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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Photo by JTA

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE Hillary Clinton met with Israeli Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on March 3.

U.S., Israel on same page about Iran

Wait-and-see on talks with Palestinians

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A month or so into the age of Obama, Israel's strategies in dealing with the new world reality are becoming clear.

NEWS ANALYSIS

On the Middle East-macro — the Iranian threat — Israel is deferentially following the U.S. lead as the Obama team lays the groundwork for increasing pressure on diplomatic outreach toward Tehran.

See ISRAEL, Page 10

'Peace will be made the day after an agreement is signed'

Sen. Whitehouse shares impressions after recent Middle East visit

SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

A FEW WEEKS ago, I had the opportunity to visit Israel for the first time as part of a Congressional delegation led by Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.). As we walked through the Old City, stood in the silence at Yad Vashem, wended our way through the tunnels along the Western

VIEWPOINT

Wall, saw the Garden Tomb near the Damascus Gate, I could feel the mix of hope and worry shared by Israelis and Palestinians alike as they navigate towards two independent states sheltered by a durable peace.

We arrived in Jerusalem in the midst of a political fight. The ballots from the Israeli elections had just been counted, and President Shimon Peres was responsible for sorting out who should be

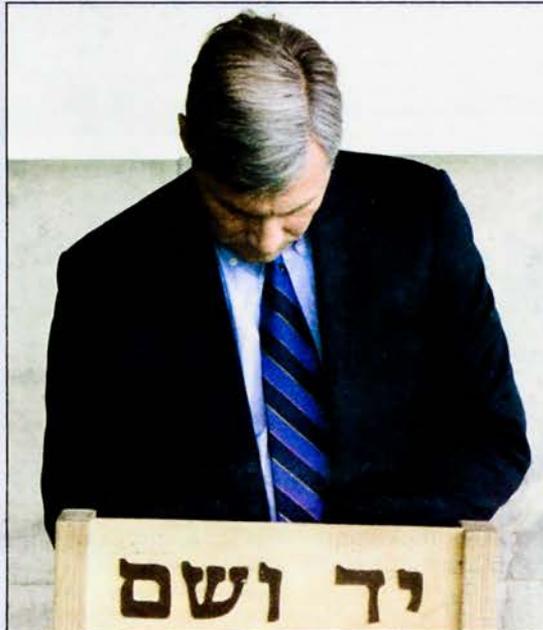


Photo courtesy of Sen. Whitehouse

SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE signs the guest book at Yad Vashem during his recent to Israel.

tapped to form a new Israeli government. Just days after we departed, President Peres selected Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu to try to build a coalition to lead the Israeli government. This process will not be easy.

We met with President

Peres and Mr. Netanyahu, as well as a number of Palestinian and other Israeli senior officials, including Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, and Palestinian negotiator Saed

See WHITEHOUSE, Page 11

Darfur still a priority for JCPA

How big a tent for Israel advocacy debated

By ERIC FINGERHUT
JTA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The economic crisis and other issues may have far surpassed it in the headlines, but the Jewish community still cares about the crisis in Darfur.

That was evident this week in Washington as the Jewish Council for Public Affairs passed a resolution at its annual plenum endorsing the option of U.S. military force in Sudan.

"I think it's a statement about this community's steadfastness,"

AS WE WENT TO PRESS:

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes in the conflict in western Darfur.

said JCPA's executive director, Rabbi Steve Gutow, noting that even though local Jewish communities have spent much time and effort on Darfur in the past few years, great concern remains about the genocide in the region.

The plenum serves as an annual barometer of where the

See JCPA, Page 12

Going for the green — with gusto

Sustainable products emerge as a new market

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

MASHPEE, Mass. — "Cheap is cheap," said Nicole Goldman, founder and owner of gGreen Design Center, in Mashpee, Mass., "and you shouldn't always make the cheap choice."

If you buy cheap — you may save a little bit of money upfront, she said, but you'll end up replacing those poorer quality goods much sooner than otherwise.

As that approach isn't healthy for the environment, for you or your budget, she urged workshop attendees to make good choices.

JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS

"By choosing energy-efficient products and appliances for your homes, you'll stop demanding so much energy from the energy grid and that's less costly to you," she said.

'ECO-CONSCIOUS'

Goldman talked, as well, about the health impacts and benefits of choosing an "eco-conscious" lifestyle.

"We spent 50 years putting

toxic chemicals into our (cleaning) products and home goods," she said, "and we'll spend the next 50 years taking them out."

While many people want the convenience and ease of a "ready-to-use" cleaning product, vinegar, water, lemon juice and baking soda (individually and in combination) make great cleaners.

With no national regulations on the use of "green," "natural," or "organic" in cleaning supplies and toiletries, she was asked, "How do we know what's a better choice, if we want to be environmentally-conscious about what



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

NICOLE GOLDMAN, founder of gGreen Design Center, urged attendees at the Feb. 28 workshop she hosted to choose sustainable products made from renewable materials.

See GREEN, Page 20

Weighing in on 'Circumference'

Amy Salloway's one-woman show is all about self-image

"OH MY GOD, how did you get to be the size of a city?"

KINGSTON – This is the definition of obesity, sensitively termed by a junior-high gym teacher in the one-woman show by Amy Salloway as: "Circumference."

Salloway performed her 70-minute show in the Swan Hall Auditorium at the University of Rhode Island on Feb. 19.

The show, free to the public, was attended by a mix of students – almost exclusively women – and a number of older, adult couples.

Salloway's performance flashes back and forth between junior-high gym class and a six-month period of Salloway's life, when she was pursuing coverage for gastric bypass surgery.

During the play, the mandatory six-month diet and exercise regime required before the surgery lowers Salloway's body

mass index so that she's out of the danger zone. Because she is otherwise a healthy individual with no diagnosis of any "co-morbidities" to the obesity, she is ultimately unable to proceed with the surgery.

Salloway's tragic reaction is that she is not thin enough to be socially acceptable, but not fat enough to be able to do something about it. She refers to it as "obesity purgatory."

The play isn't just about being fat, it's about isolation in general and there are other characters named as outsiders. For instance, there's a girl in gym class with sickle cell anemia.

In Amy's adult life we meet another outcast who

has a profound effect on both Amy's body and her mind.

She meets him at her gym when he falls off a treadmill. He is handicapped, due to a car accident, and their respective deformities bond them. She comes to fall for him as she is in the midst of her six-month diet and exercise regime

"Salloway's performance flashes back and forth between junior-high gym class and a six-month period of her life, when she was pursuing coverage for gastric bypass surgery."



AMY SALLOWAY, center, with Alethia Hartenstine, right, co-chair of the event, who doubled as co-person, and Jonathan Aronoff, left, who served as emcee for the night.

Photo by Julia Mc

in preparation for surgery.

In losing weight and earning the attention of a member of the opposite sex, she begins to notice that she actually looks cute. The positive results snowball until he reveals that he met someone else. The buildup of positive feelings, self-confidence, good food choices and happiness come crashing down.

In her binge-eating reaction, she passes a gyros stand and as she sees the gyro meat falling off the bone in thin slices, wishes she could be the gyro and have the fat sliced off effortlessly.

Perhaps one of the funniest and most visually stunning descriptions during the show comes during a dark daydream where Salloway imagines herself gorging on food, never leaving her house, gaining hundreds of pounds and dying alone in her home. When she imagines herself being extracted from the home, she imagines that "sandwiches would fall from my crevices like a gentle rain."

UNIVERSAL THEMES

The event was sponsored by URI Hillel, in partnership with the Women's Alliance

Endowment Fund of JFRI and URI Student Senate.

URI Hillel's mission for this year was to collaborate with other university organizations on events that involved Jewish issues but also issues that could be viewed as more universal.

The topic of body image certainly met this criterion. In fact, the only suggestion that the play's character was Jewish was when she mimicked her mother's reaction to her desire to be approved for gastric bypass surgery. Her mother

See OBESITY, Page 37

The Prize is Right Charity Event Is Happening in Providence!

Doors open at 5:30pm & drawing starts promptly @ 8:30pm
Join us for delicious food, great entertainment, a live auction and a chance to win some fantastic prize packages

- Exciting Vacation Getaways
- \$400 Airlines Gift Certificate
- Dell Laptop • Digital Camera
- Fine Jewelry • Shopping Sprees
- Handheld GPS • Hotel Stays
- iPod • Sporting Events • Much More!

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009
Downtown Providence Marriott Hotel
One Orms Street, Providence RI

You have a high chance of winning on all prize packages!

Earn bonus value tickets by purchasing your raffle ticket value packages by 4:00pm on March 1st!
For more details, directions, and prize descriptions, please visit our website at:
www.pbds-event.com or for a complete prize catalog, call us at 401-331-5327 #17
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

For Greater Rhode Island



March 6	5:22
March 13	6:30
March 20	6:38
March 27	6:46

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Now, I was covering him, and all the poetry, all the philosophy, all the stories of heaven and resurrection were powerless to bring him back.

Josh Stein

See Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

'HOMES & REAL ESTATE'

SPECIAL SECTION

See Pages 20-29

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

VOICE & HERALD SPECIAL SECTION

The Voice & Herald's Purim Spiel 2009

Voice & Herald nominated for Pulitzer Prize

NEW YORK: — *The Jewish Voice & Herald* has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for its community journalism, a source at Columbia University revealed today. The nomination was made Howard Sutton, publisher of *The Providence Journal*.

In his nominating letter, Sutton said that he believed the writing and content of the bi-weekly newspaper consistently exceeded that of his own daily. "I am struck by the community newspaper's ability to cover stories before they appear in our own pages," Sutton said. "When the Rev. John Hagee came to the region to speak in support of Israel, *The Voice & Herald* was the only media outlet to cover the story. When a federal detainee died in custody in Rhode Island, *The Voice & Herald* was the first Rhode Island paper to call for an investigation."

Former *Providence Journal* columnist M. Charles Bakst praised the nomination, saying that "the secret of success in journalism today is all about providing local news," and *The Voice & Herald* does a great job.

Bakst voiced worries that more pressure would be brought to bear for him to return as a guest columnist at *The Voice & Herald*. "I'm retired," he said, adding as he quickly headed for the door at Seven Stars. "Maybe if they'd let me be a sports columnist covering the Red Sox, I'd reconsider."

Quonset slated to be new home for medical device firm

PROVIDENCE: — A new medical device company, AccuSlice, LLC, has developed a robotic surgical device that automatically performs circumcisions. The company is seeking venture capital to underwrite its expansion into a global concern, to the tune of about \$100 million.

The company conducted its clinical trials at Brown University and Miriam Hospital during the last two years. The majority owner of the firm is George Mohel

Cohan, an Israeli entrepreneur and professor at Tel Aviv University.

According to a spokesperson from the company, AccuSlice had considered an Olneyville location for erecting its new facility, but decided to focus on Quonset after Gov. Donald Carcieri promised that he would personally guarantee that there would be "no end" to the state's ability to leverage tax breaks.

Madoff family endows new Rubashkin Chair

BRISTOL: — Bernie Madoff's family, in an effort to stave off further ruin to its reputation, has pledged \$20 million to endow a new chair at Roger Williams University, the Aaron Rubashkin Professor of Labor Law, at the formerly named Ralph Papitto School of Law.

The donation follows in the tradition of former junk bond dealer Michael Milken to underwrite large corporate charitable gifts.

Rubashkin is the founder of Agriprocessors, what had been the largest kosher slaughterhouse in the nation. The company's plant in Postville, Iowa, recently encountered both financial and labor difficulties for its alleged employment of undocumented, under-aged workers. The state of Iowa brought more than 900 charges against the company for alleged labor violations in 2008.

The new chair, which will also receive matching grants from the Federalist Society and the American Enterprise Institute, will conduct scholarly research on how to overturn worker protection laws in the United States and around the world, in order to spur new productivity.

Roger Williams University President Roy Nirschel welcomed the new endowment as an important part of his effort to build civil discourse on campus. Nirschel cited his own work to recruit funds for improving Jewish life and scholarship on campus, while, at the same time, assisting with his school's architectural efforts to help create a Palestine Museum in

Jerusalem dedicated to a one-state vision.

To ensure that the money is not tainted by the Madoff fraud, Agriprocessors has said that it will use its Postville, Iowa, facilities to launder and cleanse the money under the strict supervision.

'Jewish-American Idol,' reality TV show, launched PROVIDENCE:

— A new reality TV show, "Jewish-American Idol," will debut on The Jewish Channel and Fox TV in April, according to *Variety*. The new reality TV show will feature Jewish-Ameri-

daughters were going to study the Torah in order to become *b'nei mitzvah*. To help in preparation, the two daughters will attend Moses Brown's summer camp, RISE, in a special transfer program with Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C.

The Obama daughters will receive special tutoring in both Hebrew and Torah by a team of rabbis and cantors, including Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, Rabbi Raphie Schochet, Cantor Richard Perlman, and Rabbi Elyse Wechterman.

Hardball's Chris Matthews complained: "Is the First Family Jewish, Christian or Muslim?"

First Lady Michelle Obama will accompany them for part of the summer. She plans to stay at an undisclosed location on the East Bay, rumored to be Bristol, at the former home of Ira Magaziner.

New kosher deli to open on East Side

PROVIDENCE: — A new kosher deli, Shmaltz, will open on the East Side of Providence, a partnership between Boston Red Sox executive Theo Epstein and the Krafts, owners of the New England Patriots.

"It's a business decision," said Jonathan Kraft, who said that the new deli would create its own signature kosher sandwiches that would be offered at both Red Sox and Patriot games.

"We want to offer the best pastrami, the best corned beef, the best tongue in the region," Epstein said. "Unfortunately, until now, it's been next to impossible to find a good delicatessen without going to New York."

The first location will open in June in Providence, Kraft said, because it has the greatest potential growth opportunity, and the best Jewish newspaper in the region. The second location will be at the Patriots' stadium in Foxboro, as part of the new commercial mall, and it is planned to open in September.



singers and performers who seek stardom.

The first team of celebrity judges will include Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow and Adam Sandler, as well as local writers Mark Patinkin and Mark Binder.

Contestants, in addition to their ability to sing, will need to be able to *kvetch* and complain, the show's producers said.

One-day tryouts for the new show will be held at Temple Beth-El in Providence on March 9, in the evening. "Wanna-be" contestants should be familiar with songs from the Broadway show, "Mama Mia," based upon songs by ABBA.

Obama daughters to become B'nei Mitzvah

WASHINGTON, D.C.: — Following up on his decision to convert to Judaism, first reported here last year, President Barack Obama announced on Feb. 29 that his

In the tradition of Stoneyfield Yogurt, Kraft said that Shmaltz would contribute 10 percent of its profits to underwrite Jewish day school education in Rhode Island.

Jehuda Reinharz to leave Brandeis, head up new RISD art museum

WALTHAM, MASS.: — In a surprise announcement, President Jehuda Reinharz said that he would be leaving Brandeis University to manage a new museum being developed by the Rhode Island School of Design, tentatively entitled "Rosebud," which will bring together all the digital and film collections of media bloopers made in the last 100 years.

"There is a rich history of autocratic, imperious leaders who have chosen to make claims that have fallen into the laugh bins of history," he said. Hitler's 1,000-year *Reich*, Buddy Cianci's "no stains" on my tie, William Aramony's "United Way: The next 100 years," and, of course, "Mission accomplished" by former President George W. Bush.

As one who has stumbled himself, recently announcing plans to sell off the assets of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis, and then having to publicly admit it was a mistake, saying: "To quote President Obama, 'I screwed up,'" Reinharz said he was uniquely qualified to direct the new museum's operation.

Former Brandeis University student Angela Davis volunteered to be the speaker at the opening of the new museum.

R.I. corruption tour

CRANSTON: — An enterprising entrepreneur, Miles 'Dutch' Archer, has developed a special Rhode Island corruption tour, modeled on the famous Boston duck tours. Instead of an amphibious vehicle, the new tour, which is calling itself "Ripping Off Little Rhody," plans to use a dozen vintage, retrofitted

See PURIM, Page 37

HOW TO CONTACT US

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

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

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President Doris Feinberg
Exec. Vice President Stephen R. Silberfarb

Executive Editor

Richard Asinof/rasinof@jfri.org/421-4111, ext. 168

Associate Editor

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

Contributing Senior Writer

Mary Korr

Correspondents:

Dr. Stanley Aronson, Barbara Fields, Tema Gouse, Alan Krinsky, Jehuda Lev, Rabbi James Rosenberg, Daniel Stieglitz, Joshua Stein, Alan Zuckerman

Editorial Board:

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

Advertising Representative

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

Production & Graphic Design

Leah Camara

Direct extension to advertising:

401-421-4111, ext. 160
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Justin "Jay" Strauss, Chair
Members: Deb Cohen, Everett Finkelstein, Toby London, Burt Priest, Ken Schneider

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INSIDE SECTION

Section	Page
Community	7, 32-35
Israel	10-11
Opinion	4-6
Federation	8-9
Calendar	19, 36
Homes & Real Estate	20-29
Medical Arts	15
Seniors	14
Obituaries	36
We Are Read, D'Var	38
Arts	2, 7, 13, 37
Food	17

FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Hope and community

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jvri.org

OF ALL THE CRISES and difficulties we face – a nuclear threat from Iran, a severe economic downturn, an immigration system in shambles, a banking system where consumers cannot find credit, rising unemployment over 10 percent in Rhode Island, a state government in debt, with the promise of huge service cuts on the horizon, and the closing of the middle school at the Jewish Community Day School – I want to talk about hope and community.

At times such as these, the true value of community and the ways we interact with each other become apparent. I am struck by the many positive ways our Jewish community in Rhode Island has responded – synagogues organizing food drives for food pantries, donors increasing their pledges to the community campaign, and the many individual acts of kindness that occur day in and day out.

Those who attack, who point fingers, and who, like Rush Limbaugh, shamelessly cheer for failure of our president and our nation, are beyond contempt, in my opinion. They are our modern-day Hamans, shamelessly spewing hatred and engaging in vitriolic name-calling. This Purim, I promise to shake my noisemaker every time I hear Limbaugh's name. As with Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who built an empire of fear around false accusations and distortions, it will take courage and gumption to reject those who seem to mimic the nihilism of "Burn, baby, burn."

For sure, things are going to get much worse before they improve. When the wolf is at the door, it's easy to point fingers and tear people down – in relationships, in the workplace, in our community. It's a destructive pattern that author Shirley Jackson once wrote about in "The Lottery," an annual ritual of stoning.

I don't harbor any illusions about the nature of the world we live in – snakes will still bite, rats will steal to pad their own nest, politicians will reward their friends with financial favor, and some teammates will always put themselves first and never miss a chance to make others around them look bad. The fumble he or she makes is always someone else's fault.

In his movie, "The Twelve Chairs," Mel Brooks, in the lyrics of the film's theme song, wrote: "Hope for the best. Expect the worse." It's a funny, realist's view.

I prefer a bit more optimistic view, because a pessimist is only concerned with what he or she may lose, not gain. My recipe suggestion is to find a way in which you can give of yourself without expecting or asking anything in return – *chesed shel emet* – the kindness of truth.

There are plenty of ways to do that and connect with the Jewish community here. Thanks in advance.

The meaning of Shabbat

FRIDAY EVENING, Feb. 6, *Shabbat Shirah*, the Sabbath during which the Song of the Sea, Exodus, Chapter 15, is chanted in synagogues throughout the world.

For several consecutive years the Sisterhood of Temple Habonim in Barrington has led the community in worship on this particular Shabbat – in part to acknowledge the leadership role which Jewish feminists have ascribed to



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

Miriam in joining her brother Moses in bringing our people across the Red Sea from slavery to freedom.

As our Torah tells us: "Then Miriam the prophetess...took a timbrel in her hand and all the women went after her dancing

with their timbrels." (Exodus 15:20) I am worshipping with more than 100 people in the inspiring sanctuary of Temple Habonim.

While there are a few grandpar-

ents like me among us, most of my fellow worshippers are young parents with their children. Rabbi Klein has arranged for a number of mothers in the Sisterhood to come forward with

daughter appears to be increasingly embarrassed. We are all beginning to feel uneasy; if only we could help the woman get those first words out of her mouth. At last the woman begins

"If you remember how good it felt when you did welcome Shabbat, when you took out the candles and purposely made room for the healing light of Shabbat, then you can finally, joyously, rescue yourself."

their daughters to lead different parts of the service.

A few minutes into our worship, a woman comes to the *bima* along with her teenage daughter, a junior at Barrington High School. The young lady reads a few well-chosen meditations from our new Reform prayer book, *Misbkan T'filah*.

After she has finished, her mother steps up to the microphone. The mother's face contorts, as if she is overcome with emotion and thereby tongue-tied. She tries to speak, but her words remain locked within. The

to speak – with a strong voice, with elegance, and with great poise. Clearly, she has been acting, toying with us to make her point. Although most of us have been "taken in," we don't mind; we appreciate this opening bid for our attention.

"No doubt, I am struggling. How do I begin? What do I say? Geez...I must look so foolish. I just hate this standing up here alone stuff. Won't someone,

anyone please rescue me?" She continued: "I struggle, as I'm sure each of you struggles. Sometimes it's a teacher who expects so much, sometimes it's a parent who does the same. Sometimes it's a co-worker or an employer or your spouse or your children – all wanting, all demanding something. After a while it just sounds like so much noise. And, sometimes the result is that you get so tired, so weary. Will someone please just rescue me!"

The woman continued: "So, what

See SHABBAT, Page 6

Scholarship enabled me to go to college

I WAS DELIGHTED to find your article in the latest *Voice & Herald* ("A family's charitable legacy rediscovered," Feb. 20). The Pauline Asinof Scholarship and the NCJW past presidents who administered it rank high among my memories of the best of Springfield.

Born and brought up there, I was one of the proud recipients of the Pauline Asinof Scholarship. I was in the class of 1951 at Classical High, and that scholarship enabled me to go to University of Massachusetts.

I ended up marrying before I finished school – the Korean War was a major reason – but when we settled in Providence after my husband's tour of duty and graduate school, I finished my degree at Pembroke and then went on to graduate school at Brown.

Without the original scholarship, I would never have been able to go away to school. It covered all my tuition at the University of Massachusetts.

I owe a debt of gratitude to your family and to the NCJW. I also remember Mrs. Weltman very well. She was a diminutive lady, but a *grande dame* nonetheless.

My grandmother, who worked out of our living room, was her seamstress. Mrs. Weltman was a favored customer.

My sister-in-law and her twin sister also won Asinof scholarships to the University of Massachusetts.

Their brother, Laurance Zimmerman,

Letters to the Editor



Pauline Asinof

won one, but when he received the Barr Fellowship which covered all his tuition at Yale, his parents returned the Asinof grant to the NCJW so that someone else could benefit from it. Family lore relates that they were the only ones who ever did so. Thank you again for your article. I look forward to its sequel.

Helaine M. Schupack
Providence

Answers: What happened to scholarship students

I JUST READ your article ("A family's charitable legacy rediscovered," Feb. 20, *The Voice & Herald*) with great interest and got a thrill out of reading the names of so many of my old friends from the Spring-

field Classical High School Class of 1953.

I was in this class of '53, and can help to answer your questions, "What happened to these students?" and "What career paths do they choose?"

There are 15-20 members from the class of '53 who get together every few years, so I do have some information for you.

I also went to Wesleyan with Alan Gerstein but have not seen him since graduation in 1957. I do know that Alan became a physician and practiced or practices in Springfield. I do not know what area he specialized in.

Jerry Becker, Arnie Zogry, and Bernie Kosto are part of this group that has reunions on a regular basis. Bernie is still practicing urology in Hartford, Conn. He married Gale Sanofsky from the class of '55 and I see both of them quite often.

Arnie Zogry passed away in 2008; he spent many years in Raleigh, N.C., where he was the right-hand man for one of the governors.

Jerry Becker also became a physician and specialized in ophthalmology. He practiced in California, and upon his retirement two or three years ago, he bought a working farm in Grass Valley, Calif. He is also married to a Classical graduate, class of '57.

Thanks for an article that really brought the past back to me. Those were good days, and it's nice to remember them once in a while.

Edwin Mehlman
Barrington

FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR Hope and community

By RICHARD ASINOF
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OF ALL THE CRISES and difficulties we face – a nuclear threat from Iran, a severe economic downturn, an immigration system in shambles, a banking system where consumers cannot find credit, rising unemployment over 10 percent in Rhode Island, a state government in debt, with the promise of huge service cuts on the horizon, and the closing of the middle school at the Jewish Community Day School – I want to talk about hope and community.

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While there are a few grandpar-

ents like me among us, most of my fellow worshippers are young parents with their children. Rabbi Klein has arranged for a number of mothers in the Sisterhood to come forward with

daughter appears to be increasingly embarrassed. We are all beginning to feel uneasy; if only we could help the woman get those first words out of her mouth. At last the woman begins to speak – with a strong voice, with elegance, and with great poise. Clearly, she has been acting, toying with us to make her point. Although most of us have been "taken in," we don't mind; we appreciate this opening bid for our attention.

"No doubt, I am struggling. How do I begin? What do I say? Geez...I must look so foolish. I just hate this standing up here alone stuff. Won't someone,

anyone please rescue me?"

She continued: "I struggle, as I'm sure each of you struggles. Sometimes it's a teacher who expects so much, sometimes it's a parent who does the same. Sometimes it's a co-worker or an employer or your spouse or your children – all wanting, all demanding something. After a while it just sounds like so much noise. And, sometimes the result is that you get so tired, so weary. Will someone please just rescue me!"

The woman continued: "So, what

See SHABBAT, Page 6

IT SEEMS TO ME Will someone please just rescue me?

"If you remember how good it felt when you did welcome Shabbat, when you took out the candles and purposely made room for the healing light of Shabbat, then you can finally, joyously, rescue yourself."

their daughters to lead different parts of the service.

A few minutes into our worship, a woman comes to the *bima* along with her teenage daughter, a junior at Barrington High School. The young lady reads a few well-chosen meditations from our new Reform prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*.

After she has finished, her mother steps up to the microphone. The mother's face contorts, as if she is overcome with emotion and thereby tongue-tied. She tries to speak, but her words remain locked within. The

Letters to the Editor

Scholarship enabled me to go to college

I WAS DELIGHTED to find your article in the latest *Voice & Herald* ("A family's charitable legacy rediscovered," Feb. 20). The Pauline Asinof Scholarship and the NCJW past presidents who administered it rank high among my memories of the best of Springfield.

Born and brought up there, I was one of the proud recipients of the Pauline Asinof Scholarship. I was in the class of 1951 at Classical High, and that scholarship enabled me to go to University of Massachusetts.

I ended up marrying before I finished school – the Korean War was a major reason – but when we settled in Providence after my husband's tour of duty and graduate school, I finished my degree at Pembroke and then went on to graduate school at Brown.

Without the original scholarship, I would never have been able to go away to school. It covered all my tuition at the University of Massachusetts.

I owe a debt of gratitude to your family and to the NCJW. I also remember Mrs. Weltman very well. She was a diminutive lady, but a *grande dame* nonetheless.

My grandmother, who worked out of our living room, was her seamstress. Mrs. Weltman was a favored customer.

My sister-in-law and her twin sister also won Asinof scholarships to the University of Massachusetts.

Their brother, Laurance Zimmerman,



Pauline Asinof

won one, but when he received the Barr Fellowship which covered all his tuition at Yale, his parents returned the Asinof grant to the NCJW so that someone else could benefit from it. Family lore relates that they were the only ones who ever did so.

Thank you again for your article. I look forward to its sequel.

Helaine M. Schupack
Providence

Answers: What happened to scholarship students

I JUST READ your article ("A family's charitable legacy rediscovered," Feb. 20, *The Voice & Herald*) with great interest and got a thrill out of reading the names of so many of my old friends from the Spring-

field Classical High School Class of 1953.

I was in this class of '53, and can help to answer your questions, "What happened to these students?" and "What career paths do they choose?"

There are 15-20 members from the class of '53 who get together every few years, so I do have some information for you.

I also went to Wesleyan with Alan Gerstein but have not seen him since graduation in 1957. I do know that Alan became a physician and practiced or practices in Springfield. I do not know what area he specialized in.

Jerry Becker, Arnie Zogry, and Bernie Kosto are part of this group that has reunions on a regular basis. Bernie is still practicing urology in Hartford, Conn. He married Gale Sanofsky from the class of '55 and I see both of them quite often.

Arnie Zogry passed away in 2008; he spent many years in Raleigh, N.C., where he was the right-hand man for one of the governors.

Jerry Becker also became a physician and specialized in ophthalmology. He practiced in California, and upon his retirement two or three years ago, he bought a working farm in Grass Valley, Calif. He is also married to a Classical graduate, class of '57.

Thanks for an article that really brought the past back to me. Those were good days, and it's nice to remember them once in a while.

Edwin Mehlman
Barrington

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

I grieve my father's death and commemorate his life

No time left for another day, another lesson, another song

POEMS INTRUDE.

The first begins: "Say this when you mourn for me:

There was a man – and look, he is no more. He died before his time. The music of his life suddenly stopped.

A pity! There was another song in him.

Now it is lost forever."

The second urges: "Do not go gentle into that good night.

Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Out of the canon of Scripture we read:

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens; a time to be born, and a time to die... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

In August my father, still strong, still vibrant, still a lover of life, suffered a series of strokes. He was left physically debilitated but his mind remained as sharp as ever. I don't know if the medical teams

saved his life or prolonged his death. I know that, as a result of their efforts, my father suffered, too weak to live, too strong to die. Until he died.

My brother and I and others who loved him mirrored his



Josh Stein

physical pain with our own emotional anguish. Seeing him unable to speak, I knew that thoughts were cascading around his brain and that he, in frustration,

could only try and fail to express them. There was so much more to say; I was his son; I am his son; I have learned so much from him about being a man – but there is so much more to learn. Yet, suddenly I am fatherless, left to cope with the world as though I knew its answers, as though I even knew what questions to ask of it. I know there was at least one more piece of instruction in my father but he could not move it even the brief distance from his brain to his mouth to my waiting ear. And I know what words I could not

speak. I could not say, "Father, you are dying" because I could not move the words even the brief distance from my brain to my mouth to his ears. He had given me so much; could I deprive him of hope? But because I kept his hope alive (because I kept my own hope alive?), I denied him the dignity of facing up to his own death; I denied myself the last words of truth I could give him.

He did not want to die, though in the last days he

of that I am certain. He did not want to go gently into that good night; he would not even have acknowledged that the eternal night he was entering was good. He wanted to live, but he could not. I wanted him to live, but knew he couldn't. I did not want his death prolonged, but it was. Selfishly, I was happy to have him just a few more days, though it broke my heart to hear him gasping for air. I could have let the mucus in his lungs overwhelm him, but each

time I rang for the nurse, "Hurry, hurry, he's choking," and each time they did deep suction and each time he suffered the pain and each time I wept.

Once he was young, but now he isn't and it was his time. By most measures, 95 years is a good long life. But he had another song; he struggled to breathe. The stoicism of the poem is a front-porch kind of philosophy, easy and obvious, but he had another song to sing. People whose parents died before they were 95 might resent my feelings. And it's true, as far as it goes; I was lucky to have him so long. But it wasn't long enough. There is a time to be born and a time to

die – and I have wept on both occasions – for, as my first child was born, I held him and thought, "What have I done?" Selfishly, satisfying my physical and emotional needs, I've brought this innocent person into the world and he who was not is now destined to die

And then I wept again as my father lay dying, his teachings incomplete, with at least one more lesson he could not get out, as he lost his fight against the eternal night.

As I shoveled dirt onto my father's coffin, I thought, "He had been a man, a good man, an accomplished man, an intelligent, loving, kind and wise man. And now I, his weeping son, am covering him with earth. He had covered me as a baby, protecting me from the cold night as I slumbered innocently in my crib. Now I was covering him, and all the poetry, all the philosophy, all the stories of heaven and resurrection were powerless to bring him back or to comfort me. There lay a man. My father, who was dead.

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

"His pleasures of life were kvelling over his grandchildren, walking the golf course, attending shul, shmoozing with friends, breathing air, tasting water."

accepted death's inevitability. I think he was afraid to die, afraid to give up the pleasures of life which consisted mostly of kvelling over his grandchildren, walking the golf course, attending shul, shmoozing with friends, breathing air, tasting water. He did not want to die,

NOW BATTING

JCDS: What is to be done?

The community should rally to support Jewish day school education

WHAT SHOULD be done about the decision to close the middle school of the Jewish Community Day School? In a world that seems to have no limit of bad news, the decision by the board of trustees of the



Alan Zuckerman

JCDS to close next year the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grades tops the list of pain for the Rhode Island Jewish community. I believe it is the most pressing communal issue of the day.

What kind of Jewish community offers no more than a fifth-grade full-time Jewish

education to those who are not Orthodox? How can anyone suppose that what children learn through grade five will be sufficient to sustain them as university students and as parents themselves? Would they allow their children to finish their general education before grade six?

More generally, ending the middle school raises the specter that the JCDS itself will close. Will there be only an Orthodox day school in Rhode Island? Don't the region's Conservative and Reform Jews value full-time Jewish education? Are the expensive private schools so attractive? Does the new and free Nathan Bishop School entice?

The good news is that unlike the other worries – jobs, retirement, the national economy, threats to Israel – we can do something about the JCDS.

Let's start with the problem at hand. Children have been "evicted" from the school; a

class that has been together for years will not be able to graduate together. Their parents should get directly involved – even more than they are now.

The parents should not accept the claims that there are insufficient funds to run the middle

"I find it difficult to believe that the rabbis of our community's Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist congregations do not value day school education."

school. Money, as we all know, is fungible. It can be used to fund the third-grade or the seventh-grade. One can calculate expenses and income by apportioning them to all students or to some students. There is no justification for the claim that the middle school should pay for itself. Concern for missing dollars by itself did not close

the JCDS's middle school.

The parents should find ways to raise additional funds and make other cuts. The parents should recognize that those who closed the middle school do not sufficiently value that level of Jewish education. Those who believe in its value must work to sustain middle school education at the JCDS.

A strong parental presence is necessary to maintain a Jewish day school. That was true at the founding of the Providence Hebrew Day School in the years after World War II, and it continues to sustain that school. Parental involvement was critical for the formation of the local Schechter School 30 years ago. Saving the JCDS middle school needs the parents to fight to keep it open.

The parents are the most directly affected and so they must lead, but they should not carry the burden alone. As they act, their communities should support them: their

friends at their temples should praise and assist their efforts; their rabbis should affirm the value of the JCDS education, and if they have other views, they should try to make the appropriate changes or offer serious alternatives (and that excludes afternoon schools).

I find it difficult to believe that the rabbis of our community's Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist congregations do not value day school education. I very much hope that they will rally behind the parents of the JCDS middle school. Even more, I hope that they will lead a new and more powerful call for their congregants to send their children to the JCDS, and to work with the school to make it a viable source of education for all the children of the congregations. Do they really want there to be only an Orthodox day school in our community?

Alan Zuckerman is a political science professor at Brown University. He can be reached at Alan_Zuckerman@brown.edu.

OUR VOICE

Open letter to JCDS parents, staff and administration, and the Jewish community

*From the parents of
7th-grade children
at JCDS*

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED parents of 7th-grade children at JCDS, wish to express our concern, dismay and anger at the way in which the closure of the middle school of JCDS was recently handled. It was done abruptly, late in the school year and without forewarning to the school community of the difficulties that led to this decision.

It was presented as a "done deal" without involving the parents of the children involved. We feel our contract with the school was violated.

While we are concerned for all of the students affected by this decision, we feel that our children, the 7th-graders, were "hung out to dry." This class has been together for the last eight years (and, for some, nine years). They were looking forward to spending their last year together, reaching such milestones as *b'nei mitzvah*, the class trip to Israel

and graduation.

As a close group, they are upset and devastated by this news. This is all about our children. They are what matters. Their welfare should take precedence over everything.

We understand that the decision to do this may make financial sense, but we feel there could have been, and could perhaps still be, a way to keep this class of 14 students together for one more year.

While we are a group of families of diverse backgrounds and scattered locations, we are united by our desire to have our children grow up with a solid Jewish education. We have committed our children, our money, and considerable volunteer time to this school. While others fled (and continue to flee), we remained committed to the school during difficult times; we feel that the school should honor this by ensuring that our children are allowed to complete their final year there together.

What will happen to our children now? Some children may

go to the Schechter School in Norwood, but this involves a significant commute. In the case of two families from the southeastern Massachusetts area, it would involve an impossible commute.

In the case of one observant family from New Bedford which is deeply committed to Jewish education, sending their son to

secular schools, either public or private, and lose that year of Jewish education. It would also dislocate the children for one year after which they will be dislocated again for high school. In short, it would damage them.

As of the time of this writing, we parents have met as a group and formed a committee to study whether it is feasible to keep this grade alive for one more year at the level of educational excellence our children deserve.

This committee has met with the school administration. The administration says they are willing to work with us, and we take them at their word. We have professionals among us, business people, lawyers, accountants and committed volunteers who are willing to devote the time and effort needed to make this happen.

What is more important in a Jewish community than the education of our children? What are our priorities here in Providence? What message is the Providence Jewish community sending to families, outside this community

and within, about its commitment to Jewish education?

יקדי יכ סג וכרד יפ לע רענל חונן
ו, ב, י, ילשמן הנמח חסי אל

"Educate a child in the path you want him to follow then, even when he is older, he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 23: 6)

As we recite every Shabbat before benching:

ורצקי הנרב העמדב מיערחה

"If we sow in difficult times, we will reap in joy." (Psalms 126: 6); but if we don't plant now, what kind of harvest can we expect?

Abandoning the middle school students is a *shanda*.

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Bharier
Mr. & Mrs. Jed Brandes
Donna Goldin and
David Usher
Mr. & Mrs. David Goldstein
Rabbi Raphael Kanter
and Cindy Benson
Dr. & Mrs. Kennard Kobrin
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Mernoff
Mr. & Mrs. David Rothenmich
Mrs. Sarah Shreter-
Labine & Norbert Labine
Mr. Russ Silverstein
The Spindell Family

"What message is the Providence Jewish community sending to families, outside this community and within, about its commitment to Jewish education?"

the Norwood Schechter School would involve overwhelming challenges.

For families of Orthodox background who committed their children to JCDS because of the concept of a "community" school, this is also not the best option.

Other children will move on

Letters to the Editor

Professional development for Jewish teachers

I READ with great interest and understanding Larry Katz's piece about CAJE ("A heart-felt eulogy for CAJE," *The Voice & Herald*, Feb. 23).

I think he clearly set out the main challenges and issues. I hope people will hear his plea for professional development for teachers – the importance of it and the power of it.

Thanks for being supportive of this important piece of Jewish education, which is so often overlooked.

Lisa Micley
Director of Education,
Babaganewz
Newton, Mass.

I loved 'Defiance,' but not review

I JUST read the review of "Defiance" ("Defiance" depicts a true story of Jewish heroes," Jan. 23, *The Voice &*

Herald). When I was recently in Puerto Rico, I saw the movie with some friends who live in Newport in the summer and Puerto Rico the rest of the year. The subtitles were in Spanish, so I missed what had been said in Polish. But, I did catch the drift of most of it.

I was disappointed in some of your review, because all of us who saw it really loved the movie. Especially all of those who stood up and cheered when Zus returned to the group. Many of your comments were well-taken, but let's face it – wouldn't you have gone with Tuvia, if you had a chance! Also, if the movie was based on the book, why take fault with the movie?

I have to tell you that I have never before written to someone who has written a movie review, but I really did love "Defiance."

Rita Slom
Newport

Larry Gordon: A Hope High alum

YOU PRINTED an obituary about Larry Gordon

("Lawrence Barry Gordon," Feb. 6, *The Voice & Herald*) and claimed him as an alumnus of Classical High School. But no! Larry graduated with me from Hope High in June of 1951. We marched to the beat of the "Syncopated Clock," a popular tune of the time.

Larry was a close friend and East Side neighbor throughout our shared public school years and beyond. I heard of his passing and was flooded with memories of our adventures among these so-familiar Providence places.

When a school days' ally vanishes from your horizon, the gap that is left in your mind and heart widens and makes you ache with regret. I can find my old pal Larry on my usual haunts 'round the blocks I cover, as we used to do so very long ago. But the last act has ended and the curtain is drawn. *Too soon, too soon.*

Michael Fink
Providence

SHABBAT: A time to rescue yourself

does any of this have to do with Shabbat? For me, Shabbat gently pushes all that noise and distraction aside – all the have to's, the will do's, the "must do's, all of those sharp angles. Shabbat allows me to travel, although I think it's more like floating, to quite a different, yet familiar destination. My travel begins when either I or one of my children prepares the candles for the blessing. It's at that moment, when I strike the match, that everything stops, and I get to feel the first breath of Shabbat. The warmth that glides so gently, inviting me into a world where the faintest of whispers can be heard. I swear, at that moment, there is nothing in my thoughts except the incredible blessing of release from all of the Sunday through Friday noise that held my attention for too long. For that moment, as I stand before the Shabbat candles, silence is perfectly fine and welcomed."

The woman then asked: "So what happens if you don't always keep the Sabbath? No,

lightning will definitely not strike, nor will the plagues come early this year. If you remember how good it felt when you did welcome Shabbat, when you turned off the computer and left it behind, when you turned off the endless list of to do's, when you took out the candles and purposely made room for the healing light of Shabbat, then you can finally, joyously, rescue yourself."

The author of these sensitive, yet sensible words is Judy Mintzer, a long-time member of Temple Habonim. Last Feb. 6, she stood on the *bima* of our synagogue along with her daughter, Charlotte. It is possible that somebody, somewhere has offered a more eloquent, a more cogent call for the weekly kindling of our Shabbat candles, but I have neither heard such words spoken nor found them written down.

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

More than art for art's sake: RISD students in Israel

Special birthright trip emphasized Israel's creative side

By MARCY BRINK-DANAN
marcy@jfri.org

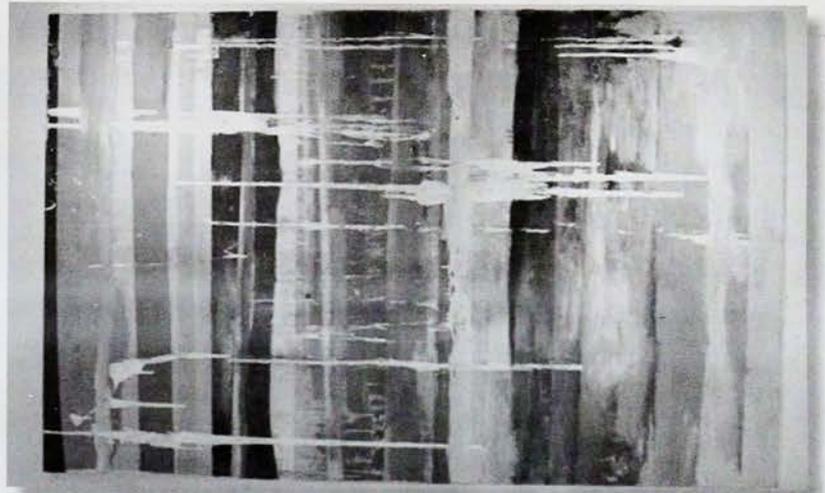
THIS WINTER, 30 young artists met came together as part of a special *taglit* birthright program that highlighted Israel's creative side. Among them were 12 students from the Rhode Island School of Design. The impressions of their visit was evident in the Brown-RISD Hillel gallery show, "Encounter: Artistic Interpretations of Israel," which displayed student works created during and inspired by the trip.

The Bronfman Foundation, which underwrote the trip, sought to bring American Jewish art students and young Israeli artists together to deepen an understanding of their shared creative endeavors. As part of the campus entrepreneurship initiative, a Hillel fellowship that pays college students to come up with entrepreneurial ways to

expand their peers' knowledge about Judaism, Sarah Young, a RISD undergraduate, inspired 11 other RISD students to join the program.

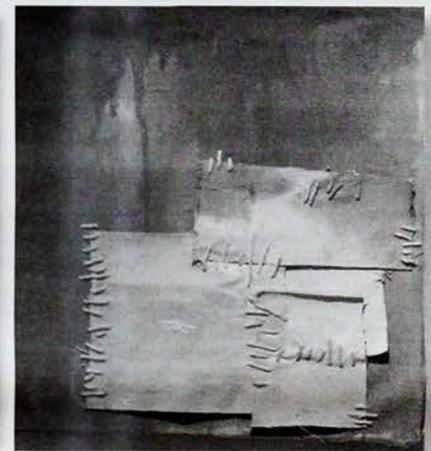
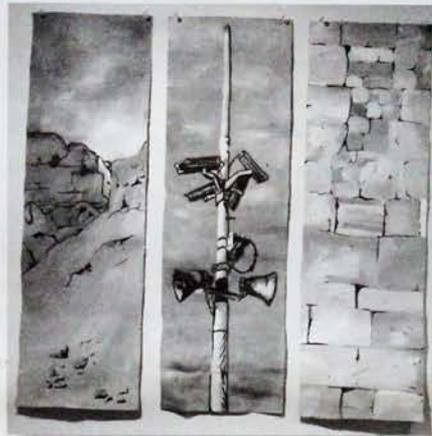
The timing of the trip coincided with the outbreak of the Gaza military campaign; quickly the differences in the lives of American and Israeli artists were set in high relief. If many of the Americans came to Israel looking for a fun vacation, they quickly understood the sober reality of their Israeli counterparts who, in the middle of the trip, were called away to military duty.

Three of the RISD student participants – Hannah Plotke, Max Spitzer and Arielle Weiss – initiated an independent study course to create and critique art works produced as a reaction to the birthright trip. The project led to a three-week exhibition at the Hillel Gallery organized by RISD student Mike Eckhaus. It showcased emerging Jewish artists from RISD to interpret their Israel trip's experience and share this with the broader community.



Photos by Shirah Rubin

ART WORK DISPLAYED at the recent "Encounter: Artistic Interpretations of Israel."



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Becoming a Bat Mitzvah as an adult

*A life-long
commitment to
learning*

By HELENA FRIEDMANN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

HINENI. A very interesting word. My *hineni* moment came when, after each of my three children had a *bar* or *bat mitzvah*, I found myself wanting the same connection to Torah I had watched them develop.

Let's roll back to the summer of 1989. Rabbi Rosenberg brought to the congregation the idea of adult *Bar/ Bat Mitzvah*. It would be a long road, he cautioned, but it also would be very rewarding.

Our class of 11 women and 1 man started meeting once a week with our Hebrew teacher, Toby Liebowitz. As the first year passed, we learned as much from each other as from our traditions and the rabbi. We ranged in age from 30 to 60 and had backgrounds ranging from convert to Orthodox Jew. We were Ashkenazi and Sephardic, and our points of view provoked very lively classes. After 18 years, we still have a strong connection with each



The first class of adult B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Habonim in May 1991.

other and with our temple. We started learning Hebrew. For me, at the age of 50, it was

"Now, I am an educator in our Jewish community, and I will continue to teach because as the sages said, 'You teach what you most need to learn.'"

not an easy task. We struggled with our *alef bet* and even more with the difference between our memorized prayers and the "real" pronunciation.

Then, in the middle of the second year, we learned that

Leviticus 23 was to be our *Torah* portion and a section from Ezekiel our *haftorah*, and the butterflies started.

Our day, May 3, 1991, came fast. Since we all had family and friends coming, we thought we might have 50 or maybe up to 70 people for the *oneg*. Were we surprised! The entire congregation showed up, and it was standing room only. The excitement, the warmth and the joy of

everybody was awe-inspiring. So, *hineni*, here I am. I have continued to read Torah (I cannot chant, and you would not want to hear me even if I could), I am still getting butterflies

Hineni
הנני
Here I am.

and, even better, I am still learning. Now, I am an educator in our Jewish community, and I will continue to teach because as the sages said, "you teach what you most need to learn," and there is a whole world out there. And, I always will get the same inspiring thrill as on that first day I read Torah, the day of my *bat mitzvah*.

Helena Friedmann is a teacher at Temple Habonim in Barrington. In addition to other ongoing personal and professional development programs, Helena participated in a 2001 Educators mission to Israel and the 2008 CAJE Conference, both of which were made possible by contributions to the JFRI annual campaign.

PJ Library update: Waiting list

By NICOLE KATZMAN
nkatzman@bjeri.org

SINCE the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island began the PJ Library here in Rhode Island two years ago, more than 800 children have been enrolled in the program, far exceeding our wildest expectations.

BJE/RI program staff and volunteers couldn't be more pleased that so many children in so many families are receiving PJ Library books and CDs and participating in our local programming.

In fact, the program has been so successful that our community has reached the maximum number of enrollments that can be accommodated. So, happily (and sadly), effective immediately, a waiting list for enrollment in PJ Library is in place.

New enrollments will be processed as current participants reach their 8th birthdays or withdraw from the program.

Parents of children placed on the waiting list will be notified by mail when enrollments are processed.

If you have questions about the program or the waiting list process, please contact Nicole Katzman, Director of PJ Library, at 331-0956, ext. 180 or e-mail nkatzman@bjeri.org.

The Women's Alliance

of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Save the Date

The Event for Women

Museum of Art
Rhode Island School of Design

Thursday May 7, 2009
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Including the Women's Alliance Annual Meeting

Installation of Women's Alliance President
Bonnie Steinberg Jennis

Presentation by Judith Tannenbaum,
Richard Brown Baker Curator Contemporary Art

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvre and dessert
Dietary laws observed



www.JFRI.org

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
130 Sessions Street Providence, RI 02906 401.421.4111

FEDERATION



PURIM ART WORK created by Diane Cerep, Creativity Center Coordinator, Bureau of Jewish Education of R.I.

PJ Library Calendar

Sunday

March 8
South County Hebrew School partners with Bright View Commons Nursing Home

WHERE: 57A Grandeville Court, Wakefield
WHEN: 10:15 a.m.

Saturday

March 14
Tot Shabbat
WHERE: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick
WHEN: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Friday

March 27
Early Kabbalat Shabbat
WHERE: 99 Taft Ave., Providence
WHEN: 5:45 p.m.

Saturday

March 28
Shabbat Story Time
WHERE: Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St. Providence
WHEN: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

All events are free of charge and open to the community. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas to all PJ Library events.

For more information or to make a donation to the PJ Library, contact Nicole Katzman at 331-0956, ext. 180, or e-mail nkatzman@bjeri.org.

Books coming your way

- Age 1: Passover!
- Age 2: Company's Coming
- Age 3: Only Nine Chairs
- Age 4: Too Many Cooks
- Age 5: Nachshon Who Was Afraid To Swim
- Age 6: No Matzoh for Me!
- Age 7: Passover Around the World

Spotlight on Jewish art

Midrasha high-school students display Jewish values through art

By JESSICA WATERMAN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

I AM CURRENTLY taking the Jewish Art class at the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School. In this class, which takes place in the BJE/RI creativity center, we construct Judaica-related items that are both useful and beautiful.

We are given the opportunity to decide which projects

ought to be completed by the class. So far, we have made *Tu B'Shevat* platters consisting of dried fruits, every one of which was sold to raise money for planting trees in Israel. For our most recent project, we created *challah* covers by decorating plain pieces of fabric

with scraps of ribbon and upholstery fabrics.

Jessica Waterman is a 12th-grade student.

Jewish Art is taught by Melissa Beck,

who brings both ability and creativity that inspire her students.

"In this class, which takes place in the BJE/RI creativity center, we construct Judaica-related items that are both useful and beautiful."



JESSICA WATERMAN AND RACHEL RASNICK, students in the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School, and Melissa Beck, their teacher, creating Tu B'Shevat platters.



Photo by Elianna Bresler

MORE THAN A DOZEN STUDENTS from the New England Rabbinical College pitched in to help the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island during a recent evening of outreach to donors.

Visit us online at:
www.jvhri.org

Women's Alliance Endowment Fund

The Women's Alliance Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island invites proposals for funding of community programs.

Priority will be given to programs that impact women and children and funding is restricted to 501(c)(3) organizations.

Proposals must follow published guidelines, available on the Women's Alliance page at www.JFRI.org.

Proposals will be accepted only by e-mail and should be sent to Sue Lachapelle at: slachapelle@JFRI.org.

No proposals will be accepted after Friday, March 20, 2009.

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ISRAEL: Seeking common ground with Obama administration on Iran

From Page 1

As to the immediate neighborhood – talks with the Palestinians – Israel wants to know more as the Obama administration vows to press forward with attempts to create a Palestinian state.

At stake is not simply the health of U.S.-Israeli ties but perhaps the outcome of the two most pressing security and diplomatic challenges facing officials in Jerusalem.

Two factors are driving Israel's willingness to take cues from the Obama administration on Iran strategy: The problem is too big for Israel to handle alone, and the White House's approach in any case appears to be as good as Israel would expect from any U.S. government.

"We appreciate the review the administration is doing" on Iran, said Sallai Meridor, Israel's ambassador to Washington, in a briefing last week organized by The Israel Project. "We know they are taking the issue very seriously."

Whatever thoughts Jerusalem had about taking unilateral military action to stop or delay Iran's suspected nuclear program were dampened last year when then-President Bush and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, made clear to Israeli leaders that American support would not be forthcoming.

Chances of a unilateral attack dropped almost to nil without the prospect of U.S. tactical assistance and diplomatic cushion. The turndown from the president that many Israelis considered their best friend ever in the White House helped lower expectations after Barack Obama was elected, which makes it seem sweeter now that it appears the new administration is bent on living up to its pledges to take aggressive action to contain Iran.

The most substantive sign yet of a tough Obama policy on Iran was the recent appointment of Dennis Ross as the top State Department official on the issue.

The Obama administration already appears to be taking steps toward the Ross strategy. Reports said the president offered Russia a trade: The United States would retreat from deploying a missile defense system in Europe if Russia intensified its commitment to isolate Iran.

"Signs of an aggressive U.S. Iran posture have given Israel the room to embrace the Obama administration's strategy of increased diplomatic outreach."

Israel had voiced support for the missile defense system, a signature defense policy of the Bush administration – part of its design was to deter Iran, after all – but pro-Israeli figures are suggesting behind the scenes that it is not worth the cost of alienating Russia, which with China is a power considered critical in effectively isolating Iran.

Signs of an aggressive U.S. Iran posture have given Israel the room to embrace the Obama administration's strategy.

"The question is how dialogue can play a role in the limited time we have," he said.

Meridor rejected arguments that it might be worth waiting out the June elections in Iran, which might return the presidency to Mohammad Khatami, the relative moderate who held the office before the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the incumbent Holocaust-denying radical who has wished aloud for Israel's demise. Ulti-

mately, Meridor said, it is the theocracy that controls the power in Iran, so the difference between the two is small.

Signs of comity on Iran were sidelined this week by the pronounced commitment from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to press toward Palestinian statehood.

Clinton was in the region to announce her \$900 million contribution to the Palestinians after the Gaza Strip war.

Significantly, just a third of that is going to Gaza, a sign of administration fears about dealing with a territory that is still controlled by Hamas.

Addressing the funders conference in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheik, where the Palestinian Authority hoped to raise \$2.8 billion, Clinton insisted that the Palestinian Authority and the United States had installed "safeguards." The

goal, she said, was to make sure the money "does not end up in the wrong hands" – a formulation that does not explicitly rule out the use of a Hamas affiliate as a conduit for disbursing the funds in the Gaza Strip.

Clinton wants to use the money not just for relief but to jump-start the road to Palestinian statehood and a permanent peace agreement. That might not sit well with the incoming Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, who has played down Palestinian statehood.

Clinton and Netanyahu met Tuesday, with the prime minister delegate saying afterward that he and Clinton had "found a common language" on Iran and the Palestinian issue. Both Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said that in their respective meetings with Clinton, they had urged her to set a deadline for U.S. talks with Iran.



Photo courtesy of PHDS

MORE PRECIOUS THAN PEARLS

STUDENTS IN THE NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF TORAH singing as part of their annual song and dance dramatic production, "More Precious Than Pearls," which focused on Jewish female role models.

WHITEHOUSE: 'I found a pervasive sense of hope'

From Page 1

Erekat.

In these meetings, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and the West Bank, I saw some reasons for hope – and reminders that America will need to stay determined and involved for this process to move forward.

Fortunately, everyone we met is already counting on our involvement. We felt a sense of opportunity, brought on in significant part by the new Obama Administration, for whom hopes are high, and we saw an acknowledgement that this opportunity could be fleeting if not seized upon. President Peres has truly seen most of the ebbs and flows of this endeavor, and he sounded an upbeat tone as he gave us a sense of the sweep of its history.



From left: Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-M.D.), Prime Minister-Designate Benjamin Netanyahu, Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.), and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)

In both Jerusalem and Ramallah, we also heard strong words of support and admiration for Sen. George Mitchell, who has

been appointed to serve as President Obama's Special Envoy for Middle East Peace. In the world of diplomacy, superlatives are frequent but only occasionally heartfelt. With Sen. Mitchell, there is genuine respect and affection. Principal Palestinian negotiator Erekat called him a personal friend, and said, powerfully, "He knows us."

Beneath a pervasive sense of hope, we heard familiar positions and statements meant to open the next round of the peace process. Mr. Netanyahu, who likely will serve as Israel's next Prime Minister, told us that he would try to

build peace from the ground up – focusing on economic development in the West Bank, settlements and the powers of the Palestinian Authority – rather than from the top down.

"I saw some reasons for hope – and reminders that America will need to stay determined and involved for this process to move forward."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse

Some worry that this approach may exacerbate the concerns of Palestinians, who fear that a Netanyahu-led Israeli government would not truly accept the two-state solution.

However, there is some common ground. In emphasizing that any peace agreement will need to be voted on by the Palestinian people, Mr. Erekat hit upon a fundamental truth: peace is made the day after an agreement is signed, when ordinary people deal with one another, day in and day out, in the course of their normal lives.

By focusing on improving the economy in the West Bank, Mr. Netanyahu clearly understands and accepts this truth. But there is still a significant distance between that and a peace agreement that gives both peoples political and economic hope, in an environment where neither must fear for their families' security. In a land where nearly every inch is cherished and rich with heritage, common ground is precious, and we must strive to increase it.

Together, the Israeli and Palestinian officials that we met need to move the peace process forward. And Americans, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Sen. Mitchell, will support them. I would paraphrase President Obama when he spoke to *Al Arabiya*, an Arabic-language news channel: It may take a long time to do, but we have to do it now.



Sen. Whitehouse visits only remaining synagogue in Damascus.

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JCPA: Darfur tops agenda at annual plenum

From Page 1

organized Jewish community stands on a host of issues. Representatives of JCPA's member organizations – the synagogue movements, several national groups and more than 100 local communities across North America – come together for the event.

The resolution, in addition to calling for intensified diplomatic efforts and the appointment of a senior full-time envoy to the Sudan, states that the U.S. government should “not exclude the option of military means if feasible, and in coalition with other countries, to protect the innocent civilians in Darfur and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid.” It passed overwhelmingly after an effort to strike the paragraph on the military option garnered little support.

Another resolution that achieved wide backing of public-policy advocates from more than 100 community relations councils and 14 national organizations encouraged local communities to pursue Jewish-Muslim dialogue on common concerns such as civil liberties issues and fighting racism and prejudice.

“Differences remain” among the two communities, the document says, but “they should not necessarily preclude efforts to dialogue.”

Its advocates say the resolution will provide “guidance” to local communities. Jack Moline, a Conservative rabbi from Alexandria, Va., who helped craft the statement, says it says that “we should be treating Muslims like any other partner in dialogue.”

Some critics argued that the resolution did not provide enough guidance on controversial issues.

IDEALS, SECURITY

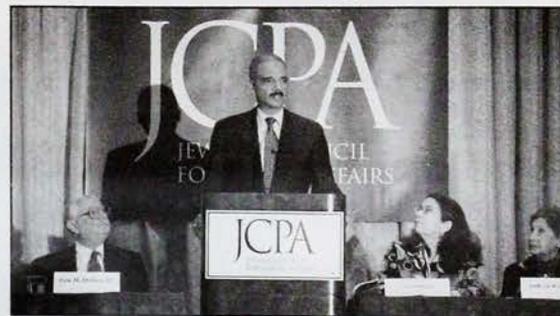
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder received a standing ovation before he started speaking on March 2.

“This is definitely my kind of audience,” he said in response. The main theme of Holder’s 15-minute talk was that the conflict between fighting terrorism and protecting “our tradition of civil liberties” is not a “zero-sum battle.” Such an idea is not only “misguided,” he said, but “has done us more harm than good.”

After the speech Holder held an hour-long, off-the-record meeting with about a dozen top JCPA leaders on legal topics from torture to church-state issues.

HOW BIG A TENT?

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs Plenum’s Sunday discussion of “How Big a Tent for Pro-Israel Advocacy?” marked



AFTER HIS SPEECH on March 2, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder held an hour-long, off-the-record meeting with about a dozen to JCPA leaders on legal topics from torture to church-state issues.

the debut of a new face inside the tent.

J Street, the 10-month-old group that has marketed itself as an alternative to what it believes are the more hawkish views of mainstream Jewish organizations, for the first time was invited to participate in a conference held by an established group. The invitation sparked a spirited but civil,

“J Street, a group that has marketed itself as an alternative to what it believes are the more hawkish views of mainstream Jewish organizations, was invited to participate.”

debate about how the Jewish community should discuss Israel.

Jeremy Ben-Ami, J Street’s executive director, argued that the community should shun useless labels such as “pro-Israel” and instead have a vibrant discussion about what is best for the Jewish state – saying that “orthodoxy” of opinion on Israel was “dangerous” and “sowing the seeds of destruction” for the Jewish community.

The deputy national director of the Anti-Defamation League, Kenneth Jacobson, responded that there was plenty of debate about Israel in the American Jewish community, but it hap-

pened in places such as the JCPA plenum and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The community has thought about the best way to be effective and have influence, Jacobson said, and the answer was to have a “consensus position” when it goes to Congress – an approach that has achieved “unbelievable success.”

There’s a “difference between the right to think as an individual and the responsibility of the community to present advocacy in a way that will have an impact,” the ADL official said. Meanwhile, the third member of the panel, Endowment for Middle East Truth director Sarah

Stern, asserted that there was a “tremendous distinction between lobbying from the left and right” because those on the left were “encouraging risks.” Jacobson rejected that notion.

Ben-Ami said the community can only benefit from bringing more people into the discussion, saying that young Jews are turned off when they are given just one opinion but will be engaged by free-flowing debate.

“This is the kind of discussion we need to have,” he said. “If college students saw this, they’d be thrilled.”

R.I. Republican Jewish Coalition meets

BY STACY SILVERMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island chapter of the Republican Jewish Coalition hosted a dinner, book-signing and lecture by former presidential speechwriter David Frum, on Feb. 25, at the List Art Center on the Brown University campus. The event drew some 100 people.

The RJC has 45 chapters and more than 40,000 members nationwide; the R.I. chapter is the newest.

Frum’s speech, “Where do we go from here?” centered on the future of the Republican

Party and the economy. He drew upon ideas from his most recent book, *Comeback: Conservatism That Can Win Again*.

Frum was a close advisor to the former president during the events leading up to the Iraq War, and was helped craft Bush’s term, “axis of evil,” that referenced the nations of Iran, Iraq, and North Korea after Sept. 11.

For additional information about the RJC, including membership information, contact Stacy Silverman, president, RI RJC, at 595-9943 or silverman.stacy@gmail.com.

Good, good, good vibrations at the Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House

Bresler and Katsh create a living room for Jewish folk music

By PHILIP EIL

Special to The Voice & Herald

"IF ANYONE HERE knows how to dance a *kolomeika*, you're welcome to do so." This was the invitation offered by Fishel Bresler at the Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House in Providence on Saturday, Feb. 28.

The performance – which featured more than two hours of Jewish folk music from Bresler and Shelley Katsh, his playing partner of more than 15 years – was the duo's last installment in 2008-2009's monthly series at the venue.

Set on the first floor of a grocery-store-turned-Armenian-Civic-Club-turned-coffee-shop on Douglas Avenue, Saturday's performance felt more like a living room gathering than a formal recital.

When audience members weren't humming along to the music, there were jokes, stories, and the occasional "Brrrrrrrrrr!" of the coffee grinder.

Musically, the evening featured a range of Jewish music (not all technically *klezmer*, Bresler pointed out after the show).

Bresler and Katsh played everything from a rendition of *Shalom Aleichem* to jumpy "hasidic bluegrass" to original music.

There were upbeat dance tunes (hence the *kolomeika* invitation), traditional clarinet-and-piano *klezmer* numbers, and slow, mournful folk songs.

As for instrumentation, Katsh alternated between an accordion and an electric keyboard. Bresler, on the other hand, seemed to play anything that would elicit a sound: he sang, clapped, stomped, and plucked and played an array of instruments – two mandolins, a guitar, a drum, a flute, a clarinet, and a case full of harmonicas – that he had brought along.

Though no one got up to dance the *kolomeika*, the audience seemed enthralled just the same. "It's refreshing," said Nate Jaret, a college student who came from Brookline,



Fishel Bresler flies through the air at a Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House concert. At almost every concert, Fishel dances with his clarinet, sometimes on a chair.

Photo by Elianna Bresler

Mass. He had heard of the show, he explained, through his sister-in-law, who had heard from friends in Sharon, Mass. Although he listens to mostly jazz, Jaret said he was impressed by the duo's musicianship. "It's great," he said, during the set-

break. "The array of instruments is pretty impressive."

Across the room, one of the audience's older members gushed about the duo. "This music keeps me well,"

said Blossom Kirschenbaum, a self-described "groupie" who has seen Bresler and Katsh too many times to count. "I think we have to sustain our local artists," she continued. "We want sustainable agriculture. We want sustainable energy. We want sustainable music, too!"

After the show ended, Katsh explained the duo's passion for playing together. "Fishel and I, we both come from different Jewish traditions," she said. "But we meet in this place of really expressing our relationship with Judaism through the music."

Before the revival of *klezmer* music beginning in the 1970s, Katsh said, the music was in danger of being lost forever. "This was music that was headed for extermina-

tion," she said, explaining that the majority of duo's tunes come from Jewish groups of Eastern Europe. "I think we both feel a sense of bring-

ing this music back to life."

And judging by the tapping toes and far-off smiles in the room, they succeeded. One fan, Robert Fain, marveled

at the musicians' synchronicity. "Fishel is not separate from his music or his instrument. Nor is Shelley," he said, who drove from Scituate to see the performance. "It's a good act. It's good vibes."

The uplifting effect of Bresler and Katsh's music is hardly a coincidence. Katsh was a music therapist before transferring to her current career as an adoption social worker for Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island. Bresler is currently an independent music contractor, of sorts, bringing music children at Hasbro Children's Hospital and to developmentally-challenged adults.

By the end of the evening, nobody seemed to want to leave the coffee house. Even the evening's silences were poignant, including a moment that followed Bresler's dedication of a song he wrote for the hometown of Henry Abramowitz, a local resident and Holocaust survivor who recently passed away.

"Henry always spoke really fondly of Zdzunska-Wola," said Bresler, holding up his harmonica. "Somehow, when he talked about the food they ate – the home-baked rye bread, the cabbage, the butter, the sour cream – there weren't many items, but it sounded great."

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Shalom Playgroup is a program of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. For more information, contact Wendy Joering, Director of Outreach and Engagement, at 401-421-4111 x169 or wjoering@jfri.org.

AS WE GROW OLDER

Six decades of presidents

My personal impressions of the men who have led us

ONE OF THE privileges of writing for *The Voice & Herald* is that I am afforded the opportunity to voice opinions. Even on issues about which I am not considered a "maven."

So, here are my impressions of the men who lead us for the past six and a half decades.



Tema Gouse

In 1944, I had my first opportunity to cast a ballot for the president of the United States. He was not a newcomer to the White House and

most Americans were convinced that Franklin D. Roosevelt was the perfect leader. Time has a way of disillusioning us, but he maintained that image for many years.

And when FDR died, poor Harry Truman was left with the burden of deciding whether or not to drop the atomic bomb, and thereby end World War II. To me, he has always been a hero because of the speed with which he gave American approval of Israeli statehood.

Truman was followed by Ike. Dwight David Eisenhower, a popular five-star army general, was a "shoe-in" for the presidency. He was opposed by an uninspiring intellectual, Adlai Stevenson, who never created any fervor from the electorate, in part because his oratory was always more scholarly than inspiring.

Changing parties seemed desirable (if not wise). There were no great advances in Ike's reign.

And then, in 1960, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the junior senator from Massachusetts, charmed the public. He was handsome. His polished Boston accent was seductive. His father could afford to finance his campaign. And, equally important, was who his opponent was. Richard Nixon had not as yet

gotten caught for any devious behavior, but he lacked charm, good looks or a rich father.

JFK proved that money, good looks and wisely chosen advisors can a president make. His murder in 1963 horrified the nation and left us not very enthusiastic about his successor. Kennedy's handling of the Cuban missile crisis was done with courage and was probably his most memorable contribution.

Kennedy spoke of relieving poverty and erasing racism. To Lyndon Johnson fell the job of following through on Kennedy's promises, and given the mood of the times, he is to be appreciated for what he did accomplish in those fields. But he also inherited a war and was blamed for it for the balance of his presidency.

But the fun was yet to come. Many presidents have been burdened with uncomplimentary nicknames. But Johnson's successor was tagged with the most derogatory one and to this day, Richard Nixon is still referred to as "Tricky Dick."

His first vice president, Spiro Agnew, was forced to resign

because of "irregularities."

Progressive issues were ignored and political power dominated until Nixon and his associates were found to be involved in dirty tricks, resulting in his resignation to avoid impeachment.

Nixon was then replaced by Gerald Ford, who had replaced Nixon's first vice president. I find it difficult recalling Ford having any major transgressions. He was a nice guy who performed the usual presidential duties with dignity and humor, and I always appreciated the fact that he did not involve us in unnecessary war.

Ford was then followed by the smiling presidents, Carter and Reagan. Carter (I think) meant well but was inadequate in dealing with Washington politicians.

He negotiated and negotiated for the release of American hostages and they were released on the day his successor took office. I no longer forgive his deficits because of his anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian stances.

And, then, we got Ronnie. Ronald Reagan was, to put it kindly, a very mediocre actor. As

president he was more successful because his only requirements were that he follow the directions of the Republican Party leaders. He and his wife smiled and the nation was not in the midst of any major crisis, so he left the White House having created very little ill will. (Forgive me; I cannot understand why he has achieved such reverence in recent years.)

I do not need to elaborate on G. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, or #43. Every reader is old enough to remember them well, warts and all. And I have shown my own biases too blatantly. But we must take pause to wonder how this country has managed to flourish so well despite a ton of mediocre leadership. As for the new guy, we can only wait and pray.

Columnist's note: The opinions expressed are exclusively those of Tema P. Gouse and The Voice & Herald bears no responsibility for her political leanings.

Tema Gouse can be reached at nbgtpg@cox.net.



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Touro Synagogue Foundation shuts staffing operations

NEWPORT – The Board of the Touro Synagogue Foundation has made the decision to shut down the staffing operations of the Foundation, effective immediately, according to an e-mail sent March 4 by Malka Benjamin.

She wrote: "The Touro Synagogue Foundation has been responsible for raising funds for the maintenance of Touro Synagogue and running the educational and public tour programs, among other things. The Board has made the decision to suspend the public tour and group tour programs until further notice."

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MEDICAL ARTS

The nature of migration

Part Two:
A people in perpetual transition

THE FIRST HASTY emigration, I suppose, was the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. They, and their progeny, were then banished to lead lives of struggle and travail in hard-scrabble territories east of Eden.



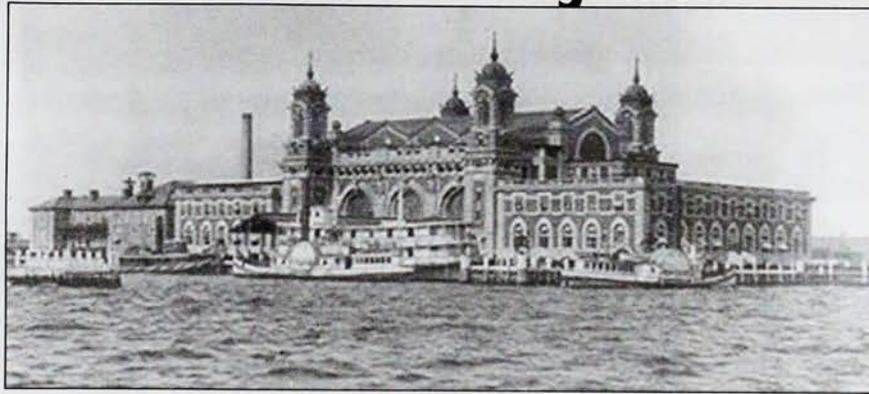
Stanley Aronson M.D.

It is claimed, though, that when they departed, Adam had whispered to Eve: "We live in an age of transition, my dear."

However, the first truly transcontinental Jewish diaspora, the Roman expulsion of the Jews to Europe, dispersed the human remnants of a small, cohesive Middle Eastern nation, already educated in the rigors of displacement by the Babylonian exile.

The enforced transplantation of many Jews to pagan Europe – to southern Gaul and the Rhine valley – changed forever the character of Judaism, altering it from a regional sect to a globally distributed religion. Change – sometimes painful, sometimes beneficial – has since been its lingering inheritance.

Emigration – abandoning one's home, one's village, one's motherland – is a wrenching experience; a venture not to be initiated lightly. Emigration to a strange and forbidding land may sound adventuresome but



Ellis Island, the place where millions of immigrants entered the United States.

for a frightened family with no tangible resources, no reliable knowledge about America except for fanciful myths, and no guarantee of future livelihood, emigration to the unknown requires a steely resolve and consummate courage.

It is true that most Jews leaving Eastern Europe during the last decades of the 19th century, departed involuntarily to escape the burden of relentless pogroms.

Still, it was a fateful choice between staying behind and surviving under further brutality and poverty, on the one hand, or encountering an alien climate and the unknown on the other.

In the five fateful decades between 1870 and 1920, 4.3 million Jews left their ancestral homes in Eastern Europe to venture to new lands, largely in the Western Hemisphere and specifically to the United States.

An old platitude declares, that for every door that closes, another swings open. Perhaps, but not necessarily in the same place nor at the same time.

And, many a family that had

their village door slammed shut found no congenial door to welcome them. It must be emphasized that this great Jewish scattering was but a small part of the movement of some 65 million Europeans migrating to the

families – young, old and infirm – leaving only a dispirited remnant behind. And when the Great Dispersion was ended by World War II, the demographic center of Judaism was no longer Eastern Europe but was now the United States.

In the words of the historian Jacob Lestschinsky: "The United States is an English country in language only; it does not belong to the English people. Nationhood is a much broader concept than language."

BY THE NUMBERS

Consider the following numbers: In 1840 there were an estimated 3,950,000 Jews living in Europe constituting 87.8 percent of world Jewry.

In the same year there were about 50,000 Jews in the United States, about 1.1 percent of world Jewry. By 1945 there were 3 million Jews still in Europe (down from about 9.9 million in 1932). In the United States there now were 6 million Jews constituting 54.6 percent of world Jewry. The center of Judaic life was now west of the Atlantic.

Where else had the East-

"Emigration – abandoning one's home, one's village, one's motherland – is a wrenching experience; a venture not to be initiated lightly."

ern European Jews migrated in the century between 1840 and 1940? Canada absorbed 153,000; Argentina, about 224,000; Brazil, about 71,000 and other Latin American countries (including Cuba) about 59,000. South Africa took in some 76,000 Jews (largely from the Baltic countries and particularly Lithuania).

And, the British Mandate in Palestine absorbed 379,000 European Jews in the century preceding World War II. The greatest number migrating to Palestine, according to British records, was 147,502 between the years 1931 and 1935.

Prior to 1914 Jewish emigration from Tsarist Russia sometimes required the help of smugglers to get beyond the border guards, but the gates to the United States were open wide except for those with certain specified diseases such as tuberculosis or trachoma, those exhibiting mental deficiency, and those alleged to hold anarchistic or communist beliefs.

Following World War I (1914-1918) entrance to the United States became increasingly restricted as exemplified by the Immigration Act of 1924, which favored migration from nations from northwestern Europe (Britain and Scandinavia) while curtailing migration from southeastern (Mediterranean and Slavic nations) Europe.

As for the health and well-being of those Jews transplanted to the New World? See next month's column, Part Three, on a people in perpetual transition.

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., can be reached at smamd@cox.net.

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

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MEDICAL ARTS



Stanley Aronson M.D.

Reserve your copy today of Dr. Stanley Aronson's forthcoming book, a collection of his columns that have appeared in The Voice & Herald.

The Voice & Herald is offering a free copy of Dr. Stanley Aronson's soon-to-be-published collection of his columns which have appeared in The Voice & Herald to the first 500 Voice & Herald patrons who make a contribution of \$54 – triple chai – or more. The collection will be edited by Mary Korr.

We thank Dr. Aronson for his generosity and his continued wisdom and erudition which he shares in "Medical Arts."

Please make your checks out to The Jewish Voice & Herald, and mail to: Voice & Herald Patrons, 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I., 02906

An irreverent rendition of the Book of Esther

*A raucous romp of a rap with
a strong beat*

BY ALLAN KLEPPER
Special to The Voice & Herald

THIS GONSA MEGILLAH is a timeless thrilla, about a would-be killa, a real Persian Godzilla.

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

The retelling of this story is very apropos, it happened in the Kingdom of Shushan long ago,
Was it an invention, we're told it's really so: how
Amalek's descendent Haman plotted all our woe?

In Persia, Ahasuerus was the ruling King; he
threw a six-month party, just for heralding
His might and his riches. In a wine-filled fling;
summoned Queen Vashti for a dancing swing.

She wouldn't appear, and do the
"Cola Dance", wearing but a Royal
Crown without the top and pants.

Her attitude disrupted the kingdom's status quo,
so that is why Queen Vashti had to go.

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

A casting call went o'er the land,
both high and low: Shushan Virgin
Idol was the hottest new show.

The winner will get, a brand new trousseau,
and new Queenship, will the King bestow.

So Mordechai did pester, his gorgeous
niece Esther; shake your booty as
contester, fill the King's empty nester.

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

Sure enough, Esther wins, and
is crowned the Queen. Mordechai
visits daily, his senses ever keen.

Overhears two guards, plotting between,
takes it to Esther; tell the King what he's seen.

Esther tells the king, who foils the sting; the
two are sent to gallows where they're left to swing.
Meanwhile Haman's promoted to Number Two,
impressed with himself: bow down all of you!

But Mordechai won't, doesn't give him his
due, so Haman vows, I'll kill that Jew.

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

Mort asks Esther to plead the case. Stop
this madman; he'll destroy our race.

You've got to tell the King, straight to his
face; at stake is the whole Jewish populace.
Hang in there Mordechai, and never fear,



THE CREW AT TEMPLE HABONIM performed this rap for Purim in 2008.
Lyricist Allan Klepper is third from left, top row.

I'll get the message to Ahasuerus' ear.

She invites Ahasuerus and his Grand-Vizier,
to a special banquet where she'll make it clear.

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

So Haman, puffed up with this
special invitation, builds gallows for
Mordechai's extermination.

He plots the same, for the whole Jewish
nation; posts a silver bond, in anticipation.

Now Ahasuerus is, an insomniac; finds
Mort not rewarded for stopping the attack.

When Haman seeks approval for the
Jewish sack, King asks, how best to
honor, a deserving cracker-jack?

Haman pours it on thick, thinks he
must be the guy; devastated to find,
to his dismay, it's Mordechai,

Who in regal robes, on the King's horse high,
Haman must humbly lead: himself to mortify!

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

Distraught at home, even there he cannot stay,
despite his shame he's quickly whisked away

To the special banquet, taking place that day,
dining with Queen Esther, and old King A.

At the banquet, Esther turns the screws,
reveals her Judaism, and pleads for all the Jews.

This horrific plan, she can't excuse, she points
right at Haman; you're the one I accuse!

The King leaves the room, overcome
by the strife, while Haman pleads
with Esther, just to save his life.

He swoons on her couch, as
Ahasuerus returned, The King sees
this; will his marriage be burned?

Saves the time and trouble, of going
to court. Has Haman hanged on
the gallows he built for Mort.

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

Ahasuerus gives to Esther, all of Haman's
estates, and Mordechai, to Number Two elevates.

Jews should rise up, against their foes – his
decree. They do, kill 75,510, but take no booty.

It's there in the records, for one and all to see.
Mordechai governed well; King & Esther happily.

*This tale features feasts, rhymes
with yeast, that rising treat.*

*Hamantaschen were invented, so
we Jews would get to eat.*

*Several morals from this story,
are ones that we must take.*

*We must be ever mindful of the deadly rattlesnake.
And never second-guess what the powerful will do,*

*For the facts they misconstrue,
may be harmful to the Jew.*

*For Jewish men may be sagacious;
good decisions mostly make,*

*But our curvy, nervy Jewish
women always take the cake!*

(chorus)

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

**Do the Haman stomp, it's a raucous romp,
to give him comp, for his misguided pomp.**

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*Allan Klepper is a long-time member of Temple Habonim.
He notes that the rap is to be performed at 60 beats per
minute to allow for understanding of the lyrics and to give
the accompanying performers (Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordechai,
Esther, and Haman) to act out the lines in the rap.*

Homemade cookies spread love – and save money

Everyone indulges in Purim's festivities

By LINDA MOREL
JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK (JTA) – During my childhood, I loved Purim more for its cookies than the chance to dress in costume. I have such sweet memories of the *hamantaschen*, *rugelach* and almond crescents (once called *vanilla kipfurl*) served at Purim parties at my synagogue.

What would Purim be without an array of confections to give and receive? At this holiday, many Jews exchange *mishloach manot*, boxes or baskets containing at least two kinds of food, traditionally pastries.

As the Jewish community rejoiced at their good fortune (in thwarting Haman's evil plans), Mordechai requested that people remember this close call with death by exchanging gifts, a gesture that grew into the present-day *mishloach manot* sent to family and friends.

While the custom began with presenting pastries on small silver trays, centuries later our grandmothers found less expensive packaging for the cookies and cakes they baked from scratch.

With many women now juggling several roles – careers, motherhood, keeper of the home – and free time a scarce commodity, few bake anymore. In many cases, Bubbie's cookie recipes and the confidence to handle pastry dough have been lost.

Instead, a growing number of Jews are relying on professional companies to send Purim gifts to family and friends. It's a convenient option, but it can be pricey.

In a flagging economy, this year would be the ideal occasion to organize an old-fashioned cookie exchange. If you enlist some friends, with minimal effort and cost, you can amass dozens of cookies in different varieties to

share with your loved ones. If you've never baked before, don't despair. The recipes below are designed to turn novices into pros.

Since there is nothing better than the mouthwatering taste of homemade cookies, an assortment of even the simplest cookies is more tantalizing than the snazziest *mishloach manot* package delivered to the door. In these uncertain times, spreading love through baking cookies and spending time with friends is a more meaningful way to commemorate Purim.

The following recipes are by Linda Morel.

PECAN SANDIES

Ground pecans lend a crumbly texture to these cookies. Try one and you'll reach for more.

- Ingredients:**
- 1/2 cup sweet (1 stick) sweet butter at room temperature
 - 1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter at room temperature
 - 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed down
 - 1/4 cup granulated sugar
 - 2 cups flour
 - 1 teaspoon ground allspice
 - 1 teaspoon almond extract
 - 1 teaspoon rum extract
 - 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
 - 48 pecan halves in perfect condition (not nicked or broken)

Method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place parchment paper on cookie sheets.

In a large bowl, cream 2 butters and 2 sugars.

Add remaining ingredients – except pecans. Beat on low speed until flour dampens and then on high speed, until well combined. Add chopped pecans and mix into dough until evenly combined. Roll dough into a ball. With a

sharp knife, cut dough ball into 4 equal parts. From each quadrant, break off 12 equal pieces of dough. With your hands, roll each piece into a ball, about 1 inch in diameter.

Place each small dough ball on parchment paper and flatten with the palm of your hand. You'll have 1 and 1/2-inch circles, about 1/8 inch tall. Lift each circle of dough



and, if necessary, even the edges with your fingers. Replace circles on parchment. Gently press a pecan half into each circle.

Bake 14 to 16 minutes, or until cookies brown on top and darken a little at the edges. Recipe makes 4 dozen cookies.

ORANGE POPPY SEED ZINGERS

Poppy seeds are a traditional Purim pastry ingredient. These perky cookies taste great with a hot cup of tea.

- Ingredients:**
- 3/4 cup (1 and 1/2 sticks) sweet butter at room temperature
 - 1 cup granulated sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 and 1/4 teaspoons orange extract
 - 1 teaspoon orange juice
 - 2 cups flour
 - 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
 - 1 and 1/4 teaspoons ground

ginger
3 teaspoons orange zest (about the skin of one orange)
Method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, orange extract and orange juice, mixing until well incorporated.

Sift flour, baking soda and salt into a medium-sized bowl. Spoon into orange mixture, mixing on low speed until flour dampens.

Add poppy seeds, ginger and orange zest, beating on high speed until well incorporated.

Using a teaspoon, scoop enough dough to fill 3/4 of its bowl. With another teaspoon, push dough onto a cookie sheet. Dropped dough will form uneven mounds.

Repeat until all dough has been spooned out. Bake for 10 minutes, or until tops turn golden and edges brown a little.

Recipe makes 4 dozen cookies.

TRIPLE CHOCOLATE CHIP SUPREMES

Brimming with bittersweet chocolate, milk chocolate and white chocolate chips, these chunky cocoa cookies are a chocolate lover's dream.

- Ingredients:**
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) sweet butter at room temperature
 - 1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter at room temperature
 - 3/4 cup dark brown sugar, packed down
 - 1 cup granu-



lated sugar
1 rounded tablespoon confectioner's sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups flour
1/4 cup cocoa
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels
1/2 cup milk chocolate morsels
1/2 cup white chocolate morsels
1 and 1/2 cups blanched almonds, chopped

Method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, cream 2 butters and 3 sugars. Add eggs and vanilla, mixing until well combined.

Add flour, cocoa and baking soda, mixing on low speed until flour dampens, and then on high speed until ingredients are incorporated. Add 3 kinds of chocolate morsels and almonds. Blend on low speed until evenly distributed. Dough will be sticky.

From a rounded coffee teaspoon, roll dough in hands, forming balls 1 and 1/2 inches in diameter. Place balls on prepared cookie sheets. Bake for 16 minutes, or until cookies feel slightly firm to a soft touch.

Recipe makes 5 and 1/2 dozen cookies.

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The Best of Jewish Rhode Island

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The Voice Et Herald is pleased to announce its first annual Best of Jewish Rhode Island. Our readers can choose their favorites in 50 different categories. Please write in your choice in as many categories as you want. Send to: Best of Jewish Rhode Island, c/o The Voice Et Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I. 02906. You can also go to our web site, www.JVHRI.org, and vote online. On June 12, we will announce the winners in a special section; each winner will receive a special framed award for display.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Best place to spend a weekday afternoon or a Sunday morning while the kids are in Religious School.
_____ | 15. Best place to go with the Sunday papers when you don't want to be seen by people you know.
_____ | 26. Best place for falafel.
_____ | 39. Best bar to see your Jewish friends and neighbors.
_____ |
| 2. Best place to eat bagel, lox and a shmeer of cream cheese.
_____ | 16. Best place to go with the Sunday papers when you do want to be seen by people you know.
_____ | 27. Best place to hear klezmer music.
_____ | 40. Best restaurant to see your Jewish friends and neighbors.
_____ |
| 3. Best place to be on Christmas Eve/Christmas
_____ | 17. Best romantic getaway – upscale price.
_____ | 28. Best library to spend time in.
_____ | 41. Best place for Jewish singles to meet.
_____ |
| 4. Best source of Jewish gifts for weddings, b'nei mitzvoh.
_____ | 18. Best romantic getaway – moderate price.
_____ | 29. Best place to learn Hebrew.
_____ | 42. Best place to learn Israeli dancing.
_____ |
| 5. Best place to go with out-of-town relatives or friends to show off "Jewish Rhode Island."
_____ | 19. Best source of kosher wines.
_____ | 30. Best source of Jewish-themed movies and films to rent.
_____ | 43. Best place to hold a Jewish meeting outside the office.
_____ |
| 8. Best place for kids' birthday party gifts.
_____ | 20. Best source of kosher meats.
_____ | 31. Best place to buy your son's bar mitzvah clothes.
_____ | 44. Best Jewish camp for Rhode Islanders.
_____ |
| 9. Best place to host kids' birthday parties.
_____ | 21. Best place to store or sell your chametz.
_____ | 32. Best place to buy your daughter's bat mitzvah clothes.
_____ | 45. Best Jewish educator in Rhode Island.
_____ |
| 10. Best source of Jewish books.
_____ | 22. Best place to buy all your Passover meals' ingredients.
_____ | 33. Best place to buy items of Judaica.
_____ | 46. Best Jewish athlete in Rhode Island.
_____ |
| 11. Best place for Jewish study.
_____ | 23. Best Purim spiel.
_____ | 34. Best beach or, where you are most likely to run into your Jewish neighbors.
_____ | 47. Best source in Rhode Island for personalized ketuba.
_____ |
| 12. Best Chinese food.
_____ | 24. Best place to buy prepared:
Noodle kugel _____
Brisket _____
Matzah ball soup _____
Knishes _____
Latkes _____
Bagels _____
Bialys _____
Chopped liver _____
Cheesecake _____
Challah _____ | 35. Best florist for weddings, b'nei mitzvoh.
_____ | 48. Best source in Rhode Island for tallis.
_____ |
| 13. Best (non-Chinese) ethnic food (Italian, French, Mexican, Thai, etc.)
_____ | 36. Best DJ for weddings, b'nei mitzvoh.
_____ | 37. Best photographer for weddings, b'nei mitzvoh.
_____ | 49. Best Jewish entertainer.
_____ |
| 13. Best deli food.
_____ | 38. Best jeweler for engagement or wedding rings.
_____ | 50. Best mikvah for Rhode Islanders.
_____ | |
| 14. Best Sunday brunch.
_____ | 25. Best kosher caterer.
_____ | | |

Send us your favorite places in Rhode Island for all things Jewish—or tell us on the Web:
www.jvhri.org

Jewish Community Calendar

Friday

March 6

Intergenerational Purim Party
Hosted by the Jewish Community Center.

WHEN: noon

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: 861-8800, ext. 108

Saturday

March 7

Kugel Bake-Off

A kugel baking contest, judged by renowned cookbook author (and Rhode Island native) Joan Nathan. Bakers and eaters welcome!

WHERE: Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

WHEN: 7:00 p.m.

COST: \$10

MORE INFO: 245-6536

Sunday

March 8

Canadian Supreme Court Justice

Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, the first Jewish woman appointed to Canada's Supreme Court of Canada, will talk about gender, human rights in the 21st century.

WHERE: Usdan Student Center, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: RSVP to hbi@brandeis.edu

Zamir Chorale

Boston's premiere Jewish chorus joins the Newton Choral Society for a special program, "Two Choruses, One Voice."

WHERE: Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

WHEN: 3p.m.

COST: \$36 and \$18

MORE INFO: www.zamir.org

Sunday

March 8

Sisterhood Film Festival

"Watermarks" (with subtitles) tells the story of seven champion women swimmers in Vienna, exiled by World War II.

WHEN: 2 p.m.

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

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Purim Carnival

Games, face painting, a raffle and more; open to all.

WHERE: Temple Habonim, New Meadow Rd., Barrington

WHEN: 11-noon

MORE INFO: 965-1969

Purim Carnival

Temple Etz Chaim's Purim carnival with games, prizes and crafts.

WHERE: Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston St., Medway, Mass.

WHEN: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

COST: \$5 family

MORE INFO: www.temple-etz-chaim.org, or (508) 528-5337

Monday

March 9

'Good for the Jews'

For Purim, unorthodox New York-based band entertains through song and dark comedy. Founded by Brown alumnus Rob Tannenbaum.

WHERE: Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence

WHEN: 8 p.m.

MORE INFO: 863-2805, or Megan_Nesbitt@brown.edu

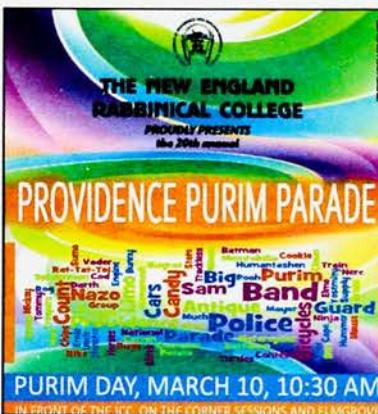
Megillah Reading

Join in reading of Purim story set to 1980s tunes followed by the traditional reading.

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

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: www.temple-etzchaim.org or (508) 528-5337



Join in the Purim Parade hosted by the New England Rabbinical College, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, in front of the JCCRI. For more information, contact Dovid Insel at dmi2645@gmail.com.

Purim Party

Costume parade, Megillah reading, followed by "Megillah Mia."

WHEN: 5:30 p.m., K'Tantan Purim Party; 6:30 p.m., parade, reading and spiel.

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

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Purim Spiel

Megillah reading followed by inventive spiel.

WHEN: reading, 6:10 p.m., spiel, 7:30 p.m.

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

MORE INFO: 331-1616

Purim Spiel

In the words, music of "Aladdin."

WHERE: Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

WHEN: 6:15 p.m., spiel; 7 p.m. pizza dinner

PURIM PARTY

"Mordecai's Magical, Mysterious, Magnificent, Momentous Purim."

WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Tuesday

March 10

Megillah Reading

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael 330 Park Ave., Cranston.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: RSVP to 785-1800.

Purim Parade

Hosted by the New England Rabbinical College.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Begins in front of JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: dmi2645@gmail.com.

Chabad Purim Feast

Catered kosher buffet dinner, music & dancing, entertainment and fun.

WHERE: East Greenwich Yacht Club, 10 Water St., East Greenwich

WHEN: 4:45 p.m. Megillah, 5:30 p.m. Dinner

COST: Adult \$20, child \$10

MORE INFO: RSVP to www.RljewishKids.com/Purim-Feast, or 884-7888

Thursday

March 12

Opening Reception

Illustrations by David Polonsky, art director of "Waltz with Bashir" and artist-in-residence at Brown/RISD Hillel. Through March 26.

WHERE: Brown/RISD Hillel, 90 Brown St., Providence

WHEN: 7-9 p.m.

MORE INFO: 863-2805

Sunday

March 15

Fashion Show

Hosted by Temple Torat Yisrael. Raffles and door prizes.

WHERE: Coldwater Creek, Garden City, Cranston

WHEN: 6:30-8 p.m.

COST: \$5 per person.

MORE INFO: RSVP by March 10, 785-1800

Sisterhood Film Series

The film, "Arranged," will be shown. Local professors, rabbis moderate discussion following screening.

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

WHEN: 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Tuesday

March 17

Jewish Business Ethics

"Achieving Integrity," a 10-week course offered by Chabad of West Bay.

WHERE: Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr. Warwick

WHEN: 6:30-8 p.m.

COST: \$90; couples discount \$150 (scholarships available)

MORE INFO: RSVP (required) www.RljewishKids.com/AchievingIntegrity, or 884-7888

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

Discussion of living Jewish

ethics as part of Live from the 92nd St. Y series.

WHEN: 8:15 p.m.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: 861-8800, ext. 108

Men's basketball leagues

Play begins on Tuesday and Thursday nights, for two leagues, 23-35, and 35+.

WHEN: 6-9 p.m.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: 419-2877, or wedwards36@gmail.com

Thursday

March 19

From Film to Graphic Novel

David Polonsky lecture and book signing.

WHERE: Museum of Art, RISD, 20 North Main St., Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m.

COST: \$8 for non-museum members

MORE INFO: 621-6123

Bereavement discussion group

Led by Dr. Judith Lubiner and Rabbi Amy Levin. Group is open to new participants.

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave. Cranston

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 785-1800

Sunday

March 22

Sisterhood Film Series

Film "Hiding and Seeking" will be screened.

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

WHEN: 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

See CALENDAR, Page 36

Join us for a
Purim Celebration
 At Chabad of Barrington
 311 Maple Avenue
 Sponsored by
 Marc & Janice Adler
Tuesday, March 10
 5:30 pm— Megillah Reading
 6:00 pm— Festive Meal/Celebration
 Fun for the whole family

 RSVP by March 8— 247-4747
 or e-mail Mirel@JewishBarrington.com

CHABAD OF BARRINGTON will host a Purim Celebration on Tuesday, March 10, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at 311 Maple St., Barrington, sponsored by Marc and Janice Adler. For more information, call 247-4747.



DAVID AND TOBY LONDON'S collection of historic American posters, 1942-1945, are on display at the Attleboro Arts Museum, 89 Park St., Attleboro, Mass., until March 19. For more information, call (508) 222-2644.

Farming The Land Torah In Hand Page 23



HOMES & REAL ESTATE

A special section of *The Voice & Herald*



Rehabbing Commercial Properties Page 24

GREEN: Sustainable products that are less costly and good for you

From Page 1

we use in our homes and on our bodies?"

"You have to read labels," she said. "If you can't pronounce all the words, the product is probably not so eco-friendly."

A healthier environment, she said, impacts your health in a positive way. When you use paint that doesn't emit that 'new paint smell' or install a carpet that doesn't have glues with urea formaldehyde, you're doing something good for your health and the environment, she said.

Companies are offering healthier, more durable choices; Goldman displayed a sample countertop made from recycled paper with cashew nut resins (that looks just like wood) and decorative tiles made from encapsulated and refired construction debris. Even products we don't see, but that help our houses, are being reformulated: Denim batting, from the discarded denim scraps left on the cutting room floors of blue jean manufacturers, is being made into insulation.

INCREMENTAL CHANGES
Goldman, who has extensive

experience in interior design, encouraged even incremental changes.

"If every household in Massachusetts replaced only one traditional light bulb with a new CFL light bulb, the state would save \$20 million in heating costs," she said.

Energy audits are available from your local utility companies, she said, and, since you pay for those audits (through surcharges assessed to every utility

customer), you ought to take advantage of them.

Other small measures can make a difference. By using a kilowatt measurement tool, you can evaluate how much energy a specific appliance uses — and, if the price is too high, you might want to unplug it and donate it to a worthy organization or family in need.

The "turn off the lights when you leave the room" message that we, as Baby Boomers heard, applies today, but she has other

suggestions. Goldman recommended turning off power strips, turning off anything that uses "phantom power" — that which is warm to the touch — whenever you can. Don't keep those appliances plugged in, as they do consume power, albeit small amounts. Remember, all those small amounts add up.

In addition to turning off appliances and power strips and buying CFL light bulbs, other cost-free and simple suggestions

include:
Get a programmable thermostat so you can keep the heat low when

you're not home, and take grocery bags to the grocery store to reduce the need for more paper or plastic bags.

THE BIG PICTURE

Here on the Cape, we have an abundance of sun and wind — sustainable, renewable energy choices, she said. When people choose solar power or wind power, they've made

the decision once and they're done — that's a core element of going green, she explained.

"In the World War II era, we (as a nation) retooled refrigerator factories to build bomber jets," said Goldman. "Why can't we retool automobile manufacturing plants now to create wind turbines, for example?"

And, because the government wants to encourage people to invest in energy efficient products and projects, there are some federal and/or state tax credits available. For the most up-to-date resource on tax credits, consult your tax advisor before investing for tax purposes.

Three additional Remodel Green workshops are scheduled by Green Design Center: March 28, Green Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Options; April 25, Renewable Energy and Remodeling; and May 30, Organic Landscaping. Each session is \$25 per household (up to two people); sessions are 11 a.m. to noon, registration is recommended. Call 508-477-7988 or email info@ggreendesign.com to register.

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My dream: A meadow for a lawn that never needs mowing

My worry: what will the neighbors think?

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

THERE ARE MANY lawns in my neighborhood that are picture-perfect green, free of crabgrass and clover, uniform in shade of green, fertilized and cut as if the front yard had just had a manicure and pedicure.

Alas, my lawn is not one of those, nor will it ever be. I won't use chemical fertilizers; I like clover; worse, I won't use pesticides of any kind to kill grubs or crab grass.

Still, there is a constant need to mow the lawn; I liken it to the need to wash dishes after eating.

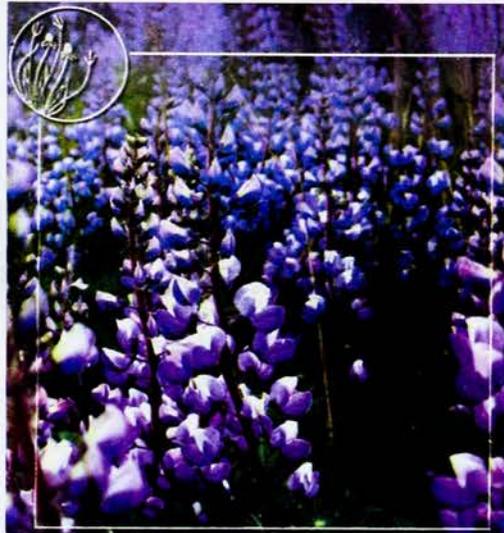
But, after my back surgery, I'm not sure that this is an activity that I want to be engaged with on a weekly basis.

The simple solution is to pay the local neighbor's son to cut my lawn. However, this year, I've decided

to try something different: creating a 25 square foot meadow on my side yard.

For the past three years, I've subscribed to Prairie Moon Nursery, a self-proclaimed catalogue and natural guide, providing seed and plants to promote natural growth in wetlands, prairie, savanna and woodland environments. They've been in business since 1982, and whatever plants and seeds I've purchased have done well so far.

Unlike many



Wild Lupine – *Lupinus perennis*

garden shops, which buy plants wholesale from a large distributor, Prairie Moon only handles native species (no aliens allowed),

the plants are grown in nursery beds and not dug from

the wild, and the seeds are either from the nursery production fields or from 70 seed producers located throughout the upper Midwest.

I have worked hard in my gardens to create environments that will attract butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds. The edges of my beds, in my backyard, have lots of varieties of butterfly bushes, milkweed, bee balm, purple cone flowers and larkspur.

Now, I'm planning to take on one whole side of the front

yard, and create a new meadow. It's also convenient; it's the one area that I didn't manage to rake last year, and what's left of the grass will be in bad shape.

THE PLAN

First, I need to recruit either a neighborhood lad or one of my son's friends, who wants to earn some extra money this spring. I will need to clear the area and bring in some top soil.

The way I plan to do it is to borrow from the com-

post piles that exist on the edge of a nearby wetland, where neighbors have been diligently dumping their grass clippings for years. A morning's labor – hopefully some 20 wheelbarrows – will provide a rich, moist soil base for the new meadow.

If necessary, I can "invest" in

commercial compost, such as that from "Coast of Maine" – an organic product I prefer. However, that would require at least a \$100 investment – for 10 bags – at Peckham's Nursery in Little Compton. If I win the lottery – maybe.

Before I put the top soil down, I will need to rake up the leaves, put them in a compost pile, and turn over the area.

Indeed, if I was really willing to do it "right," I would have already planted some winter rye in the fall and use that to nitrogen fix the soil, then "hand plow" it under before applying the new soil and seed.

See MEADOW, Page 29

"I have worked hard in my gardens to create environments that will attract butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds."



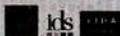
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REAL ESTATE INSIGHT

Who will buy a home in 2009? The optimist

Tax credits to first-time buyers provide some incentive

I WAS TAKING a walk with my neighbor and friend, Susan Kertzer, the other morning. We are part of a team doing Shape Up RI this year. If you haven't heard about the program, a brilliant



Sally Lapides

Brown medical student, Rajiv Kumar, who wanted to mobilize thousands of Rhode Islanders to achieve better health, started it.

Our company has done it for several years, and I am convinced it not only improves your health but it makes you a better employee, friend and spouse, because the pedometer inspires you to get up and do more steps, making you more helpful as you get through your day.

In the last several years, Susan and I have discovered parts of the city that we would never have seen had we not done them on foot.

It is on these morning

walks that I get some of my best ideas for my columns and my radio show.

We talk about the day's current events, our families and my business. As a non-practicing attorney, she provides wise counsel for me.

So, on our five-mile journey this day, we walked over the George M. Cohan Bridge in Fox Point to walk along the path by the water and she asked me a question that no one had asked me this season: "Who do you think will be buying houses in 2009?"

My answer surprised me; I told her that the world was divided between optimists and pessimists.

The optimists would be buying this year.

They are the ones who would notice the interest rates were down, the inventory selection was great and prices were low enough.

They were not going to wait for the bottom, because by the time we find the bottom, the market has already started to recover.

They listen to what President Obama is saying and feel that this downturn will pass, and with it the opportunities

that have presented themselves in today's marketplace.

They are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Some of these buyers will be young first-time buyers who are looking forward to the \$8,000 tax credit that they will get if they buy before November 2009.

This is not a tax deduction; it is an actual credit off of your tax liability. If you don't owe anything on your taxes, you will get a check for up to \$8,000.

In 1975, when I came into the business, a \$2,000 tax credit was offered to stimulate the market and within the year, the housing market recovered.

When the first-time homebuyer begins to buy, the paralysis in the real estate market will begin to dissipate. It allows the seller to buy another home and is like a positive domino effect, as it unleashes sales in the higher ranges.

There will be sales in the upper-price ranges, both in the second-home market and the expensive primary residence market.

When we have all watched

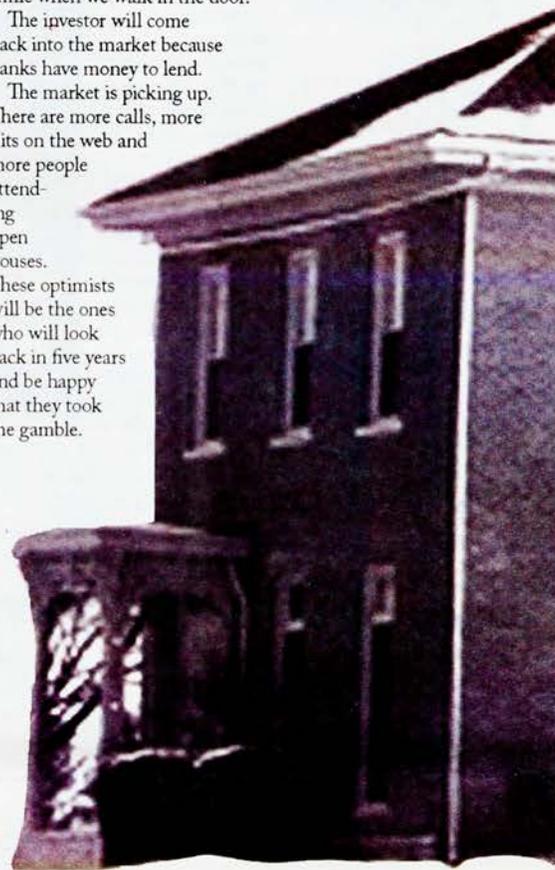
our 401Ks and our stock portfolios decline, it is nice to have something tangible that makes us smile when we walk in the door.

The investor will come back into the market because banks have money to lend.

The market is picking up. There are more calls, more hits on the web and more people attending open houses.

These optimists will be the ones who will look back in five years and be happy that they took the gamble.

Sally Lapides can be reached at slapides@residentialproperties.com.



"These optimists will be the ones who will look back in five years and be happy that they took the gamble."

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Farming the land, Torah in hand

Jewish farm schools create fertile ground

By SUE FISHKOFF
JTA STAFF WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) - Naf Hanau lives in the Bronx, an odd choice for someone who calls himself a Jewish farmer. But Hanau, 23, is in the heart of New York City only for horticultural school, to learn skills he'll put into practice when he and his girlfriend, 27-year-old Anna Stevenson, buy land near Rochester, N.Y., and start their farm.

"Five years from now I see myself farming with Anna," Hanau says. "Growing food, growing vegetables, feeding people real food and making a living from that. Supporting a family without being a lawyer, a doctor, a teacher or an accountant."

Stevenson is also preparing for their future, working as the farm manager at the Adamah Jewish environmental program at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, Conn. She is in charge of a four-

acre field where she and the Adamah fellows, young Jews on three-month internships, grow pesticide-free fruits and vegetables that they provide to the retreat center and sell through a community-supported agriculture agreement.

Through the agreement, people buy weekly boxes of fresh produce directly from local farmers.

Stevenson, too, introduces herself as a Jewish farmer, even though she thinks the title is "kind of gimmicky." But it describes what she does quite accurately. She hoes, plants, weeds and harvests, but she also teaches, studies Jewish texts and rests on Shabbat.

"You work for six days and you really need Shabbat," she says. "You appreciate Shabbat physically, emotionally (and) spiritually."

Hanau and Stevenson are part of a small, but growing, number of young activists in the new Jewish food movement who are turning to the land to express their Jewish values. They are not farmers who just happen to be Jews. They are Jewish farmers, working the land according to agricultural laws set down in the Talmud, teaching their peers and trying to promote the



JTA Photo/Sabrina Malach

ADAMAH ALUMNA Jackie Topol carries hay that will be used to mulch garlic at Adamah's annual alumni garlic-planting festival celebrated each November.

importance of growing one's own food within the greater

field unharvested for the poor, in accordance with the *Mishnaic Tractate Pe'ah*, or corner.

eat. Some keep kosher, some do not, but all are committed to some kind of Jewish dietary practice.

"To have farming be a little part of every Jewish person's life, that's our goal."

Simcha Schwartz

They don't plant wheat and barley together, a teaching from *Tractate Kilayim*, or holding back. They slaughter goats and chickens they raise themselves, practicing "*tzar ba'alei bayim*," the commandment to show kindness to domestic animals. They say a *bracha* before they

Unlike the Labor Zionist youth of the 1960s and '70s, who learned farming so they could move to Israel and join *kibbutzim*, today's young Jewish activists say they can farm any land Jewishly. It doesn't have to be Israel.

See FARMERS, Page 29

Jewish community. They leave a corner of their

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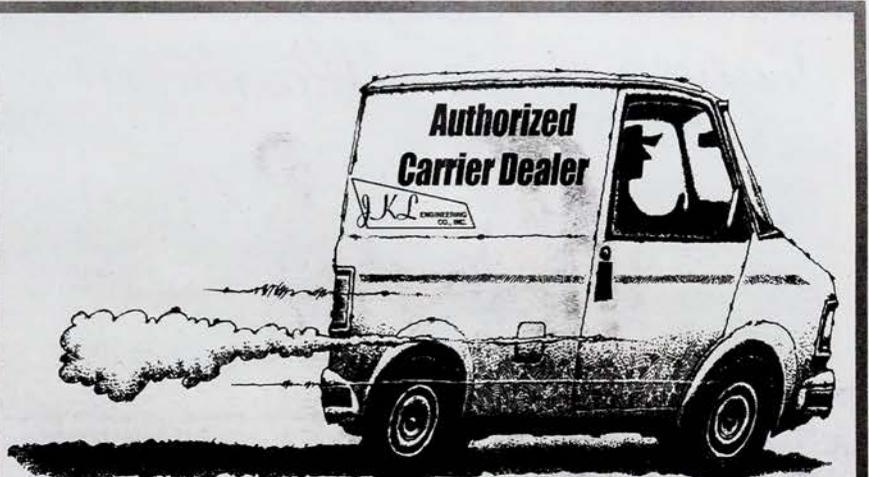
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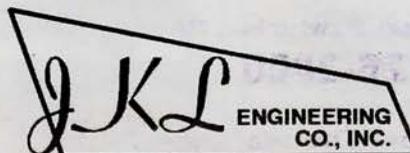
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What's old is new again

Originally a textile mill, Olneyville building rehabbed for artists

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

"I'LL RETIRE in another 40 years," insisted Duke Lossini, a tool and die maker who owns a mill building on Hartford Avenue in the Olneyville section of Providence.

At age 88, Lossini works six days a week, chomps on a cigar and walks with assistance, but is sharp as a tack about his 53-year-old company, Eli Metal Products, which once manufactured lockets, bracelets, cigar and cigarette cases, business card cases and much more, and the building that houses the company.

Although still in operation on the building's upper floors, this family-owned manufacturing company, like many in the state, is a shadow of its former self.

"Not everyone is college material in this country," said Lossini, who worried that he won't have people who knew how to make tools, fix leaks in a pipe or repair a shorted wire.

Although he dropped out of high school to go to work, Lossini values education and bemoans the loss of

our country's craftsmen.

With the mill partially empty of manufacturing, the first floor has been renovated for tenants, such as artists, nonprofit offices or light manufacturing businesses, said Len Lavoie, who owns Rhode Island Commercial Industry Realty (RICIR) with his partner, Peter Giroux. Formerly a textile mill, the building at 91 Hartford Ave. may be one of the only mills in the city of Providence that has not been converted to include some residential space. We need space for commercial use, explained Lavoie, and that's what we develop.

In 2003, the building was ready for occupancy with

seven ten-

ants signed up, said Lavoie.

Then, the Station nightclub fire brought new fire code regulations that slowed development and required us to start all over again, he said.

Today, five years later, the building is upgraded, with its certificate of occupancy. It's got everything but the tenants.

Lavoie seemed upbeat, as he expressed opti-

mism that he and his partner will be able to put a deal together again. He's been involved — in one capacity or another — in real estate for more than 35 years, and has experienced the inevitable rollercoaster ride.

"When we had 18 percent interest rates on home mortgages years ago, we still put deals together. We still do deals today, although they may not happen as fast as they once did," he said.

The mill building boasts huge open spaces and wonderful light with the original windows repaired, repainted and reglazed. The great light aside, Olneyville is still gritty, with some trash and broken glass scattered in the parking lot. It is a

quick trip from the East Side — only about four miles and immediately off the Hartford Avenue (Route 6A) exit off Route 6 from downtown Providence.

With several mill renovation projects under their belts, the RICIR team works closely with city officials to address and resolve the unexpected obstacles and "bumps in the road." After huge problems in Pawtucket, where most of their projects are, cropped up several years ago, a group of business developers, property owners and real estate agents now meets monthly with representatives from Pawtucket city government. Issues around fire code, building code, etc. get worked out much more efficiently this way, he said.

Lossini, old in years and young in attitude, was solicited for his advice: "Any tips on staying sharp and mentally alert?"

His answer: "When I started the company (53 years ago), I worked 20 hours a day, six or seven days a week. Now, I work six days a week. You have to have a drive to do something. Even if you only get up to do something for a few hours a day, you have to be active."

Information on renting these mill spaces, which range in size from 1,214 sq. ft. to 4,450 sq. ft., is available from RICIR, 751-8428 or www.ricir.com.

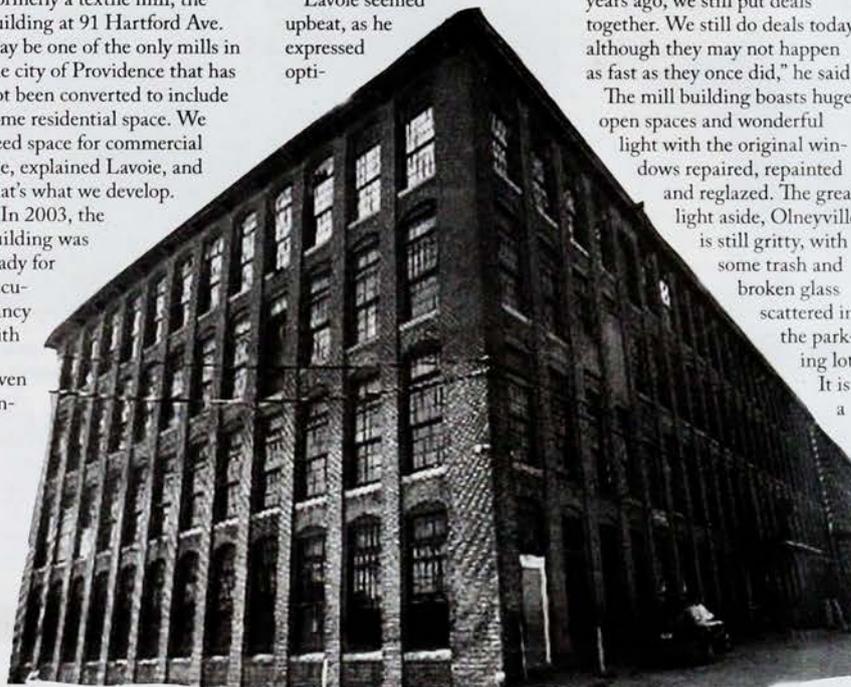


Photo courtesy of Rhode Island Commercial Industry Realty

ORIGINALLY A TEXTILE MILL, this brick building on Hartford Avenue still houses a small jewelry manufacturing operation on the upper floors. A paved lot is just east of the building.

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Photo courtesy Rustigian Rugs

This image is of a contemporary Tibetan carpet with a meandering line and stylized floral motif. It can be custom ordered to match any fabrics.

Rustigian is synonymous with 'Oriental rug'

Local retailer offers high quality products

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

A WICKENDEN Street landmark on Providence's East Side, Rustigian Rugs was founded in 1930 by Roz Rustigian's father, George V. Rustigian, now deceased. Before the store opened in October, 1981 at that locale, rugs were sold out of the family home on Benefit Street.

Every industry has its unique jargon and terminology and the rug business is no different. Not every rug that appears to be an Oriental rug should be called that. "An Oriental rug is a piece of floor covering that is hand-knotted in the Near or Far East," said Rustigian, the store's owner, "and it's made of predominantly wool, cotton and sometimes, silk." The key factor, of course, is that it's hand-made; machine-made rugs should properly be called "Oriental design" or "Oriental style," she added. Any regulations governing the terms? "There is no rug police," she said, "and I wish there were."

As the owner of several antique Oriental (not Oriental style) rugs that I inherited from my grandparents (which have been cleaned and/or repaired at Rustigian's), I asked about changing styles. If apparel styles come in and out of fashion, certainly rugs must, as well. While countries (where the rugs were made) don't come in and out of vogue, styles do change, she explained. "In the past 10 years or so, we're seeing lighter rugs - with backgrounds in pale peach or cream, for example - taking

precedence over the traditional, heavier red and blue rugs." They're using more designer colors to complement the big fabric houses, she said, though the designs are traditional.

The largest rug producing companies include Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and, to a lesser extent, Egypt. Although Moroccan rugs have seen a resurgence in popularity in California, that's not been the case here. Could the typical consumer identify a rug made in Turkey from one made, say, in Pakistan? No, she said, though those with a trained eye can tell the difference.

Rustigian's is ready to help its customers. "We don't expect an individual to shove a huge rug into the back of her car and deal with it at home. We are delighted to do that work for you." And, with staff who handle rug cleaning (recommended at least once a year for rugs that receive a lot of attention and less often for those rugs in infrequently used rooms) and staff who handle rug repairs, Rustigian's is truly a full service store. The store's sales staff, which include Rustigian and two others, have some 60 years of combined experience.

For the most part, she doesn't travel to the Far East to buy; rather, she buys from importers and wholesalers. When I asked whether children were still put

to work making Oriental rugs, she explained that the rug dealers' association, to which most of her dealers belong, works to address eliminating child labor and making contributions to different outlets for the children to become educated.

In 2001, Rustigian's was named Retailer of the Year by the Atlanta Merchandise Mart, she said, as an outstanding specialty store.

Rustigian is active in several other nonprofits and philanthropic initiatives, including the Rhode Island Donation Exchange (a furniture bank for those in need), the SPCA, the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women and efforts to combat AIDS.

And, if one of Rustigian's employees looks familiar, don't be surprised: Long-time employee Edie Ajello is also a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

"I'm always actively seeking to buy old rugs that I would then repair and sell," said Roz. They're in short supply - as they're wearing out. "It's an art form that truly depreciates because of real use."

Rustigian Rugs, is at One Governor Street, Providence, 751-5100, www.rustigianrugs.com.

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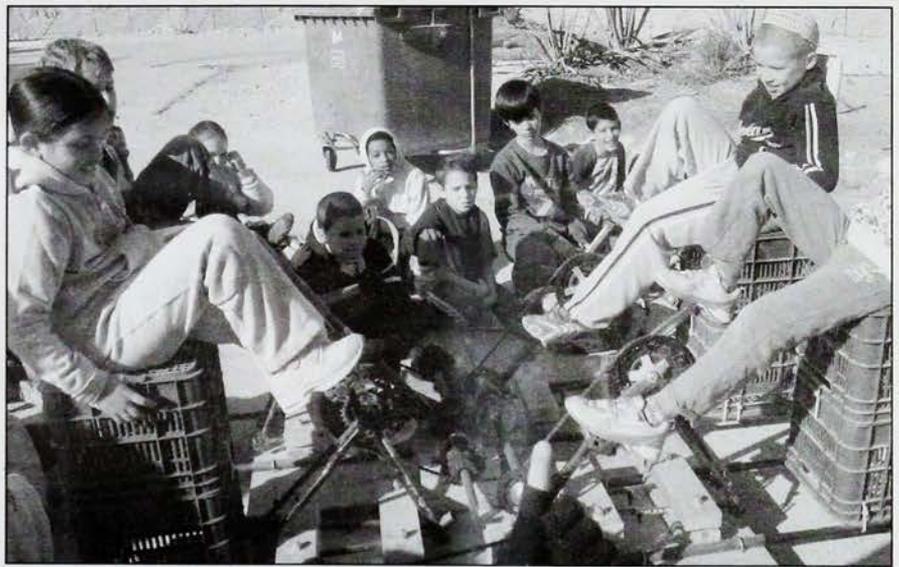


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JTA Photo/The Good Energy Initiative

VOLUNTEERS OF GOOD ENERGY INITIATIVE operating a generator run on human pedaling and falafel oil at an electricity-saving event in Tel Aviv last spring.

How to erase carbon footprints in Israel

Companies can turn a profit by carbon trading

By DINA KRAFT
 JTA Staff Writer

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Out of a towering mountain of waste near Ben Gurion Airport, methane gas is being captured to create thermal energy for a nearby factory.

In the Negev Desert, solar panels are on loan to Bedouin villages without electricity, allowing the residents to run refrigerators needed to store medicine for ill children.

These are two of a small, but growing, wave of Israeli projects to help reduce the country's carbon footprint by curbing carbon dioxide emissions – part of the global battle to arrest climate change.

Along the way, the projects are helping bolster Israel's energy independence by promoting energy efficiency and home-grown clean technologies.

"It's hard to be first, and a challenge, but we believe in what we do," said Eyal Biger, founder of the Good Energy Initiative (www.goodenergy.org.il), the country's first and only voluntary carbon offsetting organization.

The notion of reducing one's carbon footprint has become a buzzword in the United States and Europe, but only recently has it begun to gain currency in Israel.

Last November, the Good Energy Initiative managed some of the carbon offsetting for the estimated 750 tons of carbon emissions produced by the thou-

sands of people who attended the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Jerusalem.

To offset the emissions, caused by such uses as air travel, the Good Energy Initiative subsidized the purchase of solar water heaters and energy-efficient light bulbs for disadvantaged Israeli families.

"We see the mechanism of carbon offsetting as a way to introduce, enhance and support social projects on environmental issues like energy and air pollution because we

Developed countries agreed to comply with new carbon dioxide emissions standards. Through carbon trading, polluting entities such as governments, factories and power plants from developed countries offset the environmental damage they cause by buying carbon credits from an array of greenhouse gas reduction projects in non-developed countries.

This has opened a door of opportunity for Israel and other countries defined by the treaty as non-developed. The decomposition of organic waste being captured and transformed into thermal energy at the Hirya landfill just outside Israel's main airport, for example, is sold to France's national electric company as a carbon offset.

Adi Dishon, the co-founder of EcoTraders (www.ecotraders-global.com), the largest carbon

trading company in Israel, brokered that and many other such deals in the country.

"When we started out five years ago it was very difficult," Dishon told JTA. "There was not much awareness of climate change in general. But now the global awareness is huge, and anyone who does business in Europe or the United States understands you cannot sell products without addressing the issue of climate change or energy efficiency."

Israeli companies now realize it's a "double bonus" to become more energy efficient, she said.

They are weaning themselves off coal, Israel's major energy source, because it reduces their own costs while providing the added revenue

"We believe social and environmental integrity are two sides of the same coin."

Eyal Biger

believe social and environmental integrity are two sides of the same coin," Biger said.

In Israel, as in the rest of the world, there are two avenues for carbon offsetting. One is the voluntary route being pioneered here by Biger's organization.

Among other projects, the group helps Diaspora Jewish organizations offset their carbon emissions by investing in Israeli energy-saving projects.

The other avenue is the commercial side, which taps into the new multimillion-dollar-a-year business of carbon trading.

The few Israeli companies that deal in carbon offset trading were established in the wake of the Kyoto climate treaty, which took effect in 2005.

The treaty assigned different responsibilities to developed and non-developed countries.

In search of Jewish environmentalism

Tikkun olam is part of eco-thoughtful lifestyle

By LISA KEYS
JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK (JTA) – I like to think of myself as an eco-conscious gal. My husband, Julian, and I make an effort to tread lightly on this earth. We bring our own bags to the supermarket, we buy local, organic food whenever possible, and we try to choose products with the least amount of packaging. Some of our efforts, I'll admit, are more circumstantial than intentional. We live in New York City because we love it; the fact that the density of urban areas eases pressure on the environment is a wonderful bonus. We don't own a car. That doesn't mean I wouldn't like to have a car – it's that we don't need one and it's one more expense. But hey, zero emissions!

While greening our lives has been something of a no-brainer, we started to get serious about it once I became pregnant. Suddenly, I saw toxins everywhere and the sad state of our planet became a dire thing. The future was no longer this nebulous thing now that I had a little person in my charge.

I hope to give my 14-month-old, Leon, the world – quite literally – so we began to try harder. I phased out my chemical-laden cleansers and started making my own, usually a combination of vinegar, water and maybe some lemon or baking soda. Out went our dish soap and shampoo; in came the non-toxic biodegradable stuff. Paper towels and napkins have been traded in for cloth versions. Making ecologically sound choices has evolved into a lifestyle for us. And though it isn't always the easy choice – I long for fewer dirty rags and a sparkling, bleached-out bathtub – it's what we're most comfortable with.

As Julian and I feel our way through our second year as parents, the "green" portion of my household has come readily, though we're still forging our family's Jewish identity. I've started to wonder if our eco-sensibilities could be a part of the equation. Jewish environmental activism has become *de rigueur* as eco-Jewish organizations, initiatives and conferences have

become commonplace. Do the same principles of eco-Judaism apply within the walls of my home? And does it even matter?

"There's nothing in the Torah that says we should be using vinegar instead of harsh chemicals," said Liore Milgrom-Elcott, project manager at the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. "But there is a general sense that we are stewards of the planet."

"When God gives us the world, it's not just a free-for-all; we need to make sure that it's cared for properly," she said.



Photo courtesy of Dave Schwartz
Variegated Weigelia

"When God gives us the world, it's not just a free-for-all; we need to make sure that it's cared for properly."

Liore Milgrom-Elcott

"That's a permanent obligation that can extend to any environmental consideration."

Environmental considerations apply to the home, too.

"When the Temple was destroyed, the Jewish home became the new temple," Milgrom-Elcott said. "All of our rituals replicated what used to happen in the Temple. If you are a person who cares about the earth, the simple, logical, Jewish step is that your home should represent these values."

Everyone I spoke with regarding the Jewish-ecological connection mentioned the Jewish obligation toward *tikkun olam*. Though the tenet can (and should) be extended to just about any social justice issue, Milgrom-Elcott points out that it can (and should) be taken literally, too.

"There's no question that we've damaged our world," she said.

Though I found Milgrom-Elcott's theories inspiring, I had trepidations about my motivations. Of course I wanted a healthier planet for all future generations – but my foremost concern is for my son.

"We all get inspired by dif-

ferent things," said Barbara Lerman-Golomb, the director of community relations at Hazon. "You're not just taking care of your son but you're taking care of others so there will be a planet there."

Lerman-Golomb assured me there's nothing selfish about my efforts close to home.

"It's a social justice issue because of the fact that our lifestyle, how we live, impacts other people – not just locally but globally," she said.

"Our universal identity is part of our Jewish identity," said Ellen

Bernstein, a writer, teacher and founder of Shomrei Adamah, the first national Jewish environmental organization. "Being Jewish also means being part of the greater world. It means being a blessing to the world. That universality is a very important part of being Jewish."

I loved how Bernstein viewed her humanity as a key element of her Jewish identity rather than

the other way around. But I wasn't entirely convinced about the eco-connection until I began to ponder the whole "light onto nations" thing.

No matter what Julian, Leon and I do – whether it's renting bikes (and not cars) on vacation or *slepping* aluminum water bottles around the city, we have the opportunity as humans, and Jews, to set an example.

What it boils down to, I think, is intent. I'm still not sure how much we'll entwine our Judaism and environmentalism, but I like that it's an option.

"When you're doing it (being ecologically sound) as part of the Jewish community, it spreads," Milgrom-Elcott said. "If you're having someone over for Shabbat dinner, and you're serving food that's local and seasonal, chances are it will come up in conversation."

I thought back to the meals we've shared with friends over the years, discussing the tomatoes or the kale that came from our organic farm share that we participate in. And just like that, perhaps we inspired another family to think about doing the same, and maybe we spread a little more light in this world.

And if you happen to visit us in our Sunnyside, Queens home and you catch a faint whiff of vinegar, I'll be happy to explain that to you, too.

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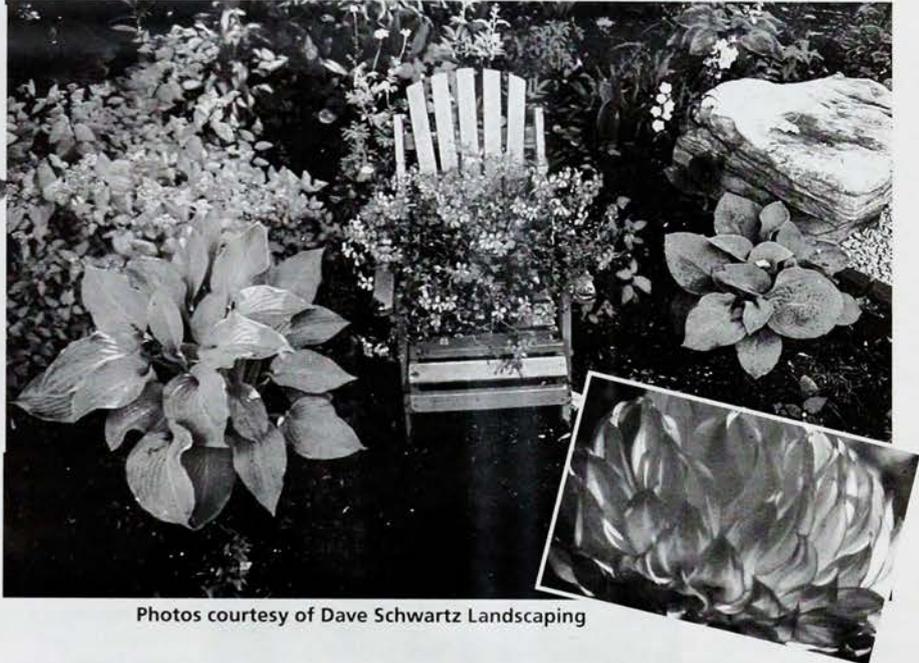
Take time to savor nature's gifts



EVERYONE SAYS "take time to smell the roses," but how many of us actually do? Taking the time to enjoy fresh air, sunlight on our faces, and the first signs of spring – spring is coming, whether we believe it or not – costs nothing. Enjoying nature's bounty is a great way to get connected with

Mother Earth and appreciate the wonders of spring's renewal.

When we get out of our cars and walk through our neighborhoods, we're more likely to see – and appreciate – the first crocus blossom, or the elderly gentleman who's preparing his garden for the season.



Photos courtesy of Dave Schwartz Landscaping

ERASE: Israel takes steps to limit carbon emissions

From Page 26

source of being able to sell carbon credits abroad.

Elysium (www.elysium.com/israel.html), which also deals in carbon trading, was the first to create the first Hebrew carbon meter calculating carbon footprints for Israeli individuals, companies

and local governments.

Noam Gressel, Elysium's managing partner, says Israel can be especially competitive in the carbon offsetting market because it is emerging as a clean technology hub where local industries can tap into wind, solar and bio-fuel technologies being pioneered in the Jewish state.

One of Elysium's projects is a large coffee factory in the northern town of Safed. The factory burns the waste from its coffee production to create its own steam to replace the polluting heavy fuels it once used. Installing the biomass burner to help create the steam was not cheap, Gressel said, "but adding the revenue of carbon

credits tips the scale and makes it that much more profitable."

Beyond the carbon credits being traded commercially, credits are also being traded on the volunteer market. EcoTraders had been planning to auction voluntary units from Israel in Europe, but anger in Europe over Israel's recent operation in Gaza prompted the com-

pany to postpone the event.

This, and the nature of carbon trading itself, underscores the interconnectedness of the world. As the Good Energy Initiative's Bigger put it when speaking about how emissions in one corner of the globe can be neutralized anywhere else, "Our atmosphere is shared."

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FARMERS: Tending the land, with an eye on biblical obligations

From Page 21

Even their sources of inspiration are different. Their parents and grandparents looked to the 19th century, reading Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, and Labor Zionist thinker Dov Ber Borochoy, while this new generation casts its gaze farther back to Torah, Talmud and the ancient Israelites.

"I very much identify as a biblical Jew," says Aitan Mizrahi, 31, who raises goats for milk and meat at the Isabella Freedman Center.

Mizrahi, who is not traditionally observant, lets his beard grow to symbolize his connection to Judaism.

"It reminds me of who my ancestors were," he says, "and how they would walk the hills of Judea with their goats and sheep and really have a deep relationship to the land, an understanding of how that land connected them to the holy spirit of God."

The few young North American Jews who are actually working full-time as farmers are part of a much larger group of environmental and food activists who come out of a growing number of new Jewish farm-education initiatives such as Adamah; the Philadelphia-based Jewish Farm School; Kayam Farm near Baltimore; the Teva Learning Center, a program of Surprise Lake Camp in Cold Spring, N.Y.; and Hazon, an advocacy organization that promotes sustainable environmental practices and sponsors an annual Jewish food conference.

The goal of the Jewish farm-based schools is not to churn out farmers but to make gardening and farming normative practices within the wider Jewish community. The leaders of these programs say they look forward to the day when every Jewish community center, synagogue

and day school will have its own garden. These efforts will be spearheaded by what they hope will soon be 180 young Jews graduating each year from the Jewish farm school programs.

Through farming, these farm school alumni grew closer to their Judaism.

"Before I did the Adamah program, I would say I was a farmer first who happened to be a Jew," Tali Weinberg, 31, says. "Then I learned about the true nature of our people, of our roots, of our tribal identity in the land of Israel 2,000 years ago. I've not only become more of a Jewish farmer, I understand more of what it means to be a Jew."

The Jewish philanthropic community is starting to take notice.

Since 2005, the Jewish Farm School has run workshops on urban sustainability in Philadelphia, led organic gardening programs at Surprise Lake Camp and planted rooftop gardens for synagogues in New York City. In June, with grants from the Foundation for Jewish Camping and the Jim Joseph Foundation, the school's farming program will take up permanent residence in Putnam Valley, N.Y., sharing the site with a new eco-Jewish summer camp.

Across the board, Jewish environmental and farm-education initiatives are enjoying similar increased interest.

"Today we are being supported by the Jewish community," says Simcha Schwartz, 30, who co-founded the Jewish Farm School with a \$2,000 Hazon grant.

Schwartz, in five or six years, hopes to establish an agriculturally-based Jewish high school at the new site.

"We don't all need to be farmers," he says. "To have farming be a little part of every Jewish person's life, that's our goal."



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MEADOW: A place where larks can play

From Page 21

According to the Prairie Moon catalogue, I can choose between the "short grass" and "tall grass" seed mix, or use both. My plan is to order three of both, or six, at \$3.50 each, for a total of \$21.

I'm also thinking that I will add some Wild Lupine – *Lupinus perennis* – to my experimental meadow, along with some Wild Blue phlox and some Wild Sweet William. At \$2 a seed packet, that's another \$6.

WHAT WILL THE NEIGHBORS SAY?

I'm not too worried, here. Most of my neighbors have come to appreciate the numerous garden beds, and the bees, butterflies, songbirds and hummingbirds that they attract. Recently, there were a doe and its fawn nibbling on a neighbor's bushes, so I suspect that the meadow may attract some of the nearby wildlife. The raccoons always seem to find the Concord grapes right before they're ready to harvest. Any coyotes seem to keep their distance, thanks to my vigilant dog. An occasional mama skunk and her brood will wonder through – that's a given. Hopefully, though, the new meadow will not attract any woodchucks.

What it means, really, is that I will need to document the results with some photographs to share.

For more information about Prairie Moon Nursery, visit the web site at www.prairiemoon.com, or write them at 32115 Prairie Lane, Winona, Minn., 55987. The toll-free number is (866) 417-8156.



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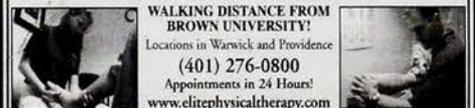
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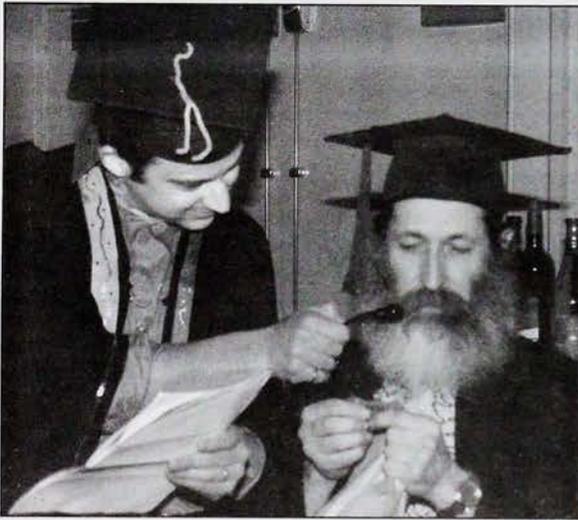


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DAN STRAUS (left) and Fishel Bresler are masters of ceremony for the March 15 gala. Above, they are doing their *shtick* at last year's gala.

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Musical revue of old classics

BY COMMUNITY PLAYERS STAFF
Special to The Voice & Herald

PAWTUCKET - "A Grand Night for Singing," a revue of the classic songs of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, kicks off the 88th season of The Community Players. Presented in jazzy new arrangements, the revue features hit songs from "Carousel," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music," and "Oklahoma!"

Created by Tony Award-winner Walter Bobbie, the show presents clever musical arrangements of old standards, including a sultry rendition of "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," a swingin' "Honeybun," and a jazzy "Kansas City." Nominated for Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best

Book of a Musical, "A Grand Night for Singing" will remind you why Rodgers and Hammerstein continue to be among the most beloved composers of American musical theatre.

"A Grand Night for Singing" will be presented March 20 through March 23, March 27 through 29 and April 3 through April 5 at Jenks Auditorium, Division Street, (across from McCoy Stadium) in Pawtucket. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students through high school. On Friday, March 20, the company will host a special opening night party after the performance, featuring a chance to meet the cast, tour the backstage and sample complimentary refreshments. For reservations, call 726-6860 or reserve online at www.thecommunityplayers.org.

Parenting workshop at Agudas Achim

ATTLEBORO, Mass. - Licensed clinical social worker Tracey Sutton, who works at Bradley Hospital's residential treatment program with children and their families, will lead a workshop, "Parenting Jewish Teens," on March 24 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North

Main St., Attleboro, Mass. Sutton, the mother of two adult children, has worked in therapeutic boarding schools and wilderness programs.

The workshop is free and open to the public. If you have a particular topic you would like addressed in the workshop, contact Nicole Jellinek at keshet@agudasma.org or 338-8301.



Alexander Priest and Zachary Gaines

Photo by Hank Priest

Jewish youths attain Eagle Scout status

CRANSTON - Alexander Priest and Zachary Gaines both attained the rank of Eagle Scout on Jan. 24. Both young men entered scouting as Tiger Scouts, more than 10 years ago, and are members of Boy Scout Troop Six in Cranston.

The son of Hank and Kathy Priest of Cranston and a junior at Bishop Hendricken High School, Alex organized the boys from Troop Six to build a ramp and deck for handicapped riders at the Lend A Hand Therapeutic Horse Farm for his Eagle Service Project.

Zach, the son of Dr. Alan and Sharon Gaines of Cranston, and a junior at Cranston West High School, organized Troop Six boys to build shelving and re-organize a store room for the Providence Ronald McDonald House.

JERI goes on the road

PROVIDENCE - Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, will hold its "drop-in" satellite office hours at The Phyllis Siperstein Tama-

risk Assisted Living Facility, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick, on March 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, on March 26 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and at Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Rd., Tiverton, on March 30 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The topic will be "Tips for Aging Gracefully and with Dignity," and JERI Director Susan Adler and JERI Assis-

tant Director Ethan Adler will be available to counsel and advise seniors and their families on any issues or concerns. He will also be available for pastoral counseling.

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or email sadler-jeri@jsari.org. For general information on programs provided by Jewish Seniors Agency, visit www.jsari.org.

Jewish business ethics course offered

WARWICK - The Chabad of West Bay is sponsoring a course on Jewish business ethics, starting on March 17. The 10 week course will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. The course will address how the Torah makes sense, by balancing capitalism with compassion. The principles and values that define us and the Jewish perspective on business and workplace ethical dilemmas will be discussed.

Reservations for this 10-week course are required; please contact Chabad of West Bay at 884-7888 or visit www.RJewish-Kids.com/AchievingIntegrity. The cost for the course is \$90 per person, or \$150 per couple; scholarships are available.

Free films portray lost loves and different cultures

NEWPORT - Free movies, with popcorn, soda and candy, and commentary led by Dr. Jeff Martin, a professor of theater at Roger Williams University, are open to the public; donations are welcome.

"Enemies: A Love Story" is on tap for Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m. at Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown; the 1989 film was directed by Paul Mazursky and starred Angelica Huston, Lena Olin and Ron Silver. Silver plays a Holocaust survivor who finds himself involved with three women: his current wife, a married woman

(played by Olin) and his newly-arrived wife (Huston) whom he thought had been killed in the Holocaust.

Sponsored by the Newport Havurah, "Bikur Ha-Tizmoret" ("The Band's Visit") will be shown at the Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St., Newport, on Sunday, April 19, at 1:15 p.m. The film portrays what happens when an Egyptian police band travels to Israel to perform at an Arab arts center and then gets lost in a remote desert town. The 2007 comedy, which won a Cannes Film Festival prize, is in English, Hebrew and Arabic.



QUEEN ESTHER (JERI's Michele Keir) and Mordechai (Samuel Weisman) display a beautifully illustrated megillah at a Purim celebration at Hallworth House.

JERI OFFERS PURIM FUN

By SUSAN ADLER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE – Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, treats seniors in nursing homes and assisted living residences in Rhode Island to Purim celebrations. Each year, Michele Keir, JERI staff member, reads the *megillah* from English language scrolls that are distributed. Everyone also celebrates with costumes, handmade *groggers*, Purim songs and tasty *hamantaschen*.

For more information about Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, please contact JERI Director Susan Adler at 621-5374 or email sadler-jeri@jsari.org. For info about programs provided by Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, visit www.jsari.org.



Yiddish shmoozers celebrate Purim

PROVIDENCE – *Shmoozers* will dedicate their March 13 meeting to commemorating Purim.

Members will recount the struggle of the Jewish people against the evil oppressor, Haman and will enjoy *hamantaschen*.

The meeting will be held on Friday, March 13 at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI), 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Sue Suls at the JCCRI at 861-8800, ext. 108.

Israeli tourism: 'You don't have to be Jewish to love Israel'

Israel offers history, culture, food, wine and gorgeous scenery

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – Israel offers far more than *falafel* and *hummus*, explains Michal Hershkovitz, the deputy director of the northeast region of Israel's Ministry of Tourism, who came to Providence recently from her office in New York to promote Israel as the perfect tourist destination for Americans of all denominations, political backgrounds and family makeup.

Last year broke all records for tourism to Israel, she added, with some 3 million visitors to the country; of those visitors, more of them were from the U.S. than from any other country. We know, she says, that the economy is impacting everyone,

so many of the hotels, tourism packages and, in particular, El Al, have discounted their prices.

The Ministry of Tourism markets, through agents, tour operators and Jewish community leaders, to three different travel audiences: the Jewish community, the Christian community and sophisticated travelers (regardless of religious background) who enjoy high-end travel, she says.

As meaningful as the spiritual and religious aspects of a trip to Israel are, she says, the nation is also a Mecca for



Photo by Avi Nevel

Michal Hershkovitz

food and wine aficionados. It's as rich with diverse choices of restaurants, kinds of food and price points as New York or, in New England, Providence, she and Avi Nevel, an Israeli who lives in Providence, explain.

Throughout 2009, Tel Aviv, nicknamed "the city that never sleeps," will celebrate its 100th anniversary and Hershkovitz promises some exciting events starting in April. And, she adds, *Neve Tzedek*, a neighborhood of Tel Aviv/Jaffa, is a beautiful Bohemian area with dance shows, boutiques and high-end crafts.

Jerusalem boasts a new sports stadium, and the country has more museums per capita than any other country in the world, Hershkovitz says. "You can ski down Mount Hermon and swim in Eilat, all in one day." The scenery and topography are remarkably diverse in a

country the size of New Jersey.

"It's a perfect holiday spot – Israel offers more than just sitting on the beach; it's so rich with history that it offers huge added value to a Jewish family vacation," Hershkovitz says.

The northeast region of the Israel Government Tourist Office is hosting "Sophisticated Israel,"

a series of seminars for travel agents on March 24 at 6 p.m. at Providence Courtyard by Marriott, 32 Exchange Terrace, and March 25 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, Mass. For more information or to reserve your seat, visit www.goisrael.com/neregionseminars.

Pianist George Winston to perform

CRANSTON – Grammy award-winning pianist George Winston will perform on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. The performance is open to the public. Winston and Temple Torat Yisrael will hold a food drive in concert with the performance; patrons are asked to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to the Edgewood Food Pantry.

Winston, who plays music that's a cross between traditional folk music and the instru-

mental pop/R&B of his childhood and youth, has donated royalties to other philanthropic initiatives, including those that help people impacted by 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

Tickets are \$100 for sponsorship (which includes preferential seating, an acknowledgement in the performance program and a signed George Winston CD), \$35 for preferred seating, and \$25 for general admission. Visit the synagogue or call

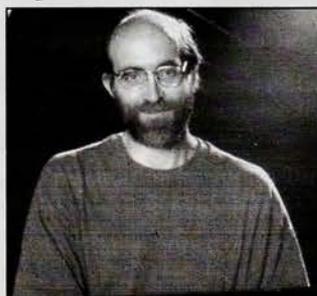


Photo courtesy of Temple Torat Yisrael

George Winston

785-1800, or call the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce at 885-0020, to purchase tickets.




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JCDS students learning enlivened through "Picturing America" grant

By KAROLYN WHITE,
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - The Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) received an art grant, "Picturing America," from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will enrich the students' academic learning.

"Picturing America" gives students the chance to learn in a fresh and engaging way about our nation's history and culture. JCDS students will study some 40 masterpieces depicting people, places and events that have shaped American's history; accompanying resources include large high-quality reproductions of the art work, an in-depth resource book

and online resources with images and lessons plans.

Currently on maternity leave, Jen Bend, the JCDS art teacher who applied for the grant, said, "I thought it would be a good way for me to work with other teachers on integrating the arts into their curricula and vice versa."

Linda Francis, art teacher and art grant coordinator, said, "The use of historical art helps the students visualize their past."

Bill Dilworth, a Middle School history teacher, is pleased with the "Picturing America" project and has used prints portraying the 1850s and the Civil War.

"I've had the 7th- and 8th-graders analyze two works of art," Dilworth said. "I had the students spend a few minutes looking at each piece of art - 'The County Election, 1852,' a painting by George Caleb Bingham, and 'Abraham Lincoln, 1865,' a photograph by Alexander Gardner."

The art is engaging, and the teachers' guide is very helpful in drawing out relevant information from the art."

For more information about this grant, go to www.picturingamerica.neb.gov, or Karolyn White at kwwhite@jcdsri.org or 751-2470 ext. 82.



Photo courtesy of JCDS
JCDS 4th graders Mark Goncharov and Lily Hamin examine "Abraham Lincoln, 1865."

Retro music, food and costumes: This bat mitzvah party is for adults only

Temple Sinai hosts a 'fun- and fund-raiser'

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

CAN YOU IMAGINE a bat mitzvah party without the *tsuris* of deciding whether to invite those renegade second cousins from New Haven, fighting with your daughter about her dress for the party or finding music to satisfy both the kids and the adults?

You don't need to imagine such a party - Temple Sinai in Cranston is hosting "Pami Steinel's Big Retro Bat Mitzvah Bash" on Saturday, March 28.

If you think you don't know Pami Steinel, think again: the name is an anagram for Temple Sinai and, since the synagogue was 13 years old in 1971, the BeeGees, beads and big hair, and fondue are all part of the retro experience. While costumes are not required, committee chairs encourage the creative - or brave - to dress in the era.

The event is a fundraiser for the synagogue or, as Betsy Shimberg, one of the committee chairs and a synagogue board member, said, "It's a fun- and fund-raiser. It's a social event where you can have a great time and help the synagogue."

People join the synagogue for social, educational and religious reasons, and this is a great way to help support Temple Sinai's programs, she added.

Although the Pami Steinel name was created by board

member and committee chair Jay Rosenfeld, Pami will actually show up to her own party - in the body of Casey Seymour Kim, an actor with the Gamm Theatre who has impersonated several people, including Miss Pixie Steingold. Kim will entertain the crowd, as will DJ Kickin' Al who, of course, take requests. Think KC and the Sunshine Band, some Abba... music from the 70s will keep guests up and dancing.

Jon Gershon, another committee chair and board member, is credited with coming up with the idea of the bat mitzvah party. I thought about my USY experiences, my bar mitzvah and a book I saw ("Bar Mitzvah Disco..." by Roger Bennett, Nick Kroll and Jules Shell) and I realized we could do this, Jon said.

Although the committee co-chairs, Jon and Melissa Gershon, Jay and Karyn Rosenfeld and Betsy and Ken Shimberg, have not yet experienced their children's *b'not mitzvah* parties (among them, they have six children, but the oldest is only 9), Jon, Jay and Betsy each

remembered their own parties. "My 82-year-old grandmother roller-skated at my bat mitzvah party," recalled Betsy. Jay described himself as a Wandering Jew, as he attended Congregation Beth Shalom, Temple Emanu-El (where he had his *bar mitzvah*) and Temple

Bonnie Gold of Gold Events will transform the space into a 1970s experience, Deb Blazar of Accounting for Taste is baking

Photo courtesy of Casey Seymour Kim
CASEY SEYMOUR KIM, who will portray Pami Steinel, appears here in her role as Miss Pixie Feingold at the Gamm Theatre.

Beth-El. Party purveyors have been wonderful, the group explained, as they've discounted their services, recognizing that the event is a synagogue fundraiser.

a bat mitzvah cake in the shape of a Torah, no less, and the music has been underwritten by the Schreiber Fund.

Raffle prizes, including a catered dinner by Accounting for

Taste, and "something" from NYLO Providence/Warwick Hotel, and party favors of CDs with 70s music round out the evening's fun. A special 'Pami-Tini' cocktail is included in the \$50 per person ticket price for the evening, which begins at 8 p.m. and lasts until "the party's over."

"The kids of members aren't breaking down the doors to come (to the event)," said Betsy, "though we're so pleased with the range of people who are signing up."

All are welcome: Sinai congregant or not, costumed or not, great dancer or not. It promises to be a great opportunity to spend time with friends and help fund programming at Sinai.

For those who can't attend, but want to support the party, traditional candle lighting opportunities are available at \$36 per candle.

More information and party invitations are available at the event web site www.templeisnai.org and click on "Pami's Big Retro Bat Mitzvah Bash."

Summer camp project leads to new prayer space

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@jfri.org

ATTLEBORO – Rachel Bodemer, of Taunton, Mass., and Tessa Rudnick, of Providence, were inspired by a three-year-old experience, at Camp JRF in the Poconos, where they helped build an outside Beit Tefillah (prayer space). Now, Congregation Agudas Achim will create its own outdoor prayer space.

As part of their b'not mitzvah project, moved by the spiritual connection between nature and prayer, they presented their proposal to the synagogue's board

of trustees. After several committee meetings and community outreach, the project is underway and construction, by children and adults within the synagogue community, will begin in May.

Stone pavers are still available for purchase to honor or in memory of a loved one for \$36 each. Paver decorations will occur on March 22 from noon to 3 p.m. and on March 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Kim Bodemer, education director, Congregation Agudas Achim, at 508-222-2243 or principal@agudasma.org.



Photo courtesy of Congregation Agudas Achim
JOSEPH BELL AND HIS DAUGHTER, SARINA, left, of North Attleboro, Mass., and Mike Straus and his daughter, Gabby, of North Attleboro, Mass., decorated stone pavers for the outdoor prayer space on Feb. 8.



Photo by E. Bresler

Left to right, Rabbi Berish Edelman, Fishel Bresler and Rabbi Sruli Purec focus on their musical performances.

'Pillars of the community' are recognized

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – At its annual dinner on Feb. 15, Providence's Yeshiva Gedola, also known as New England Rabbinical College, honored several leaders who have left a positive mark on the school.

The Providence Yeshiva Kollel's Rabbi Yosef Nadiv served as master of ceremonies for the evening and introduced Rabbi Eliezer Gibber of Rosh Yeshiva, who gave a D'var Torah.

Rabbi and Mrs. Shmuel Taitelbaum received the Pillar of Torah award. Rabbi Taitelbaum, a former Yeshiva Gedola student, provides, with his wife, such services as kosher supervision, meals for mourning families, and teaching.

As grandparents to three grandsons who attended or have attended the school (Berish,

Shmuel and David), Dr. and Mrs. Robert Edelman received the Grandparents of the Year award. Dr. Robert Edelman, a physician specializing in infectious diseases, epidemiology and vaccine development, is actively involved in many Jewish organizations. Dr. Daniel Edelman, the Edelmans' son, and father of the three Yeshiva boys, presented the award to his parents.

Rabbi and Mrs. Nosson Neuberger received the Alumni Achievement award, in recognition of Rabbi Neuberger's distinguished teaching contributions; his work on behalf of Russian Jewry has been especially significant.

Rabbi Berish Edelman and Fishel Bresler provided music while those in attendance enjoyed food catered by Divine Providence.

AIDS Seder of Hope will honor local activists

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – For the first time in the history of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) AIDS Task Force, its AIDS Seder of Hope will honor local heroines who have made a difference in the ongoing battle against HIV and AIDS. The seder is on March 29 at 5 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

"It truly is an honor to celebrate and recognize these women who have touched so many lives," said Debbie Blitz, co-chairperson of the event. They are:

- Karen Adams, Channel 10 television anchor, has been active for many years with AIDS Project RI "Walk for Life" and served as honorary

chair for AIDS Care Ocean State's "Mardi Gras" party. The auctioneer for AIDS Care Art Beat, she has assisted with various World AIDS Day programs and reported on HIV/AIDS issues.

- Dr. Gail Skowren is the chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Roger Williams Medical Center. Since seeing her first AIDS patient as a medical student in New York City in 1981, she has worked on the front lines to develop and implement new therapies to improve and prolong the quality of life of HIV-infected people.

- Donna Blais, Laura Johnson and Millie Perez-Cioe have worked together for more than a decade at the front desk of the Immunology Center at Miriam Hospital. They

direct patients through various programs such as comprehensive care for HIV-infected patients, an adolescent HIV clinic, opportunities to enroll in clinical trials, a special women's program and an education site for the Brown University AIDS Program.

Tickets are \$18 per person and include the service, ceremony and full-course dinner. Seating is limited, contact Karen Clarkson at the JFRI for reservations at 331-0956, ext. 107. For more information, contact Debbie Blitz or R. Bobby Ducharme at AIDSeder@gmail.com.

The AIDS Seder of Hope is sponsored by the AIDS Task Force of JFRI's Community Relations Council.

Ask and ye shall receive

Hope High students' achievements engage Jewish philanthropist

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – iPods will soon be in the hands of some 155 Hope High School students thanks, in part, to the column in the Feb. 20 issue of *The Voice & Herald* ("Reporting the good news at Hope High School," by Carole Marshall). Promising iPods to students who scored as "proficient" in one or more of the standardized tests in math, reading and writing given to New England

students (NECAP - New England Common Assessments Program), Hope High School administrators were pleasantly surprised when so many more students achieved that goal than they'd anticipated, though they had to think creatively to raise the funds to fulfill their commitment. Thanks to the story, the Mann Family Foundation wrote a check toward purchasing many of the iPods. "As a family, we have always believed in supporting education, whether it's at the local level, the colleges we've gone to or where the boys are now," said Robbie Mann, a former president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. "When you

hear stories about the teachers' and students' success in improving test scores, you don't want them (the school) to go back on what was promised to them."

"We are so grateful to the people who have donated money and, in some cases, iPods," said Becky Coustan, lead coach at Hope High School. And, if there's a surplus of money, Coustan and her colleagues will keep some in reserve for an incentive for the next school year. She hopes to hold a teacher-funded celebration, as well, for the students, with cupcakes and beverages – something small, she said, to acknowledge their hard work.

Obituaries

Henry Abramowitz, 90

PROVIDENCE — Henry Abramowitz, of Providence, died Feb. 27, at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of the late Rose (Kelcz) Abramowitz.

Born in Poland, a son of the late Leib and Hanah (Jacobowitz) Abramowitz, he came to the United States and settled in Providence in 1949. He was a Holocaust survivor, held in the Auschwitz camp.

He worked at Tolchinsky Fur in Providence from 1949 until 1981. He helped found and build Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh and served as its *gabbai* from 1962 until 2001. He was a member of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh and the RI Jewish Fraternal Association.

He contributed two Torah scrolls to the New England Rabbinical College, and one Torah scroll to a synagogue in Israel. He was honored by the New England Rabbinical College for his dedication to that institution.

He is survived by his sister, Gloria Abrams of Denver, Colo.

Donations in his memory may be made to the New England Rabbinical College, 262 Blackstone Blvd., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Mildred Chaika, 97

WARWICK — Mildred Chaika, of Hallworth House, in Providence, died on Feb. 3 at Hallworth House. She was the wife of the late Sol N. Chaika.

Born in Newark, N.J., a daughter of the late Isadore and Clara Cohen, she had lived in Warwick for five years and Cranston for more than 40 years before moving to Providence a year ago. She was a senior clerk stenographer for the State of Rhode Island for many years, before retiring in 1974. She was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael, The Miriam Hospital Women's Auxiliary and a life member of Hadassah.

She was the mother of William Y. Chaika and his wife Elaine of Providence, and Barbara Reich and her husband Melvyn of Cranston; sister of the late Abraham Cohen, Bess Klein, Pauline Lasser and Bobbie Nastasi; grandmother of Eric, Daniel, Jeremy, David and Andrew; and great-grandmother of Benjamin, Jonathan, Sara, Alan, Rebecca, Jacob and Spencer.

Contributions may be made to Hallworth House or Tamarisk.

Boris "Berek" Gelade, 98

PROVIDENCE — Berek "Boris" Gelade, of Hillside Ave., died March 2 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of the late Mania (Urman) Gelade.

Born in Lodz, Poland, a son of the late Yehuda and Ruchel Gelade, he had lived in Providence for 60 years. He was a jewelry designer for several manufacturing companies, retiring 33 years ago. He was a member of the Holocaust Survivors of RI.

He was the father of Jules Gelade and his wife Karen of Winter Garden, Fla., and Helen Mangiantine and Rose Masi, both of Providence. He was the grandfather of Lon, David, Michael and Jennifer, and great-grandfather of Jayden.

Contributions in his memory may be made to RI Holocaust Memorial, c/o Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Alan M. Gorden, 58

WARWICK — Alan Gorden passed away March 2, at his home in Warwick. Born Aug. 9, 1950, he was a life-long resident of Rhode Island where he met

his wife, Andrea, and raised his two children, Chad and Alyson.

He worked with special needs children and adults at The Ladd School, The Trudeau Center, and Kent County Mental Health. In addition to his wife and children, he also is survived by his brothers, Mark and Scott Gorden.

Contributions in his memory may be made to a charity of your choice.

Leo A. Marks, 97

PROVIDENCE — Leo Marks, of 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence, died Feb. 15 at home. He was the husband of Ruth (Adamsbaum) Marks for 73 years.

Born in Central Falls, a son of the late John and Annie (Braun) Marks, he had been a resident of Pawtucket most of his life before moving to Providence in 2002.

He was the president of John Marks Yarns, Inc., a textile company in Central Falls, retiring in 2003. He was a member of Temple Beth-El.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Richard Marks and his wife Phyllis of Los Angeles, Calif., Dr. John Marks and his wife

Judy of Raleigh, N.C., and Meredith Thayer and her husband Dr. Walter of Riverside; his daughter-in-law Maxine Marks; his grandchildren, Lisa, Dina, Adam, Allison, Jamison, Danielle, Marianne, Juli and Mark; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Michael Marks and brother of the late Madeline Gerwitz and Dr. Herman Marks.

Contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Laurence S. Moss, 64

BROOKLINE, Mass. — Laurence S. Moss, Ph.D., J.D., husband of Widdy Ho, died on Feb. 24.

He was the son of Dorothy (of Shalom Drive, Warwick) and the late Martin Moss; father of Joshua L. Moss of Los Angeles, Calif.; brother of Vicki Moss and her husband, Bob Raphael of Scituate. He was a professor of economics and law at Babson College, and was the editor of the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*.

Contributions may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th floor, Brookline, Mass. 02445.

Jewish Community Calendar

From page 19

Striar Hebrew Academy Open House

Learn about Striar, a Modern Orthodox day school.

WHERE: 346 Blackstone Blvd., Providence

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: (781) 784-8724, ext. 256, Susie Berg

March 24

Science Fair, blessing of the sun

Environmental science projects on display; Mexican dinner available for purchase.

WHERE: Striar Hebrew Academy, 100 Ames St., Sharon, Mass.

WHEN: 5-7 pm

MORE INFO: (781) 784-8724, ext. 256

George Winston

Jazz/folk pianist George Winston will appear at Temple Torat Yisrael. A food drive of non-perishable goods will be held in conjunction with the concert.

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 7 p.m.

COST: \$35 preferred seating, \$25 general admission.

MORE INFO: 935-9890

Parenting Jewish Teens

Free workshop led by licensed social worker, Tracey Sutton, with experience counseling children and families.

WHERE: Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass.

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: keshher@agudasma.org or 338-8301

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 South-eastern Massachusetts. The deadline for calendar events is two weeks before the actual publication date of the issue. For instance, for the issue

dated Feb. 20, items will need to be received by Feb. 11. Please send all potential items to voiceherald@jfri.org, with the subject line, Calendar Item. Space limitations and editorial considerations may limit what items are included.

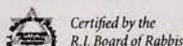
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OBESITY: Coming to grips with your own self-image

From Page 2

gave a typical "Jewish grandmother" response: "There are people in Ethiopia who don't even have a stomach. You have a perfectly good stomach, and you want to give it away?"

The title "Circumference" is referenced at the beginning of the show when Salloway describes the gastric bypass procedure as shrinking the stomach to the circumference of a dime. The character is additionally forced to run the circumference of a school track in a heartbreaking scene. The cruelty and lack of sensitivity on the part of the gym teacher is demonstrated when she forces the entire class to be late for their next class while

the teacher literally pushes her around the track. That moment is revisited during the play's conclusion.

While the show is classified as a one-woman show, there was a taped sound component to the show, with a melange of kids and adults teasing Amy while she runs on a track or treadmill. The background soundtracks also include several energizing 80's tunes from The Bangles, Journey, Flock of Seagulls, and Twisted Sister.

TALKING BACK

In the talk-back after the show, Salloway said that changes to her performance were made after previewing it at the Minnesota Fringe Festival.

One woman recalled that

she was always the last one picked in gym class. Salloway described her work in "Circumference" as the 22-year process of learning to like movement and the pursuit to get interested in being "a body that moved."

FIGHTING LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Salloway said that she's often described as a spokesperson for those with low self-esteem, becoming an outspoken voice for all those who feel detached or outcast.

Salloway, who graduated from the University of Minnesota, has spent most of her adult life in Seattle and Minneapolis.

In her performance piece, she explained, she distanced herself from her body to the extent that she created a second

character for it – a juvenile delinquent who smokes and has a rebellious attitude.

At this point, after her embarrassment in front of the entire class, she "divorces" her body and imagines it leaving her, over the fence, outside of school grounds, and out toward the highway.

The show is intensely physical, with many scenes taking place at that junior-high track and later, at her gym. Salloway said that she works out every day in order to perform her show at her high level of onstage energy. An elliptical machine sits among the tie-dyed curtains at Salloway's home.

The set for this traveling

show was sparse, but Salloway's energy and script set the scene and painted clear pictures for the audience. A chair to the audience's right served as the character's small apartment and more specifically, her bed. This bed is the location for some of the most intimate moments, both tender (molding her pillow into a figure so that she had someone to sleep with at night), and revealing.

The play ends on a positive note, with Salloway imagining the adult version of herself comforting her younger self running around the track. They fly away together. The lasting message is of unity of body and mind.

PURIM: A little bit of spiel

From Page 3

ted Grand Marquis vehicles to transport tourists to the shady sights.

Among the sites to visit will be Walt's Roast Beef on Reservoir Road in Cranston, where former Gov. Ed DiPrete allegedly went diving for dollars in a dumpster to reportedly retrieve a \$10,000 cash payoff in a paper bag mistakenly thrown away during lunch.

Another stop will be former Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci's former home on the East Side, as well as the former Blackstone Boulevard home of banker Joseph Mollicone, who bilked millions from a R.I. credit union.

Archer, who said he was related to Dutch Schultz, refused to reveal all the locations. Among the potential sites in contention, he said, were the drug store where a state

legislator allegedly ripped off a box of condoms, the motel where *The Providence Journal* photographed a former state supreme court justice and his secretary emerging during a lunch-hour break, and Pawtucket City Hall, where former Mayor Brian Sarault traded contracts for kickbacks. Send your suggestions for additional stops to corruption tour, c/o voiceherald@jfri.org

Note: The material contained in the above spiel is, in the tradition of Purim spiels, meant to be a parody. The material does not represent the views of either The Jewish Voice & Herald or the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Further, last year's spiel, which reported on Barack Obama's conversion to Judaism, had us receiving calls from two months afterward to verify its accuracy. It was, to quote Jon Stewart, a "moment of Zen."



CELEBRATE PURIM

Monday night, March 9, 2009 — 7:00 p.m.
Chabad House • 173 Prospect St., (Corner of Olney) • Providence

Megillah
to stir your soul

Music & Dancing
to stir your heart

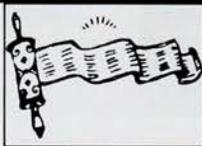
Drinks and Hamentashen
to stir your kishkes!



Starring Yankel & The Purim Shpielers

Tuesday morning, March 10, 2009 — 8:30 a.m.
Megillah Reading & Hamentashen

Purim is the time to...

			
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LISTEN to the reading of the *Megilla* (Book of Esther) this year Monday, March 9, and again on Tuesday, March 10, thereby recounting and reliving in our own day, the great miracle of Purim.

SEND a gift of at least two kinds of prepared food (pastry, fruit, beverage, etc.) to at least one friend. (Each item of food should be at least one ounce or more. 3-1/2 oz. for liquids.

GIVE charity to two or more people. If you cannot find poor people, place at least two coins in a charity box. In the *Megillah* this is called "*Matanos L'Evyonim*."

EAT the festive Purim meal and rejoice in the Purim spirit.

The above Mitzvos should be done on the day of Purim

More Purim information

<p>FAST OF ESTHER We fast on Monday. (This year March 9.) This commemorates the day of prayer when Jews fasted before their victorious battle. It is customary, before the <i>Mincha</i> prayers on this day to give 3 half-dollars to charity. This commemorates the yearly contribution by all Jews to the Temple in the Hebrew month of Adar.</p>	<p>AL HANISSIM Remember to add in the <i>Amidah</i> prayer and in Grace After Meals, the special part for Purim, beginning "<i>Al Hanissim</i>."</p> <p>INVOLVE THE CHILDREN As in all Mitzvot, encourage young children to fulfill the Purim Mitzvot. Boys and girls past Bar/Bat Mitzvah</p>	<p>are obligated, as are adults to do all Purim Mitzvot. The Purim Mitzvot (Precepts) demonstrate the unity and togetherness of the Jewish people. The more charity, and Purim presents one gives the better. There is no greater joy than to gladden the heart of the poor, the orphans and the widows.</p>
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**Let there be peace, let there be joy,
let there be Purim.**

Courtesy of: Chabad R.I. • 48 Savoy St. • Providence 02906
Telephone: (401) 273-7238



We Are Read Everywhere

Where in the world will we go next?



Casablanca

TRUDY KATZ of Cranston enjoyed *The Voice & Herald* on her trip to Casablanca, Morocco in February.



Bora Bora

SANDRA AND HARRY FINKELSTEIN visited Bora Bora in French Polynesia while on a South Pacific cruise on the Ryndam in January.



Jordan

CAROL AND TOM EPSTEIN of St. Petersburg Beach, Fla., visited the Middle East in December. They are pictured with *The Voice & Herald* atop Mt. Nebo in Jordan.

D'Var Torah Ancient priests' obligations extend to modern Jews

PARASHAT TETZAVEH
EXODUS 27:20-30:10

This week's parashah reminds us of our priestly obligations of service to humanity and God.

BY ADINA GERVER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

The highest ritual role in the Jewish nation, the *kehunah* – or priesthood, is

assigned by birth, rather than by merit or popular vote.

At the outset, the *kehunah* smacks of hierarchy and privilege. *Parshat Tetzaveh*

describes the elaborate, lengthy process through which Aaron and his four sons were consecrated to be priests. In future generations born to these sons, *Ramban* notes: Birth alone will confer leadership.

In a society in which we value democracy and strive to assign leadership based on merit, what can we learn from the priesthood? A closer look shows that although the *kehunah* is an inherited honor, it is a role defined by service, not self-aggrandizement. *Rashi* explains that the word "*kehunah*" itself means "service." Called *avodah*, or work, the priestly service involved the hard physical labor necessary to prepare and offer the daily, Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh and holiday sacrifices for the Israelites.

Lest one think that the *kohanim* served in pursuit of their own glory, the phrase to "be priests for me" appears four times in Exodus 28 and 29. The clear emphasis here is that the *kohanim* were the servants of God. They also recruited others in the service of God.

Despite its hierarchical nature, the *kehunah* had many redeeming elements. It conveyed that service was a priority in Israelite society, that the role of public servant was honorable and important.

Transference of this role by birth ensured that a percentage of the Israelite community was

constantly engaged in service for the greater good – an early model of compulsory service.

By binding the nation together and reminding them that they were a part of a greater whole, the *kehunah* also promoted peace amongst the Israelite community.

While the priesthood offers us a compelling model for the importance of service, it was still limited to the priests, a narrow slice of Israelite population.

Yet the Bible democratically declares that service is not just reserved for this select, elite few. Earlier in Exodus, God proclaims: "And you shall be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This declaration implies that the role of servant was not limited to Aaron's descendants: It was and is for all of Israel.

Let us each accept the mantle of obligation upon ourselves to truly be a kingdom of priests, committing ourselves to serve our communities, God and the world, so that our belief in the infinite worth of each human life is truly reflected in how we spend our time and resources.

Adina Gerver, a freelance writer and editor, is studying at the Advanced Scholars Program of the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem.

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Shalom Baby ❁



Shalom Rhode Island

Help us extend a warm
Rhode Island "Shalom!"

Let us know about new arrivals to our Jewish community, whether babies, individuals or families.



www.JFRI.org

Share contact information on new arrivals with Wendy Joering, Director of Outreach and Engagement, at 401-421-4111 x169 or wjoering@jfri.org.

Engagement

JONATHAN DAVID ORENT and **JACKIE LYNN SALETT**, both of Providence, are pleased to announce their engagement.

The parents of the future bride are David and Amy Salett of Newton, Mass., and the parents of the future groom are Marc and Susan Orent of Norwood, Mass.

The bride-to-be earned her bachelor's degree in communication sciences from the University of Vermont. She is employed by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island as a development officer.

The groom-to-be earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Rochester and his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He now practices law with Motley Rice, LLC in Providence.

A spring 2010 wedding in Providence is planned.



Jonathan David Orent and Jackie Lynn Salett

Engagement

LAUREN ZELL, formerly of Kingston, and **Joshua Eisenstein**, both of Phoenix, Ariz., announce their engagement.

The parents of the future bride are Howard and Linda Zell, formerly of Kingston and now residents of Scottsdale, Ariz.; parents of the future groom are David and Cathy Eisenstein of Phoenix, Ariz.

The bride-to-be earned her bachelor's degree in family and social sciences from the University of Arizona and her law degree from California Western School of Law. She is employed by the

U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona as a federal law clerk.

The groom-to-be earned his bachelor's degree in business management from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University and his law degree from California Western School of Law. He is employed by Community Legal Services as a legal advocate and director of the Domestic Violence Clinic.

The wedding will take place in Arizona.

Award

George E. Lieberman, a partner with the Providence law firm of Vetter & White, has been named one of the nation's best lawyers in the field of commercial litigation in *Best Lawyers in America*; he was also recognized in the area of business litigation by the *New England Super Lawyers Magazine*. He is licensed to practice law in four states, including Rhode Island and Massachusetts.



Isobel Ada Margolis Goldstein

Birth

HANNAH MARGOLIS AND MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN of Providence announce the Feb. 24 birth of their daughter, Isobel Ada Margolis Goldstein. She is the granddaughter of Danny and Patty Margolis of Brookline, Mass., and Barbara Goldstein of New York, N.Y.

Please, don't forget to share your simchas with The Voice & Herald

Send Simchas to: E-mail: voiceherald@jfri.org; Mail: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906. E-mail high resolution photos. For photo return enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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