

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

3 Av 5769

Vol. XI — Issue IX

www.jvhri.org

July 24, 2009

Hate crimes legislation gains ground

CRC members lobbied Rhode Island delegation

BY NANCY KIRSCH
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — On July 16, the nation came a step closer to arming local, state and federal law enforcement agencies with tools to fully prosecute hate crimes.

After the House of Representatives acted earlier this summer, the Senate, with 63 Senators voting 'aye,' 28 voting 'nay' and nine not voting, approved an amendment to the Mathew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act that would protect more people from hate crimes.

According to Jared Feldman, senior policy associate of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, an umbrella agency to which the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and 124 other CRCs belong, this legislation is significant, for several reasons.

"It expands the categories [of those protected in the Civil Rights era hate crimes legislation of the 1960s] to include

See LOCAL, Page 18

A visit to Afula

Parallels between Afula and Rhode Island are noteworthy

BY MARTY COOPER
mcooper@jfri.org

"I grew up in Israel. I moved to Rhode Island 27 years ago but often go back to visit family and friends as well as for business," said Avi Nevel, who returned from a visit to

See AFULA, Page 18



Adventures in Israel

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE 2010 Campaign Chair Susan Leach DeBlasio and JFRI 2010 Campaign Chair Richard Licht traveled with Bradley Laye and Beth Dindas, of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, on a week-long mission to Israel. In future issues of *The Voice & Herald*, they will share some memorable experiences.

Above, Leach DiBlasio, Licht and Laye, and West Hartford, Conn. Federation representatives, cavort with children at the Emunah Center. The Center, in our sister city of Afula, is a residential and day program that helps "at risk" children through academic and social enrichment activities, such as art and equine therapy.



Leach DeBlasio visited the "leader" sheep at a nature reserve where Ethiopian Israelis learn leadership training skills.



Photo by Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz

Esther Elkin, 'master teacher,' feted at her 100th year celebration

Community acknowledges nearly a century of reading right to left

BY MARCY BRINK-DANAN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

WALKING around Providence's East Side, it's possible to forget that this is the Diaspora. Instead of calling for "Mom," kids on my block cry "Ima!"
Neighborhood synagogues

See ELKIN, Page 10

Camping fun inside and out



Photo by Christine Parker

LEGO ROBOTICS CAMP at JCC transforms kids into engineers. From left, Etai Bally, Ethan Walsh, Antonio Couto, Jake Bender, Elias Everman, Cameron Adams and Elliott Brock demonstrate their engineering prowess.



Photo by Naomi Jaffe

AT CAMP JORI, Rose Spitzer, Danielle Goldberg, Naomi Balaban, Lizzi Roth and Haley Cohen are all smiles.

Both Camp JORI and the ICC Camp are beneficiaries of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. For more information about the Federation's commitment to camps, see Doris Feinberg's column on page 8.

Ruach rebounds with JCDS inclusive programs

PROVIDENCE – Budget cuts and challenging economic times aren't quenching the thriving *ruach* (spirit) at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI).

Ruach grants, funded by anonymous donors, were issued for projects that allowed parents, students, professional and administrative staff to develop and implement creative programs to further enhance JCDS, and to create and foster partnerships within and outside the school community.

A grant committee met to determine which grants should be funded. Grants reinforced the school's principles of *klal Yisrael* (inclusivity), *kehila* (community), *nesama* (the soul) and

da'at (knowledge).

In addition to programs pictured, the *ruach* grants also funded a Pardes Educators participant, David Riemschneider; participants study for two years in Israel and visit schools in the U.S. toward the two-year degree program in Israel.

Grant money also funded the production of "Guys & Dolls," a lively Middle School show directed by Lisa Bergman; and the creation of colorful and welcoming



playground fence signs (see inset photo) that grandparents, special guests and the students all helped design, in collaboration with Laura Mernoff.



RABBI ALVAN KAUNFER offered a new twist on the *zimriyah* by linking the JCDSRI family with students from synagogues' religious and Hebrew school classes. Many voices sang as one at the event held at Temple Beth-El earlier in the school year.



Photos courtesy of JCDSRI

GARDEN COORDINATOR JAMIE FAITH WOODS, other teachers and students get their hands dirty with the school's edible garden, which grows connections between the school and state and local gardening gurus and initiatives.

JFRI, JCDSRI join forces to address economic crunch

PROVIDENCE – From California to New York, Jewish community day schools must wrestle with the challenges posed by the current economic climate.

After closing the middle school at the end of the 2008-09 school

year, the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI) continues to address such challenges.

A special meeting of the JFRI board on Aug. 5 will discuss the school's finances and the plans

to bring the school's budget into balance.

In an interview with *The Cleveland Jewish News*, Providence's Rabbi Joshua Elkin, director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, described the

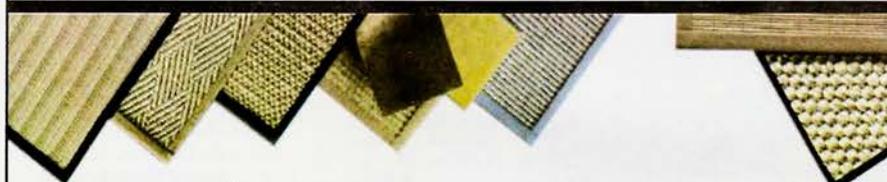
community day schools most likely to survive the economic tumult.

Although he was quoted in a February 2009 interview, his comments are relevant today: "Day schools that have a good governance structure in place, a strong

board, strong leadership, and a clear sense of who they are, will be holding their own."

Openings are available in some JCDSRI grades. For enrollment, contact Naomi Stein at nstein@jcdsri.org or www.jcdsri.org.

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CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

For Greater Rhode Island



July	24	7:52
July	31	7:46
Aug.	7	7:36
Aug.	14	7:27

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"When I started learning Hebrew, I literally could read the writing on the wall."

Liz Kaplan

An adult Hebrew student of Esther Elkin

See Page 10

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
www.JVHRI.org

Palestinian activist: From angry young man to a proponent of peace

Personal tragedy is life changing

By PHILIP EIL

Special to *The Voice & Herald*

“YOU CANNOT have a normal conversation with someone carrying a gun,” asserted Palestinian peace activist Aziz Abu Sarah. Fresh off a speaking engagement in Bangor, Maine, Abu Sarah spoke to members of Rhode Island Jewish community on June 25 at the Jewish Community Center.

Abu Sarah, a senior research associate at George Mason University’s Institute for Conflict Resolution and Analysis, was visiting Providence as part of a speaking tour, “Two Peoples, Two Stories: Finding the Turning Point for Israeli-Palestinian Peace,” sponsored by Brit Tzedek v’Shalom.

Abu Sarah and his colleague, Scott Cooper, the managing director for Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Con-

flict Resolution (CRDC) at George Mason University, discussed the George Mason University institute, where 400 students from all around the world study conflicts, and develop projects for creating lasting peace.

“I’m lucky that I’m sitting there with 22 faculty members from around the world who have been doing research and practice in conflict analysis and peace-building for decades,” Cooper said, citing faculty with experience on the front lines in Northern Ireland and Mozambique. Of his friend, Aziz, he said, “We are sitting here next to one of the finest peace-builders in Palestine.”

Abu Sarah’s qualifications are his life experiences, explained Cooper. When he was 10-years-old, Abu Sarah’s brother was arrested by Israeli police (he was suspected of throwing rocks) and beaten so severely, Abu Sarah said, that he died soon after being released from custody. This left



Photo courtesy of Aziz Abu Sarah

AZIZ ABU SARAH speaking at Hebrew University

Abu Sarah, the younger of the boys, consumed by anger, by bitterness, by a lot of grief. Following the event, Abu Sarah refused to study in his Hebrew classes. Outside of school, he became the editor of an anti-Israel newsletter.

“Things were getting worse and worse,” Abu Sarah said, “getting me more and more angry.”

After high school, however, career considerations caused Abu Sarah to re-examine his language boycott. Ultimately, he enrolled in a Hebrew-language course in Jerusalem – a class that changed his life, he said.

“I was the only Palestinian in my class; it was mainly Jewish newcomers,” he said. “That was a life-changing experience because, growing up, the only people I met from the other side were the soldiers or the settlers.”

It was different in the classroom, Abu Sarah said. No

“I think both Palestinians and Israelis, Arabs and Jews, are tired of, ‘Oh, it will be quiet for a year or two and then it will get bad.’”

politics, just people speaking and sharing their lives. There, he realized how a gun – and the absence of one – affects a conversation.

“Eventually, we started building friendships,” he said, “and realizing we have a lot in common...”

Following the class, Abu Sarah joined Bereaved Families Forum, a Palestinian-Israeli peace organization for people who have lost a family member to the conflict. Rising to Palestinian chairman in the organization, he began touring schools – both Palestinian and Israeli – to advocate for peace.

“[For the students,] to be able to just give them the opportunity to talk to someone was very important,” Abu Sarah said, describing those school visits. “Maybe you can’t change somebody’s opinion in an hour- and-a-half or two hours, but you can show them that conflict is a lot more complex than black and white.”

Eventually, Abu Sarah made his way to the U.S. and George

Mason University, where he is Middle East expert-in-residence at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

In Providence, he described projects, including pod casts about Middle Eastern politics and a cultural tour of Israel and Palestine, co-led by Abu Sarah and an Israeli friend, scheduled for this fall.

The conversation had to end when Abu Sarah left for another speaking engagement at a local dinner party. Before he left, however, he stressed the scale of his vision for peace.

“We have to think for the long-term,” he said. “I think we – both Palestinians and Israelis; Arabs and Jews – are sick and tired of, ‘Oh, it will be quiet for a year or two and then it will get bad.’”

The important question, he said, is, “What will make a difference that will last for 40 years? 50 years? Forever, hopefully?”

Abu Sarah has received the Silver Rose Award, the Goldberg Prize for Peace in the Middle East, and the Eisenhower Medalion. His blog is <http://aziz-abuAbuSarah.wordpress.com>.

Personnel changes at *The Voice & Herald*

By STEVE SILBERFARB
silberfarb@jfri.org

AS the chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the publisher of *The Voice & Herald*, I am sad to report that, due to budget constraints, we had to lay-off Richard Asinof as executive editor of *The Voice & Herald*, effective July 6.

Richard is a highly experienced, skilled and knowledgeable journalist. He made great strides in making the

paper more polished, more appealing and more comprehensive in its coverage of Jewish news. We at the Federation and in the larger Jewish community thank Richard for his passion and dedication to our Jewish community and we wish him only the best in his future endeavors.

Nancy Kirsch, who was the associate editor of the paper, has agreed to serve as interim executive editor. I ask each of you to help Nancy, as needed, through this transition.

Miriam and Rhode Island hospitals release merger plans

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) and The Miriam Hospital (TMH) plan to merge into a single entity, assuming state regulatory agencies – the Attorney General’s office and the Department of Health – give their blessings.

In a phone conversation, Jeff Brier, the chair of TMH Foundation and former chair of

TMH board, believes there is a strong commitment to continue the Jewish elements of the TMH. Quality and a stronger

to maintain separate endowments and foundation boards, and two campuses. Information about resource allocation, leadership changes, staffing, etc. has not been made public.

Both are teaching hospitals associated with Brown University’s Warren Alpert Medical School.

BREAKING NEWS

bottom line are goals of the merger, he added.

The hospitals, both part of the larger Lifespan network, intend

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The Jewish Voice & Herald (ISSN number 1539-2104, USPS #465-710) is printed bi-weekly, except in July, when it is printed once a month.

*All submitted content becomes the property of *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.

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

Copy Deadlines: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication.

Submissions may be sent to voiceherald@jfri.org.

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

Business Committee:

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Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:
Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906

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FROM THE INTERIM
EXECUTIVE EDITOR**Change: Love it or hate it,
it's here to stay***Change brings losses and
opportunities*

CHANGE. It's the one immutable in all our lives; some people fear and loathe it, yet others welcome change as a breath of fresh air or an opportunity to claim a new persona. I was reminded that even difficult changes offer redemptive opportunities.

Earlier this month, a dear friend lost her brief, but valiant, battle with cancer. Before hearing her diagnosis, the cancer had already metastasized. In a few short weeks, this vibrant, loving mother of five grown children and grandmother of 17 adored grandchildren, died leaving all of us who knew her heartsick and forever changed.

Her doctors drew strength and inspiration, I was told, from the family members who stayed by her side day and night. To me, that is a testament to the strong and loving family bonds she and her husband built with and between their children and their extended families.

Having grown up with much more fragile – and fragmented – family ties, I mourn both for what I never had and for what all of us lost with her death. Now, I don't wait for a special occasion to call a friend or relative to say, "I'm so grateful for our friendship," or "I love you."

On the day of her death, *The Voice & Herald* experienced its own significant change: Richard Asinof, the former executive editor, lost his job due to budget constraints. In a thoughtful email to several lay leaders, Stephen Silberfarb, the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, wrote, in part, "As a highly experienced and knowledgeable journalist, Richard has made great strides in making the paper more polished, more appealing and more comprehensive in its coverage of Jewish news. We thank Richard for his passion and dedication to our Jewish community."

With that change, I now wear the hats of interim executive editor, writer, proof-reader and supervisor of two talented and hard-working colleagues, Frank Zasloff, our advertising representative, and Leah Camara, our graphic designer. I'm sure more responsibilities will come to light soon.

With that, I come to each of you to seek your ideas, suggestions, constructive criticisms (with an emphasis on constructive, please!) and, I hope, offers of help. The more diverse the voices, ideas, and stories in *The Voice & Herald*, the richer and

See CHANGE, Page 6

*This Palestinian
activist made his
enemy his friend*

ON THURSDAY evening, June 25, about 35 members of the Rhode Island Jewish community gathered together at the home of Judith Kaye and Bruce Phillips on Providence's East Side to engage in dialogue with Aziz Abu Sarah, a Palestinian peace activist.

**Rabbi Jim
Rosenberg**

Abu Sarah, a married man in his late 20s, who now lives just outside of Washington, D.C. in Virginia, serves as chair of

the Bereaved Family Forum in Israel/Palestine and as Director of the Middle East Projects of the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC) at George Mason University.

The Rhode Island Chapter of Brit Tzedek V'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace sponsored the event, along with the CRDC.

Abu Sarah tells a compelling story. Born and raised

IT SEEMS TO ME
From revenge to reconciliation

in Jerusalem, he grew up the youngest of seven children – five boys and two girls. In the spring of 1990, when Abu Sarah was just 10 years old, Israeli soldiers burst into his home at 5 a.m. and arrested the youngest of his four older brothers, Tayseer, who was 18 at the time, on suspicion of throwing stones at Israeli cars.

According to Abu Sarah, Tayseer was held in an Israeli prison for 11 months without trial; it took 15 days of beatings to force Tayseer to confess. By the time Tayseer was released from prison in

late March of 1991, his health was seriously compromised, presumably as a result of the beatings. Since he was

throwing up blood, the family immediately took him to the hospital, where he died three weeks later following surgery.

It is by no means surprising that, for several years, Abu Sarah was consumed by hatred and a desire for revenge. During his high school years, he wrote for a youth magazine, using the opportunity to express his rage against the cruel oppressor; before long his writing ability gained him

the editorship of the magazine. "Eventually," however, as Abu Sarah confesses in one of his blogs, "I grew tired of the anger, so I quit the magazine..."

Despite his literary talent, Abu Sarah had refused to learn Hebrew; it represented to him the language of the enemy. Ever so slowly, as he began to question the direction – or perhaps the lack of direction – in his life, Abu Sarah realized that, unless he learned Hebrew, he would remain a nobody in Jerusalem.

So he joined a beginners'

ulpan, in which almost all of his fellow students were Jewish immigrants. Like it or not, Abu Sarah found

himself paired with one of those immigrant Jews, with whom he was forced to engage in Hebrew conversation as part of the intensive language immersion.

As it turned out, Abu Sarah and his Jewish partner shared a deep love for the singer Johnny Cash. As a result of their shared interest, Abu Sarah embarked upon the arduous process of making his enemy his friend. This

experience of discovering the humanity in individual Israeli Jews led Abu Sarah to a career as a peace activist.

I have only had the privilege of meeting Abu Sarah that one evening in June; yet there is something about him, about the way he conducted himself, that I find compelling. Despite the tragic death of his brother Tayseer, Abu Sarah spoke without a hint of bitterness or anger. On the contrary, he addressed us with great warmth and considerable humor; such was the level of trust that Abu Sarah was able to generate that this young Palestinian was able to get 35 pro-Israel Jews to laugh at his "Jewish jokes."

Most profoundly, Abu Sarah helped all of us begin to tease apart the many dimensions of revenge. He helped us realize that the desire for revenge is the result of many different triggers: Shame, loss of honor and a sense of dignity, the feeling of being impotent and ineffectual, the desire to restore the balance between right and wrong, good and evil, and, of course, that primitive urge that all of us feel at one time or another – the desire to get even.

And Abu Sarah helped us understand that revenge that

See BITTERNESS, 8

**"Revenge that
destroys our enemies
will in the end
destroy ourselves."**

Letters to the Editor**Immigrants' stories:
Truth is stranger
than fiction**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Dr. Stanley Aronson's column, "Voices of the newly arrived," regarding the Bintel Brief that appeared in the April 17 issue of *The Voice & Herald*. It brought back to me an incident that occurred in the life of my late mother, Ida Perelman Buckler.

This is a true story. When my mother left the Ukraine, around 1897, she boarded a ship taking her to America. On the ship, a young girl sat near my mother admiring the coral-colored necklace my mother was wearing. She asked if she could try it on, and my mother let her do so. However, the girl disappeared with the necklace and, despite my mother's search of the crowded ship, she could not find the girl.

Well, many years later, and I was in high school by then, my mother was read-

ing the Bintel Brief in *The Forward*, and read with interest the letter to the editor containing a request for help. The [writer] desired to become a citizen of the United States and needed the name of the ship she came on to the United States. She offered to return a necklace she had taken from a girl on the ship if she could provide the name of the ship.

Needless to say, my mother was beside herself and knew the beads referred to in the woman's letter. So, she wrote to the editor and offered to provide the name of the ship if she would make the exchange with the editor: the beads for the name of the ship!

The exchange was made with the editor handling it, and the beads were returned to my mother. I have had the beads in my possession for years.

My parents read *The Forward* every day and always enjoyed the Bintel Brief letters. Dr. Aronson's columns are wonderful and I sincerely enjoy them.

Dorothy C. Eisenstadt
Columbia, S.C.**Other Holocaust survivors deserve recognition**

I was pleased to note that *The Voice & Herald* ("Honor belongs to the ones who bestow it," by Alan Hasenfeld, in the May 29 issue) devoted substantial coverage to the Holocaust Education and Resource Center luncheon held on May 19.

I was disappointed, however, that you did not quote or report on Arthur Robbins' response. He pointed out that, under the leadership of Ray Eichenbaum and Lenka Rose, the committee that formulated plans for a Holocaust Memorial was established. Robbins further stated that,

"Ray and Lenka were the true heroes in our community."

These two Holocaust survivors inspired the Rhode Island Jewish community to – and I quote from an article by Ray Eichenbaum – "assume a moral obligation incumbent on us Jews...to bear witness."

Lenka and Ray gave tirelessly and bravely of their efforts and talents. Their names should be honored and remembered and recorded. I thank Arthur Robbins for his tribute to them.

Jacqueline Teverow Factor
Boynton Beach, Fla.**Current administration's immigration
policies are racist**

There they go again! Last year at this time, American voters united to successfully oppose the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act promulgated by [former President] Bush. This year, the man who promised "change" is

now promising the same racist immigration scheme.

There are six billion people in the world, living in almost 200 countries. This new proposal grants special treatment to 30,000,000 Mexicans and

See LETTER, Page 6

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

The grand old Republican party is not so grand

Jonah Goldberg, author of 'Liberal Fascism,' is no friend to the Jews

RECENTLY I WAS told to read Jonah Goldberg's "Liberal Fascism" so that I would know the truth at last. Well, I've looked at it and at the *National Review* online and seen the video of Goldberg speaking at the Heritage Foundation and I am convinced. The right wing is in panic mode.

Until recently, Karl Rove was predicting a permanent Republican majority. But then George W. Bush happened and most of the people weren't fooled most of the time anymore. Now Republicans have lost the House, the Senate and the White House, and are within a confirmation of losing their majority on the Supreme Court. Republicans now hold only 22 governorships and, in Rhode



Josh Stein

Island, no Republican currently seems willing to run. Rather than asking themselves what went wrong, the radical right now in control of the party that once boasted of Jacob Javits, Nelson Rockefeller, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Edward Brooke and the two Chafees (John and Lincoln, father and son), is constantly in attack mode.

I'm reminded of French general Robert Nivelle before his disastrous assault on unassailable German lines in April 1917. When asked how he intended to break through, he responded, "Violence, brutality, rapidity," to which some had added "stupidity". Attack is all they know. Goldberg's nonsense is just another manifestation of the Nivelle mentality.

In a nutshell, Goldberg argues that as Hitler and Mussolini started out as socialists, their fascism retained socialist elements shared by modern liberals. Nazis and fascists had some progressive social ideas, it is true, but that is not what defined them. Liberalism comes from the Latin for "free," and it has a long tradition from at least the writings of John Locke and

Roger Williams. Liberals believe that all men are created equal; conservatives of the South, at least, and Nazis and fascists in Europe, disagree. They believe that there is a superior race; they take Darwin's concepts and distort them to "prove" the superiority of our race (whoever "our" is) over all others. In

"Until recently, Karl Rove was predicting a permanent Republican majority. But then George W. Bush happened and most of the people weren't fooled most of the time anymore."

America, this was justification for segregation disguised as an appeal to states' rights. In 1980, Ronald Reagan, the paragon of the American conservative movement, opened his presidential candidacy by going to Mississippi, to the very neighborhood where James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were brutally murdered because they were black and white trying to

register black voters. He chose to announce there, there of all places, "I believe in states' rights... I believe we have distorted the balance of our government today by giving powers that were never intended to be given in the Constitution to that federal establishment."

And then later, as president, he went to Bitburg cemetery and paid homage to Nazi soldiers buried there. Liberals were outraged; nevertheless Reagan said of the German war dead, "They were victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps," a visit to which he chose not to make.

Goldberg clouds his case with so many irrelevancies and unsubstantiated innuendos that I cannot cover them all in the 700 words allotted me. But race — race won't go away. The Nazis were racists and so were the conservatives whose dogs attacked protesters in Mississippi and Alabama. When President Johnson signed the 1964 Civil Rights Act, he knew that he was signing away the South for generations, but he did

it anyway and in 1968 Nixon's Southern strategy brought him to the White House as surely as the Willy Horton advertisement swept in (the first) President Bush in 1988.

Goldberg tries to separate conservatives from Nazis by suggesting that conservatives don't send inferior races to their deaths. That's true; so far. (See how innuendo works? Like that.)

They used to call liberals "Commie pinkos." During the recent election they tried to make us congruent with terrorists; that didn't work, so now they seek the roots of liberalism in fascism. Fascism of all things, that most vile of modern political hydras! Hitler tried to end Christianity and substitute Teutonic gods, Goldberg informs. Do any of the liberals you know worship Thor? But many of my liberal friends attend church or synagogue; Hitler was in favor of euthanasia. Are liberals? None that I know of. Who is against gay rights? Nazis, yes; conservatives, yes; liberals, no. It's not only the Nazis who use the big lie technique.

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

FIRST PERSON PLURAL

Art and politics make strange bedfellows

Can one love the work and detest the creator's politics?

WHAT WOULD you do if you discovered that one of your favorite writers holds a political position you find offensive?

For example, what if you are an ardent animal rights activist and a writer you love wears fur coats?



Alan Krinsky

What if you believe abortion should be outlawed and the writer is on the board of Planned Parenthood? Or, you support Planned Parenthood and the writer is on the board of Operation Rescue?

Do you insist that art and politics remain separate yet continue to purchase and read this writer's books? Do you refuse altogether to read his or her works? Do you read them from the library but decline to

purchase them and put money in the writer's pocket? I recently faced such a dilemma. One of my favorite novelists — a fantasy writer who creates worlds of depth and texture, worlds that feel real even though I know the worlds and characters cease to exist beyond the covers of the books — published a new novel.

I ordered the new volume, and also learned that he would be appearing in Cambridge, Mass. in June to do a reading.

I needed to decide whether or not it was worth the effort to get to the event, for the opportunity to see, hear, and meet this author on his book tour. Being from Britain, he might not come my way again anytime soon.

And yet, I recalled that he had written an op-ed piece criticizing Israel. At the time, I had tried sending him an e-mail, but received no response. I wanted to clarify this matter, so I engaged in some additional Internet research. I discovered that this past January, in response to the

Gaza conflict, he had signed on to a petition calling for an academic boycott of Israel.

What to do? Forego this rare opportunity to meet the author? Continue to buy his books? Partition art and politics and forget about this boycott nonsense?

For a couple of weeks, I

"What if you are an ardent animal rights activist and a writer you love wears fur coats?"

put off the decision, thinking that, politics aside, I did not necessarily want the bother of making my way from Worcester, Mass. to Cambridge, Mass. after a day at work and losing another few hours with my family.

So, I queried a few friends and relatives to learn what they would do. The responses were mixed, with one person expressing strongly that she would not attend, and another person, to my surprise, saying she would go.

In the end, I came up with a solution. I decided I would go,

but that I would write a letter to the author and hand it to him. This way I could at least communicate my concerns about his political commitments, ones I took to be misguided at best. To my delight, only after I settled on this course of action did I receive from a friend in Israel an email suggesting this very same approach and thus confirming my intuition.

Despite traffic conspiring to delay me and prevent me from arriving in time to hear the readings from the new novel, I did make it to the Q & A session. Although not one to seek signatures, I waited in line at the end of the event, and after he inscribed his autograph in my copy of the book, I surprised him with an envelope and letter.

I imagined this would be the end of it. I doubted I would hear from him and realized it unlikely I would persuade him to alter his views on Israel.

As the days passed, I thought this suspicion confirmed, as I expected a brief email response, if anything. However, a couple

of weeks later, a letter did arrive, a serious one and not such a short one.

Clearly, I did not change his mind, but perhaps I did get him to think, force him to articulate his position, even plant a seed of doubt?

In any case, what would you have done?

Alan Krinsky lives in Providence and works in the field of healthcare quality improvement; he can be contacted at adkrinsky@netzero.net.

2009 Guide to Jewish Living: Correction

We apologize for an error in the Congregation Sharah Zedek entry on page 35. The correct entry follows:

Page 35
Congregation Sharah Zedek
6 Union Street
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(401) 596-1326

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MY VOICE

Message to Obama administration: 'Israel is not the problem'

Is there a true two-state solution?

An open letter to President Barack Obama:

THE FOLLOWING paraphrased recent remarks made by you and Secretary of State Clinton cause very grave concern: Israeli settlements within Samaria and Judea must be frozen; no natural outgrowth.

LETTER

From Page 4

Central Americans, plus their relatives, at tremendous national expense, while penalizing all other nationalities who remain in their home countries dreaming of U.S. citizenship.

The Haitians and Africans, Poles and Latvians, Indians and Pakistanis... are they not also worthy human beings? They have been promised an application process that is orderly, non-political, and legal.

Ordinary citizens - Republicans and Democrats - are not anti-immigrant. Our politicians are. Once again, they want to ignore bona fide applicants, in selfish deference to business interests and to potential legal or illegal Latino votes.

We welcome immigrants and we have a process. Let's keep it fair!

Joseph Pasulka
Southport, N.C.

Pasulka previously lived in Rhode Island.

West Bank settlements must be dismantled. These are obstacles to peace.

You further postured that Israel is responsible for the Palestinian refugee problem. Veiled threats implied that if Israel does not comply, support would be diminished.

The Obama administration clearly nurtures the repetitious pragmatism of its predecessors: Duplicious ambivalence, vacillating chicanery, double-standard hypocrisy, useless appeasement, and continually pressuring Israel to use "restraint" and conveniently parroting "obstacle to peace" phraseology, but never admonishing the Palestinian Authority and its cohorts in crime - Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria [and others] for their historic unforgivable crimes against the children of Israel.

Never has one American soldier set foot on Israel's soil to help defend this weary, worn-out, tiny democracy against seven bloody wars perpetrated by the despotic feudalistic Arab dictatorships.

After World War II, Poland demanded for its "security" a piece of Germany and was duly rewarded. After 60 years of tragic wars perpetuated by perfidious Arab dictatorships and terrorist cells, the already truncated State of Israel can never return to those vulnerable pre-1967 borders.

The more the Neville Chamberlains of the world attempt to placate or appease, the more the



AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner
A worker walks through a construction site of a new housing project in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maaleh Adumim, near Jerusalem.

beast lusts for blood. The land of Israel historically, legally and morally belongs to the children of Israel, both Muslim and Jewish, under Israeli sovereignty, but not to implacable, blood-thirsty terrorists.

If two peoples revere the land, they should dwell side-by-side in peace. If Belgium is a Protestant country and France a Catholic country with minorities, then it's surely okay for Israel to be a Jewish country with minorities. The "Islamofascist" agenda screams aloud for the total destruction of Israel.

When you open your door, you have the freedom to travel and/or live anywhere in the U.S.;

yet you deny the children of Israel this God-given right. Your double-standard hypocrisy calls for a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace. But, in truth, you would deny this concept by demanding the dismantling of settlements. This is an outrageous contradiction of the "two-state" solution.

What you would never demand of yourselves, you demand of tiny Israel, your only true ally. You punish your friends and reward your enemies. You repeat the naivete of Neville Chamberlain: useless appeasement and placating "Islamofascism;" you practice apartheid

against Israel! When Hezbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority teach three-year-old

"When Hezbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority teach three-year-old children racist hatred, there can never be a two-state solution."

children racist hatred, and when Kassam rockets continue to fire into Ashkelon, Beer Sheva, Sderot and Western Negev towns within Israel's heartland after withdrawal from Gaza, there can never be a two-state solution.

When racist anti-Semitic pro-

paganda continues to be perpetuated against Israel throughout the Arab world, there can never be a two-state solution.

The tragedy of Palestinian refugees lies squarely upon the heads of the feudalistic, despotic Arab dictatorships. In 1947, Israel accepted a United Nations' partition of Palestine allowing greater land ownership to the Arabs. Israel accepted, but the Arabs rejected the partition, screaming, "no acceptance, no recognition and no negotiations," resulting in the invasion of Israel by five Arab armies. The U.S and Europe turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to Israel's terrible plight. Prime Minister Golda Meir pleaded with the Palestinians not to flee this stoic democracy.

The Arab world perpetuates the refugee problem to be used as a political weapon against Israel. Israel absorbed hundreds of thousands of displaced refugees worldwide, but you refuse to pressure the intransigent Arab world into humanitarian assistance for these Palestinian refugees. Every one of these refugees' lives could be uplifted with the absorption into the Palestinian Authority territory and with humanitarian aid from the oil-rich regimes of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Republic, etc.

There are among the barbarians just a handful of decent human beings who transcend the paganism of politics and religion, but tragically there are just a few who strive for *tikkun olam*, mending the world.

Anne Schwartz
Providence

CHANGE: We can embrace it or reject it

From Page 4

more appealing the newspaper will be. We intend to restore JTA wire services to the paper, effective Aug. 1, so keep your eyes open for that change.

To that end, if I call to pick your brain or ask you to write a column, I hope you will agree to help. If you are inclined to send on story ideas, people to interview, a scoop about the newest "must read" Jewish

book by a local author, or other recommendations, please do.

No paper, especially one with such a lean staff, can report on all the events and programs that our vibrant Jewish community offers. We

want it, though, to continue to be, as Richard Asinof said, "the glue that holds our community together."

Contact me at nkirsch@jfri.org or 421-4111, ext. 168.

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JERUSALEM JOURNAL

Basic training for combat soldiers

Fellow soldiers who are sabras teach more than military maneuvers

AFTER THE uplifting experience I had in my first few weeks of basic training, I decided to sign on for an additional year in the army so



Daniel Stieglitz

I could serve in a combat unit. I was in for an intense few months that would rival those I had just completed.

There are several different brigades in the Israeli

army. Based on how much time I would have to serve, I chose to join the Netzach Yehuda Battalion in the Kfir Brigade, which now defends the Yehuda and Shomron areas of Israel.

At age 27, I thought it more practical to serve there, given the shorter time commitment it requires – a little more than a year – compared to the full two-year commit-

ment with other battalions.

I began several months of training that were far more intense and fundamentally different than my initial army experiences. While my initial training was level 02, the Israeli army's lowest level, my new training would progress up to level 07, one of the highest.

I went from a company of new immigrants around my age to one filled with native Israelis, most of whom were 18 – 20 years old. The several other non-native Israelis and I were definitely in the minority.

My first reaction was, "What have I gotten myself into?"

It was an early wake-up call for me when, at dinner our first evening on base, I overheard the person sitting across from me say, "I hear we've got a grandpa with us."

Thinking he was talking about me without realizing it, I asked him, "How old is this 'grandpa'?"

He replied, "23," as if he couldn't fathom such an age.

With an amused smile, I leaned across the table and said, "I'm 27."

If his jaw had dropped any further, it might have touched the floor.



DANI AND SEVERAL FRIENDS from his platoon are seen wearing camouflage face paint, standard procedure for field exercises.

Photo courtesy of Dani Stieglitz

Another wake-up call came when one of my new friends said, "You look really familiar." Two years earlier, I had conducted his admissions interview when I worked as a college recruiter at Yeshiva University. It took him a while to get used to calling me by my first name, rather than "Mr. Stieglitz."

Passing from level 02 to 03 training is symbolized by throwing a live grenade. We spent

many long hours practicing for the real thing; first by throwing rocks to learn the technique and understand the precautions, then throwing a fake grenade, and eventually throwing the real thing.

After reviewing the safety precautions with my platoon commander one last time in a remote hilltop bunker, I nervously pulled the pin and threw the grenade over the cliff's edge.

"We could now walk the streets of Israel with pride, knowing that we had earned our place in the Israeli army."

We ducked into the bunker, and waited for the explosion. A moment after the detonation, I turned to my commander and, with a big smile, asked, "Can I do that again?"

After completing basic training, we traveled to Latrun (Israel's tank museum) for our beret ceremony, and received camouflage berets marking our official initiation into the Kfir Brigade. With the beret proudly placed on our shoulder straps, we could now walk the streets of Israel with pride, knowing that we had earned our place in the Israeli army

Dani Stieglitz can be contacted at dstieglitz@gmail.com.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jewish camp experiences socialize children to become committed Jews

WITH WARM sunny days finally here, summer is in full swing and the camp season is well underway. Here in Rhode Island, we are blessed with four excellent camps that serve our Jewish community: Camp JORI (day and overnight) in Wakefield, and day camps, Camp Gan Israel in Warwick, and J-Camp at the JCC and Torah Day Camp, both in Providence.



Doris Feinberg

As I write this on a weekday morning, excited children are playing games, creating fabulous art projects, singing songs and splashing in the water – in

settings that are nurturing, supportive and Jewish, with Jewish activities like singing Hebrew songs, learning about Israel and celebrating Shabbat outdoors. Summer camps are powerful environments in which to shape our children Jewishly. They stand alongside day schools and Israel experiences as one of the three greatest positive influencers of a child's Jewish growth. Camp offers children physical and social challenges that give them room to grow, the chance to try new things that aren't available to them elsewhere and time in a warm and accepting community of Jewish peers. Like all good camps, Jewish camps have distinctive cultures that encourage children to identify with them strongly. But only Jewish camps also socialize our children as committed Jews who

come to see themselves as part of a much larger Jewish world. The exceptional Jewish educators who work at these camps understand how to recognize a "teachable moment" when they see one, and they use them to teach our children about Jewish values and traditions. For example, a hike is never just a hike at a Jewish camp: it's a chance to learn about our ancestors' travels in the desert or talk about the *mitzvot* that require us to care for our natural resources. Blessings sung at meals set a powerful example for children about being thankful for the good food they have and make them more aware of the abundance available to them. I've seen for myself what it did for my daughter. Living in Newport, we lacked a Jewish social network in town. We observed *erev* Shabbat as a

family each Friday evening, but it often felt like a rather solitary activity. Imagine Sara's wonder when she arrived at camp and for the first time participated in Shabbat as part of a large community celebrating the week's end together, with prayer, song and *ruach!* That deepened her Jewish commitment and tied her more closely to camp. Her time at camp was among the most important formative experiences for Sara, and it continues to inform her life as a Jewish adult. More than 300 children are attending our Rhode Island Jewish community camps this year. They are among the very best choices available to parents for their children's summer plans. Jewish camping is part of our educational mission and is a worthy recipient of Federation funds, which help make sure

camp remains accessible to all families. This year, most of the \$67,000 allocation the camps receive will go to defraying the cost for those families for whom even our camps' reasonable fees are a challenge. Our camps, and our collective support of them, are another example of our community's many successes in putting our dollars where our priorities lie and making sure the funds are used wisely. Outdoor summer fun, great friendships, joyful Jewish living and learning – our Jewish camps have it all. What more could we want for our children?

Each month, Doris Feinberg, the president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, uses this space to inform you about what is happening with the Federation, the programs it supports and the community.

The Mothers Circle gearing up for a second year

Raising Jewish children: A journey of discovery

By CLAIRE ROCHE *croche@bjeri.org*

IN MAY, a group of seven women, and several invited guests, gathered in the JFRI board room for a closing celebration of sorts. They gathered to mark the end of the

first year of the Mothers Circle program here in Rhode Island. What made this particular gathering on a Jewish campus unusual is that the seven women are not Jewish. They are women who have made the generous choice to raise their children Jewishly, and who turned to the Mothers Circle for education, support and guidance. The Mothers Circle is an umbrella of free educational programs and resources for non-

Jewish women raising Jewish children. This national program, which includes an eight-month course, was created by The Jewish Outreach Institute. Here in Rhode Island, the group is facilitated by Kit Haspel, a staff member at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island. Both approachable and knowledgeable, with a background as a psychologist and expertise in Jewish education, Haspel is ideally suited to be the guide on the journey the

participants take together. Mothers Circle participant, Darryle Steinberg of Cranston, says of her experience: "Suddenly what had initially seemed like an intimidating process became interesting and engaging. We covered so much ground together, and although there is still more to learn, I feel like I have a very solid foundation upon which to keep building. The first year of The Mothers Circle program here in Rhode Island was such a success that it will run again, with the support of the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation (which generously funded the first year

of the program) and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Year two of the Mothers Circle begins in October 2009. It will meet bi-weekly at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Providence. There is no cost to participants and free child care is provided at the JCC. For more information on The Mothers Circle, contact Kit Haspel at *khaspel@bjeri.org* or 331-0956 x 184. The quote from Darryle Steinberg is taken from an article she co-wrote with Mothers Circle participant Rachael Elmaleh. Their article will appear on *kidinfo.com*.



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BITTERNESS: Leaves everyone impaired

From Page 4

destroys our enemies will in the end destroy ourselves. One old Middle East proverb, noted in Laura Blumenfeld's "Revenge: A Story of Hope," warns: "If you want revenge, dig two graves: one for your enemy and one for yourself."

Our rabbis ask: Who is a hero? They provide two different answers to this question. One answer is that a hero is a person who masters the *yetzer harab*, the impulse to do evil (Avot 4.1). Who is a hero? The second answer states that a hero is a person who makes his enemy his friend (Avot deRabbi Natan 23).

Abu Sarah is a hero by either definition of the term. Through engaging in a lengthy process of turning from revenge to reconciliation, he has been able to master his destructive urge to avenge his brother's death. As a dedicated peace activist, he is continually converting enemy into friend, and in so doing, he has transformed himself into a better person. I feel that I am a better person for having spent a couple of hours with Abu Sarah.

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg can be reached at *rabbimeritus@templebabonim.org*.

MIDRASHA: Early Enrollment Open!

Midrasha: My Jewish learning adventure

Classes reinforce student's love of 'all things Israeli'

By ALANNAH JOHNSON
Special to The Voice & Herald

LEARNING IS supposed to be fun. That's one of the very first things we hear when we start school. Learning is supposed to broaden your mind, make you think and wonder about things you never stopped to think about before.

When you're learning about things you are interested in, and you enjoy, then learning doesn't seem like a challenge—it seems like an adventure.

That's what learning at Midrasha is like. You pick your own classes, you choose your own path, and you learn about things that genuinely interest you from people who are experts in the topics.

It's not like high school, where everyone takes the same biology class their freshman year and participates in the same standardized testing. Midrasha has no tests, usually no homework, and no boring and predictable core curriculum. The credits earned in the classes students choose ultimately define their continued Jewish education, their path of learning.

For me, Midrasha was defined



ALANNAH JOHNSON on the March of the Living 2008

by Israel. I had always been fascinated by the State of Israel: the history, the conflicts, the wars, the people, the culture, even the food.

Starting out in Midrasha, I tried out a few classes here and there about community, ethics, and reading. I even took one about driving, but nothing stands

out more in my mind than the first class I took on popular Israeli music. Taught by one of the Israeli emissaries, the class immersed us in the sounds of "Hadag Nachash" and "Subliminal" every Sunday, and we learned to appreciate the diversity of the music found halfway across the world. Eager to get my

hands on more, I took as many classes as I could over the years on Israel. In fact, I took nearly twice as many classes on Israel as those on other topics. If it wasn't for Midrasha, I would never have heard of the March of the Living, and I would never have had the opportunity to travel to Israel, the place I loved most and

"If it wasn't for Midrasha, I would never have heard of the March of the Living."

had learned so much about.

It isn't just Israel, though, that made learning at Midrasha so much fun for me. It was the teachers who strove to keep us interested, whether it was by utilizing different teaching methods, or bringing art projects into the classroom, or letting us choose what our lessons of the day were, or playing devil's advocate to get us to think about our ethical and moral opinions. It was the friends who took classes with me and shared muffins during the break between classes. And yes, it was the things that I learned in the classes that I chose.

Overall, these things made Midrasha so much more than a learning experience. They made Midrasha a part of my high school experience that I'll never forget.

Alannah is a 2009 graduate of the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School. She will be attending American University in Washington, D.C. this fall.



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family life at home. A new Mothers Circle group will begin this fall. **FREE** childcare is available upon request.

For more information please contact Kit Haspel, *Mothers Circle Coordinator* at 401.331.0956 x184 or khaspel@bjeri.org.

Coordinated by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island in partnership with the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Generously funded by the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



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ELKIN: Proves it's never too late to keep learning

From Page 1

are etched in Hebrew lettering; colorful cutouts of the *aleph-bet* hang in school windows. Even Israeli bumper stickers cling to cars with local license plates.

Many in Providence credit this love affair with 'all things Hebrew' to Esther Elkin, a local educator whose 100th year was honored on July 12 at Temple Emanu-El in Providence by a crowd that was, according to Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, 180 strong.

Elkin described how she was chosen by her Hebrew high school principal to introduce Hayyim Nahman Bialik, now considered Israel's national poet, to a student assembly. Bialik, surprised by her fluency, hugged her, and asked if Hebrew was taught in her home.

It wasn't Hebrew, but Yiddish that was her mother tongue. Elkin mastered Hebrew in a Zionist after-school program in Manhattan. Her relationship with Hebrew deepened when she met her husband, the late Harry Elkin (Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education from 1954-64 and for whom the High School Midrasha program is named). Their courtship took the form of Hebrew poetry exchanges and readings. "Until the children came along, we spoke only Hebrew," she reminisced.

"Maybe tonight she'll forget

about the Hebrew class." That was a constant refrain running through one child's head, when he received Hebrew tutoring classes five days a week from Esther Elkin.

That child, Joshua Elkin, said, "I was an active child and didn't like having to sit still through the lessons. But, my mother never forgot [about the lessons]."

As a rabbi and the executive director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, Elkin now champions Hebrew instruction. It's "taken a hit," he lamented, because of a lack of funding and a shift in priorities. Echoing Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist movement, he said, "Every civilization, including Judaism, has a language. Hebrew is our connection to thousands of years of Jewish history."

A 2009 study by professors at Hebrew Union College surveyed more than 40,000 Jews and found that the number of American Jews who call themselves Hebrew



Photo by Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz

Rabbi Joshua Elkin, Esther Elkin and Benjamin Elkin, Esther's grandson, at a community event earlier this summer.

speakers ranges from a mere 10 percent to a generous 50 percent. The different interpretations of

"Every civilization has a language. Hebrew is our connection to thousands of years of Jewish history."

Rabbi Joshua Elkin, echoing Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan

what it means to know Hebrew – from letter recognition to oral proficiency – skewed those results, the surveyors believe.

Elkin represents an increasingly rare subset of American Jews who consider Hebrew an integral part of their Jewish identity, said Ruth Adler Ben-Yehuda, Hebrew instructor at Brown University and coordinator of Hebrew language at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. A challenge for today's educators, she said, was the globalization of 'Israeliness' in which Hebrew study is seen as just one of many options American Jews might pursue.

Many adults have signed on for Hebrew tutoring with Elkin.

After participating in an adult *bar mitzvah* program and watching his daughter prepare for her own *bat mitzvah*, Steve Subotnick felt inspired to study Hebrew. Despite suffering serious health setbacks in 2008, Elkin still teaches students like Subotnick, who visits her for tutoring.

Liz Kaplan began studying Hebrew with Elkin as part of a

conversion class. Kaplan discovered that the language gave her access to fundamental Jewish ideas: "At synagogue there are inspirational words etched into the stained glass. When I started learning Hebrew, I literally could read the writing on the wall."

In a follow-up phone conversation, Kaunfer sang Elkin's praises. "She's an amazing person; at almost 100, she's still so mentally alert, engaged and articulate. She often offers meaningful philological footnotes to Hebrew words." A recent example, Kaunfer said, was Elkin's analysis of the Hebrew origin of the word "Tamarisk."

Elkin comes from a family of highly literate, Jewishly active and thoughtful people, added Kaunfer, explaining that her siblings lived into their 90s. "As Jewish educators, we all admire Esther tremendously."

Elkin decided, in her 90s, to learn how to chant *haftarah*, and began studying cantillation with Kaplan, her former student.

What advice does Elkin, this master teacher, offer?

In fluent, flawless Hebrew, Elkin quoted Pirkei Avot: "Find a teacher, Get a friend."

Contributions to the Esther Elkin Hebrew Language Fund may be sent to the JFRI, attention Bradley Laye.



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MEDICAL ARTS

A tempered commentary on temperance

A Jewish gene may discourage over-indulging in alcohol

AN AUTHORITATIVE British text on alcoholism, published in 1880, declared that there are notable differences in the frequency of dipsomania [chronic alcoholism] amongst various ethnic groups. "And while the Jews are undoubtedly subject to nervous diseases to



Stanley Aronson M.D.

a greater extent than the general community; this is due to the social and hygienic conditions under which many of them live." And further, "Little need

be said of the drinking habits of the modern Jews. They are a notoriously sober race both in England and elsewhere."

Dr. Norman Kerr, an authority on the burdens of alcoholism wrote, in 1889, "Extensive as my professional intercourse with them has been, I have never been consulted for inebriety in the person of a Jew. In my opinion their general freedom from inebriety in almost every clime and under all conditions is as much due to racial as to hygienic influences and more to racial than to religious influences."

Statistics tend to confirm the opinion on Jewish sobriety. A recent Boston study disclosed that about three to four percent of admissions to Boston City Hospital (with an essentially non-Jewish clientele) were caused by acute alcoholism. A similar survey of admissions to Boston Beth Israel Hospital (with a largely Jewish clientele) revealed about 0.1 percent frequency of alcoholism in their admitting population.

Why the ethnic difference? Some say it reflects the social ostracism of Jews, in the late 19th century, and therefore less exposure to the social pressures of "group drinking." Other observers ascribe the lower inebriety amongst Jews to their lower rates of pauperism, divorce and intimacy with street crime. And some ascribe the greater temperance amongst Jews – without evidence – to "some inherited racial power of control."

The "evidence" did materialize within the last decade when

geneticists isolated an uncommon gene [called ADH2*2] found in about 20 percent of Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews which is statistically associated with substantially lower rates of drinking, an avoidance of binge-drinking (consuming five or more drinks per session) and with "an overall more unpleasant reactions to alcohol."

Could Jewish temperance therefore be due merely to heritable episodes of acute nausea and vertigo after two drinks? Those of sterner persuasion have long proclaimed that pain is more convincing than permissive kindness in correcting addictions.

And thus, it would appear that the lower rate of intemperance amongst Jews is not due to adherence to religion (rates of alcoholism are the same in both synagogue-goers and those with no synagogue affiliation) but principally to one's genetic inheritance. Does cultural background play any role? Apparently yes. Studies in Israel, where alcoholism is uncommon, find that drunkenness is somewhat higher in recent Jewish immigrants from Russia

where alcoholism was high. There is a curious myth, cruel in its perpetuation, that Jews are susceptible to virtually all the tragic diseases of mankind except for the chemical dependencies, particularly addiction to alcohol

"There are Jewish homes, often well-hidden from their coreligionists, where bottled alcohol is a remorseless curse rather than a symbol of congenial hospitality."

and the opium derivatives; and therefore that there are no chronic alcoholics amongst the Children of the Book.

The myth is cruel because it deprives alcohol-dependent Jews – who do exist – from fully exploiting the community's rehabilitative services available for alcoholics. While there are indisputable ethnic differences in the genetically-determined chemical dependencies – tragically high amongst Native American tribes, for example – there are Jewish homes, often well-hidden from their coreligionists, where bottled alcohol is a remorseless curse rather than a symbol

of congenial hospitality.

Chemical dependency, as chronic drinkers will affirm, is an ailment not readily or casually discarded. Consider, for example, one of England's greatest writers, the immortal Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1771 – 1834), author of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." Coleridge was burdened by many problems, not the least of which was his utter dependency upon opium. He consumed

opium, in a liquid form called laudanum, upwards of a gallon a week. During such encumbered intervals he would become hypnotically-entranced with a candle, staring – stupefied – into its flame for hours.

Despite numerous attempts to rid himself of the curse of opium, despite his return to the Anglican faith of his father, despite the affectionate solicitude of friends such as Thomas Carlyle, John Stuart Mill and Ralph Waldo Emerson, Coleridge's addiction accompanied him remorselessly to his grave. In a despairing letter he wrote: "I have prayed with drops of agony on my brow; trembling not only before the justice of my Maker; but even before the mercy of my Redeemer."

Ignorance, lofty platitudes, resolute prayers or denial will not help chemically addicted persons – whether they be Jewish, Christian or atheist. Help begins with an acceptance of painful realities and proceeds assertively from there.

Dr. Stanley Aronson can be reached at smamd@cox.net.



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Jewish Community Calendar

Thursday

July 30

*** "Life Science"**

A summer show for teenagers and families at Brown/Trinity Playwrights Repertory Theater: Four Jewish kids struggle to survive high school.

WHERE: Stuart Theatre, 77 Waterman Ave., Providence

WHEN: 8 p.m.

MORE INFO: 863-2838, www.brown.edu/tickets

COST: \$12 regular tickets

* It will also be performed at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 1.

Thursday

August 6

"Tee Up for JSA"

Family golf day fundraiser. Kosher food, prizes, handicapped accessible. Rain or shine, event will go on.

WHERE: Mulligan's Island, 1000 New London Ave. (Route 2), Cranston

WHEN: 5 p.m. registration, 6 p.m. shotgun/tee off

MORE INFO: 351-4750, jsa@jsari.org

COST: \$48 for pitch 'n putt and cookout, \$36 for miniature golf and cookout, \$28 for entertainment and cookout, \$18 for children up to age 17

*** "No. 4 Street of Our Lady," a Holocaust-themed film**

A Rhode Island Film Festival entry about a Polish Catholic woman who rescued 15 Jews during the Holocaust.

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

WHEN: 6 p.m.

MORE INFO: 861-4445, www.rifilmfest.org

COST: Ticket prices vary; \$10 and up

* It will also be shown at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Columbus

TEE UP FOR JSA



Theatre, 270 Broadway, Providence.

Tuesday

August 11

Returning Jewish values to the State of Israel

Shmuel Sackett, co-founder of Manhigut Yehudit, the Jewish Leadership Movement, will speak.

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

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 725-4445

Friday

August 14

Special Sizzling BBQ

New and prospective members enjoy a BBQ and Shabbat under the Stars.

WHERE: Julie Claire Gutterman patio, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

WHEN: BBQ at 6 p.m., service at 7 p.m.

COST: \$5 per person for members is requested; non-Temple members are guests. RSVP by Aug. 11

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Sunday

August 16

Open House Party at Temple Am David

Rick Perlman, the synagogue's spiritual leader, will play guitar; dancing, food and activities galore.

WHERE: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner Street, Warwick

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.

COST: \$5 per person, with a family maximum of \$25; first-time prospective members are guests. RSVP to Joyce, Temple Am David, 463-7944, by Aug. 2

Sunday

August 23

Bus trip to the Yiddish National Book Center

A Yiddish opportunity for all. Tour of facility, video of Center's founding and a viewing of "Mamele," starring Molly Picon.

WHERE: National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, Mass.

WHEN: Bus departs JCCRI at 9 a.m.

COST: \$18 for *shmooze* member, \$20 for non-member

RSVP: Call Sue Suls at 861-8800, ext. 108, as soon as possible

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Stress-busting tips for your pets

Relaxation techniques benefit all God's creatures

By JOANNA BETH SEERE
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

ANIMALS ARE good for our health. Connecting with an animal – whether stroking a cat, walking a dog or conversing with a parrot – can improve our physical condition and enhance our sense of well-being. But did you know that

BUSINESS PROFILE

it's a two-way street? What we experience and feel as human beings can impact, for better or worse, the animals in our lives.

The close bond between people and their animals means that they feel what we feel – including the stress and worries of these tough economic times. As the economy has spiraled downward, many animals I work with exhibit behavioral, emotional, and physical symptoms that stem from family stress.

I am focusing more of my communication and healing sessions on stress-busting techniques designed to soothe both two-

legged and four-legged beings. Breaking this vicious cycle requires intervention and, more importantly, prevention. So what can we do to "de-stress" when the economy or other worries get us (and our beloved animals) down? Here are a few suggestions:

CREATE A MORE RELAXING ENVIRONMENT

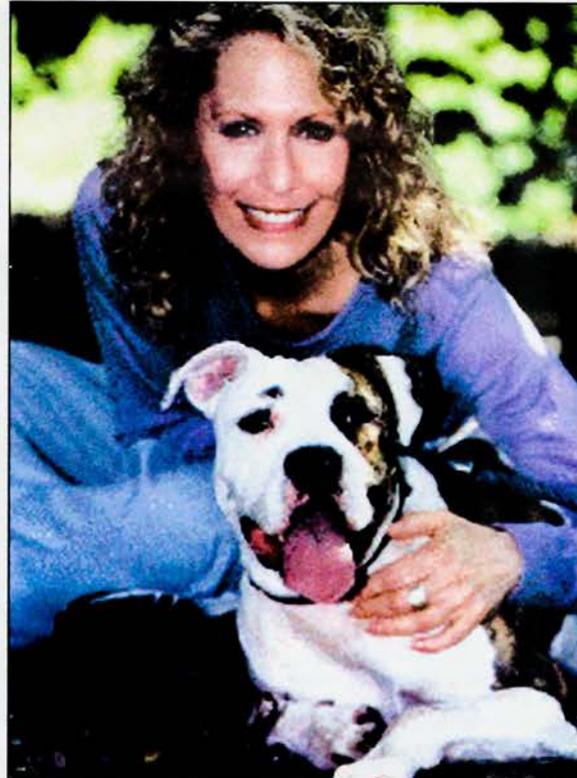
Make a conscious decision to leave your stress at the door. As much as possible, let go of your worries when you return home. Turn on soothing music

or leave the radio tuned to a low-key musical style for your animal to enjoy while you are away and to greet you upon your return.

CREATE A MORE RELAXING YOU

After entering your home, take a moment to breathe deeply. Let the simple act of breathing and being in the present help clear your mind and body of the tensions of the day. The more you release your own tension, the less your animal will take on your stress and perpetuate the vicious cycle of stress.

CREATE A MORE RELAXING ANIMAL



JOANNA BETH SEERE poses with Pepper, an animal client, who is a boxer/pit bull mix.

Take a few quiet moments to talk, stroke or play with your

"When we are energetically more balanced, our animals are, too."

animal. This will help both of you feel more relaxed. If you have a dog, be sure to head outside for vigorous walks or trips to the dog park. Communing with nature and social interaction with others are great stress-busters for both of you.

When we are energetically more balanced, our animals are, too. When animals aren't shouldering our concerns, they are healthier, happier, and better able to feed our spirits and take good care of us.

Spirit-to-Spirit was founded by Joanna Beth Seere, born and raised in Rhode Island. Her innovative holistic approach helps people and their animal companions cope with stress and the varied challenges of life.

Visit www.spirit-to-spirit.net or call 845.651.1383.

Korr's book coming: Winston and Josh

Korr writes: The mostly true story is based on the adventures of Winston, who shared our home and hearts in Barrington for 10 years, and my son, Josh. The character of Bravo is based on tales of the courageous water dogs of the Algarve, in southern Portugal.

By MARY KORR

Special to *The Voice & Herald*

WINSTON THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG GOES HOME Chapter 1

THE LITTLE BLACK Portuguese water dog with the white chest and the one white paw prances down the dock after his Uncle Rags.

Wait for me, Uncle Rags, wait for me!

Uncle Rags dives into Cape Cod Bay. The pup plops in after him and paddles, paddles, paddles as fast as his four webbed paws will turn.

Beep-beep! Beep-beep!

The little water dog looks back and sees a boy jump out of a car. Someone to play with!

He spins around and paddles to the shore and shakes, shakes, shakes the sea water off his curly coat.

"Winston, you got me all wet!" Josh says.

Winston? Who is Winston? the pup wonders. He looks



Josh Korr, 11, and puppy Winston, 3 months, in Barrington.

behind him. No one is there.

It must be me. I'm Winston! I have a name, like Uncle Rags!

He jumps on the boy with his wet, sandy paws and licks his face.

"You're coming home to Rhode Island with us today! But first, we have to dry you off or dad will never let you in his new BMW."

Josh's dad is a doctor at The Miriam Hospital and likes

things sterile.

Author's note: This excerpt is from my children's book, "Winston the Portuguese Water Dog, Vol. 1, Portuguese Water Dog Tales," for ages 6-9. It will be published in November of 2009, by the self-publishing affiliate division of Random House, XLibris. Copyright © 2009 Mary Korr. All rights reserved.



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So many pets, so much love: Dogs outnumber cat



This Weimaraner misses Rhode Island

Pam Kanopkin, currently an Ocala, Fla. resident, hopes to move back to Rhode Island soon. "In the meantime," she writes, "being able to receive *The Voice & Herald* helps bring a little bit of Rhode Island to me in Florida. I am most appreciative." Her Weimaraner, whose name is Sting – a bona fide rock star – is also eager to return.



Ollie isn't the only Joering pet the girls love

ZOEY AND EVE JOERING, children of Blake and Wendy Joering of Rumford, embrace Ollie, their golden retriever. Ollie thinks he is a lap dog. Tullie, a lab terrier mix, is their newest addition. Both were rescued, as was the Joering cat, Marbles.



Bichon frisés like to lounge

TEN-YEAR-OLD NICKO, a male, and Cheniqué, 7, a female, at bottom, lounge on a sofa. The *bichon frisés* are owned by Neal H. Dwares of East Providence.



Dogs, dogs, dogs: BJE's Karen Clarkson can't live without them

CLARKSON'S Australian cattle dog, left, is named Eoin.

CLARKSON'S rat terrier, right, Nell, is adorned with pearls and hibiscus hat.



A favorite "grandchild"

WILLY HERMAN, A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SHIH TZU, is Morton Gilstein's favorite "grandchild." Willy lives with Brad and Judi Herman in Shrewsbury, Mass. "Grandpa" Morton Gilstein lives in Providence.



The life of leisure

CHARLIE belongs to Warwick resident Rhoda Strauss.

Birds and all the other inhabitants of Noah's ark



Boys will be boys

EDDIE, THE DOG, is flanked by Jacob Lax, 16-months old and Noah, age 3-and-1/2-years. They live with the boys' parents, Maggie and Ryan Lax, in Cranston.



Sable in Florida

SABLE, A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD MIXED BREED, is a lovable and protective dog. It is owned by the Lobel family of Lake Worth, Fla.



Cosmo, one of Rhode Island's Portuguese water dog puppies

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND HIS FAMILY aren't the only ones with a Portuguese water dog puppy. Karen and Ira Asher of West Kingston also own one, named Cosmo.



Hoffman family pets

WENDY HOFFMAN'S PETS include Shyloh (who passed away on March 25, 2009), seated in the back; her 13-year-old golden retriever, Max; and her 13-year-old Doberman mix, Mason. The feline members of her family prefer anonymity and avoid cameras. Hoffman owns a pet sitting business called I'll Do It, Inc., www.illdoit.ws.



Olivor, the talking parrot

WHILE MANY PETS enrich the lives of residents and staff at the Charlesgate Nursing Center, Olivor is the mascot. He has a nearly 50-phrasal vocabulary, ranging from "no swearing" and "goin' for a ride" to "tickle tickle" and more than one swear word.



Mr. Miguel

ARTHUR RICHTER AND PETER NEIVERT welcomed their new dog, Mr. Miguel, an 11-month-old Shih Tzu.



Malice

JENNIFER AND DANIEL SILVIA enjoy keeping an eye on their cats; Malice, a year-old-cat, is perched on the curtain rod. The Silvias and their cats live in Warwick.

Dog trainer barks: 'Dogs aren't children'

*Solid K9 Training
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conventional training
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BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

WITH SIX daughters, ages 2 to 19, and several dogs, Jeff Gellman, the self-proclaimed "The Dog Whisperer," doesn't feel penned in.

After realizing that his hobby of working with dogs could earn him a living, Gellman sold his wholesale and retail operations, after 15 years in merchandising.

"Six years ago, when I got a dog, I wasn't excited about dog training," he said. "He had behavioral issues and many places made them worse, not better. No one else was doing 'real world training.'"

Wanting a dog that could go off-leash at the beach, for example, and be part of the family life, rather than a dog that did tricks, spurred Gellman to begin researching wolf packs' behavior and how that translates into dogs' behavior.

As an owner of a standard poodle who is, well, a little too alpha to be off-leash, I asked him, "Who gets trained? The dogs or the people?"



JEFF GELLMAN with his "pack of dogs."

Photo courtesy of Jeff Gellman

Most people over-praise and over-love their dogs, Gellman said. "Dogs take that as a weakness and they rise up to be more alpha. We have to be structured. I have to train people on the way dogs think – 80 percent of what I do is human training."

Gellman added, "It's stressful for a dog to be in charge or be the boss. There's a huge sense of relief when they don't have to be in charge. It's genetic

– if a human doesn't step up to the plate, the dog does."

Dog owners should stop making excuses about why

BUSINESS PROFILE

dogs are the way they are, he said. Cattle dogs don't nip because of their breed, they nip because they're badly trained.

Parenting skills help Gellman in his work, as he goes into people's homes for dog training. "There's a level of trust and a need to understand family dynamics," he explained.

Although people often get nervous as they approach Gellman and a gaggle of dogs – seven or so – walking, off-leash, on Blackstone Boulevard,

it's Gellman who expresses some discomfort when yapping, lunging dogs, on-leash, approach him. A lunging dog, he said, is not being protective, but acting badly.

Does Gellman have a favorite breed? "A well-behaved dog is my favorite," he said. "I get satisfaction from the energy of the dog, not the breed. Every dog can do all basic commands and listen."

Gellman has identified four cornerstones of training: household management, nutrition and exercise, behavior modification and obedience training. "Training, for example, is when you see me with eight dogs and they all wait patiently to go in my van or when a child walks through

"Most people over-praise and over-love their dogs. Dogs take that as a weakness and they rise up to be more alpha."

the living room with a cookie and the dog doesn't go after [the child or the cookie]."

SOME POINTERS FROM GELLMAN:

- Never buy a dog as a gift.
- A small dog doesn't mean a dog is low-energy or low-maintenance.
- Don't always buy the cutest dog – people let the cutest dogs get away with a lot of bad behavior.
- If you're out working 10 hours a day and can't be home to walk the dog, budget for a dog walker or pet day care – your kids won't help out.
- Think before you buy – a dog shouldn't be an impulse purchase.
- A dog in your bedroom ruins your romantic life – it should sleep somewhere else.
- Pets aren't kids, dogs are pets and, while the structure and firmness of parenting comes into play with pet discipline, children have reasoning powers and dogs don't.

Gellman wants people to think seriously about owning a dog and then training it. Data show that some four to six million dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the United States. He's not a fan of pet stores which make impulse buys all too easy, adding, "It takes seven days to buy a gun and two hours to buy a dog."

Gellman works with dogs in Rhode Island and surrounding areas; in other instances, dogs are flown to him from California, Florida and other distant locales. By his own admission, he's not inexpensive, but his goal is to get owners to keep their dogs for their pets' entire lifetimes.

"It's not a part-time gig for me, I work seven-days-a-week and it's a passion for me. I don't look back, only forward. I'm the happiest I've ever been," he said.

Gellman owns Solid K9 Training and can be heard on AM 790 radio every Saturday morning, from 7 to 8 a.m.

Contact him at 527-6354, Jeff@solidk9training.com or www.solidk9training.com.

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Strawberry chevre salad, cod and hand-rolled chocolate truffles as hospital food?

Delicious food from Daniel Gourmet available beyond hospital's four walls

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

KOSHER FOOD is showing up everywhere in Rhode Island, from The Full Plate, the kosher food pantry, to The Miriam Hospital and beyond. Thanks to Rose Forrest, owner of Daniel Gourmet Kosher Catering, you don't need to be a Miriam Hospital patient (see article on page 24) to enjoy the meals she's serving to patients requesting kosher meals.

These summer-fresh recipes and photographs are courtesy of Rose Forrest. Recipes serve about 3-4 people.



bread crumbs – available in the international food aisle of local supermarkets)

2 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped

1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped

1/2 teaspoon fresh rosemary, chopped

1/2 teaspoon fresh oregano, chopped

1/2 teaspoon fresh sage, chopped

1/2 teaspoon fresh garlic, chopped fine

1 fresh-squeezed lemon

1/2 cup olive oil

1/2 cup Chardonnay

Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

In a mixing bowl, place the panko, freshly chopped herbs, garlic and half of the olive oil and salt and pepper.

Generously sprinkle panko mixture over cod. Gently press panko into the top of the cod.

Drizzle cod with wine, remaining olive oil and freshly squeezed lemon juice.

Bake in 350-degree oven for about 12 to 15 minutes. This can be served hot or at room temperature.

Pecan green beans

Ingredients:

1 pound stemmed green beans

1 cup raw pecan halves or pieces

1 clove fresh garlic

1 teaspoon butter

3 teaspoons olive oil

salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Crush and chop garlic and set aside.

Slightly crush pecans with the blade of your knife or break into pieces with your hands and set aside.

Heat a sauté pan and add olive oil. Add green beans and sauté for about two minutes on medium heat.

Add pecans and salt and pepper. Cook for two more minutes. Green beans should be bright green but still a little crunchy.

Add garlic and sauté for about 30 seconds. Add butter and shut off heat. (Butter may be omitted if desired)

Hand-rolled chocolate truffles

20 ounces semisweet chocolate, cut into small pieces (or semisweet chocolate chips)

1 tablespoon orange liqueur

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

1 cup heavy cream

3 tablespoons cocoa powder

Method:

Place chocolate pieces, cream and the butter in a large metal bowl.

Simmer water in a saucepan. Place bowl with chocolate mixture over saucepan, stirring constantly until chocolate is melted.

Be careful not to let water or steam get into the chocolate mixture.

As the chocolate melts, slowly whisk in liqueur and mix until chocolate is thick and shiny.

Pour the chocolate mixture into bowl, and place in the freezer for 30 minutes or until set (it should have the consistency of fudge).

Using a small ice cream scoop or a small spoon, form rounds and place them on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Roll the truffles in cocoa powder and enjoy!



Strawberry and chevre salad

Salad Ingredients:

1 cup baby arugula
2 cups mixed baby greens
6 strawberries sliced
3 ounces crumbled goat cheese
1/4 of a red onion sliced thin
1/2 cup raw almonds sliced
3 tablespoons toasted

peppercorn dressing

Toasted peppercorn dressing ingredients:

1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons freshly-squeezed lemon juice
6 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon freshly-crushed black pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon organic honey

Method:

Place a small amount of olive oil in a sauté pan and add almonds. Sprinkle with a pinch of salt and pepper.

Sauté on low, constantly stirring the almonds; they burn very easily. When almonds are slightly brown, about 1 minute, place them aside on a plate to cool.

Place washed baby greens and arugula in a mixing bowl. Add sliced strawberries. Crumble goat cheese and add to bowl.

Very thinly slice red onion and add to bowl.

When the almonds are cool, add them to the bowl. Add dressing and toss. Salad is ready to serve.

Panko and herb baked cod

Ingredients:

3 pieces of cod fillet, each 4-ounces
3/4 cup panko (Japanese



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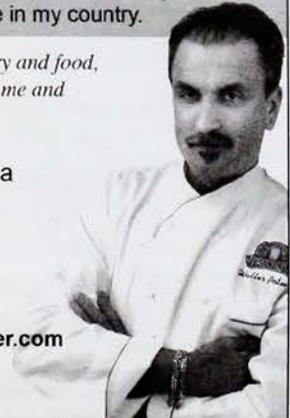
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AFULA: Rich with opportunity

From Page 1

Afula earlier this month. The Israeli city of Afula and Providence have more in common than one might, at first blush, realize. Just as many Americans know of Haifa, the country's third largest city – about 45 minutes by car from Afula – many Israelis know about Boston, but not Providence. Afula's reputation as the source of the best sunflower seeds in Israel parallels Rhode Island's situation with Del's Lemonade and coffee milk. And, just as Rhode Island has come a long way since the 1970s, so, too, has Afula.

Nevel, now a businessman in Providence, remembered, "I had been to Afula as a child, and again, in 1972, when I was there as a member of the Israeli military. Frankly, back then, Afula had little to offer [except the sunflower seeds] and it was off the beaten path."

Nevel is a member of an initiative, Partnership 2000 (P2K), to create people-to-people programs between Afula and the Rhode Island community. He went to Afula to learn more about the city and how the Rhode Island community could build a stronger bridge to this, our sister city.

Afula, today, is a much bigger town. "It has a population of more than 44,000 people, and some 150,000 people live in the surrounding area which includes

Nazareth and Gilboa, a beautiful rural area," he said. Its downtown district includes several restaurants, retail businesses and coffee shops.

Afula has brought the two sections of the city together – the downtown area and upper Afula – by building a large park to host cultural events; a recent concert drew a crowd of 10,000.

As in Rhode Island, businesses are crucial to Afula's prosperity. It has created several incentive programs to attract businesses

"I felt their pride for their city. And, Afula and Gilboa are our sisters."

to the three industrial parks that include a new high-tech center. "I visited several companies, including Micro Diamond Technology, that manufactures and sells sophisticated dentistry drills worldwide, and Tnuva Alon Tavor – the largest dairy in the Middle East."

The dairy, Nevel said, "is fully



Photo courtesy of Avi Nevel
Avi Nevel and Eshel Fram of the Jewish Agency for Israel, at the largest dairy in the Middle East.

automated and environmentally efficient. Its water purification plant provides irrigation for the surrounding fields of a local *kibbutz*. The dairy processes and sells whey, a typically discarded byproduct, to pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies."

Youth in Afula, as youth here, experience challenges. Nevel met the manager of a youth center that trains and encourages entrepreneurship and leadership in young people, ages 18 to 35. "The city is concerned that its youth may leave Afula," said Nevel, "if there are no jobs and no opportunities."

Will Nevel visit Afula again? "Yes, I plan to go back," he said, without pausing. "I felt their pride for their city. And, Afula and Gilboa are our sisters."

LOCAL: State agencies may get more enforcement tools, training

From Page 1

not just race, national origin, religion and color, but also gender, gender identification, disability and sexual orientation," he said.

David Leach, CRC chairman, and Maxine Richman accompanied Marty Cooper, director of community relations, to Washington, D.C. earlier this year to lobby our Rhode Island legislators. This initiative has been a long-time priority for the JCPA. "It was good to see that all four members of the R.I. delegation [Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Rep. James Langevin] co-sponsored the legislation," said Cooper.

"Crimes to foment hate are particularly dangerous in a diverse democracy, and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Whitehouse, a Senate Judiciary Committee member, a former U.S. Attorney and Attorney General for Rhode Island, said in a statement. "I'm proud to support legislation that aims to punish and prevent these

crimes."

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts voted 'aye,' while Senator Edward Kennedy was not present to vote.

With the vast majority of hate crimes occurring – and being prosecuted – at the local and state levels, Feldman said, the legislation also provides local and state agencies with funding and training to help them deter crimes and conduct enforcement.

Although hate crimes against Jews were protected under earlier federal law, it's important,

Feldman said, "to have proper protection and to build society with proper judicial processes."

These types of hate crimes are corrosive, Feldman said,

and, "to the extent that they are committed against gays and lesbians, or people with disabilities, we want to stop them. These things become intertwined and become dangerous to a minority."

Most Jewish agencies have actively endorsed the legislation, said Feldman; the Orthodox Union has been silent.

Further action is expected in the coming days.

"Crimes to foment hate are dangerous."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse



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Moodus, the 'Catskills of Connecticut,' offered sun and fun by the week

'Summertime, and the livin' is easy...'

By GERALDINE FOSTER
Special to The Voice & Herald

IN PAST DAYS, did you want an exciting vacation? Did you want fun, sports, food (lots of it), and entertainment? Did you want to meet new people?

If so, you didn't have to travel to the Borscht Belt. Moodus had it all. Known as the "Catskills of Connecticut," in its heyday, Moodus was home to resorts that attracted Jewish vacationers.

Perhaps the best known, and probably the largest, was Banner Lodge. Originally a farm, the 430-acres of land were developed into a vacation destination. The Banner family placed ads in Anglo-Jewish newspapers like this one. Colorful brochures showed handsome young people having fun. By 1940, it had become a Mecca catering to young Jewish singles.

Zelda Banks Feldman first discovered Banner Lodge when her brother Hyman Banks and some of his friends went there in the summer of 1941 before their army service. It was, they told her, a fun place. The following summer, she and three friends — Anita (Glassman) Elkin, Gloria (Ostrov) Ostrach, and Esther (Koffler) Kaplan

— fresh out of high school, decided to treat themselves to a fun week at Banner Lodge.

The lodgings, described as rustic, were rather primitive, Mrs. Feldman recalled, with dormitory-style sleeping facilities and outdoor privies.

"Foozie" Gordon, the director of entertainment, played a wake-up call on his bugle when it was time for breakfast and the day of activities to begin.

The schedule was quite rigid, but the activities were well organized, Feldman said. Everyone was expected to participate. Soldiers stationed nearby attended dances. The week was, as promised, fun.

Joseph Gadon experienced Moodus resort life from another perspective, as a college student who worked there to earn money to help pay tuition. In 1953, Castle Lodge, another Moodus establishment, hired him and a friend. His friend was assigned chambermaid duties, while he became part of the kitchen staff. When he asked about his job, his employer told him to open the door to a room. It was packed ceiling high, wall-to-wall with dishes. "You will wash them all," he was



Photo courtesy of R.I. Jewish Historical Assn.
CARY AND HOWARD EICHENBAUM
Eichenbaum outside their "home away from home" at Banner Lodge.

told. And he did — the whole summer, he washed dishes.

By the 1950s, such creature comforts as indoor plumbing

one- or two-week stay, guests had their choice of activities, mostly sports, designed to accommodate their interests; young children spent their days in a day camp.

Staff lived in more primitive circumstances, two to a cabin, away from the main areas. There was one central washing facility and a bathroom, not a privy, within walking distance.

Staff members were expected to mingle with guests to make them feel at home. Food at all the Jewish resorts was kosher, plentiful and with great variety.

During the summer of 1953, the staff of Castle Lodge included a hypnotist of great ability who worked his expertise on audience volunteers. Staff members also provided evening entertainment. One year, Zero Mostel entertained Banner Lodge guests.

By the close of the 1960s, the singles scene had changed.

Vacations at resorts like those in Moodus no longer seemed so attractive. More exotic places beckoned, made possible by advances in airline travel, better roads, and greater affluence. A simple cabin proved no match for more luxurious accommodations. Banner Lodge began to cater more to couples with young children who wanted a pleasant, no-frills vacation in the

country; many of these couples had met at Banner Lodge.

Alice and Ray Eichenbaum did not meet there, but did enjoy a week's stay at Banner Lodge in July of 1969. Having just purchased a house, they found the reasonable rates for their week especially appealing.

They shared a one-room cabin, half of a duplex, with their two sons, Cary, 4, and Howard, 5. Mrs. Eichenbaum remembered lovely grounds filled with tall shade trees everywhere. The resort was full; most of the guests came from New York.

During the day the boys attended a camp, while the adults took part in activities that interested them and socialized with other young couples. Meals were eaten at long tables for eight or 10; only adults ate in the main dining room.

However, Mrs. Eichenbaum could recall no evening entertainment. Indeed, on one occasion, the Eichenbaums hired a sitter so that they and two other couples could go out to dinner and dancing at a nearby hotel.

This was a warm and colorful period in our history, a time remembered fondly by those who shared in its fun in the sun by the week.

Geraldine Foster is a past president of the R. I. Jewish Historical Association.

"Perhaps the best known, and probably the largest, was Banner Lodge. By 1940, it had become a Mecca catering to young Jewish singles."

were the norm in the guest lodgings. Castle Lodge vacationers included families with young children and teens in small cabins *en famille*, and singles who had their own quarters. During their



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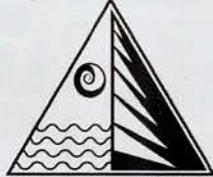
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REAL ESTATE INSIGHT

Vibrant cities demand green space, pedestrian access and attractive communal areas

Residents can impact where, how highway is moved

I attended a meeting on July 7 organized by the Fox Point Neighborhood Association to explore alternative designs for the city's East Side when the old interstate highway I-195 comes down in



Sally Lapides

2010. Many of my fellow neighborhood business owners on Wickenden Street attended.

Anyone who has tried to take a walk down our wonderful street knows that

you take your life in your hands trying to avoid getting hit by the traffic as you walk under the overpass heading toward the Point Street Bridge. When the highway was designed in the 1950s, it separated the East Side from downtown and cut off the use of one of our most valuable assets, our waterfront.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has done a great job keeping everyone informed about its plans. In fact, prior to our gathering on July 7, Lambri Zerva, RIDOT's supervising civil engineer, delivered a very informative explanation of the current design at a June 24th public meeting hosted by RIDOT and Providence's Department of Planning and Development.

Everyone comes to these meetings with different concerns

and agendas. Some people are concerned with traffic flow, some care about real estate values and others care about making our city a more livable place.

As a real estate professional, I care about all of these issues. I haven't seen an opportunity like this one in my lifetime, so here are some of the thoughts I have about moving the highway.

We have miles of waterfront. We need to make them accessible to anyone who wants to enjoy them. Parks, bike paths and walking trails make some of the best cities in the world special. I remember being in Amsterdam with my kids and seeing hundreds of people on roller blades cruising down the street. I asked a policeman

and streets must adequately move traffic, but the plan that was presented at the July 7 meeting didn't address many of the concerns of the neighbors. The current plan needs neighborhood input. We need to explore other designs to take full advantage of the opportunity to re-connect Fox Point to the waterfront, the Jewelry District and the city.

The group that met on July 7 hopes to have a follow-up meeting with Michael Lewis, the director of RIDOT, to discuss some very thoughtful options.

Local architects and urban planners, who have insights on possible alternatives to improve the Iway's entrance into the neighborhood, are involved in this appeal.

For years I used to read about public meetings in the paper and think I couldn't have an effect if I attended; I was wrong. Just look at what the West Broadway Neighborhood Association did for everyone in the state by being outspoken about National Grid's program to place gas meters on the front of our homes.

Headed by the hard work of the Fox Point Neighborhood Association, this group of concerned citizens has great passion and will be the leaders who will help all of us achieve a better, more vibrant Providence when the highway comes down.

If you are interested and want to be involved, contact the Fox Point Neighborhood Association at FPNA@cox.net.

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

"Parks, bike paths and walking trails make some of the best cities in the world special."

what they were doing and he answered, "This is Friday night skate." How great is that to have streets that are set up to be safe enough to leave your car at home and skate to dinner? It is what I call social exercising; you hardly notice you did something good for your heart when you walk, skate or bike to your destination.

Let's take this great opportunity to work to minimize pavement, design streets to best serve the redevelopment sites, provide the best pedestrian and bicycle movements, complement the waterfront parks by providing proper access and rebuild the area in a manner that reflects the history of the area.

I understand that access ramps

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The Point Street Bridge overpass: As it is today. Could it be improved?

Let us envision no more hungry children or empty cupboards

The Full Plate provides, delivers kosher food to those in need

BY SUSAN ADLER
Special to The Voice & Herald

IMAGINE SITTING home alone and wondering where your next meal is coming from. Imagine the worry and stress a parent feels when wondering how he or she is going to fill the plates with food for a loved one. Imagine not being well enough to leave your home to be able to go to the market to buy food.

It is difficult to envision yourself being hungry and not being able to take care of yourself or your family, if you are not in that situation. The reality is our fellow Jews are in

this situation of wondering and contemplating how they will get help filling their plates.

With the opening of AgeWellRI's kosher food pantry, The Full Plate, you do not have to imagine any more. AgeWellRI is a program of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, Jewish Seniors Agency and Jewish Family Service.

More than 100 people have used The Full Plate since it opened its doors on May 19 of this year. If someone is not able to visit The Full Plate, a volunteer makes a home delivery.

One recipient said, "The new kosher food pantry is an excellent concept. It is a great help for Jewish people. The volunteers are so pleasant and helpful and they always have a big smile. They also deliver the food when people can't get out. Thank you

to everyone who is responsible for making The Full Plate possible."

There is an old Jewish proverb: "Worries go down better with soup than without." We

"Imagine the worry and stress a parent feels when wondering how he or she is going to fill the plates with food for a loved one."

want to make sure that our community is never without soup or anything else they might need. The generosity of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island in funding the pantry, a generous donation from Touro Fraternal Association and the



community, we are able to sustain the pantry.

Collecting food, seeking private donations and spreading the

word that the pantry doors are always open to those in need are all important to The Full Plate's success.

The Full Plate is at 100 Niantic Avenue, in Providence, in the former Colibri Building. We are open every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. except on Jewish holidays.

For further information, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org.

The Full Plate receives funding from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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Hadassah will install leaders at garden party

CRANSTON - At a garden party supper at the Cranston home of Lorraine Rapoport, on Aug. 6, at 6 p.m., the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah will install its board of directors and officers to serve for the coming year.

The installing officer is Karen Dannin Stoller, a former Hadassah national vice president. Board member Judy Schoenfeld will report on her inspiring experience last winter in Israel, "Winter in Netanya," a two-month program of study and service open to all members and associates of Hadassah, the American Women's Zionist Organization. The chapter's newly designed

Web site will be introduced by Web master Ellen Fingeret.

The cost of the evening is \$10 per person; contributions of cast-off gold and silver items are requested for the chapter's

continuing precious metals.

To RSVP and receive driving directions, contact 463-3636 or RhodeIslandChapter@Hadassah.org. Reservations should be received by July 30.

JERI hosts satellite office hours

PROVIDENCE - Jewish Elder-care of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, will hold "drop-in" satellite office hours in August as follows: Brightview Commons, 57 Grandville Court, Wakefield, on Aug. 17, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick, on Aug. 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect Street, Woonsocket, on Aug. 27, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.; and Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215

Main Road, Tiverton, on Aug. 31, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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

For more information or to make an appointment, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org. For general Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhodes Island program information, see www.jsari.org.



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Hebrew College hosts summer institute for educators

NEWTON CENTRE, Mass. – Jewish educators who wish to learn more about teaching students with special needs can enroll in Hebrew College's Jewish Special Education Summer Institute, from August 3-14. This annual

program brings a diverse community of educators together to learn more about behavior management in the inclusive classroom, teaching Hebrew to students with special needs and assessment in Jewish special education.

For more information, www.hebrewcollege.edu/summer-institutes#sped or contact Sandy Miller-Jacobs, director of special education programs, at 617-559-8615, smillerjacobs@hebrewcollege.edu.

New leadership for Congregation Beth David

NARRAGANSETT – Congregation Beth David held its annual election of officers and board members for 2009-2010 on June 28; meeting was held at the Jewish Center of South County in Narragansett.

The officers elected are: Walter Horowitz as president, Robert Babat as 1st vice president, Robert Fricklas as 2nd vice president, Meri Kaufman as recording secretary, Shelley Parnas as corresponding secretary and Robert Curhan as treasurer, with Stan Barnett as minyan coordinator.

Jane Kondon, Marilyn Moskol and Harris Chorney are Congregation Beth David's new board members; Sara Nelson, TJ Feldman, Richard Karnes and Jack Strashnack were re-elected to the board for another term.

Cranston Senior Guild to enjoy a day at Foxwoods

LEDYARD, Conn. – The Cranston Senior Guild is planning a trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino on Wednesday, Aug. 12. The cost is \$20 per person which includes free transportation, plus \$15 in Keno and \$10 for food.

Open to members and non-members alike, the trip requires an advance RSVP.

Contact Judah and Dorothy Rosen at 942-0965 or at 34 Rangeley Road, Cranston.



SUE ROBBIO and Yehuda Lev pause for a moment during *The Voice & Herald's* retreat at Summit Commons.

Photo by Nancy Kirsch

June 11: 'Yehuda Lev Day' in Providence

PROVIDENCE – Sue Robbio presented a proclamation from the office of Mayor David Cicilline identifying June 11 as "Yehuda Lev Day" in Providence.

Yehuda, a long-time columnist for the paper, was "roasted" and toasted by many present at the retreat for his wisdom, wit

and erudite knowledge. His innate ability to charm – and be charmed by – women did not go unnoticed.

Members of *The Voice & Herald* staff, editorial board, business committee, senior contributing writer Mary Korr, columnists and other guests, including Stephen Silberfarb,

executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and Barbara Sokoloff, the Federation's board liaison to the editorial board, met for productive discussions about long-term strategies for improving the paper in these changing times.



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This free workshop is made possible by a grant from
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Fresh kosher meals at The Miriam

PROVIDENCE – Daniel Gourmet Kosher Catering now provides fresh kosher meals to Miriam Hospital patients requesting them; previously prepackaged frozen kosher meals were offered. Daniel Gourmet's foods were ranked highest by a panel of judges, who evaluated the samples from several vendors on both presentation and taste.

Ira Braundstein, of Sodexho, the hospital's food service provider, is delighted with the collaboration, as is Sandra Cheng,

the hospital's vice president, support services. Offering high-quality, tasty and nutritious kosher meals, said Cheng, continues the hospital's commitment to best practices.

The hospital's Jewish traditions advisory group helped shepherd the kosher meal service process, from concept to implementation.

The Rhode Island Kasbruth Commission supervises Daniel Gourmet Kosher Catering.

See recipes on page 17.



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Tee Up for JSA will benefit programs and services

PROVIDENCE - The 2nd annual "Tee Up for JSA" Golf Tournament is fast approaching. It is scheduled for August 6th at Mulligan's Island Golf & Entertainment Center, rain or shine.

Event proceeds will be used to provide state of the art specialized programs and services to each division of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSA): Jewish Eldercare, Shalom Apartments, To Life Center Adult Day Services and The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence. Funds raised will also benefit AgeWell RI, the kosher food pantry, and The Women's Association.

"The economy has not been good to any organization this year," said Paul Barrette, executive director of JSA. "Support of programs provided to seniors couldn't be more important than it is now."

By registering for "Tee Up," participants can take part in a round of miniature golf or

Pitch N' Putt. Attendees will also enjoy food cooked by Bob Greenberg, the executive chef at The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, and musical entertainment of Serious

can Idol" concert at the Dunkin' Donuts Center and much more. "The event committee and I thought it was important to plan something that was appropriate and fun for all ages," said

Roberta Sinapi, executive director of The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence. "The grounds at Mulligan's are perfect for that, especially because the facility is entirely handicap accessible."



Leisure. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of Pitch N' Putt and mini-golf.

Last year's Pitch N' Putt winner will not be attendance, so there is an opportunity for a new champion to be crowned. The event will conclude with a raffle that boasts several valuable prizes, including a weekend get-a-way to Block Island, two front-row tickets to the "Ameri-

Mulligan's Golf and Entertainment Center is located at 1000 New London Avenue in Cranston. The outing will begin at 5 p.m. and last until 9 p.m.

For more information regarding "Tee Up for JSA" registration or raffle tickets, please contact Allison Sinapi, at 351-2750.

JSA receives funding from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Jewish War Veterans honor Cantor Ivan Perlman

WARWICK - On June 28, the Jewish War Veterans held its 64th annual convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where they re-elected Sanford Gorodetsky state commander. Also elected to office were Ira Fleisher, senior vice commander, and Michael Penn, junior vice commander.

The guest speaker was General Rick Bacus, commandant of the Veterans' Home in Bristol.

The convention honored Cantor Ivan Perlman for his many years of service to the Jewish War Veterans.

Meeting space available at EPOCH Senior Living

PROVIDENCE - EPOCH Senior Living on Blackstone Boulevard is now offering a free venue for area clubs and groups seeking a meeting space.

The facility, at 353 Blackstone Blvd., can accommodate approximately 20 people at a time.

Contact Beth McCrae or Valerie Housbar to discuss availability, 528-0340.

JSA honors Dr. Lippman

DR. DOROTHY LIPPMAN received the 2009 Maurice Glicksman Award at the May 19 Annual Meeting of the Jewish Seniors Agency for her dedication and service. A member of the board of trustees since JSA began, she was instrumental in establishing the JSA Women's Association Gift Shoppe and Country Store. She received a personalized, handmade kiddush cup.



Photo courtesy of JSA

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Betty Auerbach, 97

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Betty Goldstein Auerbach of West Palm Beach, Fla., died June 26, at the Joseph L. Morse Geriatric Center. She was the wife of the late Bert Auerbach. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Jenny (Solomon) and Morris Goldstein.

She is survived by her children, Marsha Berson and her husband, Jerry of Longmeadow, Mass., and Jordan Auerbach of New York City; her granddaughter Marla (Stan) Sherrill of Charlotte, N.C.; and her grandson Marc (Izabel) Berson of Raleigh, N.C.; and three great-grandchildren, Max and Emma Sherrill and Ethan Berson. She was the sister of the late Sophie Bernstein, Sadie Brown, Paul Goldstein, Samuel Goldstein and Bella Stone.

She was a life member of Hadasah and a bookkeeper for many years in the Boston area. She relocated to Florida in the 1970s and lived in Tamarac until entering the Morse Geriatric Center in 2003.

Contributions may be made to Friends of Morse Life, 4847 Fred Gladstone Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33417.

Idelle Dress, 58

CRANSTON — Idelle Gail Dress of 69 Community Drive, Cranston, died June 28 at Rhode Island Hospital. Born in Providence and residing in Cranston for more than 30 years, she was the daughter of Joseph Dress of Virginia Beach, Va., formerly of Providence, and the late Frances (Malachowsky) Dress.

She graduated from Rhode Island College in 1972 and received her master's degree from Providence College; she was a special education teacher in the Providence school system for 30 years, retiring four years ago. She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Sisterhood and was a life member of Na' Amat.

She was the sister of Hy Dress of Virginia Beach, Va., Esta Karp of Cranston and Annette Dress of Warwick; the aunt of Robert Karp, Rachel Dress and Josh and Jeff Dress; and the great-aunt of Connor Dress.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02905.

Phyllis Farmelant, 66

PORTLAND, Maine — Phyllis Farmelant of Naples, Fla., died June 24 in Portland, Maine of complications caused by ovarian cancer. She was the wife of Dr.

Melvin H. Farmelant. She was born on April 17, 1943 in Portland, Maine to Pearl (Cohen) Gerber and the late Saul Gerber.

She was the sister of Stephanie Stern of Estero, Fla.; Jill Thaler of Cranston, and John Gerber of Portland, Maine. She leaves four sons, Marshall J. of Worcester, Mass., Stuart N. of Gaithersburg, Md., Scott D. of Melrose, Mass., and Matthew E. of Mesa, Ariz. She was married to Dr. Farmelant for almost 42 years.

She lived in Worcester, Mass. for more than 33 years, where she raised her family, created and operated a successful business called Phyllis' Handbags of Distinction, and founded Rachel's Table, a volunteer group that transports surplus prepared foods to more than 40 shelters, soup kitchens, and neighborhood pantries in central Massachusetts; this effort continues today. She worked with local volunteer physicians to ensure that medical providers had appropriate space and equipment to serve Worcester's homeless population.

In Worcester, she was twice elected president of the Temple Sinai auxiliary. Before her marriage, she received certification in both radiological and nuclear medicine

Obituaries

technology and worked as a technician at the University Hospital of Boston Medical Center. After relocating to Florida, she volunteered at the community hospital in several departments.

In addition to her husband and children, mother, and siblings, she is survived by her five grandchildren, Shayna R. Farmelant, Lily T. Farmelant, Maxwell M. Farmelant, Livi Byer, and Max Byer; her daughters-in-law Alison M. Mills, Kerrell Farmelant and Leah Beth Farmelant. She also leaves seven nieces and nephews, and their 12 children.

Contributions may be made to Rachel's Table, 633 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609.

Myra Goldberg, 82

FAIRFAX, Va. — Myra Suls Goldberg of Fairfax, Va., and formerly of Jacksonville, N.C., died July 7 at her residence. Born in Kingstree, S.C., she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Rose Goldstein Katzoff. She worked locally as a retail sales clerk.

She was preceded in death by her former husbands, Leonard Suls and Isadore Goldberg; her son, Richard Suls; and two sisters.

She is survived by her son, Samuel Suls and his wife, Sue of Pawtucket; her daughter, Rhonda Suls of Lorton, Va.; her sister, Vivian Kramer of Wallace, N.C.; and her three grandchildren, David Suls and his wife Jemma, Richard Suls and Rachel Suls.

Contributions may be made to the Richard A. Suls Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Coastal Carolina Community College, Attn: Collette Teachey, 444 Western Blvd., Jacksonville, NC 28546.

Doris Graubart

PROVIDENCE — Doris I. Graubart of Angell Street, Providence, and West Palm Beach, Fla., died July 1. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Myer and Rose (Feldman) Graubart.

She was a longtime member of the Ledgemont Country Club and Temple Beth-El. She was a fellow at Brandeis University, a supporter

of the Graubart/Irving Music Fund, and an active member of the Jewish Home for the Aged, the Arthritis Foundation, The Miriam Hospital and many other organizations.

Dr. Morris Keller, 91

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Morris Keller of Providence, died June 23. He was the husband of the late Rebecca (Danzig) Keller.

Born in Providence, on April 24, 1918, he was a son of the late Philip and Sarah (Rozen) Keller. He was an optometrist in East Providence for 68 years.

He is survived by his daughters, Shira Leeder, Hinda Farber and Deborah Moskowitz; 11 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. He was the brother of Harriet Chafetz and Nettie Polen, and the late Harry Keller.

Donations may be made to the Providence Hebrew Day School, Congregation Beth Shalom or the charity of your choice.

Eudine Laurans, 94

SOUTH DARTMOUTH, Mass. — Eudine "Deanie" Biren Laurans of Boca Raton, Fla., died on June 29, at the family's summer home at Salter's Point after a short illness. She was the wife of the late William George Laurans.

She was born in Philadelphia, the daughter of the late William and Anna (Odell) Biren. Her husband, who co-founded Laurans Standard Wholesale Grocery and Roger Williams Foods.

She held many leadership roles in organizations in the New Bedford, Mass. Jewish community and social scene during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

She and her husband were founding members of the Dartmouth Country Club.

In later years, she spent part of each year in Boca Raton, Fla.

She is survived by her daughter, Penelope Laurans Fitzgerald of New Haven, Conn., and her son, Scott Laurans and his wife, Monica of Palm Beach, Fla., Providence and South Dartmouth, Mass. She also leaves three grandchildren, Heather

Kolker, Maxwell Laurans and his wife, Monika, and Charles Laurans and his wife, Eleanor. She was predeceased by her daughter, Constance Kolker, and her two sisters, Sylvia Brick and Evelyn Salus.

Donations may be made to the Constance L. Kolker Fund, Office of Development, Hasbro Children's Hospital, 139 Point St., Providence, RI 02903.

Sylvia Penn, 83

PAWTUCKET — Sylvia Nachbar Penn of 364 Pawtucket Ave., Pawtucket, died on June 28. She was the wife of the late Raymond

Penn. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Nathan and Bessie (Aronds) Nachbar, she was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island. She was a member of Temple Beth-El.

She is survived by her children, Steven Penn and his wife, Judy of Novato, Calif., and Maureen Penn of Pawtucket; her brothers, Howard Nachbar of Cranston and Milton Nachbar of North Providence; her sister, Evelyn Rose of Highland Park, N.J.; and her granddaughter, Joanna. She was the sister of the late Leon, Isadore and Robert Nachbar.

Contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Rose Portney

CRANSTON — Rose D. Portney died July 11 in the Bethany Home, in Providence. She was the wife of the late Harry Portney. Born in Pawtucket, a daughter of the late Samuel and Dora (Matusow) Turick, she had lived in Cranston for 40 years. She was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

She was the mother of Howard Portney, Esq. and his wife, Suzanne of Woonsocket, and Sheila Eckoff of Boynton Beach, Fla.; the grandmother of David, Harvey, Adam, Kathleen, Jessica and Joshua; and great-grandmother of Michael, Lillian and Eli. She was the sister of the late Natalie Crovitz.

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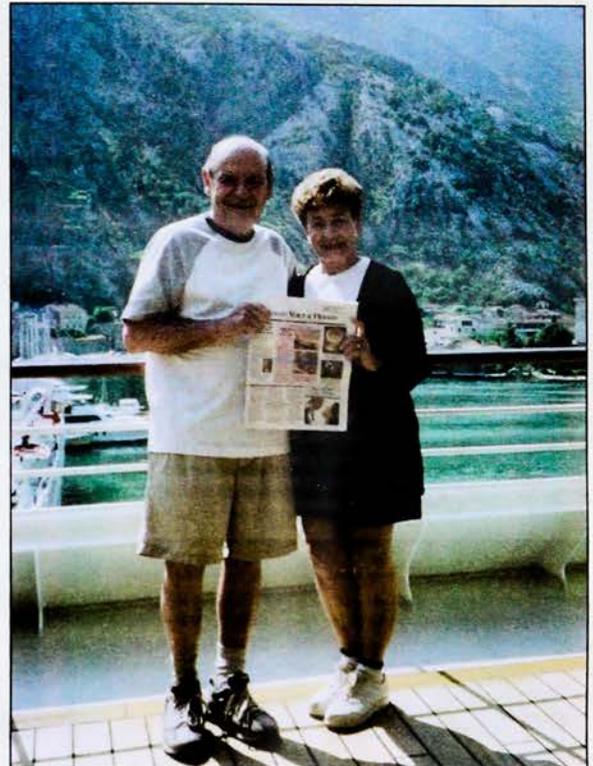
We Are Read

Where in the world will we go next?



Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

JONATHAN AND MARILYN GLANTZ, of Cranston, traveled to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic where, he wrote, many people read the newspaper, and liked it. They stayed at the Melia Caribe in Punta Cana. They will celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary on Aug. 30.



Deep seas cruise

IRWIN AND DOTTIE LEVY, of Providence, took a cruise in May to the Adriatic, Ionian and Mediterranean seas. They appear with *The Voice & Herald* at one of the ports - Kotor, Montenegro - they visited.



Diamond Head, Hawaii

A FAMILY VISIT TO DIAMOND HEAD in Hawaii brought together Louis Newman, Ira and Carla Silverman, Barbara Newman, Arlene Grosberg and Shandelle Kenler. Louis and Barbara read their copy of *The Voice & Herald* in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Ira and Carla read theirs in Harrisburg, Penn., and Shandelle reads hers in Pawtucket.



A Caribbean cruise celebrates 18 years of marriage

TOM AND IDA BROWN of Hopatcong, N.J., with their copy of *The Voice & Herald*, recently celebrated their *chai* anniversary on board Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas for a nine-day Caribbean cruise to Bermuda, St. Thomas, St. Maarten and San Juan. They wrote, "Looking forward to seeing us in a future issue - we enjoy reading every edition!"

The Voice & Herald "Family" Pages

Where do all things about the Jewish family converge?

ON the "Family Pages" in *The Voice & Herald* - the one-stop place for news, information and updates - from PJ Library events to Shalom Baby, from Mother's Circle to after-school activities, from educational classes to community updates and events. It will be chock full of photos, calendars, recipes, first-person stories and more.



"Family Pages" will be in *The Voice & Herald* five times a year, once every two months. "Family Pages" will run in the Aug. 7 issue of *The Voice & Herald*, the next issue will be Nov. 27.

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Anniversary

DOROTHY and **JOSEPH ACKERMAN** celebrated their 70th anniversary on June 4. Originally from Providence, they now live in Boca Raton, Fla. They celebrated the happy occasion with their children, Marshall Ackerman, Richard Ackerman and Phyllis Kochavi. Their niece, Rayna Pass, also joined in the festivities.

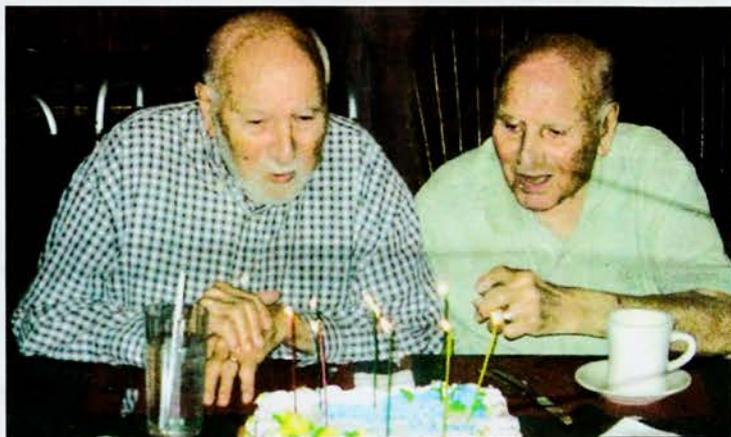
Birth

HARRISON GERTSACOV was born June 14, and weighed in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces. His parents, Marc and Susan Gertsacov, and his big sister, Anna, age 6, and Jackson, 3-and-1/2-years old, welcomed Harrison home to Cranston, as did his grandmother, Jaye Bloom, of Springfield, N.J. His other grandparents, Karel and Alan Gertsacov, from Cranston, and Bart Bloom, from Springfield, N.J., are deceased.



Bat mitzvah

JAMIE FRANCES RUBINSTEIN, the daughter of Randy and Benjie Rubenstein, became a *bat mitzvah* on May 2 at Ledgemont Country Club, during a *havdalah* service. For her *bat mitzvah* project, Jamie volunteered to make *hamantaschen* for American and Israeli soldiers.



Birthday Celebration

JERRY AND MOE COHEN, also known as "The Boyz from the Twin Florists," celebrated their 88th- and 9-month birthday) on June 10. Twenty-four members of their families celebrated with "the boyz." Jerry lives in Cranston with his wife, Bernice, and Moe lives at Atria Harbor Hill in East Greenwich.

Recognition

AVI NEVEL, president and owner of Nevel International, LLC., in Providence, was elected to the Board of Governors of the Jerusalem College of Engineering (JCE) in June. Nevel's involvement with the College has led to collaborations with Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Established in 1999, JCE is committed to educating students of engineering while providing them with hands-on training.

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 (300 dpi). For photo return enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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