bell pepper and cook another  
2 minutes. Return chicken to  
skillet and cook 1 to 2 minutes,  
sprinkling with remaining Greek  
seasoning. Mix in tomatoes.

Remove from heat, transfer  
to serving dish, and sprinkle  
with olives and feta cheese.

Serves 8 people.

**RICE WITH ORZO & MINT**

Orzo is a tiny, rice-shaped  
pasta that works well with the  
nutty flavor of the brown rice in  
this recipe. Enjoy 1/2 cup of this  
flavorful side dish (cooked), and  
you'll need only two more servings  
of whole grain foods to meet  
the American Cancer Society's  
healthy eating guidelines. Refined  
grains, such as white rice, lose  
much of their vitamins, minerals,  
and all of their fiber in processing.

**Ingredients:**

1/2 cup orzo  
1 teaspoon olive oil  
3 cups fat-free chicken broth

1-1/3 cups uncooked brown rice  
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt  
3 tablespoons fresh mint

**Method:**

In a medium saucepan on  
medium-high heat, brown orzo in  
olive oil, stirring constantly.  
Pour in chicken broth  
and bring to boil.

Add rice and garlic salt and  
return to boil. Reduce heat  
and simmer 45 minutes.

Remove from heat and  
stir in fresh mint.

Serves 8 people.

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**Ingredients:**

3 egg whites  
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/3 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup unsweetened  
cocoa powder, sifted  
1/4 teaspoon mint extract  
1/3 cup mini chocolate  
chips or finely chopped bittersweet chocolate

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 300  
degrees. Line two baking sheets  
with parchment paper, securing  
the edges with tape.

With an electric mixer, beat the  
egg whites and cream of tartar  
until soft peaks form. Gradually  
add sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time.  
Add cocoa powder and beat until

the mixture becomes glossy. Add  
mint extract. Gently fold in chips.

Place mixture in a pastry bag  
fitted with a 1/2- or 3/4-inch tip.  
Pipe 1-inch rounds onto the  
parchment, leaving 1 to 2 inches  
between cookies. With damp  
fingertips, press down any peaks.  
If a pastry bag isn't available,  
spoon mixture into a zip-top  
bag and snip a 1/2-inch hole in  
the bottom corner of the bag.  
Batter can also be dropped with a  
tablespoon onto the parchment.

Bake for 25 to 30 min-  
utes, rotating pans halfway  
through baking. Place baking  
sheets on a cooling rack for  
10 minutes before peeling  
cookies off the parchment.  
Makes about 60 cookies.

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1 oz. meat: size of a matchbox

1/2 cup pasta: size of a  
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item a high calorie count.  
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often carry jumbo bagels that  
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150 calories and counts as 2  
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## MEDICAL ARTS

**Memories of surviving the Great Depression in Brooklyn**

*When silent men  
clustered at  
street corners*

**T**HE PLACE: Brownsville, an inner district of Brooklyn. And what might a seven-year-old boy think when he scans the newspaper headlines on the Tuesday afternoon of Oct. 24, 1929? He reads, haltingly: "Stock Market Crashes!"

A crash, to this youngster ignorant of the arcane dynamics of macroeconomics, is a collision much like one automobile hitting another.

So, after reflection, he asks his mother to clarify the headline. His mother explains that stocks are traded in a special marketplace much as cigars are sold in Uncle Shmuel's candy store. This market is just not working well since nobody is buying the stocks.

The little boy persists: "What is a stock?"

And his mother is then silent because nobody in the family — not even the distant relatives in Hazelton, Penn. — owns any stocks.

Somewhere in the newspaper story is the phrase Dow Jones Average. To this seven-year-old, with but meager sources of information, it appears to represent a statistic akin to a

battling average, although in truth no player on the Brooklyn Dodgers bears the name Dow Jones.

The stock market continues to deteriorate, much like Uncle Shmuel's business, reaching its nadir on July 14, 1932, when stocks had lost about 89 percent of their peak value.

By the grim winter of 1932, the human impact of the Great Depression becomes fully evident even to the willfully blind and the pre-adolescents of Brownsville.

It becomes a time when young male adults wander the streets seeking any work in trade for a meal, idle factories, soup kitchens and frantic crowds converging on banks to withdraw their deposited funds.

It was not until 1933, when Roosevelt declared a bank holiday, that faith in the liquidity of the banks was restored.

Unemployment now exceeded 20 percent and, paradoxically, the movie theaters (showing newly invented talking movies) were packed as the itinerant and the dispossessed found a warm place to sleep (with bathrooms available) during the unusually cold weather that winter. A nation constrained by alcoholic prohibition now grew addicted to the fantasies woven by Hollywood.

What else does this youngster remember about those

**THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

AMERICA, 1929-1941

**"Those dreadful years witnessed dramatic rises in crime, unattended disease, suicide and family fragmentation."**

bitter Depression days?

Hardly a day passes without a family being evicted from their tenement dwellings. Their furniture, clothing and other possessions are heaped upon the street, guarded by the children. No one's household articles look anything but forlorn when strewn upon the sidewalk.

One scene, above all other recollections, remains in this youngster's fragile memory. It is wintertime in the early 1930s with snow drifts impeding traffic (the city can no longer afford to hire snow removers.) The place, almost any major street

corner in Brownsville; the participants, a small crowd of poorly dressed, sullen males varying in age from about 17 to 50.

They congregate around a large metal barrel containing a fire of constantly replenished burning newspapers, for them the source of insubstantial heat. Newspapers, two or three cents per edition, are carefully reviewed for job opportunities; and before they are relegated to the warming fires, they

serve a variety of practical functions: A page is torn out, carefully folded to fit the interior of a shoe, thus preventing water from seeping up through holes in the soles.

Other sheets of newspaper are wrapped around the waist beneath one's jacket to provide extra heat.

Some pages — it matters little which pages — are saved to be used as blankets in case one is forced to sleep *al fresco* on a park bench or in some alley. For this purpose, the tabloids such as the *Daily Mirror* or the *Daily News* are inadequate. The broad sheet papers such as the *Times* or *Herald-Tribune* are much more suited to function as blankets. And the remainder of the paper is then burned to dispel the winter chill.

Conversation is minimal; what's to talk about? It is a time to forget, not converse. Clothing is the same as yesterday's outfit, only slightly more wrinkled, slightly less tended to. No ties, since that would be a sign of affluence; a stained felt fedora indifferently worn and a business jacket with the collar turned up to warm the neck. The face, unshaven, and the lips grimly contracted.

The lucky ones in this congregation of the unemployed are those who are unmarried, for they can drift carefree with the hobo community to other communities, perhaps even finding employment elsewhere in some El Dorado where there are no snow banks and where the weather is always warming.

Those who are married must live with the corrosive guilt that they are unable to provide for their wives and children; and for a few, the guilt is so burdensome that they abandon their families and seek solace in distant communities or oblivion in whisky.

There are some who say that the Depression yielded much good in keeping families together and raising commitments to higher moral behavior. But only those who viewed those years of want from afar might declare so, for those dreadful years witnessed dramatic rises in crime, unattended disease, suicide and family fragmentation.

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., is dean of medicine emeritus at Brown University; he can be reached at smam@cox.net.

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## Internet has changed the way antiques are sold

*From flea markets to stores selling collectibles to e-Bay*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
[nkirsch@jfri.org](mailto:nkirsch@jfri.org)

PROVIDENCE – For 18 years, Stu Altman has bought and sold antiques and collectibles throughout New England, through his Providence-based company, Antique Acquisitions.

His early curiosity led him to flea markets; he soon realized that people make a living buying and selling antiques.

"I did appraisals on an old, call-in show on AM radio – 'Calling All Collectors' – with Gary Sohmers [Sohmers is now on the Antiques Road Show]," said Altman, nearly a life-long resident of the East Side of Providence.

Now, Altman said he specializes in smalls – collections of antique radios, fountain pens, cigarette lighters, corkscrews and other small items. He also buys larger objects, such as glass, paintings, pottery and toys.

"The list is really endless in what I buy," he said. "I buy single pieces, collections and estates, and I sometimes pay a finder's fee when someone refers me to a seller who proves fruitful."

Before, Altman used to sell goods at a half-dozen loca-

tions, including in Warren and in Brimfield, Mass. Today, however, he predominantly buys – and sells – over the phone. Because people can buy and sell through the Internet, he explained, a number of antique stores have closed.

"There is a huge difference between a \$20 fountain pen and one that cost \$10,000," Altman said. "Like any antique, the value depends on who made the item, its rarity, its condition and its marketability."

Currently, Altman is working as an apprentice antique auctioneer, and he expects to receive his auctioneer's license in early 2009.

Altman is both bonded and insured, and he offered a note of caution to individuals who may consider contacting someone to buy their old goods. "Be wary," Altman said. "Be sure that the person you are dealing with has been bonded, or at the very least, have him or her show you

Ronson art deco lighter with clock, circa 1936



Stu Altman

a Bureau of Criminal Identification report with the seal from the Rhode Island Attorney General." Such a report, according to Altman, means that the individual has no criminal record in Rhode Island.

For more information about Antique Acquisitions, call 331-7653.



Photos courtesy of Stu Altman

Dunhill sterling wind-proof rope lighter, circa 1942

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## As We Grow Older

## Acknowledging the process of aging with pride

*Each birthday becomes a symbol of my stubbornness*

**W**HEN I WAS a child, the ages of adults were regarded as private, not to be disclosed outside of the family. Woman wanted



**Tema Gouse**

everyone to think that they were younger, and if husbands' ages were admitted, it might imply that they were older than they claimed to be.

Now, I find that

amusing. Having lived decades longer than I had expected to, I see each birthday as a symbol of my stubbornness and brag about my age and the even older age of my husband.

I think I broadcast our ages because I love to hear my listeners gasp and say, "Oh, I can't believe that you are that old."

They are usually referring to my husband's youthful demeanor, but I am proud that he looks so young. It reflects on the good food and care I have given him.

But let's face it; there are factors of the aging process that cannot be denied. Most of us have a streak of hypochondria; it takes on another dimension when there is no room on the cake for any more candles.

The "aching back" is as American as apple pie. But the old lady with an aching back seems to lack resources to find relief. Physiotherapy is helpful in the therapist's office but useless

if not followed through at home. At home, the old lady justifies not exercising because she "just doesn't have the energy for it."

I could go on and on about physical reminders of getting old. But there are other facets to acknowledging age. A good book, or a good TV show, used to guarantee you reading or watching until the conclusion. No way today. The books or *Law and Order* must have gotten less interesting because the average senior rarely stays awake long enough to learn the ending.

Bedtimes have also changed. Even when we went to bed at a reasonable hour because we had to get up to take care of the children or go to work in the morning, we managed to stay awake as long as we were doing

sible medical problems while we are away from our doctors, are all enough for us to be content staying at home, looking at the old travel pictures.

Eating changes also remind us of advancing years. The price an older woman pays for eating cheesecake or barbecue ribs or pizza isn't worth the aftermath. To compound the problem, since we do not do anything that resembles exercise, stepping on a scale that reflects weight gain, is enough to discourage the biggest "nosher."

I could ramble on and on about memory loss or "losing" things, but they are subjects for a thesis all by themselves. Apprehensions about diminished abilities also keep us from activities that used to be routine.

Relationships also change. When my youngest son was eight years old, he "demanded" to be allowed to do some activity of which I did not approve. He got very angry when I denied permission. I glared down at him and angrily announced that I made the decisions and that no matter what, as his mother, I would always be bigger than him. He backed off.

But I was wrong. He grew to be well over six feet tall, and I reluctantly admit that he is much smarter than his "old lady."

I knew I was really old when I came home one night at about 10:30 p.m. and there were three messages from him, the last one demanding that I return the call as soon as I got home. HE was worried about ME. If that isn't a sure sign of my advanced age, what is?

*Tema is a retired social worker and lives in Cranston with her husband.*

**"Most of us have a streak of hypochondria but it takes on another dimension when there is no room on the cake for any more candles."**

something we enjoyed. Today's seniors rarely have such responsibilities. Yet most of us have difficulty staying awake for the 11 o'clock news.

And the quality of sleep leaves much to be desired. The day's activities are now of our own choosing, but those activities that we had yearned to have time for now seem unimportant.

Why go shopping? Fewer weddings and bar mitzvahs to go to.

Travel was an unequalled joy for many of us. But now, the thought of packing, the nightmare of the airport, the uncertainty of arrival times, and a certain apprehension about pos-

## Error at Miriam Hospital leads to consent decree

PROVIDENCE - A wrong-site knee surgery performed in late September at The Miriam Hospital's ambulatory surgical center has led to a consent decree between the Rhode Island Department of Health and the hospital, Department Director David Gifford, M.D., M.P.H., reported in an October 10 statement.

The decree requires the hospital to change the pens used to mark the surgical site to make

sure the marking cannot be washed away during pre-surgery preparations, hire a consultant to evaluate hospital policies and protocols for compliance with national best practices in safety and clinical outcomes, and complete on-site inspections. The hospital must also submit reports to the Department of Health, design and implement a 'near miss' reporting system for hospital staff, and educate the hospital's board by

having patients and patients' families attend board meetings to share their experiences.

The surgical team responsible for the wrong-site injury has not been publicly identified.

The Department of Health's Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline and Board of Nursing are investigating whether disciplinary action should be taken against the health care professionals involved.

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ON WORDEN'S POND

## From Page 1

northern Israel that coincided with the launching of the second Palestinian *intifada*.

But, the rioting in Akko is more than an isolated violent episode in need of containment. Even if the rioting abates, it is sounding warning bells for the Israeli government. Jewish-Arab tensions in Akko and in the country as a whole have been simmering under the surface for years. The rioting was an expression of Arab frustration and Jewish mistrust. The latest trouble started on the eve of *Yom Kippur*, Oct. 8, when everything in Israel comes to a halt. For the duration of the 25-hour fast, businesses and places of entertainment are shuttered, and the roads are virtually free of cars. Even completely secular Jews and non-Jewish Israelis refrain from driving in Jewish neighborhoods.

When an Akko Arab drove his car into a Jewish neighbor-

hood that night, reportedly blaring loud music, the act seemed like a deliberate provocation. Angry Jews forced the car to stop, pulled out the driver and beat him. News of the beating quickly spread across the city, and from the mosques Arabs were called upon to avenge what by then had been exaggerated to "two Arabs murdered by Jews." Hundreds took to the streets, mostly young, masked men who marched into the main Jewish neighborhood smashing shop windows, shattering car windows, slashing tires and torching vehicles. In retaliation, Jewish mobs set fire to several Arab homes in the predominantly Jewish neighborhood. Police appeared to be overwhelmed by the rioters. The pattern repeated itself for the next three days and nights. Gradually the police ramped up their response, and by Monday hundreds of police officers were deployed in the city backed



**AKKO**, a city where Jews and Arabs live side by side, erupted in violence following a *Yom Kippur* incident that set off Jewish-Arab tensions.

up by the Israeli army's border police. More than 60 arrests were made.

Meanwhile, right-wing Jewish extremist groups and radical Arab agitators tried to fan the flames while Israel's political leaders - including

some Arab leaders - struggled to restore calm. Some Jewish extremists called for a boycott of Arab businesses, while *Hamas* leaders urged Israeli Arabs to start a "third *intifada*." Prime Minister Ehud Olmert accused extremists on

both sides of "holding the city ransom." Mostly, however, leaders on both sides issued appeals for calm and a quick return to coexistence. After meeting Monday with Jewish and Arab religious and community leaders in Akko, President Shimon Peres said he was optimistic and "surprised at the degree of willingness for dialogue on both sides." Earlier, Arab community leaders had issued an apology for the desecration of the Jewish holy day. The Arab driver went to a televised meeting in Jerusalem of the Knesset's Interior Committee, where he said he had not intended any provocation but had made a terrible error of judgment: He said he thought that because it was very late at night, no one would notice his car driving into the mostly Jewish neighborhood where he lived. In a square outside city hall in Akko, members of the Mapam-affiliated

See ARAB, Page 29



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*Presented by Patty Servaes, Elder Resource Benefits Consulting.*

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Photo courtesy of JERI

VOLUNTEER SHARON GROH-MINTZ prepares plates of apples, honey and honey cake for participants of JERI's 12th annual community *Rosh Hashanah* service.

## JERI brings the sweetness of Torah, honey cake and apples to community's seniors

By JERI STAFF  
Special to The Voice & Herald

WARWICK – The Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSA), invited all the members of the Jewish community living in nursing homes and assisted living sites from around the state to its 12th annual *Rosh Hashanah* service on Sept. 17.

JERI's Assistant Director Ethan Adler and Activity

Programmer Michele Keir and Tamarisk's Director of Resident Programming Lev Poplow led the service, sponsored by the JSA's Women's Association, at the community room of The Shalom Apartments in Warwick.

Everyone present enjoyed the service, complete with *shofar* blasts, honey cake and slices of apple with honey. It was an especially meaningful day for the gentlemen who had his first *afiyah* in 45 years and for the

woman who heard the *shofar* for the first time in 55 years! Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to touch the *Torah* as it was paraded through the congregation. Tamarisk and Shalom are both JSA-sponsored communities.

For more information about Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, call Director Susan Adler at 401-621-5374 or visit the website at [www.jsari.org](http://www.jsari.org).

## Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association holds mid-year meeting

By JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION STAFF  
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Author Ronald Florence will deliver the annual Bonnie and Seebert Goldowsky Lecture to the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association at its Sunday, Oct. 26 meeting at 2:00 p.m. The program and reception, at the Jewish Community Center, is free and open to the public.

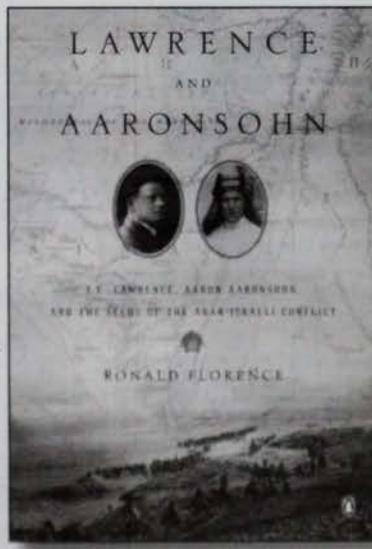
In honor of Israel's 60th anniversary, Dr. Florence will speak about his latest book, Lawrence and Aaronsohn: T.E. Lawrence, Aaron Aaronsohn, and the Seeds of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, which has been highly praised by many reviewers. The book portrays the amazing careers, but opposing goals, of Lawrence of Arabia and Aaronsohn, who worked in British intelligence in the Middle East during World War I. While Lawrence battled for the recognition of the Arab cause, Aaronsohn, a dis-

tinguished scientist, strengthened support for Zionist goals in Britain and America.

Florence, a Providence resident and a member of Temple Emanu-El, earned his doctorate in European history at Harvard. A historian and a novelist, he is well known for eight previous books, including *The Gypsy Man*, *The Perfect Machine* and *Blood Libel*. He recently completed his ninth book, which deals with the Holocaust in Hungary.

Dr. Seebert and Bonnie Goldowsky, who endowed the Association's annual fall lectureship, led the Historical Association for nearly 50 years.

Dr. Goldowsky, a former president of the Association, was



Cover photo courtesy of Ronald Florence

Ronald Florence's eighth book will be the topic at the Jewish Historical Association meeting.

the longtime editor of its annual journal, *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*.

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## Touro launches Boy Scout troop in Cranston

By Touro Ass'n. STAFF  
Special to The Voice & Herald

CRANSTON - There'll be a new Boy Scout troop in Cranston this fall, thanks to Touro Fraternal Association, the largest independent Jewish fraternal order in New England.

Andrew Lamchick, chairman of the Touro's Community Involvement Committee, said the troop will be based at Touro's headquarters at 45 Rolfe Square, in Cranston.

"This is not Touro's first venture into scouting," Lamchick said. "Touro has long provided financial support to the Rhode Island Jewish Committee on Scouting (JCOS). We've contributed to the Chapel of the Ten Commandments at Yawgoog Scout Reservation and we established a fund [for financial aid] for qualified Scouts. Many of us at Touro have scouting in our past, and that provides a motivation to continue our

bond with today's scout program."

Peter Shore and Richard Applebaum, members of Touro and JCOS and longtime adult leaders in scouting, will serve as scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster, respectively, of the troop.

After learning of Touro's decision, Shore said: "What I'm truly excited about is not just the opportunity to make scouting more inviting to Jewish boys, but the commitment of Touro members to making the troop a success. The fact that Touro members have stepped up to serve on the troop's committee is invaluable."

Sign-up nights will be held at Touro Fraternal head-



quarters, 45 Rolfe Square, Cranston, on Oct. 23 and Nov. 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

For more information contact Shore at [jointourtroop@verizon.net](mailto:jointourtroop@verizon.net) or (508) 965-6776; information about Boy Scouts can be found at [TheScoutZone.org](http://TheScoutZone.org).

## The many faces of adoption

*Families tell their stories in panel discussion*

PROVIDENCE - Adoption Options, a division of Jewish Family Service of RI, will host its semi-annual panel discussion, "The Many Faces of Adoption: Families Tell Their Stories," on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Jewish Family Service located at 959 North Main Street in Providence.

Following the panel discussion, there will be coffee and dessert and the opportunity to speak informally with the

presenters.

Speakers will include families who have adopted children of various ages from the United States and from abroad, including Russia, Korea and Ethiopia.

This evening will be an excellent forum for families

successfully adopted children.

Licensed in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Adoption Options, a non-sectarian program of Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island, offers services for adoptive parents, birth parents and children. Jewish Family Service's mission is to sustain, nurture and strengthen the emotional and general well-being and stability of families and individuals throughout the life cycle.

For more information or to volunteer at the event, contact Peg Boyle at 401-331-5437 or [peg@jfsri.org](mailto:peg@jfsri.org).

For general adoption questions, contact Adoption Options at 401-331-5437 or [www.adoptionoptions.org](http://www.adoptionoptions.org).



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considering adoption and provides them an opportunity to meet other such families and families who have suc-

## Yiddish Shmoozers Meeting

PROVIDENCE - A focus on the *Mame Lashen* and *Yiddishkeit*, including a *Yiddish* language-learning session, story-telling with a *Yiddish* theme, group participation and a happy sing-a-long of well-known *Yiddish* songs is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 24.

All the activities will be from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the JCCRI, 40 Elmwood Avenue, Providence.

Come as a guest, remain as a member; if you need more information, contact Elly at the JCCRI, at 861-8800, ext. 107.



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From Page 16

Yet, Itzik described their first encounter [they were both in the Israeli army] as love at first sight: "She was open with me and we started talking right away. I liked the way she expressed herself and her honesty; we found each other like soul-mates," he said.

Today, Michal crusades to save others affected by Asperger's, through her creative outlets — paintings, jewelry and her book of poetry, *The Alien in Me, Poetry by a Person with Asperger's Syndrome* (in English, not Hebrew), available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and on her website, [www.autistic-spectrum.com](http://www.autistic-spectrum.com).

Michal, who aspires to be on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* one day, explains that a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome is not the end of the road. "So many doctors predict grim outcomes, but it doesn't have to be that way," she explained. "I want to give people a message of hope."

"My mother never thought I'd be independent, publish a book [a life-long dream for Michal], work or get married, and now, I'm 35 and I've done all these things," she said proudly. If I can do these things without having had support or resources when I was young, Michal said, just think about what kids today, who can access help, can do.

## ASPERGER'S: a challenge for many, an opportunity for Maoz

"I've been writing poems since I was seven years old," Michal said. As an emotionally intense book, it's not easy to read, she said, but it offers a message of hope. "A lot of people think that people with autism or Asperger's don't have or show emotion, but that's not true. I want to show everyone how we feel and why we act the way we do."

"Knowledge is power," said Michal, who manages a website, [www.autistic-spectrum.com](http://www.autistic-spectrum.com); the self-created word "autistic" reflects her desire to educate people about autism and Asperger's through her artistic creations.

More comfortable communicating electronically than face-to-face, Michal created [www.cafemom.com/group/asktheaspie](http://www.cafemom.com/group/asktheaspie), a chat room with some 400 subscribers who exchange information and seek out her expertise on Asperger's for themselves or their children. "Aspie," Michal explained, is a label that many with Asperger's affectionately apply to themselves.

Although Michal experiences a fair amount of anxiety and discomfort in any social setting, she puts herself out there as part of her mission of education. So, if and when Oprah calls, she won't let stage fright get the better of her.

### Beyond the Silence

BY MICHAL MAOZ

From beyond the silence  
I'll emerge  
My way of thought, my feelings  
I'll tell the world  
No longer will I hide behind my mask,  
I'll take it off, allow people to ask...  
I'll be the spokeswoman for people like me,  
Who can't share their feelings  
And about them can not talk  
I'll be the one, who teaches them how to stumble first,  
Then how to walk  
From beyond my silence  
I'll emerge  
And show them how it's done  
I will open the door  
And reveal my world to everyone!!!

From *The Alien in Me: Poetry by a Person with Asperger's Syndrome*

Copyright 2008 Michal Maoz. All rights reserved

### Resources for those with Asperger's

\*Asperger's Association of New England (AANE)

\*The Autism Project of Rhode Island

The AANE's mission is to foster awareness, respect, acceptance, and support for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) and related conditions and their families.

Headed by a director who is the parent of a child with AS or a related neurological condition, each chapter offers different programs. Rhode Island's chapter head is Barbara Whalen, at 401-333-1705, the main office at 617-393-3824, [info@aane.org](mailto:info@aane.org), [www.aane.org](http://www.aane.org).

#### \*The Wolf School

The first through eighth grade school is dually certified as both an independent day and special education school. The school's 50 or so students have a range of neurological challenges, including AS.

Contact: 401-432-9940, [www.thewolfschool.org](http://www.thewolfschool.org)

#### \*Parent-run groups:

- The RI Asperger's Syndrome Kids Meetup Group is at <http://aspergers.meetup.com/392>.

- [www.cafemom.com/group/autismspectrum](http://www.cafemom.com/group/autismspectrum)

- Michal's website is [www.autistic-spectrum.com](http://www.autistic-spectrum.com); her email group is [www.cafemom.com/group/asktheaspie](http://www.cafemom.com/group/asktheaspie)

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## JCDS implements new social curriculum

PROVIDENCE - One of the main principles within the JCDS mission is the nurturing of the "Nesama" - the soul of the individual. In addition to the rigorous academic curriculum, JCDS encourages students to be better human beings with a strong Jewish identity and broad knowledge of the world.

With the assistance of a generous grant by the Jewish Federation of R.I., JCDS is implementing a nationally recognized, award winning social curriculum, "The Social Decision Making/Problem Solving" or "SDM/PS."

Developed by Rutgers University professor Dr. Maurice Elias and Dr. John F. Clubby, with the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the program uses skill-building methods to promote good citizenship by teaching

children effective social decision-making skills. The program's goal is to empower students, in grades pre-K through 8, to make healthy and responsible life choices.

JCDS faculty and staff recently had the first in a series of training sessions that will occur throughout the year. Before school began, Ms. Erin Bruno, M.A., the school's SDM/PS consultant, facilitated a thought-provoking and hands-on workshop for faculty that introduced the basic principles and skills underlying the curriculum. Throughout the year, the staff will learn, understand and transfer their knowledge to students by infusing the curriculum with important concepts such as self-control, emotional regulation, improving social awareness, and effective communication.

JCDS parents may have

already heard their children talk about such things as a sharing circle, the listening position, active listening, speaker power, listening power, keeping calm, or the eight steps of problem solving.

A visit to JCDS will reveal the beginnings of incorporating the language and practice of these skills school-wide to create a safe, respectful and nurturing environment in which children can grow and thrive.

On Thursday, October 23rd, parents and members of the community are invited to attend an evening workshop conducted by Ms. Bruno.

*For more information about the SDM/PS program, please contact Betsy Cable at [bcable@jdsri.org](mailto:bcable@jdsri.org), or you may check out the SDM/PS website at [www.udnj.edu/spswb](http://www.udnj.edu/spswb).*

## Places of worship must complete fire surveys

RHODE ISLAND - Every house of worship in Rhode Island is to have a fire survey conducted by its local fire authority by December 31, 2008. If the local fire authority has not contacted your synagogue to set a time for this survey, it is recommended that you contact that agency to arrange for this survey. Once the survey is conducted, you will have until December 31, 2009 to comply with the results (unless

there is some egregious issue), except for any requirement for



an alarm system. Mandated alarm systems will be required by December 31, 2010.

Any disputed compliance issues can be appealed to the RI Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal & Review. Houses of worship are encouraged to complete these surveys promptly.

*For more information or if you have questions, contact The Rhode Island State Council of Churches' office at 401-461-5558.*

## Kristallnacht survivors to be recognized

If you are a survivor of Kristallnacht in Germany or Austria and plan to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration concert at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on Sunday, November 9, the event organizers would like to acknowledge you.

If you wish to be so recognized, you should contact Albert Silverstein at 401-727-2414 or

email him at [doscilve@aol.com](mailto:doscilve@aol.com) to provide him with your name.

He must receive this information no later than Friday, November 7.

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## Obituaries

### Rita Listengart, 66

BOCA RATON, Fla. - Rita (Sussman) Listengart, 66, died Sept. 25. She was the beloved wife of Dr. Edward Listengart. Born in the Bronx, New York, she was the daughter of the late Mildred (Yavner) Sussman and the late Rubin Sussman. She graduated from Queens College in New York as a registered nurse. Rita and Ed met and married in New York and moved to Providence in 1967 where he began his oral surgery practice and she "retired" to raise their family. They moved to Boca Raton, Florida in 2005.

Besides her husband, Rita is survived by her children, Lisa Zarov, and her husband, Josh, of Highland Park, Ill.; Joseph Listengart and his wife, Toni, of Houston, Texas; Steve Listengart and his wife, Kathy, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; her brother, Jay Sussman, and his wife, Sherrill, of East Greenwich; five grandchildren, and many friends in Rhode Island and Boca Raton. Rita was taken from us too early and she will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, 333 SW 4th Avenue, Boca Raton, Fla. 33432 or your favorite charity.

### Brenda Novick, 66

NATICK, Mass. - Brenda (Kirshenbaum) Novick, of Millis, Mass.,

died in Natick, Mass. on Sept. 19.

Born in Providence, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Louis and Frances Kirshenbaum. She leaves her children, Jerel Novick, and his wife, Andrea, of Boston; and Seth Novick of Millis, Mass.; her sister, Paula Isacoff; and her husband, Jay, of Palm Beach, Fla.

Contributions may be made to the Charles River Chapter of Hadassah, 13 Scott Drive, Holliston, Mass. 01746.

### Jack Pearl, 82

SOUTH FLORIDA - Jack Pearl passed away on Sept. 26.

Born in Brighton, Mass., he lived many years in Providence, R.I. and Milwaukee, Wis., and ultimately settled in South Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, Myer and Ida (Smith) Pearl, his brother, Sumner Pearl; his sister, Shirley Rodman; and his son, James Pearl.

He was the beloved husband of Joretta (Jacobs) Pearl for 57 years and loving father of Meryl Pearl-Shelko (Greg), Karen Kohen (Guy Perez-Cisneros), and David Pearl. He was the grandfather of Sydney Persing, Justin Kohen, Myles Pearl, and Loren Pearl and great-grandfather of Jalina Kohen. He also leaves a sister, Barbara Pearl, and a niece, Ellen Rodman, and other relatives and friends. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946.

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The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

From Page 13

status that comes from walking around town in one's uniform. I was a bit shocked to find people were now offering me their seats on the bus, allowing me to cut long lines without hesitation, and little children were pointing at me and saying, "Look daddy, a soldier."

Perhaps the most jaw dropping example is when I went to have my cell phone screen repaired. The phone company initially told me that it would take at least two days and 350 Israeli shekels to fix. However, after I arrived at the store in uniform, the clerk was more than happy to give me a brand new screen on the spot, and waive the fee.

Upon returning to base after our ceremony, we then moved on to the next stage of our program - Hebrew immersion. As opposed to most programs in the army where the majority of any given group is Israeli, another

thing that distinguishes the Shlal Gimmel recruits is that they all come from countries outside of Israel. In order to further enhance our acclimation to both the army and Israeli society, Hebrew immersion was a fundamental aspect of our training.

Though we continued to do things like training maneuvers, guard duty, and taking orders from our commanders, the majority of our time was now spent in the classroom learning Hebrew, as well as some lessons in Zionism. In order to ensure



DANIEL STIEGLITZ is serving in the Israeli army.

that everyone was being taught at the proper level, we were each given a Hebrew equivalency exam on our first day of training.

Using the results of those exams we were divided into

seven teams within our company known as "Tzavotim" (teams), with Tzevet 1 being the lowest level, and Tzevet 7 being the highest. I myself was in Tzevet 5.

It was Tzevet 5 and the rest of my platoon that gave me one of my favorite aspects of the army - a new and diverse group of friends from around the world.

Whether we were from Brazil, England, Ukraine, France or America, we each brought a unique aspect to our group that helped us forge an incredibly strong bond. Our commanders even put together a "Roots Evening" so that groups from each country could perform their interpretation of where they're from; my American group did a skit consisting of Ellis Island, ESPN, Bob Dylan and couch potatoes.

On our final day at our training base we sat down with our commanders for the traditional "breaking of the distance." With bright smiles on their faces,

our *mefakdot* told us all about themselves and no subject was taboo. It was a complete 180 degree turnaround from who they were before. In this single moment, any hard feelings we may have had for one another due to the intensity of our training were completely non-existent. Later that evening, we went out to celebrate with them (in civilian clothes) in Tel Aviv.

On this last day, we were given our assignments, and told where to report to complete our remaining four months of service. Several of us chose to perform other services that would require us to stay in the army longer than the four months we had remaining. As far as my story goes, that is perhaps something best left for another day.

*Daniel Stieglitz from Providence has been writing a regular column for The Voice & Herald describing his experiences after making aliyah in 2007.*

From Page 24

Shomer Hatzair youth movement built a *sukkah* and invited both Arabs and Jews to visit in a spirit of reconciliation.

One of the first guests was Arab Knesset member Abbas Zakoar, an Akko resident and a member of the radical Raam-Taal party. Arab Knesset members, who often resort to inflammatory language as they compete for an increasingly radicalized Arab constituency, have played a remarkably conciliatory role in the current unrest. Paradoxically, Israeli-

Palestinian negotiations, which were meant to resolve the Israeli-Arab predicament, have sharpened tensions between Israeli Arabs and Jews. Israeli Arabs see their Palestinian cousins, once sworn enemies of the Jews, being offered full statehood, while they, citizens of the Israeli state, are ignored. They still recall with anger the October, 2000 clashes in which Israeli police opened fire on

Arab rioters. The Arabs point to the harsh police response - Israeli police don't use live

tors - as evidence of the double standard often applied to Israeli Arab citizens. Similarly, some

Israeli Jews point to the riots of eight years ago as a reminder that Israel's Arab citizens cannot be trusted: When the Palestinians launched their *intifada* that month, Israel's Arabs rioted in solidarity with the Palestinians.

The Orr Commission, set up to

investigate the 2000 clashes, found "years of discrimination" against Israeli Arabs and urged the government to do more to promote Jewish-Arab equality and provide Arab and Jewish municipalities with proportionately equal budgets. This has not happened.

In 2006, Israeli Arab leaders moved to a more publicly critical stance on the Jewish state, producing a document seeking virtual autonomy for the Arab minority and calling for an end to the Jewish character of the state. Titled the "The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel," the paper demanded veto rights and autonomy in domestic affairs, rejected Jewish symbols of state and provided a narrative of colonial conquest by Jews, naming Israeli Arabs as the land's only indigenous people.

With the background of the ongoing Israeli-Arab conflict and day-to-day tensions between Israeli Arabs and Jews, particularly in mixed cities like Akko, the rioting there really should have come as no surprise. All that's needed is something incendiary to set the two sides afame. Elie Rekhess, the director of the Konrad Adenauer Program for Jewish-Arab Cooperation at Tel Aviv University, says Arab-Jewish relations in Israel are a powder keg waiting to explode. If Akko is not the trigger, something else will be, Rekhess says - unless the government finds a way to give Israeli Arabs a sense of truly shared citizenship.

## ARAB: community leaders issue apology

**"Arab-Jewish relations in Israel are a powder keg waiting to explode. If Akko is not the trigger, something else will be."**

Elie Rekhess  
Tel Aviv University

fire against Jewish demonstra-

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## D'var Torah

### Welcoming guests into the *sukkah*

**PARASHAT SUKKOT CHOL HA-MOED**

**EXODUS 33:12 - 34:26**

*As our ancestors were strangers in a strange land, today we welcome strangers into our sukkah*

BY LESLI KOPPELMAN ROSS

**M**AIMONIDES admonished that anyone who sits comfortably with his family within his own walls and does not share with the poor is performing a *mitzvah* not for joy but for the stomach. In addition to extending personal invitations to the needy, we open our homes symbolically. With a formula established by the *kabbalists* in the 16th century, based on the earlier *Zohar*, on each night of *Sukkot* we invite one of seven exalted men of Israel to take up residence in the *sukkah* with us. "When a man sits in the shadow of faith (*sukkah*) the *Shekinah* spreads her wings on him from above and Abraham and five other righteous ones of God (and David with them) make their abode with him. A



man should rejoice each day of the festival with these guests."

The inspiration for *hakhnasat orekhim* (hospitality to guests) goes back to our first patriarch, and the first guest honored, Abraham. He would sit outside waiting for the opportunity to invite dusty wayfarers into the shade of his tent, and then run to prepare a meal of the choicest ingredients. A *midrash* based on the apocryphal Book of Jubilees claims that the first booth, on which the holiday *Sukkot* is based, was built by Abraham when he greeted the three angels who came to tell him his wife Sarah would at last bear a child [Genesis 18:1-10].

We perform a short ceremony to welcome the *ushpizin* (Aramaic for "guests"). The full text for the invitation that they join us, including prayers that our fulfillment of the *mitzvah* of *sukkah* will be worthy of divine favor, is printed in a full daily/festival *siddur*. Then, on the first day we say, "I invite to my meal the exalted guests, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David. May it please you, Abraham, my exalted guest, that all the other exalted guests dwell with me and with you - Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David." On each day, a different one of the seven is singled out, in order.

(Abraham left his father's home for the land God promised to show him [Genesis 12:1], Isaac went to Gerar during a famine [Genesis 26:1], Jacob fled from his brother Esau to the habitat of Laban [Genesis 28:2], Joseph was sold to merchants and taken to Egypt [Genesis 37:23-36], Moses fled to Midian after inadvertently killing an Egyptian [Exodus 2:11-15] and he and Aaron wandered the Sinai for 40 years [beginning with Exodus 13], and David hid from Saul in the wilderness [Samuel 20, 21].)

Each in his wanderings contributed to the world through a respective personal characteristic: loving-kindness, strength, splendor, glory, holiness, eternity, sovereignty. Reflecting the periods of homelessness and wandering in their lives, our temporary dwellings can inspire us to emulate the benefits they brought to the world.

Lesli Koppelman Ross is a writer and artist whose works have appeared nationally.

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## Jewish Community Calendar

From Page 15

**WHEN:** 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**COST:** \$35/uninsured

**MORE INFO:** 861-8800, ext. 108

### WEDNESDAY

#### October 29

##### Race, religion and politics

James T. Patterson, professor of history, will speak at this Life Long Learning Committee event.

**WHERE:** Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

### THURSDAY

#### October 30

##### Community Outreach

Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island

**WHERE:** Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Rd., Tiverton

**WHEN:** 10 - 11:30 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 624-1880

##### Women's Alliance

Visit to Mayyim Hayyim Mikveh

**WHERE:** Newton, Mass.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**COST:** \$36 including lunch and transportation

##### "How Should Jews Vote?"

Live from the 92nd Street Y program, featuring Ed Koch, William Krisol, and Rabbi Michael Lerner. Free and open to the public.

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 8:15 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 861-8800

### SATURDAY

#### November 1

##### Marilyn Price's Storytelling Concert,"

Is there an Elijah in your life?"

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

##### Tot Shabbat

An age appropriate Shabbat morning services including singing, dancing, prayers and story telling. Ages up to 7 years with a parent. Where: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

### SUNDAY

#### November 2

##### Annual Kidstuff Sale

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**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 861-8800, ext. 130

### SUNDAY

#### November 9

##### Kristallnacht Concert

Presented by Temple Emanu-El in partnership with the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island, with guest narrator Leonard Nimoy

**WHERE:** Veterans Memorial Auditorium

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

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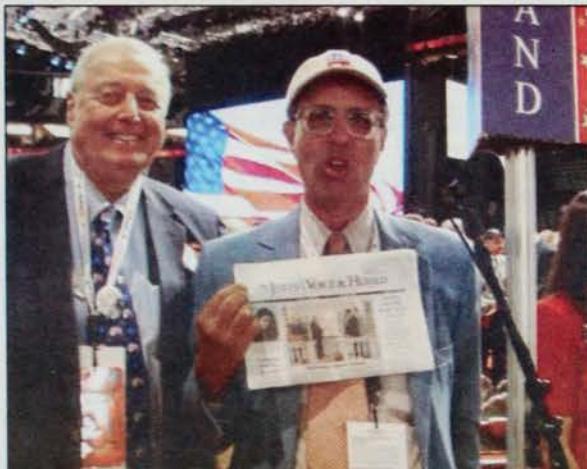
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Local Politicos at RNC

DAVE TALAN AND STEVE KASS were among the Rhode Island delegation assembled at the Republican National Convention in Minnesota. Dave, left, is the chairman of the Providence Republican Party and a member of Temple Torat Yisrael. Steve is an elected delegate and a member of Governor Carcieri's staff.



Beaune, France.

BARBARA KENERSON holds an issue of *The Jewish Voice & Herald* in the town square of Beaune, France.



Barcelona, Spain

JILL AND MICHAEL THALER on their recent trip to Barcelona, Spain.



Branson, Missouri

GEORGE KEMPLER and ALICE HAMILTON holding *The Jewish Voice & Herald* on September 15 in front of the Branson Mall in Branson, Missouri.



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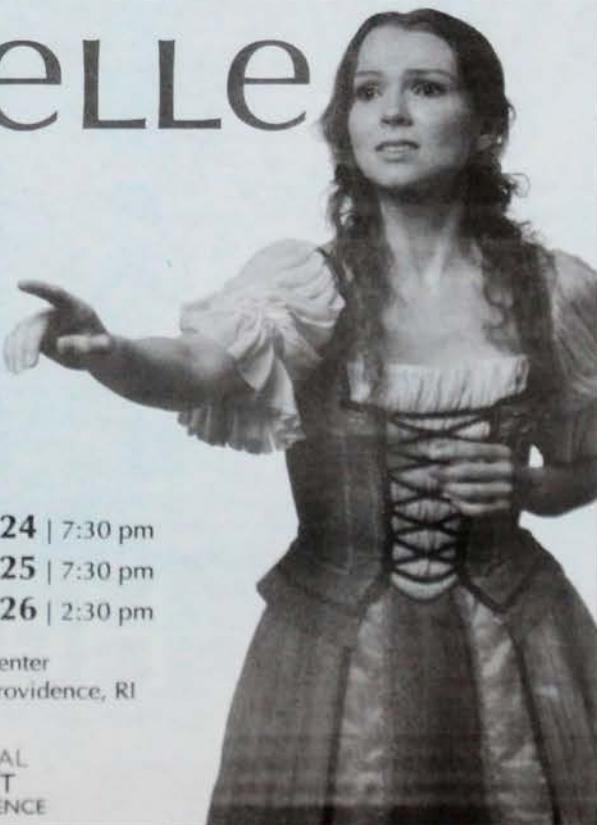
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Saturday **October 25** | 7:30 pm

Sunday **October 26** | 2:30 pm

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