The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

29 Elul 5769 | Vol. XI — Issue XIX | www.jvhri.org | September 18, 2009

L'Shanah Tovah
A Happy, Healthy and Sweet 5770

Community relations council acts globally and locally

Council works to heal the world: advocating for Israel, battling poverty and protecting our needy

BY MARTY COOPER
mcooper@jfri.org

As the Jewish New Year approaches, it is a good time to reflect upon what our state and national governments have accomplished in the past year, and what still needs to be done to help make our world a better place to live.

Marty Cooper

We elected a new president of the United States who believes in *tikkum olam*. The nation, under his leadership, was asked to support an economic stimulus

See LOBBYING, Page 10

Left, Sally Rotenberg, Faye Wisen and Hope Hirsch were among the women who attended one of the Home Sweet Home sessions.

Linda Hurvitz, chair of the United Jewish Communities' National Women's Philanthropy, spoke at Home Sweet Home.

Home Sweet Home

The Women's Alliance of JFRI's Home Sweet Home fundraising kick-off event for the 2010 annual campaign brought together dedicated, philanthropic women from around the state. Led by the team of Susan Leach DeBlasio, Women's Alliance Vice President Campaign; Faye Wisen, Women's Alliance Associate Vice President Campaign; and event co-chairs, Elaine Fain, Diane Ducoff and Alison Walter, the Tuesday, Sept. 15 event drew more than 75 women to the home of Judy Mann,. More information about Home Sweet Home will be forthcoming in future issues of *The Voice & Herald*.

Groups set to confront Ahmadinejad, U.S. agrees to talks

Protest rallies planned; sanctions legislation on the forefront

BY ERIC FINGERHUT
JTA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (JTA) – As they prepare to protest the appearance of Iran's president at the United Nations General Assembly, Jewish groups are working to decipher the impact of the Obama administration's decision to hold talks with the Islamic Republic.

Jewish organizations are gearing up for a massive protest rally Sept. 24 in New York, in response to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's scheduled U.N. address.

The "Stand For Freedom in Iran Rally" will demand not just an end to all uranium enrichment in Iran, but also will call for the "immediate cessation of human rights abuses," "freedom of assembly,

See NUCLEAR, Page 9

We remember – and celebrate the life of – Alan Zuckerman

Professor, columnist, family man, devout minyan-goer and Yankees fan will be missed

BY EZRA STIEGLITZ AND RICHARD SHEIN
Special to The Voice & Herald

THE UNTIMELY passing of Dr. Alan S. Zuckerman on Aug. 20 was a great loss to everyone who knew him – his family, his colleagues, his students and his many friends.

Alan's relentless energy made him a natural leader. A professor of political science and a former chair of the department at Brown University, Alan also served as a visiting professor and scholar at institutions of higher education in Israel, Italy and the United Kingdom. Alan authored many books and published numerous articles in leading political science journals.

He was a past president of Congregation Beth Sholom in Providence. Until his recent illness, Alan was a driving force in maintaining the daily *minyan* and was, in fact, the glue that held everybody in the synagogue together.

He was not one to walk away from commitment or shirk responsibility. Obligation and correctness were essential to what he was and how he lived. "Principle" was not just a word to Alan; it was his very essence.

Passionate about many causes, Alan was not afraid to speak or write about what he thought, even when it made others feel uncomfortable. Even surrounded by many staunch Red Sox fans, he remained an avid supporter of the New York Yankees.

As a regular and popular columnist for *The Voice & Herald*, he shared his point of view with the greater community. You could always count on Alan to present his honest feelings and opinions about any issue, regardless of the topic, whether it was the situation in Israel, day school education or local politics.

See ENERGY, Page 14

Courtesy/Zuckerman Family

Alan Zuckerman, Ph.D.

JERUSALEM JOURNAL

Ta'agad: The medics, paramedics and doctors who care for the injured

Medics face high-pressure, life-threatening situations

Daniel Stieglitz

When I was finished with my combat training, I wanted cus on my true passion of ng as a full-time combat ic. Therefore, I asked to my battalion's Ta'agad (Tachanat Isuf Gedudit – Battalion Collection Station).

Each battalion has its own Ta'agad that is staffed by any number of medics, paramedics, and doctors. trally located on a base, are within short driving ance of our battalion's other es so we can act as first ponders in an emergency. Each Ta'agad has several different functions. For instance, se who make up the Ta'agad n also staff the battalion's ic. Each day one of us acts he *chovesh toran* (the medic duty) that makes sure the ic is manned throughout the . The *chovesh toran's* duties ude various checks of the e, such as certifying that the hen staff is healthy and will contaminate the food due to ess.

Once this is completed, we check various spots around base, such as the water er and snack bar, to make e they meet the appropriahealth standards. We also ck the equipment in the ulance and clinic, and in medics' vests, to make sure are fully stocked with all the plies we may need to use at a ment's notice.

Throughout the day, soldiers t the clinic for a variety of ons: from a simple scrape iiring a Band-Aid, to a ere cut that requires disinion and a specific bandaging cess, and a sore throat that be treated with Acamol (the eli equivalent of Tylenol) or ver that requires immediate rral to the doctor.

Another role of the Ta'agad dics is to be on emergency d-by. This might last for eral days, and demands we are ready to move on a ment's notice. That means the medics can't undress or shower, as they don't know when they will be called on for those emergencies.

The Ta'agad medics sometimes face high-pressure aspects to the job. When infantry soldiers are sent into Arab territory to arrest known terrorists, members of the Ta'agad stay close by, in an armored ambulance, in case a soldier or terrorist is injured during the arrest.

One Shabbat, my fellow stand-by medics and I came to the aid of some soldiers who were moderately injured when their vehicle overturned during a standard patrol.

Though the majority of us were *shomer* Shabbat (Sabbath observant), we didn't hesitate to drive the ambulance, given that human lives were at stake. And so, we entered Arab territory in search of our injured friends.

One person complained of severe neck and back aches. We put him on the standard backboard and neck brace; once in the ambulance, we checked his blood pressure and alertness, and put him on an IV drip to return fluids to his body.

Once we were safely back in Israeli territory, the patient was moved to a regular ambulance, and from there he was brought to a hospital, where (I later learned) he made a complete recovery.

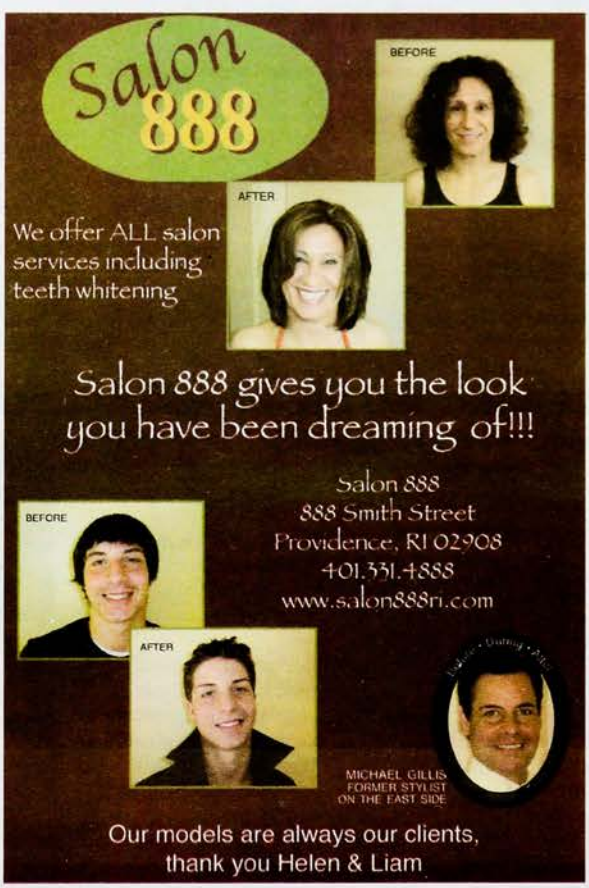
"When infantry soldiers are sent into Arab territory to arrest known terrorists, members of the Ta'agad stay in an armored ambulance, in case a soldier or terrorist is injured during the arrest."

Working in the Ta'agad allowed me to use my skills as a medic on a regular basis. My time in the Ta'agad was gratifying, fulfilling and rewarding. Whether I was treating a simple cut, helping a friend who required more complicated medical care, or serving on stand-by for any number of potential emergencies, I felt that I was genuinely making a positive difference, however large or small, in the lives of my fellow soldiers.

Daniel Stieglitz can be reached at dstieglitz@gmail.com.

Courtesy/Dani Stieglitz

STIEGLITZ, IN THE ARMORED ambulance with medics' vests on top of the gurney and neck braces on the side.



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

For Greater Rhode Island

Sept. 19	6:27
Sept. 26	7:05
Sept. 29	6:10
Sept. 30	7:13

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Making the lives of others better in a non-Jewish activity is not separate from our focus on *tikkun olam*."

Charles (Bud) Kahn, M.D.

Visit us on the web at www.JVHRI.org

TIKKUN OLAM AROUND THE WORLD

Saving Kenyan lives: One diabetic patient at a time

American doctor teaches, mentors and counsels Kenyans

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

With crime so rampant that people won't go out alone after dark, and HIV/AIDS infecting up to 20 percent of its population in some areas, Kenya is not your typical vacation destination.

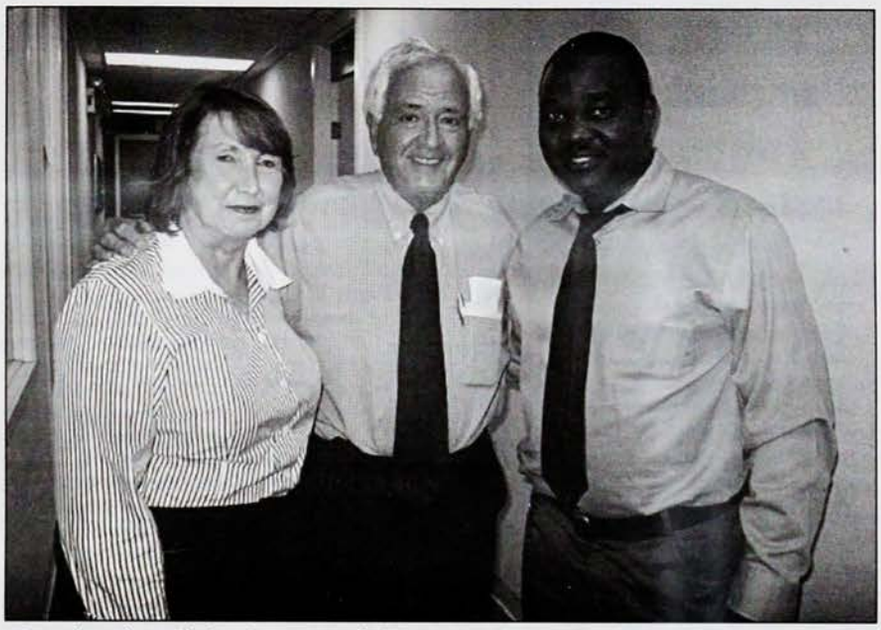
Why, then, would endocrinologist Charles (Bud) Kahn, M.D., and his wife, Sue, buy round-trip tickets to Kenya to live in a secure residential compound behind locked gates with guards not once, but three times, in the past several years?

"It's a big world out there, and people everywhere need help," said Kahn, age 71, who has helped, through the Brown Kenya Program, move diabetes care into the 21st century for Kenyan villagers.

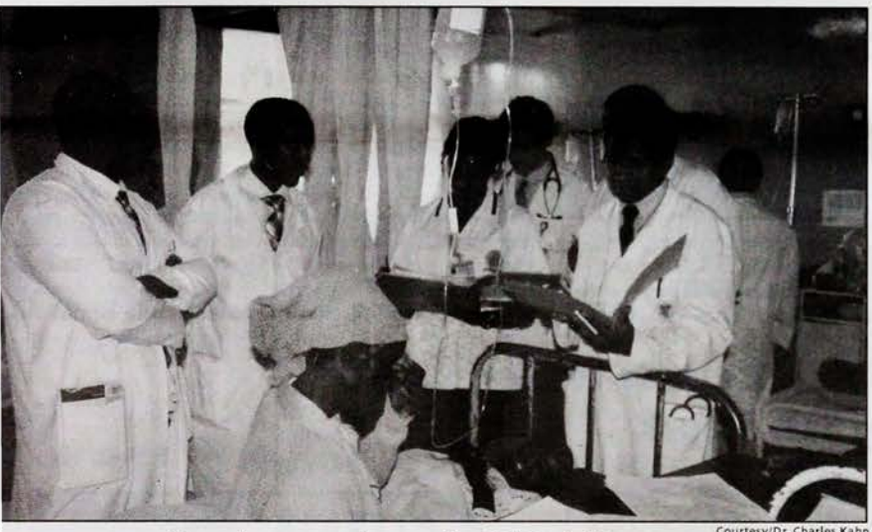
Established 21 years ago by Indiana University Medical School physicians, the program now includes physicians from sites around the country, including Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School, said Kahn.

In the midst of our health care "crisis," we might only imagine the health care challenges Kenyans face. With 34 million people, Kenya has two medical schools, though the government hopes to establish two more. In contrast, the U.S., with a population of some 300 million people, has more than 120 accredited medical schools.

Kahn teaches students, interns and residents on the wards, lectures and sees patients, in Rhode Island and Kenya, but under markedly different circumstances. In Kenya, more adults die of HIV/AIDS than of any other disease, while Kenyan children succumb to malaria.



Away from the medical environments of The Miriam and Moi Medical Center, Sue Kahn, Bud Kahn and Jared Nyikuli visited *The Voice & Herald*.



Courtesy/Dr. Charles Kahn

Kenyan doctors on patient rounds at Moi Medical Center.

Life expectancy for Kenyan males is 48 years, and the country's infant mortality rate is more than 2.5 times higher than that in the U.S.

"In a country where polygamy is legal," said Kahn, "we're working with village elders to protect, not shun, wives who have HIV/AIDS. We're trying to test everyone and teach prevention."

Up until a year or two ago, diabetes care in Kenya was 40 years behind that of care here. With contributions from The Miriam Hospital Medical Staff Association (for cartridges for a blood glucose measurement machine), Abbott Laboratories' donations of home testing equipment, and Eli Lilly's insulin donations, said Kahn, "our pilot group of 60 diabetic Kenyans made substantial improvements in managing their diabetes."

Sent home with cell phones,

See COUPLE, Page 11

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From the Interim Executive Editor

Thanks, but no thanks, to Twitter and instant analysis

By Nancy Kirsch
nkirsch@jfri.org

HAVE MEDIA outlets gone wild? August, when everyone with any savvy is on vacation, allegedly "off duty" and not paying attention, has come to a too-sudden close, yet the media nonsense seems to continue, unabated.

I'll admit to a certain bias against Tweeting, blogs and 30-second news loops, and a preference for thoughtful analysis and substantive research. In fact, I'll admit to a crankiness about Tweeting, blogs and other nonsensical "reporting," so I'll beg your indulgence in my complaints.

• As I write this on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 9, I am listening to WRNI and the pre-speech chatter before President Obama gives his health care address. Frankly, I'm already dreading the television commentators' post-speech analysis, always offered within nanoseconds of the speech's completion. Isn't "instant analysis" an oxymoron?

• And President Obama was promulgating propaganda when he delivered a "stay-in-school" speech? Clearly, I've failed as a parent - and as a good citizen - by allowing my highly susceptible children to listen to such dangerous drivel on Sept. 8, the first day of school for many students.

He said, in part, "At the end of the day, we can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents, the best schools in the world, and none of it will make a difference, none of it will matter, unless all of you fulfill your responsibilities, unless you show up to those schools, unless you pay attention to those teachers, unless you listen to your parents and grandparents and other adults, and put in the hard work it takes to succeed." Shocking, isn't it?

• Ad dollars are essential, but let's think before we sign up with just any advertiser. Harvard's student-run paper, *The Harvard Crimson*, recently ran an ad that questioned the existence of the Holocaust; that same ad had been previously rejected. It raised questions about then General Dwight D. Eisenhower's accounts of World War II and the existence of the Nazi gas chambers. The bad news, of course, is that the ad, submitted by Holocaust denier Bradley R. Smith and his Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, "fell

See ADVICE, Page 6

It Seems To Me

What's next? Envisioning the beyond

Author proposes whimsical and profound iterations of afterlife

Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives (Pantheon Books, 2009) is a small book crammed with big ideas. The author, David Eagleman, a young neurologist by day and writer by night, presents 40 alternative visions of an imagined afterlife. These vignettes, generally two to four pages in length, range from the comic to the tragic, from the whimsically profound to the profoundly whimsical.

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

The following three examples offer some sense of the flavor of Eagleman's writing: "When you arrive in the afterlife, you find that Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley sits on a throne…After some questions, you discover that God's favorite book is Shelley's *Frankenstein*." And another, "There are three deaths. The first is when the body ceases to function. The second is when the body is consigned to the grave. The third is that moment, sometime in the future, when your name is spoken for the last time." The last example, "In the afterlife you meet God. To your surprise and delight, She is like no God that humans have conceived."

Friends gave me Eagleman's *Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives* shortly after I turned 65 last June. They said in the accompanying birthday card that they found the book "very interesting" and looked forward to discussing the book with me.

There are, of course, many explanations as to why people find discussions about the afterlife "very interesting." Most obviously, we are all mortal; at some point it dawns on us that we will not be around forever, and out of some combination of dread and curiosity, we ask ourselves: "What's next?" As we age, the question of "What's next?" assumes greater urgency. Now that I carry in my wallet an official Medicare card, I need to come to terms with the obvious fact that my future – at least my earthly future – is far shorter than my past.

What's next? "What is the Jewish view of afterlife?" is a question addressed to me again and again in my role as rabbi. I usually respond with "Whatever you want to believe about the afterlife is found somewhere in our tradition;" and I am most definitely not being facetious.

To begin with, the prevailing view of our Tanakh, our Hebrew Bible, which reflects close to 2,000 years of our collective experience, is that we, as individuals, have no afterlife. Rather, we live on through our children and our children's children. This widely held conviction that our children are our immortality helps to explain the rather odd biblical institution of levirate marriage: if an Israelite man dies without leaving a son, the deceased man's surviving brother is required to marry the widow – even if he is already married – in order to perpetuate the dead man's name by fathering a surrogate son, (Deuteronomy 25.5-10). The world has come full circle; many people today understand their immortality to be the perpetuation of their DNA.

Approximately 2200 years ago, our sages began to develop the notion of an afterlife in which the "soul" survives the body's disintegration and, at the end of time, is reunited with the resurrected body. According to the developing rabbinical tradition of long ago, it is as resurrected individuals that we are ultimately subjected to God's final judgment – the righteous to Gan Eden and the wicked to Gehenna.

Some of our mystical traditions express a belief in Gilgul, which has affinities with the idea of reincarnation found in Eastern religions. In contrast to this notion of a very "real" cycle of birth-death-rebirth, other Jewish thinkers propose such forms of "symbolic" immortality as living on through our deeds.

As adults, for example, many of us carry powerful memories of our elementary school teachers who continue to influence our decisions, and who therefore continue to live through us, even though our cherished teachers may have died decades ago.

For a concise and clearly written discussion of Jewish views of afterlife, you might turn to *What Happens After I Die? Jewish Views of Life After Death* (UAHC Press, 1990) by Rabbis Rifat Soncino and Daniel B. Syme.

In vision number 37, Blueprints, of the afterlife, David Eagleman imagines that, when we die, "we are granted the ultimate gift of revelation: an opportunity to view the underlying code."

While no one can say for certain what lies beyond the grave, our vision of what's next does help us to determine what we most value in this life. Eagleman concludes from this particular thought experiment that the revelation of the underlying causal chain does not matter all that much; what really does matter to him is the pleasure of wine on the tongue, the sting of heartache, the intoxicating appeal of love here and now.

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg can be reached at rabbiemeritus@temple-habonim.org.

Letters to The Editor

Honoring Sam Stepak

THESE days, the media have been discussing the death of Edward Kennedy, a champion of human rights in the Senate. Although his praise is well deserved, let us not overlook our own local fallen hero, Sam Stepak. For those of you who never knew him, I must tell you that he never made the headlines.

He was a beloved member of the Temple Beth-El community. He led, not by a loud voice, but by example. A loving husband and father, he cared for his Judaism by caring about other people. He was a gentle man who showed concern for everyone around him.

I first met Sam years ago at Temple Beth-El services, when I was the mother of a young daughter who didn't always behave. Although some people didn't think Robin had a place at the temple, Sam encouraged her in any way he could. For years, I continued to bring Robin to services. Sam's kindness helped Robin along the road of Judaism.

Years later, Rabbi Sarah Mack married Robin and Ben, a nice Jewish boy from Stoughton. Robin and Ben have a wonderful son, Scott. My precious grandson is among the newest generation of American Jews.

Sam helped plant the seed for Robin and countless other young people he helped become b'nei mitzvah. They grew up to become active Jews of their own communities.

At *minyan* services, he made the bereaved feel comfortable during an uncomfortable time in their lives. I feel honored having known Sam and I will miss his caring presence. But most of all, I want to celebrate the life of a wonderful man.

Cindy Halpern
Warwick

Dry Bones HAPPY JEWISH NEW YEAR 2009 - 5770

DryBonesBlog.com

For more LETTERS see page 6

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

Rationality flies out the window on the 27th

God's presence is comforting, especially after the loss of one's parents

Josh Stein

The rational side of me, normally dominant, concedes that the other part exists, especially at this time of year.

As I write it's the 27th day of Elul, the penitential month preceding the High Holy Days. Each day in *shul* the normally staid services are punctuated with the shofar's blast. *Tekiah! Teruah! Tekiah-Gedola!* "Wake up, you sleepers, from your sleeping, and those of you who are in deep slumber, arouse yourselves from your slumber. And return to *Ha-shem!*"

The rational side of me says I'm not sleeping. I'm fully awake, aware, curious about my surroundings, exploring possibilities, but the other side, the normally dormant one looks forward to the opportunity to stop being rational. Do I really believe in my heart of hearts that there is a beneficent, though awe-inspiring grandfatherly figure in Heaven, sitting on his throne of thrones, a huge book in his hand, staring down to earth, to Providence, within the actual walls of my synagogue at me, judging *me*, gauging *my* sincerity of repentance, deciding whether to write *my* name in his Book of Life? *Me*, of all people?

Let me tell you of another irrational part of my being. I have a lucky number. I know, I know, how stupid can I get? (The answer, apparently, is "quite.") Today is my lucky number, 27. I was born on the 27th; my street address growing up in a loving household was 27-09; my father's office address was 207; I was married on my 27th birthday, therefore on the 27th. And all this month of Elul in shul we've been reading the 27th psalm. Surely this can't be coincidence. Let us parse (partially).

"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" I like that, don't you? It's like the closing words of the *Adon Olam* hymn, "*Adoni li, v'lo ee'rah.*" "God is with me, I fear no evil." It's a comforting thought as we wend our way through life's intricacies, facing challenges, and whether true or not, the irrationalist in me wants to believe it, so I do.

"Joshua is told to be strong and resolute, so in my self-centered view of the universe at this time of the year, I'm convinced the words apply to me, and my family, my friends, my students and my teachers."

Then, after elaborations on that theme, we come to: "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." That gives pause. My mother died 13 years ago, my father this past February. They did not forsake me, I know that. They did not betray me, I know that. If they could have stayed and continued their loving guidance, they would have, but death, which strikes without rhyme or reason and which blindsides us all, took them; I know that. Or, the rational person in me, the usually dominant one, knows that – but today we're concerned with the irrational half of our psyche, what Jung called the "anima."

And so, yes, I feel betrayed, but I don't know by whom – by them for leaving me, by nature for designing us to expire? But though they have left, though their deaths have suddenly made me an adult, it's comforting on the irrational level to think that there is another father/parent who is there to guide me. And finally there is this: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and resolute!" I particularly like that last verse. It's a take-off on Moses' instruction to his successor whose name I bear. Joshua is told to be strong and resolute, so in my self-centered view of the universe at this time of the year, I'm convinced the words apply to me, and through me to those I love – my family, my friends, my students and my teachers.

So, when I sit and stand in *shul* on Rosh Hashanah, which begins tonight, and when I repeat the exercise 10 days later on Yom Kippur, do I really, really do I really believe in my heart of hearts that there is a beneficent though awe-inspiring grandfatherly figure in Heaven, sitting on his throne of thrones, a huge book in his hand, staring down to earth, to Providence, within the actual walls of my synagogue at me, judging *me*, gauging *my* sincerity of repentance, deciding whether to write *my* name in his Book of Life? *Me*, of all people? You better believe I do. On those days, anyway.

L'shana Tova, haverim. I hope I've not offended any of you this year; if I have, I beg your forgiveness.

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

FIRST PERSON PLURAL

Praise and gratitude

Community support and sustenance makes all the difference during difficult times

Alan Krinsky

Usually, I write to challenge. Today I write to praise.

I spent most of my two-week summer vacation at the hospital bedside of my father, who underwent surgery to remove a kidney on one side, an adrenal gland on the other side, and the two cancerous tumors attached to them.

And I have to say it is a sad, horrible year when – relatively speaking – having operable cancer is good news; the surgery was a success and there are no plans for chemotherapy or radiation therapy. My synagogue, however, has lost at least four, dear, long-term members in the last year – Dr. Morris Keller, and Brown University professors David Gottlieb, Alan Zuckerman, and Edward Beiser – two of them to cancer, and the last three not even 70-years-old. It has been a difficult year for the congregation and so vastly much more so for the families. A number of other members have lost loved ones – a parent, a sibling, a nephew – from out of town, and other members of the congregation are ill and remain in our prayers.

But I want to speak of my experience at the Cleveland Clinic, one of the nation's top medical centers, where my father had his two-for-one surgery. I first must thank the Egyptian-born, non-Jewish doctor, Amr Fergany, who so expertly performed the more than seven-hour operation, including the removal of a kidney and tumor laparoscopically.

And as much gratitude as I have for the surgeon, I recognize that this is his chosen career. So I have at least as much gratitude for the dedicated volunteers of the Bikur Cholim Society in the Cleveland Jewish community, from where Providence Hebrew Day School Dean Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman hails, but where I have no family or connections. One phone call and arrangements were made.

My family and I stayed for a few days at a house set aside for patients and their families. In the hospital itself, there is a room stocked with all sorts of kosher food and both dairy and meat microwave ovens. Beyond this, fresh meals were prepared and delivered to the hospital daily for my mother and me. A pair of volunteers visited my father. People drove me to and from the hospital, and Shabbat hospitality was arranged for me.

"I was a stranger, and these people welcomed me and aided me, giving their time and energy and more. They by no means limit their assistance to Orthodox Jews or to Jews who keep kosher."

I was a stranger, and these people welcomed me and aided me, giving their time and energy and more. While one of their central goals is to provide kosher food where it would otherwise not be readily available, they by no means limit their assistance to Orthodox Jews or to Jews who keep kosher. I did not grow up in an Orthodox family, but the woman who arranged things for me was quite concerned that my parents not think that help was being offered to me alone.

The experience left me with these thoughts:

• Although the size of the Cleveland Jewish community allows it to provide so many resources, I also praise our local efforts; if on a smaller scale, our volunteers are no less dedicated.

• In a world where some Jews give a bad name to Judaism by engaging in criminal or at least questionable behavior, it is important to recognize the much less frequently noticed kindnesses done by so many more Jews.

• The work of the Cleveland Bikur Cholim Society demonstrates the connectedness of the Orthodox Jewish community, both within and across communities, and the willingness to help strangers. And although I cannot comment on other segments of the Jewish community (not knowing enough about their social networks), I do think there are in this country so many people who do not have such community or resources. My wife recently visited a former coworker who was gravely ill in the hospital, and she understood that he rarely had visitors, let alone an entire support network.

For this, for what I have, even in difficult times, I am grateful, especially as we begin a New Year. And as I have written before, British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks teaches us that the Jewish response to suffering is not to ask why, but rather to ask how should we respond? All of the selfless volunteers deserve our praise for their response. *Shanah Tovah!*

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

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

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God's presence is comforting, especially after the loss of one's parents

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The rational side of me, normally dominant, concedes that the other part exists, especially at this time of year.

As I write it's the 27th day of Elul, the penitential month preceding the High Holy Days. Each day in *shul* the normally staid services are punctuated with the shofar's blast. *Tekiah! Teruah! Tekiah-Gedola!* "Wake up, you sleepers, from your sleeping, and those of you who are in deep slumber, arouse yourselves from your slumber. And return to *Ha-shem!*"

The rational side of me says I'm not sleeping. I'm fully awake, aware, curious about my surroundings, exploring possibilities, but the other side, the normally dormant one looks forward to the opportunity to stop being rational. Do I really believe in my heart of hearts that there is a beneficent, though awe-inspiring grandfatherly figure in Heaven, sitting on his throne of thrones, a huge book in his hand, staring down to earth, to Providence, within the actual walls of my synagogue at me, judging *me*, gauging *my* sincerity of repentance, deciding whether to write *my* name in his Book of Life? *Me*, of all people?

Let me tell you of another irrational part of my being. I have a lucky number. I know, I know, how stupid can I get? (The answer, apparently, is "quite.") Today is my lucky number, 27. I was born on the 27th; my street address growing up in a loving household was 27-09; my father's office address was 207; I was married on my 27th birthday, therefore on the 27th. And all this month of Elul in shul we've been reading the 27th psalm. Surely this can't be coincidence. Let us parse (partially).

"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" I like that, don't you? It's like the closing words of the *Adon Olam* hymn, *"Adoni li, v'lo ee'rah."* "God is with me, I fear no evil." It's a comforting thought as we wend our way through life's intricacies, facing challenges, and whether true or not, the irrationalist in me wants to believe it, so I do.

"Joshua is told to be strong and resolute, so in my self-centered view of the universe at this time of the year, I'm convinced the words apply to me, and my family, my friends, my students and my teachers."

Then, after elaborations on that theme, we come to: "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." That gives pause. My mother died 13 years ago, my father this past February. They did not forsake me, I know that. They did not betray me, I know that. If they could have stayed and continued their loving guidance, they would have, but death, which strikes without rhyme or reason and which blindsides us all, took them; I know that. Or, the rational person in me, the usually dominant one, knows that – but today we're concerned with the irrational half of our psyche, what Jung called the "anima."

And so, yes, I feel betrayed, but I don't know by whom – by them for leaving me, by nature for designing us to expire? But though they have left, though their deaths have suddenly made me an adult, it's comforting on the irrational level to think that there is another father/parent who is there to guide me. And finally there is this: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and resolute!" I particularly like that last verse. It's a take-off on Moses' instruction to his successor whose name I bear. Joshua is told to be strong and resolute, so in my self-centered view of the universe at this time of the year, I'm convinced the words apply to me, and through me to those I love – my family, my friends, my students and my teachers.

So, when I sit and stand in *shul* on Rosh Hashanah, which begins tonight, and when I repeat the exercise 10 days later on Yom Kippur, do I really, really do I really believe in my heart of hearts that there is a beneficent though awe-inspiring grandfatherly figure in Heaven, sitting on his throne of thrones, a huge book in his hand, staring down to earth, to Providence, within the actual walls of my synagogue at me, judging *me*, gauging *my* sincerity of repentance, deciding whether to write *my* name in his Book of Life? *Me*, of all people? You better believe I do. On those days, anyway.

L'shana Tova, haverim. I hope I've not offended any of you this year; if I have, I beg your forgiveness.

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

FIRST PERSON PLURAL

Praise and gratitude

Community support and sustenance makes all the difference during difficult times

Alan Krinsky

Usually, I write to challenge. Today I write to praise.

I spent most of my two-week summer vacation at the hospital bedside of my father, who underwent surgery to remove a kidney on one side, an adrenal gland on the other side, and the two cancerous tumors attached to them.

And I have to say it is a sad, horrible year when – relatively speaking – having operable cancer is good news; the surgery was a success and there are no plans for chemotherapy or radiation therapy. My synagogue, however, has lost at least four, dear, long-term members in the last year – Dr. Morris Keller, and Brown University professors David Gottlieb, Alan Zuckerman, and Edward Beiser – two of them to cancer, and the last three not even 70-years-old. It has been a difficult year for the congregation and so vastly much more so for the families. A number of other members have lost loved ones – a parent, a sibling, a nephew – from out of town, and other members of the congregation are ill and remain in our prayers.

But I want to speak of my experience at the Cleveland Clinic, one of the nation's top medical centers, where my father had his two-for-one surgery. I first must thank the Egyptian-born, non-Jewish doctor, Amr Fergany, who so expertly performed the more than seven-hour operation, including the removal of a kidney and tumor laparoscopically.

"I was a stranger, and these people welcomed me and aided me, giving their time and energy and more. They by no means limit their assistance to Orthodox Jews or to Jews who keep kosher."

And as much gratitude as I have for the surgeon, I recognize that this is his chosen career. So I have at least as much gratitude for the dedicated volunteers of the Bikur Cholim Society in the Cleveland Jewish community, from where Providence Hebrew Day School Dean Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman hails, but where I have no family or connections. One phone call and arrangements were made.

My family and I stayed for a few days at a house set aside for patients and their families. In the hospital itself, there is a room stocked with all sorts of kosher food and both dairy and meat microwave ovens. Beyond this, fresh meals were prepared and delivered to the hospital daily for my mother and me. A pair of volunteers visited my father. People drove me to and from the hospital, and Shabbat hospitality was arranged for me.

I was a stranger, and these people welcomed me and aided me, giving their time and energy and more. While one of their central goals is to provide kosher food where it would otherwise not be readily available, they by no means limit their assistance to Orthodox Jews or to Jews who keep kosher. I did not grow up in an Orthodox family, but the woman who arranged things for me was quite concerned that my parents not think that help was being offered to me alone.

The experience left me with these thoughts:

• Although the size of the Cleveland Jewish community allows it to provide so many resources, I also praise our local efforts; if on a smaller scale, our volunteers are no less dedicated.

• In a world where some Jews give a bad name to Judaism by engaging in criminal or at least questionable behavior, it is important to recognize the much less frequently noticed kindnesses done by so many more Jews.

• The work of the Cleveland Bikur Cholim Society demonstrates the connectedness of the Orthodox Jewish community, both within and across communities, and the willingness to help strangers. And although I cannot comment on other segments of the Jewish community (not knowing enough about their social networks), I do think there are in this country so many people who do not have such community or resources. My wife recently visited a former coworker who was gravely ill in the hospital, and she understood that he rarely had visitors, let alone an entire support network.

For this, for what I have, even in difficult times, I am grateful, especially as we begin a New Year. And as I have written before, British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks teaches us that the Jewish response to suffering is not to ask why, but rather to ask how should we respond? All of the selfless volunteers deserve our praise for their response. *Shanah Tovah!*

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

VIEWPOINT

Benefits from past Lifespan affiliation may not continue under merger

Lose cardiac surgery and gain a new ER? It's not a fair trade

BY TERRY LIEBERMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

NO ONE THINKS that George Vecchione earns "big bucks" for stumbling around in the dark.

The president of Lifespan is obviously a man who has seen the light from the first rays of dawn. It would be hard to imagine that the move to combine The Miriam and Rhode Island hospitals was not made without an eye toward the massive restructuring of Interstate 95 and 195 with its bounty of newly available real estate. Brown University's plans to relocate its medical school and to add research facilities in the area near Rhode Island Hospital also make the time ripe for expansion.

"What our founders would not countenance is an attempt to build a new order at the expense and perhaps the ultimate demise of The Miriam Hospital."

Who among us would not rejoice at an inspirational plan to grow Rhode Island's economy in profitable new directions and provide lasting jobs in the fields of education, medical research and health care? Our founding mothers would love it! After all, these courageous women followed through with their dream to build a Jewish hospital in a time of overt religious prejudice and before women had gained the right to vote.

What our founders would not countenance, however, is an attempt to build a new order at the expense and perhaps the ultimate demise of The Miriam Hospital.

Right now, it looks like plans call for The Miriam to lose its cardiac surgery program to Rhode Island Hospital, which would, of course, result in overcrowded conditions and a great need for a new cardiovascular facility. Both hospitals have their strengths and weaknesses, and I am not qualified to venture an opinion here. But I do know that the economics of such a move would be chilling for The Miriam Hospital. So, I guess the question is: "What are we getting in return that would enable us to have a viable future?"

Some think that we will finally be offered a reconstructed emergency room (a sort of dish of carrots, if you will). Although the care at our ER is excellent because of our extraordinary doctors and nurses, an updated facility is something that the citizens of Providence have deserved for years. Coming as recompense for the loss of other hospital services, it would be too high a price to pay.

The situation has an orchestrated and political feel. Just a look at the current Lifespan board of directors reveals a glaring imbalance favoring Rhode Island Hospital. But let us give credit where it is due. Lifespan, the result of our consolidation with Rhode Island Hospital almost 15 years ago, is a great success under the helm of Mr. Vecchione. Besides offering more innovative medical care, it has offered better medical oversight, which is of paramount importance to our patients, doctors and nurses. Through Lifespan, we have come a long way. It would be unfortunate if we should have to go through an unnecessarily long process just so that we all can learn to speak more candidly to each other.

Terry Lieberman, of Barrington, is a former co-president of the Women's Association of The Miriam Hospital and a former hospital trustee.

She is editor of The Miriam Examiner, the newsletter which has been published by the Women's Association since 1955.

the pushke

Jockeying for power
they say we need
to streamline

In one
fell
swoop
Culture destroyed

One hundred years ago
little ladies went door
to door with *pushkes*
pennies saved to
build a hospital

Doors open to those
disenfranchised, alone
and sick

All Americans
now
pushkes forgotten
so too the mission

I say
we need to remember
else we repeat the pain
of the past

I say
streamline but do not destroy
carefully built dreams
that soared

I say
in the trenches each day
there are still the disenfranchised
the alone
and sick

They look for open doors
healing arms
pushkes
to place that one coin
in hope

we took an oath
we made
a promise

Rochelle Strenger, M.D.
Sharon, Mass.

History proves Miriam Hospital won't benefit from this merger

THE ARTICLE in *The Voice & Herald* (Sept. 4, "Changes in hospital leadership" by Nancy Kirsch) about the takeover of The Miriam Hospital and the comments by Fred Levinger, Elaine Fain, and Barbara Roberts were right on target.

It is wishful thinking that The Miriam will be able to retain its identity. It will become a satellite of Rhode Island Hospital; that's the reality, the rest is wishful thinking and whistling in the dark.

Promises? They will all fall into the same trash bin as were made at the beginning of this process back in 1994. I was present at the original meeting when it was announced that The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital would join in a "merger" and have equal representation on the Lifespan board. (See *Alice in Wonderland* for further fairytales)

I didn't believe it made sense then and voted against it because my fear than was that The Miriam would disappear as an independent hospital.

My feeling was there was no equality when one institution with almost a billion dollars in endowments could merge equally with another whose endowment might have been 10 percent of that figure.

There was talk of combining clinical departments, and other services. Well, it's been over 15 years and it never happened, why the rush now?

It's a sad day when an institution that was created by the Jewish community to help doctors secure a staff appointment at a hospital without regard to prejudice is about to disappear. Can you imagine this happening if we had leaders today like they had back then?

Marvin Greenberg
Riverside

ADVICE: to media, not everything is publication-worthy

From Page 4

through the cracks," as the *Crimson* staff said, and ran at all. The good news, though, is that the *Crimson* promptly took responsibility,

"We will work hard to avoid such lapses in communication in the future, and hope our readers will accept that yesterday's error was a logistical failure and not a philosophical one," wrote *Crimson* President Maxwell L. Child.

• Twitter? I don't need to know - and certainly don't care – that Nancy Pelosi changed from her daytime attire (a gray pantsuit) to something different (ravishing in red), for the joint session of Congress yet Tweets informing me of such appear, unbidden, on my Mac's CNN Web site.

And, frankly, hearing about Twitter and surgery in the same sentence gives me a stomachache. Maybe I'm narcissistic, but I'd prefer everyone in the operating room pay attention to me, me, me - not a BlackBerry or an iPhone.

• There is, I realize, one advantage to all the nonsensical allegations that the various health care reform initiatives propounded by President Obama and other Democrats included "death panels" for the infirm elderly.

The advantage? I haven't heard much, thank God, from the "birthers" who dispute Barack Obama's constitutional right to hold the office of the president of the United States.

Are you cranky, yet? If *The Voice & Herald* makes you cranky, let me know! I promise I won't Twitter about it, but we'll do our best to address the problem.

The Voice & Herald **welcomes letters from our readers.**

Send letters (no more than 250 words, please) to voiceherald@jfri.org or *The Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

Letters must be signed and may be edited for content and length.

VIEWPOINT

This Rosh Hashanah, a prayer for Israel's security

Media's anti-Israel bias is troublesome

BY DINA MIZRAHI
Special to The Voice & Herald

AS I BEGIN the New Year with the usual prayer for peace in Israel, I decided to take a more active role and write a series of commentaries on the situation in the Middle East.

I am astonished by how many opinionated people are unaware of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, their thoughts based solely on the reporting of an international media with a strong anti-Israel bias. Therefore, I decided to start with a little historical perspective.

Contrary to popular belief, the land of Israel was not given to the Jews as reparation for the Holocaust after World War II. The Jewish legal claim to Palestine was established at the conclusion of World War I.

The peace settlement, drawn up by the principal Allied Powers, gave the bulk of the lands of the Turkish Empire to the Arabs, and all of Palestine, on both sides of the Jordan River, to the Jewish people for the establishment of a national homeland. Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, contained in the Treaty of Versailles, established the Mandate of Palestine. At the San Remo Peace Conference of April 24, 1920, the principal Allied Powers charged Great Britain, the Mandatory or Trustee of the Mandate, with the responsibility of establishing a national homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine.

The boundaries, set forth by the Franco-British Boundary Convention of Dec. 23, 1920, incorporated what is today Jordan and Israel, including Judea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan. Delays, misinterpretations and illegal amendments led to the exclusion of the Golan and the separation of what is now Jordan. The state of Jordan, which comprises 78 percent of the land predestined to become the Jewish homeland, is an Arab state with no legal status. The British, who ruled the remaining territories, sabotaged the intent of the San Remo Resolution by allowing Arab immigration and refusing Jews entry into Palestine.

Had the British properly executed their duty as Mandatory of the Jewish homeland, the loss of Jewish life during the Holocaust would have been greatly reduced.

"Fabricated Arab claims to the Jewish national homeland pose an existential threat to the one and only homeland of the Jewish people and are contrary to international law."

Instead, the British so distorted the Jewish rights to Palestine that the issue was sent to the newly created United Nations. Though it had no legal authority to do so, the U.N. voted to partition what was left of Palestine.

When the Jewish state came into existence on May 14, 1948, Israeli forces controlled only some of the territory of Palestine. The rest remained under illegal Arab occupation.

Arab attempts to destroy the new Jewish state of Israel created hundreds of thousands of Arab and Jewish refugees. While the number of Jewish refugees greatly exceeded the number of Arab refugees, the world largely ignored them. Instead, there has been an obsessive focus on the Arab refugees.

The cease-fire of 1948 left the territories of Judea and Samaria under Jordanian control and Gaza under Egyptian control. The Arab world refused to absorb the few hundred thousand Arab refugees. Instead, Jordan and Egypt created refugee camps in the territories they illegally occupied, leaving the Arab refugees to fester so that in the future, they could be used as a weapon against Israel.

In 1967, after the third attempt by the Arabs to annihilate the Jewish state, Israel took back control of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, territories belonging to the Jewish state according to international law. The Jews, forced out in 1948, returned to re-establish their cities and towns. Shortly after 1967, the term "Palestinian," referring to the Arabs of the area, began to take hold, along with the myth of a Palestinian people with rights to the Jewish homeland. Before that, Palestinians and Palestine referred to the Jews and their homeland.

Fabricated Arab claims to the Jewish national homeland pose an existential threat to the one and only homeland of the Jewish people and are contrary to international law. Illegal U.N. resolutions to appease the Arabs cannot replace authentic international law: the San Remo Resolution, the Mandate, and the Franco-British convention.

It is my sincere hope this Rosh Hashanah that the Jews of the world will recognize this latest attempt at annihilation and unite to save the state of Israel.

Dina Mizrahi is a doctor of naturopathy and a refugee of the Arab-Israeli conflict. She can be contacted at dmizrahi@cox.net.

Choose civility, reject hostile behaviors

Relationships can improve with personal accountability

BY ERICA BROWN

ROCKVILLE, Md. (JTA) – Having shepherded hundreds of people through Jewish leadership workshops, I am asked frequently why we don't have better, more competent Jewish leaders, lay and professional, in our institutions.

My answer: We don't deserve them.

It's often said that people get the leaders they deserve. Because we have made it so hard to lead, good people often don't get involved. They reserve their precious time for institutional affiliations that will not become mired down in vitriolic arguments, uncivil debates, name-calling and negativity. As Jews, we're not always good followers.

At a regional conference for Jewish communal professionals a few months ago, I asked a room of 200 people by a show of hands how many of them had experienced an egregiously hostile encounter with a layperson over the course of the past year. From where I was standing, it looked as if everyone in the room had a hand raised.

So I changed the question: "Has anyone in this room not had an egregiously hostile encounter with a lay leader this past year?" One person raised a hand. I asked him to stand up so that we could all congratulate him.

It's not only the lay-professional relationship that is suffering. Internal work cultures can also become acidic. Sadly, we've created atmospheres of incivility where it becomes very hard for leaders to lead.

It's not only their failure; it's also ours. We've created a consumer-savvy culture where, if we don't like something, we take it back, return it or exchange it. And it has spilled over into our interactions on other levels.

Listen to people in an institution complain: "If you don't get rid of this teacher, I'm pulling my kid from this school." Or, "I don't like this program. I'm revoking my membership." Consumers do that. Stakeholders don't.

When things go wrong and we see leaders as the sole owners of our Jewish institutions, they become an easy target. But if we all saw ourselves as owners, investors and stakeholders in institutions, problems no longer belong to someone else. They belong to us. We each become more personally accountable.

"We lovingly own this enterprise called Jewish life. We can't give it up or give it back or exchange it. We can, however, do a lot to dignify it."

And we become more civil in the process because we understand up close how hard it is to navigate politics thoughtfully. It's difficult to move people out of their comfort zone but, as one leadership guru says, resistance is information. People naturally push back when leaders push them.

People should push back if change is authentic and the environments we create are diverse and tolerant. The question is not one of quashing resistance; it's *how* we push back that has become the problem. We don't need to say everything that we think. We need to teach ourselves what not to say in order to challenge leaders without humiliating them. When they feel denigrated, we all lose.

The medieval Spanish poet Solomon Ibn Gabirol is attributed with the following aphorism: "In seeking wisdom, the first step is silence, the second, listening, the third, remembering, the fourth, practicing, the fifth teaching others."

If we were able to apply this five-step process, we could create a sea change in leadership and followship cultures. Silence and listening would force us to hear the pain of leaders who just want out. We need to hear others and hear ourselves when we've gotten out of line, when we need to apologize and when we just need to stop interrupting.

If we are able to remember and practice that which we know has worked historically, we could use more sane and civil methods of achieving our goals.

Lastly, Ibn Gabirol has asked us to become teachers. We all can be teachers of civility. When we are spoken to badly, we must create educable moments and let people know that we can't hear them when we are addressed in a way that is beneath our dignity, no matter who we are or where they stand in an organizational culture.

We need to affirm that Jewish institutional life is about creating warm, nurturing and welcoming environments, and that we have a zero-tolerance policy to the use of any language that goes against the ethos of our Jewish values.

We lovingly own this enterprise called Jewish life. We can't give it up or give it back or exchange it. We can, however, do a lot to dignify it.

Erica Brown is the director of adult education for the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, which serves as a catalyst for lifelong learning and identity-building experiences in the Greater Washington area.

FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Autumn's shorter days summon us to *Torah*, *teshuvah* and *tzedakah*

Pursuing tzedek – *justice – is a life-long mission*

DORIS FEINBERG

The year 5770 is upon us. At this time of year, as the leaves on the trees start to change color, the afternoon sun hangs lower in the sky and the evenings grow cooler, we begin to reflect. Coming as it does during the seasonal change of autumn, our New Year observance brings with it a sense of newness and possibility, but also a bit of wistfulness. What mistakes did we make in the past year that we might have avoided? How can we do it differently next time? Will we?

Doris Feinberg

In the Torah, the instructions for observing the New Year are brief. We are commanded only to abstain from work, make a burnt offering and to hear the sound of the shofar – the ram's horn that reminds us of the binding of Isaac and of the ram that was sacrificed in his place. It is essential for each of us to hear the shofar, that ringing call that compels us to pay attention to the obligations of Jewish life: Torah, teshuvah and tzedakah.

Teshuvah is what we strive for during the Days of Awe: rigorous soul-searching, sincere repentance and the humble asking of forgiveness from both God and any people close to us whom we may have hurt during the year. Torah we know – it is the commitment to lifelong Jewish learning.

But what of tzedakah? What is our obligation there? Tzedakah is not just about charity. It originates with the Hebrew word tzedek, or justice. We aren't obligated just to make donations to right the world's wrongs, but to strive for justice itself, restoring wholeness and balance to the world.

"In 5770, let us not lose sight of our sacred obligation to our people and to the pursuit of *tzedek*. It is difficult work."

This is what we try to do through the work of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. The Federation is a means to an end we may never see, but one we are nevertheless compelled to work for: feeding the hungry, assisting those in need of help, educating those who wish to learn. Our most impactful mission is simple: to take care of the most vulnerable among us.

Because of the Federation's work in collecting contributions from the community and distributing them according to the areas of greatest need, people here, in Israel and in remote areas of this world have food to eat, help finding a job, places to live, opportunities for Jewish learning and many other kinds of quiet, yet life-sustaining, support. This assistance is real, not theoretical. Because of the Federation's work, our young people have the chance to study in Israel, our children have excellent Jewish schools to attend, our lonely seniors find communal comfort during the day and at holiday times, and our neighbors who are out of work have assistance in seeking employment.

There are many of us, both lay people and professionals, involved in this work, and every one of us is passionate about pursuing tzedek in our own efforts. At times that passion can lead us to lose sight of the value of our collective work, because we focus so intently on the pieces to which we feel most connected.

This New Year is a chance to adjust our vision and look at new ways to do what we do better, more efficiently and more collaboratively. We are responsible for every single community dollar we spend, and we must organize our whole venture in the way that will give us the most value for every one of those dollars.

In 5770, let us not lose sight of our sacred obligation to our people and to the pursuit of tzedek. It is difficult work. Only by working together can we succeed.

May our entire community and all the Jewish people be inscribed for a good and sweet year.

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

A conversation with Phil Greenberg, a dedicated community volunteer

Warwick resident, whose father was his role model, serves up mitzvot

BY ETHAN ADLER
Special to The Voice & Herald

At lunch, I asked Phil Greenberg of Warwick what drives him to volunteer. After all, he had a very busy 'earlier' life.

Born in Rhode Island, and a graduate of Hope High School, he often helped out in his dad's Turkish bath/*mikvah*. He then served in Korea, and worked very hard to make a name for himself in several industries, including retail management, and plumbing and hardware. Even heart surgery did not slow him down. Now, retired, after raising two wonderful daughters with his wife, and enjoying four grandchildren, it might seem that it was time to rest and relax. Resting and relaxing aren't in Phil's lexicon.

"I love doing it," he says with a wide grin. "I want to do a *mitzvah*." So what is it that Phil does? Well, he is a "volunteer extraordinaire," to say the least. At Temple Torat Yisrael, he serves on several committees and has been a "helpful fixture" for many years.

He has been delivering Meals on Wheels for nearly 10 years. "I look forward to those deliveries," Phil says, who understands how lonely people can get. He finds he gets at least as much from his visits to homebound seniors as they do.

Phil also belongs to Chessed Shel Emes, an organization that cares for the cemetery at Lincoln Park. His memberships also include the Jewish War Veterans, Touro Fraternal Association, South Providence Hebrew Free Loan and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Phil also volunteers as a CHAVER visitor, representing Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island. He also serves as a site captain for the new kosher food pantry, The Full Plate, in Providence.

Throughout the years, Phil has touched many lives. Many years ago, he'd hired a 17-year-old who became highly successful and, later, hired Phil. Such are the connections that Phil continues to make, as he goes about his business of daily volunteerism.

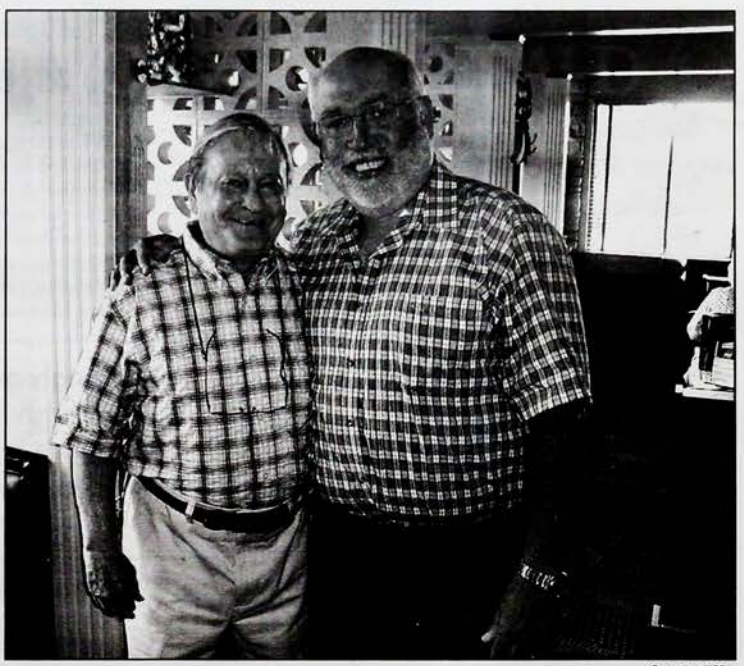
"Even if I am tired, this gives me energy. I'm never too tired to help out."
Phil Greenberg

He's a busy man, indeed, so I asked him, "Do you ever get tired of all these obligations?"

Without hesitation, he said, "Even if I am tired, this gives me energy. I'm never too tired to help out."

After lunch, he shows me a yellowed copy of the old *Jewish Voice*, from the early 1960s. The story is about his dad, Max Greenberg, who was quite a volunteer himself, giving his time to the Vaad Hakashrut (the organization that supervises kosher facilities in Rhode Island), the Chevrah Kaddisha (the volunteers who help prepare a body for burial), Chessed Shel Emmes, and others. Putting the article aside, Phil wipes at his tear-filled eyes. "I'm so glad to take after my father, he was the greatest."

I agree, adding, "And you're not so bad yourself!"



Phil Greenberg, left, and Ethan Adler

Courtesy/JERI

Ethan Adler is the assistant director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency.

Explore volunteer opportunities in the Jewish community, and get involved by contacting Wendy Joering, Jewish Volunteer Connection Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, at 421-4111, or wjoering@JFRI.org.

JERI is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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Pursuing tzedek – *justice – is a life-long mission*

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There are many of us, both lay people and professionals, involved in this work, and every one of us is passionate about pursuing tzedek in our own efforts. At times that passion can lead us to lose sight of the value of our collective work, because we focus so intently on the pieces to which we feel most connected.

This New Year is a chance to adjust our vision and look at new ways to do what we do better, more efficiently and more collaboratively. We are responsible for every single community dollar we spend, and we must organize our whole venture in the way that will give us the most value for every one of those dollars.

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A conversation with Phil Greenberg, a dedicated community volunteer

Warwick resident, whose father was his role model, serves up mitzvot

BY ETHAN ADLER
Special to The Voice & Herald

At lunch, I asked Phil Greenberg of Warwick what drives him to volunteer. After all, he had a very busy 'earlier' life.

Born in Rhode Island, and a graduate of Hope High School, he often helped out in his dad's Turkish bath/*mikvah*. He then served in Korea, and worked very hard to make a name for himself in several industries, including retail management, and plumbing and hardware. Even heart surgery did not slow him down. Now, retired, after raising two wonderful daughters with his wife, and enjoying four grandchildren, it might seem that it was time to rest and relax. Resting and relaxing aren't in Phil's lexicon.

"I love doing it," he says with a wide grin. "I want to do a *mitzvah*."

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"Even if I am tired, this gives me energy. I'm never too tired to help out."
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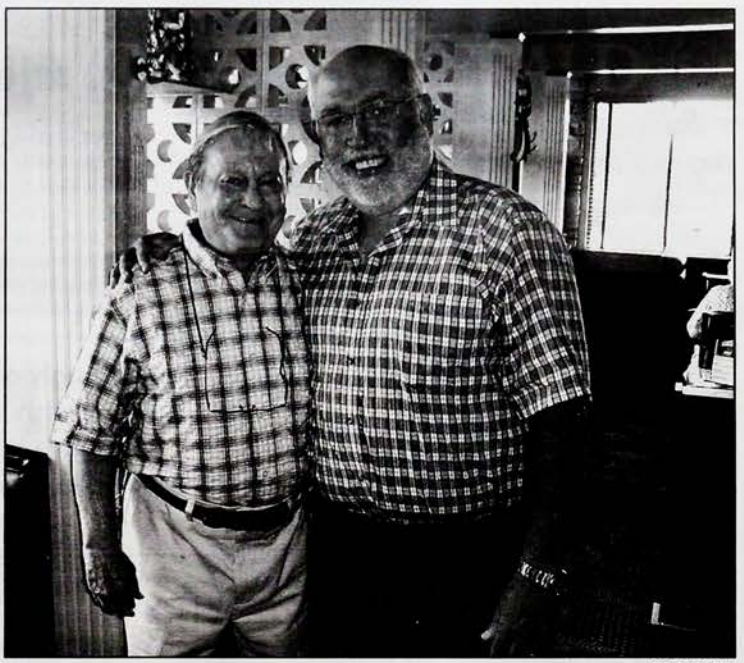

Phil Greenberg, left, and Ethan Adler

Courtesy/JERI

Ethan Adler is the assistant director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency.

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JERI is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Autumn's shorter days summon us to *Torah*, *teshuvah* and *tzedakah*

Pursuing tzedek – *justice – is a life-long mission*

DORIS FEINBERG

The year 5770 is upon us. At this time of year, as the leaves on the trees start to change color, the afternoon sun hangs lower in the sky and the evenings grow cooler, we begin to reflect. Coming as it does during the seasonal change of autumn, our New Year observance brings with it a sense of newness and possibility, but also a bit of wistfulness. What mistakes did we make in the past year that we might have avoided? How can we do it differently next time? Will we?

Doris Feinberg

In the Torah, the instructions for observing the New Year are brief. We are commanded only to abstain from work, make a burnt offering and to hear the sound of the shofar – the ram's horn that reminds us of the binding of Isaac and of the ram that was sacrificed in his place. It is essential for each of us to hear the shofar, that ringing call that compels us to pay attention to the obligations of Jewish life: Torah, teshuvah and tzedakah.

Teshuvah is what we strive for during the Days of Awe: rigorous soul-searching, sincere repentance and the humble asking of forgiveness from both God and any people close to us whom we may have hurt during the year. Torah we know – it is the commitment to lifelong Jewish learning.

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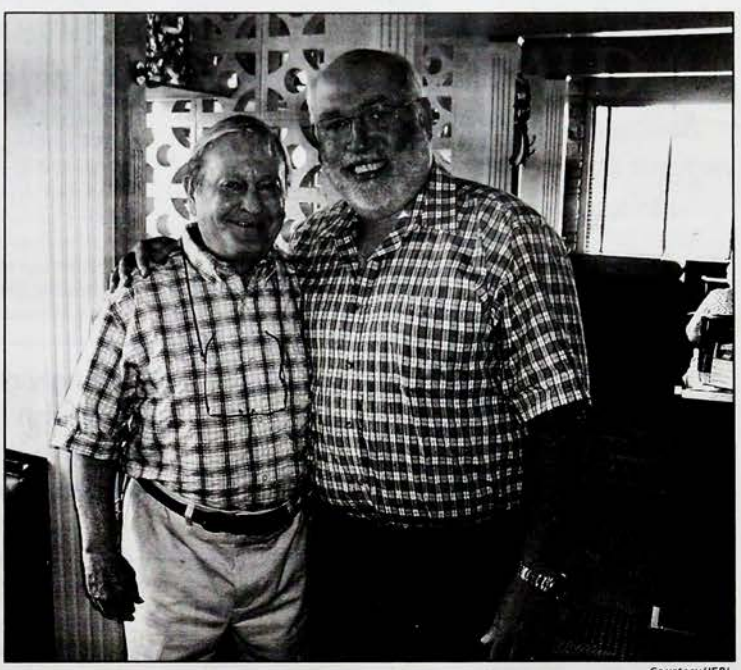

Phil Greenberg, left, and Ethan Adler Courtesy/JERI

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NUCLEAR: weapons 'nyet' for Iran

From Page 1

freedom of expression and freedom of the press" in the Islamic Republic. It also will seek the prosecution of those responsible for the killing of Neda Agha-Soltan, whose death while protesting the June elections was seen around the world.

Smaller rallies in other cities across the United States –including Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington – are also planned.

Organizers are emphasizing that the rally is not just a Jewish event, but includes a variety of sponsors – including labor unions such as the American Federation of Teachers and the New York City Central Labor Council: the AFL-CIO, and minority groups like the NAACP New York Conference and the National Puerto Rican Coalition.

The planned rally comes on the heels of a lobbying trip to Washington last week by Jewish communal leaders from across the country urging lawmakers to pass tougher anti-Iranian sanctions.

During the Sept. 10 lobbying day, Jewish leaders were buoyed by their meeting with Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.), chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, who told them that he planned to move forward in October with tough sanctions legislation.

They also met with two Obama administration officials, White House adviser Dennis Ross and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns, who stressed the White House's commitment to stopping Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and did not voice any objections to a congressional push for new sanctions.

The next day, however, the United States announced that it would accept a vague offer by Iran to open talks – an offer that did not even make mention of the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

Some administration officials have portrayed the decision as essentially a final opportunity for Iran to enter into serious discussions about halting its development of nuclear weapons. The discussions won't last long, they say, if Iran insists on avoiding the issue.

According to this view, engaging in talks will demonstrate to those in the international community that are skeptical of ratcheting up sanctions, such as the Russians, that the U. S. is willing to make every effort possible to engage – even though there is little optimism that the talks will lead to progress.

"Most Jewish organizations steered clear of directly criticizing the U.S. decision to enter talks but pledged to continue their push for new sanctions."

The talks between Iran and the P5 plus 1 – the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, China and Germany – are scheduled for Oct. 1, with the Obama administration planning to dispatch Burns.

Most Jewish organizations steered clear of directly criticizing the U.S. decision to enter talks but pledged to continue their push for new sanctions.

J Street and Americans of Peace Now have criticized the sanctions strategy, saying it would undermine the Obama administration's diplomatic efforts. Other Jewish groups, observers and some congressional sources counter that it will strengthen America's hand in any talks.

JTA also has learned that Israel is urging the United States to pursue sanctions as an accompaniment to dialogue.

Iran's rambling five-page response to the U.S. offer talked about its readiness to negotiate on a litany of issues, but never mentioned its own nuclear program.

It singled out the Palestinian issue, stating that "joint efforts and interactions to help the people of Palestine draw a comprehensive, democratic and equitable plan to help the people of Palestine to achieve all-embracing peace, lasting security and to secure their fundamental rights could be good examples of these cooperative relations."

Obama administration officials have said that while the Iranians may not have mentioned their nuclear program in their statement, the United States will be talking to them about it on Oct. 1.

In a meeting Tuesday with leaders of the Orthodox Union, Ross said that the United States would use the Iranian proposal to test and push. Ross insisted that the U.S. would be looking for a "change in behavior" by Iran.

The administration has not taken a public position on the Berman-sponsored Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which would sanction companies that help Iran to import or produce refined petroleum.

Patrick Clawson, deputy director of research and an Iran expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said he saw the legislation as something with which the administration would not have a problem because it does not tie the hands of the president but gives him the authority to choose when sanctions would go into effect. In addition, he said, the measure provides the president several options.

Clawson is among those who see little reason to expect a breakthough when Iran sits down with the six world powers.

"My assumption," he said, is that the Iranians will be "entirely unresponsive" and "everyone will walk out disappointed." But Clawson said the meeting will help to build a case for sanctions in the international community.

PJ Library sponsors community quilt and Hanukkah concert

Kol Echad: 'All One Voice' is project's theme

By Nicole Katzman
nkatzman@bjeri.org

The PJ Library, a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) and Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, is sponsoring an exciting community project, a quilt project called Kol Echad, or "All One Voice." The idea for the quilt and associated concert were developed in a brainstorming session with the Jewish Community Day School, Providence Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI).

Two felt quilts will be created from squares designed and created by children in the community. The quilt squares will represent each child's interpretation of what it means to be Jewish. Community volunteers will sew the squares together, and the quilts will be displayed at the JCCRI before traveling to various locations throughout the state. Each participating agency, school and synagogue will also have a quilt square.

In addition to providing materials to schools and synagogues, the PJ Library and the BJE will hold two quilting bees at the BJE Creativity Center on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m.

In conjunction with the quilts, a community Hanukkah concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, featuring performances by students in our community's schools. In concert with the Kol Echad theme, students from different schools will learn and rehearse the same music for the performance. Rabbi David Paskin, a songwriter and musician from Canton, Mass., will lead the students at this community holiday celebration.

The Kol Echad Quilting Bees are open to all families in the community, but space is limited. Please RSVP to Nicole Katzman at 331-0956, ext. 180 or nkatzman@bjeri.org.

Nicole Katzman is the director of PJ Library and Shalom Baby.

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LOBBYING: General Assembly and national political leaders pays off

From Page 1

plan that required a lot of faith in our system. Members of the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, with support from the United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Council of Public Affairs, went twice to our nation's capital as advocates for the plan. Both times, we met with Rhode Island's congressional delegation to voice our concerns. We also heard from leaders in the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives who supported the legislation.

Members of the CRC reminded the Rhode Island delegation that our state, in economic chaos, desperately needed federal assistance. We urged action on several legislative initiatives affecting our senior citizen population. They included the Community Innovations for Aging in Place Program, low income housing for seniors and people with disabilities and the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for the Medicaid program. As the fastest aging demographic, according to Jonathan Westin, assistant director of legislative affairs of the United Jewish Communities, the Jewish community might find senior citizen issues of special import..

Members of the CRC lobbied our congressional delegation to

Senator Jack Reed

swiftly enact legislation addressing breast cancer education (Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Act), and expanding low-income housing opportunities for low-income individuals with disabilities (Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009).

And, on the international front, Israel was a focus of concern, especially given its battles with terrorists in Gaza. At the community service for peace held at Temple Emanu-El in January 2009, our entire congressional delegation issued strong statements of support for Israel.

In other forums, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse spoke movingly about his visit to Israel and reiterated his support for the country.

Here at home, in Rhode Island, the CRC was a strong and frequent advocate for the unemployed and for those living at or near the poverty line. In January 2009, with an unemployment rate of more than 10 percent in the state, Rhode Island ranked third in the nation, just behind South Carolina , according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. By July 2009, the state's unemployment rate was 12.7 percent, outpaced by only three metropolitan markets (Detroit, Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif , and Las Vegas) had higher unemployment rates than Providence, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

As a founding member of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Fight Poverty With Faith, members of the CRC made frequent visits to Smith Hill to fight against additional budget cuts that would affect the poor. The results were positively astounding. The General Assembly delayed the imposition of the new 24- month time limits by one year and, as a result, ensured that 2,146 parents and children wouldn't lose their cash assistance benefits. The RIte Care health insurance coverage for lawfully residing immigrant children was restored, and $2.5 million was allocated for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program for affordable housing. In addition, $800,000 was restored for the Head Start program.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

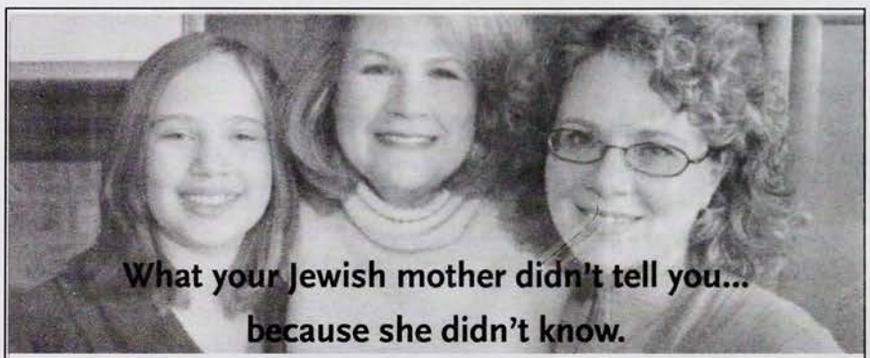
"The CRC will continue to be actively engaged in issues affecting the Jewish community around the state and worldwide: healthcare reform, green technology jobs, assistance for senior citizens and security – both at home and abroad."

The CRC advocated for Israel with the Rhode Island General Assembly. We had resolutions commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day and Israel's 61st anniversary. The CRC also began lobbying the state to maintain its "no investments in Iran" commitment, as a way to encourage Iran to refrain from becoming a nuclear power.

As the Jewish New Year begins, the CRC will continue to be actively engaged in issues affecting the Jewish community around the state and worldwide. Healthcare reform, green technology jobs, assistance for senior citizens and security – both at home and abroad – are among the CRC's key agenda items.

Let us hope that 5770 will be a year of understanding, prosperity and goodwill to those in need.

Marty Cooper is the director of the community relations council. For more information, contact him at mcooper@jfri.org or 421-4111, ext. 171.



A program for mothers & daughters

A coalition-sponsored program on
BRCA 1 & BRCA 2 breast cancer gene mutations

Tuesday, October 20th
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
URI Providence Feinstein Campus
255 Westminster Street & Union
Free valet parking

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Women's Alliance

NCJW

HADASSAH

Featuring

Cindy Benson, MS
Genetic Counselor
Rhode Island Hospital/Lifespan

Meredith Drench, PhD
Vice President,
Hadassah's Western New England

Rabbi Raphael Kanter
Tifereth Israel Congregation

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SOLID K9 TRAINING

Jeff Gellman
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COUPLE: delivers medical services, supplies for infants and toddlers in Kenya

From Page 3

patients could call staffers who instructed them in modifying their insulin levels. Since that pilot project was initiated two years ago, two diabetes centers have been sited in western Kenya.

Indiana University funded a secure residential compound that houses up to 70 people, and many physicians go for a month once every two or three years, said Kahn. "Some go once, some go more often. It's all volunteer, and you pay your own room and board." Kahn has tentative plans to return a fourth time, in 2011.

English, Kenya's second language (after Swahili) is the language of all health care – prescriptions, lab work, etc.

When Kahn heads to Kenya, he doesn't go alone – or empty-handed. His wife Sue, a former elementary school teacher, has found joy in teaching pediatric hospital patients reading or math, or cuddling abandoned babies, some of whom have HIV/AIDS.

Staffed by a teacher, the hospital's children's room is stocked with music, books and games, some of which Hasbro donated after Kahn contacted Al Verrecchia, Hasbro's chief executive officer.

"We can't ship supplies – tariffs are too high and theft is too likely," said Kahn. The group hand-carries everything, so while Kahn totes insulin or other medical supplies, Sue brings infant clothes.

While U.S. doctors travel to Kenya, the program also brings Kenyan residents to study and work here for six months. Jared Nyikuli, an internal medicine resident at Moi Medical Center, and two other Kenyan residents work at The Miriam or Rhode Island Hospital. They receive bus passes and food stipends, and live in a three-bedroom house with a dishwasher and, laughed Kahn, a television that doesn't work.

Nyikuli had heard about life in America, so he didn't anticipate any surprises. However, "hearing about [medical practice] and seeing it is totally different," he admitted. "The 'super-specialization' of internal medicine doctors is especially interesting, and the level of care is very high."

He's already had some new experiences here, including his first visit to a catheterization lab.

Asked whether he's reluctant to return home to less sophisticated resources, Nyikuli said, "Once I get the skills, I have to help the people back home. With my people dying, my satisfaction is not in earning money. I get that good feeling when I see people getting well out of my efforts."

Resources are scarce in Kenya, said Kahn, so most medical students are often self-taught. But, as more residents participate in this exchange program and have advanced specialty training, they will be the next generation's mentors and teachers.

"Sue and I can't separate our personal desire to help others from our Jewish heritage. In our 35 years here, we've been directly involved with Jewish causes," said Kahn, "such as The Miriam Hospital, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Temple Emanu-El. Making the lives of others better in a non-Jewish activity is not separate from our focus on *tikkun olam*."

We return to Kenya because we make a positive impact on others' lives there, said Kahn.

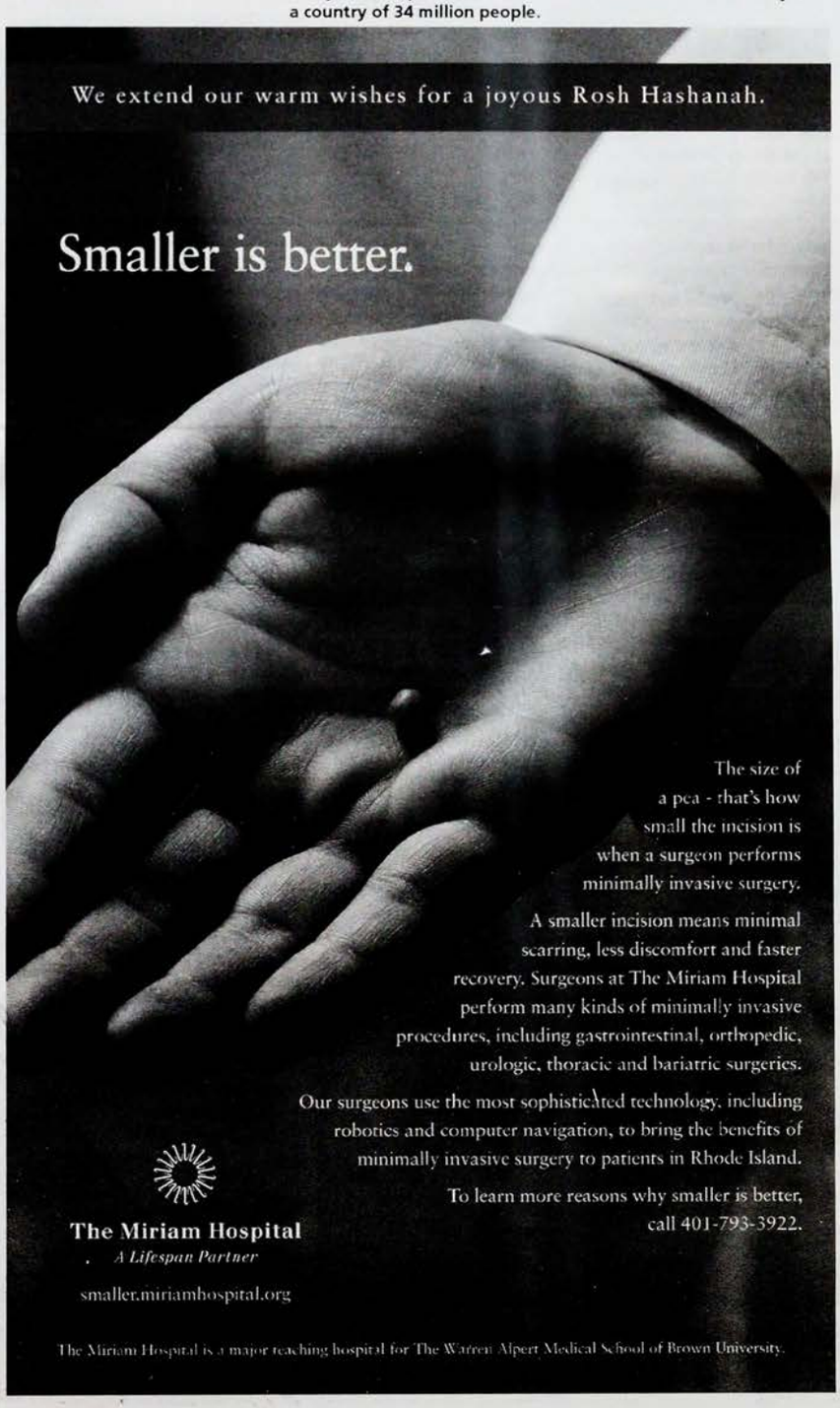
For more information about the program, visit the Web site, www.lifespan.org/cfar/int-brown-kenya.html.

Courtesy/Dr. Charles Kahn

The Moi Medical Center is one of only two hospitals associated with a medical school in Kenya, a country of 34 million people.

"We're working with village elders to protect, not shun, wives who have HIV/AIDS."

Charles (Bud) Kahn, M.D.



Jewish Community Calendar

Friday
Sept. 18

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

Saturday
Sept. 19

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday
Sept. 20

Rosh Hashanah

Monday
Sept. 21

***Don't Bite Your Tongue* author at The Miriam Hospital**
The Miriam Hospital Women's Association presents author Ruth Nemzoff who will discuss how to foster rewarding relationships with adult children.

WHERE: Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence
WHEN: 11 a.m. lecture followed by Q&A and a light lunch
MORE INFO: 793-2520 or mferreira@lifespan.org

JERI Sept. Satellite Hours
"Forgiving Ourselves and Others" will be the topic at Jewish Eldercare of RI's drop-in session. JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant JERI Director Ethan Adler will be available to counsel and advise seniors and their families. Ethan will also be available for pastoral counseling.

WHERE: Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Road, Tiverton
WHEN: 10 – 11:30 a.m.
MORE INFO: 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

Tuesday
Sept. 22

Providence Kollel Yom Kippur Seminar

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence
WHEN: 8 – 9 p.m.
MORE INFO: 383-2786

Wednesday
Sept. 23

Touro Fraternal hosts Ginsu marketer
Ed Valenti, Ginsu knife marketer, will be the guest speaker at the Friendship Lodge's monthly meeting.

Where: Touro Fraternal Association, 45 Rolfe Square, Cranston
When: 6:30 p.m.
More Info: 785-0066 or tourofratl@aol.com

This fundraising concert is one of a series of nationwide concerts on college campuses. Pictured are Jamie Riotto on bass, Josh Korr on drums and Rob Shelton on keyboard. See Sept. 26 entry.

Thursday
Sept. 24

EPOCH Progressive Lunch
Sponsored by EPOCH Assisted Living on the East Side and EPOCH Senior Living on Blackstone Boulevard, the day will include crafts, entertainment and showcase the facilities.

WHERE: EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence; EPOCH Assisted Living, 1 Butler Ave., Providence
WHEN: 9:30 a.m. – noon at EPOCH Senior Living; noon – 3:30 p.m. at EPOCH Assisted Living
MORE INFO: 275-0682 or 273-6565

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WHERE: Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St.; Woonsocket
WHEN: 2:30 – 4 p.m.
MORE INFO: 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

BJE Quilting Bee
PJ Library presents Kol Echad – All One Voice Community Quilting Bee open to children 12 and under.

WHERE: Bureau of Jewish Education Creativity Center, 130 Sessions St. Providence
WHEN: 6 p.m.
MORE INFO: Nicole Katzman 331-0956 x180 or nkatzman@bjeri.org

ACLU 50th Anniversary Forum on Religious Freedom
"Free to Believe" will explore how the ACLU defends and extends the "lively experiment" created by Roger Williams. Dr. Stephen Marini, professor of religion at Wellesley College, Brown University Chaplain Rev. Janet Cooper-Nelson and local attorneys from landmark church/state cases will define the ACLU's role in maintaining religious freedom.

WHERE: The First Baptist Church, 75 North Main St., Providence
WHEN: 7 p.m.
MORE INFO: 831-7171

March of the Living Information Session
Students in the 11th and 12th grades and their parents are invited to attend. The 2010 program travel dates are April 7 – April 21

WHERE: Bureau of Jewish Education, 130 Sessions St., Providence
WHEN: 7 p.m.
MORE INFO: Claire Roche 331-0956 x185 or roche@bjeri.org

Torat Yisrael Circle of Consolation
The Hug N'hamah (Circle of Consolation) provides mourners a supportive circle to which to bring the emotional and spiritual challenges of their grief. Facilitated by Torat Yisrael member Dr. Judith Lubiner, a licensed psychologist, and Rabbi Amy Levin. Open to new participants, members of Torat Yisrael and non-members are equally welcome.

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
MORE INFO: 785-1800

Saturday
Sept. 26

BRCA Gene Symposium
Women & Infants Hospital and the American Cancer Society sponsor "Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer: BRCA Testing and Beyond."

WHERE: Women & Infants Conference Center, 101 Dudley St., Providence
WHEN: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
MORE INFO: 473-6267

Annual Women's Wellness Workshop
The Miriam Hospital's annual event includes Mary Flynn, PhD, RD, LDN, chief research dietician for the hospital speaking on "Food as Medicine: Eating Your Way to a Healthier You." A cooking demonstration, and workshops led by national experts are included.

WHERE: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick
WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m
COST: $35 per person, which includes a light breakfast and lunch
MORE INFO: 444-4800, 800-927-1230 or www.miriamhospital.org

Barrington Concert for Suicide Prevention
Barrington musicians Josh Korr, Avi Salloway and friends perform a benefit concert for the Dora Project /CHADS coalition, a nationwide adolescent suicide prevention program, in honor of their late friend, vocalist Dora Magrath.

WHERE: Barrington Public Library, 2nd floor theater, 281 County Rd., Barrington
WHEN: 3 p.m.
COST: Donations. Donors will receive Dora's CD, Heartstrings.
MORE INFO: Library: 247-1920, or email Mary Korr at mkorr@verizon.net

BJE's quilting Bee is Sept. 24.

Sunday
Sept. 27

Yom Kippur begins at sundown

Monday
Sept. 28

Yom Kippur

Wednesday
Sept. 30

Rhode Island State Politics 101
National Council of Jewish Women hosts an interactive talk with Sandy Barone, former state senator from Barrington, about the legislative process. Open to NCJW members and their guests.

WHERE: Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence
WHEN: 7 p.m.
MORE INFO: info@ncjwri.org

Providence Kollel Sukkot Seminar

WHERE: Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence
WHEN: 8 – 9 p.m.
MORE INFO: 383-2786

Friday
October 2

First Friday Celebration at Habonim
Weather permitting, services and pizza dinner will be outside in the sukkah, so bring blankets and pillows.

WHERE: Temple Habonim 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington
WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat, 6 p.m. Pizza dinner, 6:45 p.m. Family/Intergenerational service
MORE INFO: www.templehabonim.org

Sunday
October 4

Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk
The 3+ mile walk will be held in two RI locations to raise money for programs and services for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families.

WHERE & WHEN: Slater Park Carousel, Pawtucket – Registration 9 a.m., walk 10 a.m.; O'Hare Academic Center, Salve Regina University, Newport – Registration 3 p.m., Walk 4 p.m., followed by pizza and dance
MORE INFO: www.Providence-MemoryWalk.kintera.org, and www.NewportMemoryWalk.kintera.org, or 421-0008

***The Voice & Herald* welcomes calendar submissions**
Calendar entries, which may be edited for content, length and relevance, must be submitted two weeks before the issue date of the issue for publication. For example, calendar entries for our Oct. 16 Bar/Bat Mitzvah issue must be received by Oct. 5. Send to voiceherald@jfri.org (ATTENTION: Calendar) or by mail, The Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

The JFRI 2010 Annual Campaign Leadership Team

Meet the 2010 leadership team:

Richard A. Licht
Vice President, Financial Resource Development and Campaign Chair
Sharon Gaines
Campaign Vice Chair
Ralph Posner, Gary Siperstein and Mindy Wachtenheim
Pacesetter Chairs
Kenneth Schneider, Eric Shorr
Leaders Chairs
Bonnie Steinberg Jennis
Women's Alliance President
Susan Leach DeBlasio
Women's Alliance Campaign Chair
Faye Wisen
Women's Alliance Associate Campaign Chair
Marilyn Friedman Shealey
Women's Alliance Lion Chair
Lisa Shorr
Women's Alliance Jaffa Gate/ Pomegranate Chair
Maybeth Lichaa
Women's Alliance Community/ Upgrade Chair
Alison and Brad Walter, Bethany and Richard Sutton,
Network Philanthropy Co-Chairs
Doris Feinberg
President

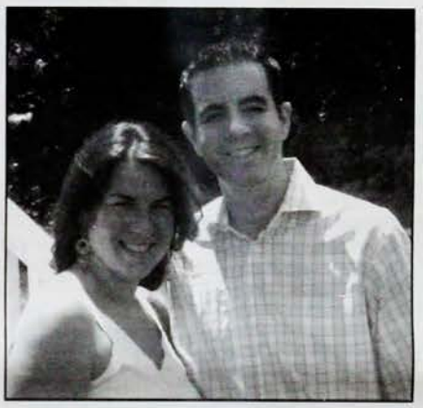
JFRI Staff
Stephen R. Silberfarb,
Executive Vice President/CEO
Bradley Laye
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Beth Dindas
Senior Development Officer and *Director of Women's Philanthropy*
Michele Gallagher
Campaign Operations Manager

Doris Feinberg and Ralph Posner

Left, Mindy Wachtenheim and Susan Leach DeBlasio

Eric and Lisa Shorr

Faye Wisen



Bethany and Richard Sutton

Brad and Alison Walter

Left, Bonnie Steinberg Jennis and Sharon Gaines

Kenneth Schneider

Maybeth Lichaa

Marilyn Friedman Shealey

Gary Siperstein

L'Shanah Tovah

Temple Beth-El

Congregation Sons of Israel & David

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Providence, RI 02906

401-331-6070

ENERGY: principles and leadership skills made Zuckerman a *mensh*

"Until his recent illness, Alan was a driving force in maintaining the daily *minyan* and was the glue that held everybody in the synagogue together."

NOW BATTING

The Israel-Gaza conflict inspires dialogue in Brown fo

Columnist's defense of Israel earns more private than public praise

"I MUST TAKE A moment to thank you for the excellent and much needed editorial... I am a 91-year-old Baptist, but the people of Israel and Jerusalem have been in my thoughts and prayers for months. Thank you, thank for your article."

Alan Zuckerman

"It was a classic example of four Jews arguing amongst themselves, in which one defended Israel and attacked Hamas and three attacked Israel."

See STUDENTS, Page 6

NOW BATTING

JCDS: What is to be done?

The community should rally to support Jewish day school education

WHAT SHOULD be done about the decision to close the middle school of the Jewish Community Day School? In a world that seems to have no limit of bad news, the decision by the board of trustees of the JCDS to close next year the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grades tops the list of pain for the Rhode Island Jewish community. I believe it is the most pressing communal issue of the day.

Alan Zuckerman

"I find it difficult to believe

NOW BATTING

Certainty amidst uncertainty: economic and political crises and the High Holidays

Prayer offers powerful sustenance as we struggle to make sense of the world's crises

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS are here. *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, the Ten Days of Repentance, offer a source of certainty amidst a world of uncertainty.

We live in frightening times. As I write, the Congress and the administration are working to restructure a large chunk of the American economy. Last week following the failure of investment houses and the world's largest insurance company, economic disaster reared its ugly head. Unable to assess risk, bank officials, striving to keep their institutions afloat, cut back on loans, not only to consumers, but to other banks. Fearing an economic stall that would be followed by the worst collapse since the Depression of the 1930s, the reluctant Secretary of the Treasury and Chair of the Federal Reserve constructed a plan that would reduce risk, erase fear and restore confidence.

Alan Zuckerman

We can almost hear FDR on the radio saying, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Strong criticism has greeted the Treasury's plan. Two criticisms, in particular, stand out: It rewards the fat cats of Wall Street who brought on the crisis, and it is opaque, giving one man, Secretary Paulson, unlimited power. Even though the Treasury has emphasized the need for speedy approval, the plan demands correction. Congress now works to add, eliminate and alter, but an ineffective Congress is infamous for its inability to make coherent policy. As you blame Congress for fiddling while Rome burns, you should also wonder why the economic wizards of the Treasury and Federal Reserve produced a plan that is so politically inept that it demands correction. Does anyone know what they are doing? Our confusion exacerbates our fear.

Even worse, we are alarmed because we understand that the plan and politicking affect each of our pocketbooks. The economic crisis influences the ability to

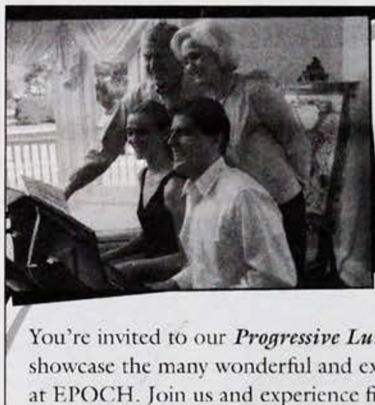
See PRAYER, Page 6

From Page 1

Alan could get along with people regardless of their religious ideology or political persuasion. That was because Alan was an exceptional and patient listener. He let you know what he thought and offered his advice when requested, but only after he fully understood your thoughts and feelings about an issue or topic. Alan loved people and people loved him back. He was good-natured and funny, and he had an incredible zest for life.

Alan's greatest joy came from his family. He leaves his beloved wife of 43 years, Roberta; his sons, Gregory and Ezra; his daughter, Shara; and nine grandchildren. In spite of his demanding schedule, Alan made sure to return home for dinner so that he could be with his wife and children. This meant a lot to him, for he was a true family man.

Stieglitz and Shein are members of The Voice & Herald's *Editorial Board.*



An EPOCH Day of Fun and Entertainment *Awaits You!*

You're invited to our ***Progressive Lunch***, an event that will showcase the many wonderful and exciting opportunities at EPOCH. Join us and experience firsthand the lifestyle our residents enjoy so much.

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Sponsored by EPOCH Assisted Living on the East Side and EPOCH Senior Living on Blackstone Boulevard.

Events at EPOCH on Blackstone Blvd.:

9:30 am	Welcome & Light Refreshments
10:00	'Make and Take' Fall Crafts
11:00	Tour of EPOCH on Blackstone Boulevard
11:30	Van Transports to EPOCH on the East Side

Events at EPOCH on the East Side:

12 noon	Meet and Greet & Tours
12:45	Lunch
2:00	Entertainment with Dr. Steven Kane - Swing Piano, Featuring Music of the Golden Age of American Song
3:30	Meditation with Bob McManus

You won't want to miss this day of fun and activities. Bring a friend.

Reservations are required and can be made for individual events. Please call to reserve your spot before September 21.

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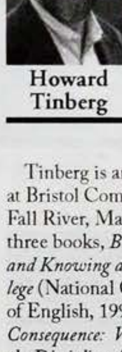
Changes in *The Voice & Herald's* editorial board

Tinberg assumes chairmanship, John Landry joins the board

PROVIDENCE – *The Voice & Herald* is pleased to announce that Howard Tinberg, Ph.D., has been named chair of the editorial board.



Howard Tinberg

A member of the board for three years, he had been serving as its interim chair. The board welcomes John Landry as a new member and bids farewell to Barbara Fields, who stepped off the board.

Tinberg is an English professor at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass. The author of three books, *Border Talk: Writing and Knowing at the Two-Year College* (National Council of Teachers of English, 1997), *Writing with Consequence: What Writing Does in the Disciplines* (Longman, 2003), and (with JP Nadeau) *Community College Writers: Exceeding Expectations* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2010).

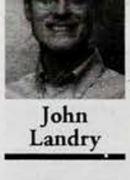
With co-editor Patrick Sullivan, he edited a fourth book, *What is College-Level Writing?* (National Council of Teachers of English, 2006) and a forthcoming collection, *What is College-Level Writing II?* (National Council of Teachers of English).

A past editor of the national journal *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, Tinberg is the 2004 recipient of the Carnegie/CASE Community College Professor of the Year and served as a Carnegie Scholar in 2005-2006.

Tinberg lives with his wife Toni and their daughters, Miriam and Leah, in Pawtucket.

A University of Chicago graduate, John T. Landry earned his Ph.D. in history from Brown University in 1995, focusing on economics and business. He wrote a history of the Narragansett Electric System and its corporate parent, and then joined the *Harvard Business Review* as an editor.

In his 13 years at the *Review*, he worked on articles, wrote many of the book reviews, and oversaw the magazine's large syndication business.



John Landry

He also served for three years on the editorial board of the *Brown Alumni Magazine*. He is now a freelance editor and writer focused on business.

Raised Catholic, he converted to Judaism in 2000. He and his wife, Rochelle Rosen, belong to Temple Beth-El, where he has served as co-chair of the adult enrichment committee and as a trustee. They live in Providence with their twins, Aaron and Eli, who attend first grade at the Jewish Community Day School.

Israel faces a heartbreaking choice: which children to abandon?

In captivity, Gilad Shalit inspires competing battle cries

By Steven M. Jacobson
Special to The Voice & Herald

IDF Corporal Gilad Shalit

I didn't notice them at first. Their numbers, in comparison, were underwhelming, and in contrast to the "opposition" they lacked a cogent rallying cry. Their objective: to persuade the Israeli government that it should abandon a captured Israeli soldier.

Across the street was the main event, a demonstration commemorating the 1,000th day of captivity for Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Corporal Gilad Shalit.

It was March of this year, and I was in central Jerusalem, close to the prime minister's official residence. Nearby, the family of Shalit was "in residence" at a makeshift tent erected by protesters. Since his capture, a wide array of Israelis have maintained a steady vigil encircled by slogans, petitions, and what has become an iconic photo of the captured Israeli soldier. To commemorate this particularly inauspicious occasion, the family – now reluctant celebrities – had joined the protesters to press the government to do more to secure their son's release.

Given the biblical injunction to "redeem the captives," Israel maintains a deep commitment to securing the return of its soldiers who are killed or captured beyond the Israeli border. So strong is this loyalty that the names of those rare sons of Israel who have not been recovered are seared into the national consciousness.

The protestors' rallying cry, "Gilad Still Lives," calls upon the government to consider Shalit's torment, the anguish of his family and the uncommon prospect of celebrating the return of a soldier rather than a body.

Directly across the street from the media circus that accompanies members of the Shalit family whenever they are "in residence" was another tent. Much smaller in size, with only a few people milling about, it appeared as though it might have been a staging ground for the main event. Their display was modest, not nearly as sensational as it could have been, and none of the media joined them on that cool March evening.

"Given the biblical injunction to 'redeem the captives,' Israel maintains a deep commitment to securing the return of its soldiers who are killed or captured beyond the Israeli border."

Their plea: to abandon Gilad Shalit.

Their case, too, is built upon unfathomable anguish. Those protesting the government's negotiations with Shalit's captors are the families of those killed by terror attacks. They are pleading with the government not to meet the demands of Hamas to release 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Shalit; they claim that to free the men who murdered their loved ones would be an egregious breach of justice and, in turn, would risk the lives of countless more Israelis.

These compounding tragedies have been the source of this summer's most significant debate in Israel. As other nations engage in the customary debates of contemporary democracies, Israelis are choosing which of its children to abandon: those already murdered or those yet to be.

Steve Jacobson, from Providence, is spending the 2009-2010 academic year in Israel with his family. He is vice president of the Dorot Foundation.

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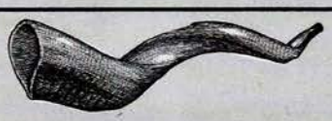
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A healthy and happy New Year.
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Local customs, cultures color High Holiday experiences

Rhode Island family puts holidays in social, global context

By Marcy Brink-Danaan
Special to The Voice & Herald

Here in New England, Sukkot celebrations are tempered by cool autumn winds. However, Rabbi Raphie Schochet, Rosh Kollel of the Providence Kollel, who grew up in Johannesburg, recently reminisced about his childhood memory of the *yamim noraim*, or High Holidays, as spring holidays, as they occur in South Africa's mildest season.

Judaism has its own calendar, but Jews around the world experience holidays differently depending on their political, social and geographic contexts.

"We didn't know when to fast," recalls Helena Levkov, now a Providence resident. "In Odessa in the 1980s, no Jewish calendar hung on the wall." Helena's mother, Galina, relied instead on a neighbor who claimed to know the holiday's date. One year, however, they discovered that the neighbor had made a miscalculation; the family fasted a week too early.

Helena lives in Rhode Island with her husband, Alex, and their two children. The family spoke with The Voice & Herald about their High Holiday celebrations in three different contexts.

Ukraine

Even in the absence of a Jewish calendar, the Levkovs always knew they were Jewish. At a time when Jews elsewhere in the world were dipping apples in honey, Alex Levkov participated in an annual ritual in his childhood home of Simferopol: "At the beginning of every school year, the teachers would conduct a public survey of class nationalities. You could answer 'Russian,' 'Ukrainian' or 'Jewish.' My family had changed our name from 'Friedman' to 'Levkov,' a Russian name. They told me to answer 'Russian' when asked about my nationality. There was one other Jewish boy in the class. We never talked about it, but every time we went through this [process], we would look at each other from across the room."

According to Helena, Odessa was a cosmopolitan place in which Jews were just one of many nationalities and local pride trumped wider affiliations. Nonetheless, she recalls classmates referring to her in the third person as "the Jewess" in class. In the context of thawing diplomatic relations between the former USSR and Israel in the 1980s, hundreds of thousands of Jews, including these two families, began contemplating their exodus toward other lives (and other calendars) in Israel and the United States.

/Levkov Family

Alex and Helena Levkov with Helena's great-uncle, Nahum Kaizer, who facilit: ted her family's immigration to Israel.

One night in 1988, two sailors knocked on the door of Helena's home in Odessa, and heard, "It's Eliezer, the son-in-law of your uncle, Nahum Kaizer." Helena's father Gregory soon learned, via the Israeli captain who docked in the port city of Odessa, that his uncle, Nahum, who had immigrated to Palestine before statehood in 1948, was trying to contact him and bring him to Israel. Gregory made arrangements to move his family, including the then-13-year-old Helena, to Israel. Around the same time, Alex and his mother made aliyah. Both children would soon experience the shift from Ukrainian to Israeli time.

See HOLIDAY, next page

Shanah Tovah!

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HOLIDAY: a different spin in a different country

From facing page

ISRAEL

For Alex and Helena, living in Israel, where the Jewish calendar serves as the template for national holidays, meant that nobody would fast on the wrong day again. "The whole country was on vacation, so all my friends and family would meet up to enjoy the day off, gathering at the synagogue to hear the shofar at day's end," said Helena.

However, as Alex explained, having a state-sponsored Jewish calendar weakened his personal feeling of obligation to maintain religious commandments. He noted that, during his service in the Israeli Defense Forces, many soldiers did not fast on Yom Kippur. "They were secure in their identity [as secular Jews] and didn't have to prove anything by partaking in Jewish rituals." As many Israelis living in Providence have described, whether the day is spent in devout prayer or riding bicycles through the empty streets, nobody in Israel is unaware that the Day of Atonement has arrived.

> **"In America, if you don't make an effort, Yom Kippur can pass you by."**
>
> Alex Levkov

UNITED STATES

If, in Ukraine, the Levkovs were hardly aware of the Jewish calendar, and, in Israel, Jewish time was the organizing principle of their life, in the United States, they have tried to balance their appointments on Jewish and American calendars.

Alex, who moved his family here in 2005 when he began his studies at Brown University, highlighted the American calendar's misalignment with Jewish ritual time. He noted that even though Jews in America know when to celebrate Jewish holidays, getting time off to do so requires no small amount of effort. In order to celebrate Jewish holidays here, the Levkovs use vacation days and accommodate school demands during a fall season in which many of their friends and colleagues are hard at work. "In America, if you don't make an effort," he said, "Yom Kippur can pass you by."

Marcy Brink-Danaan is an assistant professor of Judaic Studies at Brown University. She can be reached at Marcy_Brink-Danaan@brown.edu.

A new spin on an old classic

'Erev Yom Kippur'

BY ETHAN ADLER
Special to The Voice & Herald

'Twas the night before Yom Kippur, and everyone was there
The awe of the day could be felt in the air

The family was gathered around the holiday table
Everyone eating as much as they're able

They were going to serve dairy, but just wouldn't risk it
So the table was laden with kasha and brisket

With *challah* and wine and candles a bright
The *gantze mishpocha* was feeling all right

And upon the insistence, of beloved Aunt Doris
They even waved a live chicken, and did the *Kappores*

The meal was completed, the dishes put away
They were leaving for shul, to hear Kol Nidre

When suddenly they heard a strange wooshy sound
Everyone was startled, they all turned around

There stood a man, with long hair and a beard
A robbery on Yom Kippur, was what they all feared

They stood there, trembling, arm in arm
But when he started to talk, he spoke with such calm

Allow me to introduce myself, if I may
My name is Yomi Kippur, and my purpose today

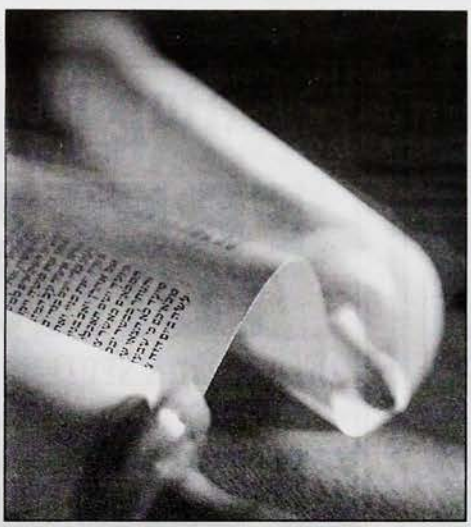
Is to help you get rid of all your past sins
So, please put them here in these plastic bins."

He opened the sack and lowered his head
And pulled out some colorful bins, and said

"Please, if you would, no need to be shy
Fill up the bins, and I'll say my good bye."

They stared at each other in shock and disbelief
Was he an angel, a messenger, or possibly a thief?

They stood for a while, just stuck in their place



Taken in by his manner and grace

Then, one by one, they walked to their bin
And silently, in pantomime, they put their sins in

Then they stood back, and just stared at the floor
The man looked around and asked, "Any more?"

They looked at each other, and shook their head
They began to smile, and laugh, and somebody said

"I feel so relieved, I feel so much lighter"
Another one shouted, "Everything looks brighter"

"It's like being reborn, "said some else
Said another, "What a heaviness to get off your chest."

Another one cried, "This sin dropping is great
I'm cleaning my soul and clearing my slate."

"I feel so much better," someone said with glee
"My burdens are lifted and I'm feeling so free."

They continued to fill the bins, one by one
And after some time, he knew they were done.

Then they started to move and encircled the man
Who joined in their dance, and they all joined hands

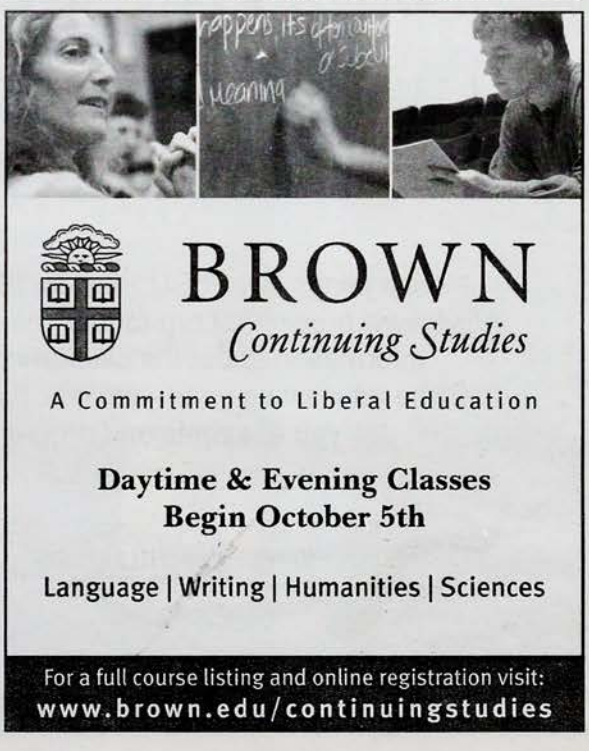
The dancing, the singing, it was quite a sight,
But this, after all, was Kol Nidre night

They wanted to continue, and to have him stay
But they knew they had to go to shul, and pray

As he loaded his sack their voices were stilled
He headed for the door, his mission fulfilled

He said in a tone that everyone could hear
A *Gut Yontif* to you, and a Happy New Year.

Ethan Adler can be reached at eadler3@cox.net.



High Holiday services, clergy from days gone by

Jerry Rose/Courtesy of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

This photo was taken at the Jewish Home for the Aged (now closed.)
It's a mystery to us who the individuals are – if anyone knows, please contact *The Voice & Herald* at voiceherald@jfri.org, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, 421-4111, ext. 168.

/Courtesy of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Cantor Meyer Smith, in all his ornate holiday attire, from the Congregation Sons of Zion.

Shana Tova!

HOLIDAY WISHES FROM
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Please join Brown RISD Hillel for High Holidays.
Visit www.brownhillel.org for service schedules and information about the calendar of events.
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Worship services from 50 years ago at the former Jewish Home for the Aged

Joseph Marcello/Courtesy of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Worshippers participate in High Holiday services at the Jewish Home for the Aged, circa 1957.

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A tale of two synagogues

Structures in Budapest and Sofia celebrate birthdays, restorations

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

BUDAPEST (JTA) – This year marks a number of momentous anniversaries: The 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, the 40th anniversary of Woodstock, the 20th anniversary of the fall of Communism.

We use anniversaries like these to stop, step back and evaluate not just the event that's being commemorated, but also the passage of time since it happened and the changes wrought with that passage.

In this context, two significant Jewish anniversaries are taking place in September.

The Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest – the largest synagogue in Europe – turns 150 years old. And the Great Synagogue in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia turns 100.

OK, they are buildings, not earth-shaking events. But given the impact that some of the other "big" anniversaries had on these synagogues and on what they represent, it's only fitting to highlight their birthdays on the roster of celebrations.

For one, both are magnificent buildings that stand out architecturally as important city landmarks. Partly because of this, both have undergone recent renovations that restored them to opulent glory after decades of postwar neglect.

Both also are flagships of faith, or at least of Jewish identity, and are survivors, too. Witnesses to the pendulum swing of tragedy and triumph that has marked Jewish history in the region, they are potent physical symbols of a proud and enduring Jewish presence.

"The Dohany Synagogue is still the main synagogue of all the Jews of Hungary, the main identity place where we gather, whether we are religious or not," said architectural historian Rudolf Klein, author of the 2008 book about the synagogue, *The Great Synagogue of Budapest*.

/Ruth Ellen Gruber

Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest.

"Witnesses to the pendulum swing of tragedy and triumph that has marked Jewish history in the region are potent physical symbols of a proud and enduring Jewish presence."

As many as 90,000 Jews are believed to live in Budapest, but most are unaffiliated or totally secular. With its red-and-yellow striped facade, sumptuous decor and two tall spires topped by gilded onion domes, the Dohany is, in fact, one of the most distinctive buildings in the city and was recognized as such from the outset.

Designed by the Viennese architect Ludwig von Forster, it was inaugurated on Sept. 6, 1859. Old engravings show dignitaries in shiny top hats gathered in front of its enormous ark, a domed and gilded structure that itself is the size of a small chapel.

At the time, Jews had not yet achieved full civil rights in Austro-Hungary. Yet the synagogue was the largest house of worship in Budapest and probably the biggest synagogue in the world. One local newspaper called it "a gorgeous piece of architecture."

Klein told JTA, "I like it as a Jew and as an architect. In both areas it was a breakthrough."

The synagogue's Moorish style launched a genre and set the pattern for hun-

See FLAGSHIPS, Next Page

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FLAGSHIPS: of faith, these synagogues are historically important

From Page 20

dreds of synagogues built in later years throughout central Europe and beyond.

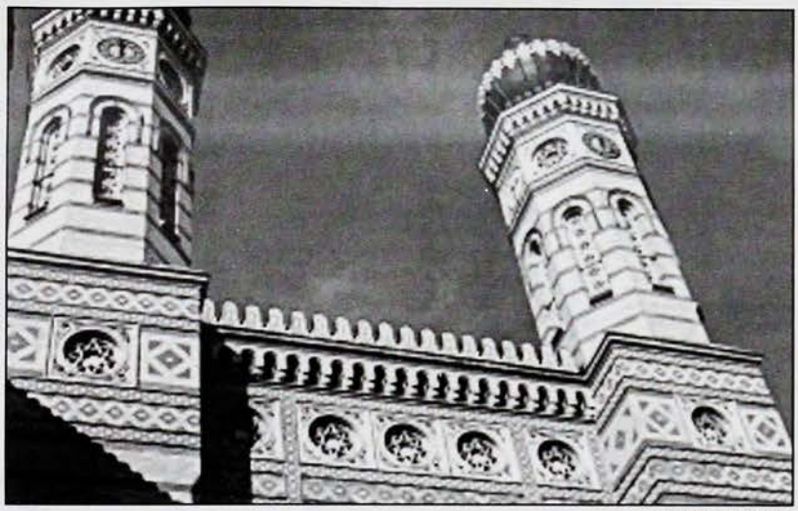
The building's monumental scale, its prominent location and its opulent ornamentation, Klein said, epitomized "the optimism of 19th-century Jewry and the tolerant attitude of the Gentile world which prevailed in the capital" at the time.

Things, of course, changed later. During World War II, the synagogue was used as a detention center, where Jews were massed before their deportation to Auschwitz. The graves of Holocaust victims fill the courtyard.

After the war, under Communism, the building languished for decades in a sorry state of disrepair. I vividly remember how its ceiling, held up by cables and plastic sheeting, sagged perilously over the congregation that would pack the sanctuary on Yom Kippur simply to make a statement of identity in the face of the regime's religious suppression.

In 1996, it was officially reopened following a five-year restoration that was financed largely by the newly democratic Hungarian state.

"This building symbolizes the survival and the continuity of the Jewish people," Gusztav Zoltai, chairman of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities, declared at the time.



/Ruth Ellen Gruber

The dome of the Great Synagogue in Sofia.

The Sofia synagogue was inaugurated in September 1909, nearly 50 years to the day after the Dohany, and fulfilled a similar role.

Czar Ferdinand himself cut a ribbon to formally inaugurate the building, whose huge dome, slim turrets and lavish, Byzantine-Moorish style fit in with many other grand buildings in downtown Sofia. The prime minister, other government VIPs and local bishops were in the crowd, too, and a procession of rabbis bore *Torah* scrolls into the sanctuary and placed them in the ark.

"This synagogue will connect us with the past generations and will tell of us to the future ones," the chief rabbi proudly told the congregation 100 years ago. "May God bless this land which we love dearly, for the good of all Bulgarians, in whose sufferings and joys we take an active part."

Bulgaria's 50,000 Jews were saved during World War II by the heroic action of some of the country's leaders, and most of them moved to Israel.

The Great Synagogue, damaged in 1944 by Allied bombing, stood neglected for decades, as Communist authorities unsuccessfully tried to turn it into a concert hall.

Still, recalled Robert Djerassi, one of the chairmen of the synagogue centenary celebrations, "It was an enormous domed building that awed me with its magnificence each time I stepped inside. Such a huge void: fearsome, lofty, dark and mysterious!"

Only a few thousand Jews live in Bulgaria today, but as in Budapest, restoration of the synagogue was a priority after the fall of communism as a public demonstration of both Jewish renewal and Jewish presence in the city.

The first stage of work was completed in 1996, the final one this year, just in time for September's five-day birthday bash.

Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov served as honorary chairman of the gala events, echoing the high-profile participation in the synagogue's original dedication a century ago.

Ruth Ellen Gruber's books include National Geographic Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Eastern Europe, Letters from Europe (and Elsewhere), *and* Virtually Jewish: Reinventing Jewish Culture in Europe. *She blogs on Jewish heritage issues at jewish-heritage-travel.blogspot.com.*

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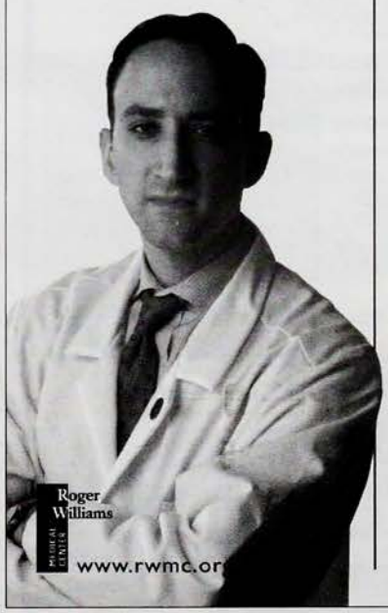

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The Adele R. Decof Cancer Center at Roger Williams Medical Center invites you to a talk by Steven C. Katz, MD, Director of Surgical Immunotherapy.

His topic is "A Team Approach - Partnering With Your Cancer Center."

Dr. Katz is a Memorial Sloan-Kettering Fellowship trained Surgical Oncologist specializing in hepatobiliary, endocrine and soft tissue tumors. He is focused on treatment of cancer, including tumors of the liver, pancreas, bile ducts, adrenal glands, and thyroid. He also treats malignant melanoma and soft tissue sarcoma. Dr. Katz is also an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine.

This presentation is free and open to the public. Registration is not necessary.

To contact Dr. Katz, please call 456-2077 or visit www.rhodeislandcancer.org

FLAGSHIPS: of faith, these synagogues are historically important

From Page 20

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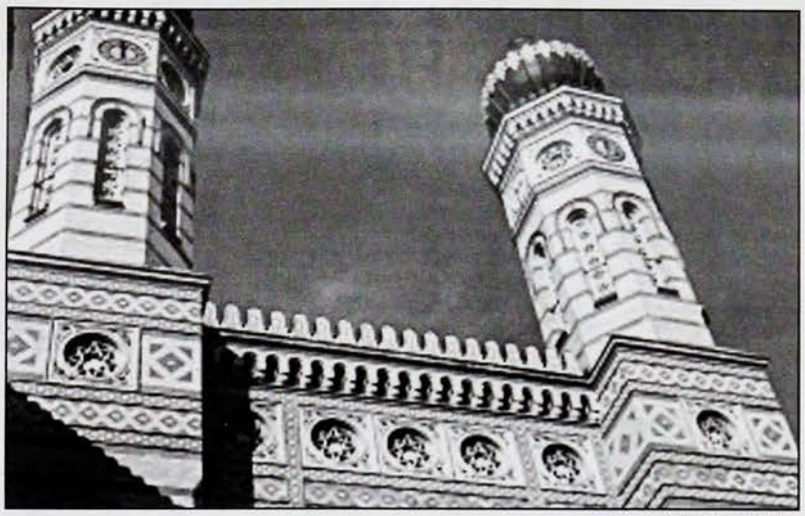

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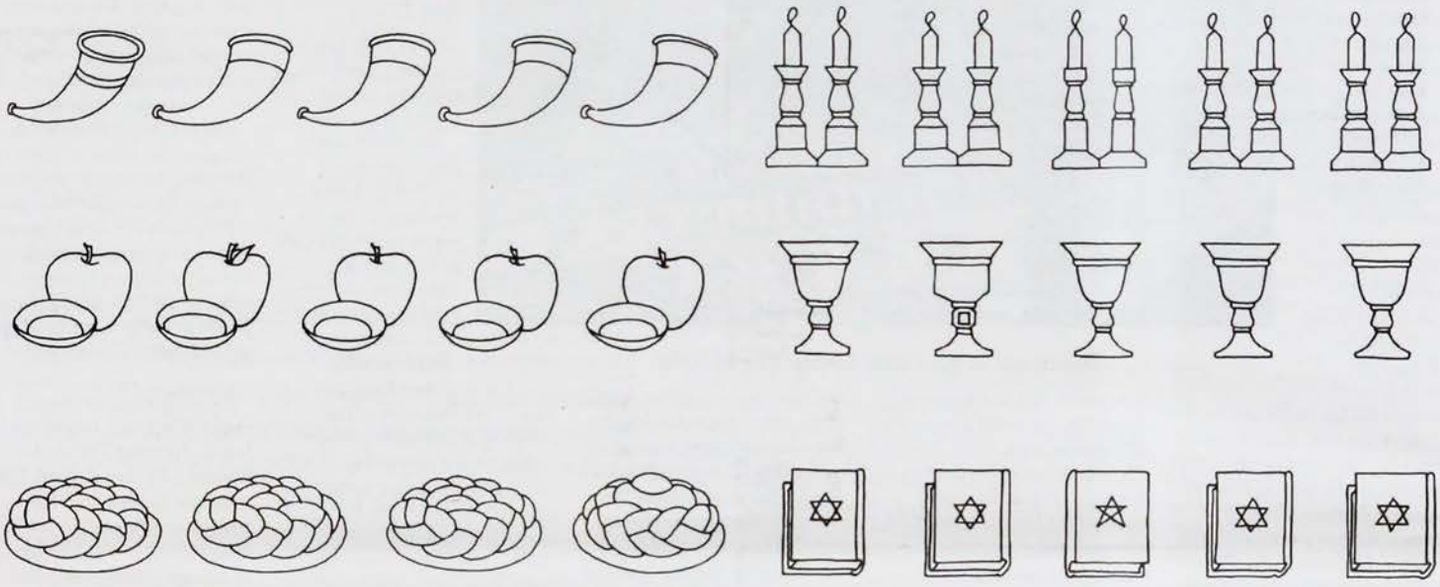
Kids' Corner

WHICH ONE IS DIFFERENT?

Look carefully at these Rosh Hashanah symbols.
Circle the one that is different from the others.
Do you know what all these symbols represent?



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Rebalancing our spiritual portfolios

Rosh Hashanah offers opportunity to reflect and renew our commitment to Judaism

By Steven Schwarzman

BANGOR, Maine (JTA) - The economic downturn has caused many of us to think long and hard about rebalancing our investment portfolios, reducing expenses, and readjusting our priorities when faced with a job loss, the loss of retirement income or looming medical bills.

We know that recovering and prospering economically will take thought and effort. We know there really are no shortcuts to riches. Difficult as it may be, the reality of a recession is something with which we are ready to deal.

And yet in our Jewish lives, we often turn to the spiritual equivalent of get-rich-quick schemes.

Somehow we hope that just by showing up in the synagogue for three days in the fall, magic will happen and we will emerge with a sense of direction and fulfillment in our lives. Many of us will find ourselves disappointed yet again, as we have in years past, in our quest for spirituality and meaning.

Just as we manage our economic lives, soberly evaluating the realities and planning for the future, we also need to manage our spiritual lives. Considering how important a meaningful life is to every one of us, it's time to rebalance our spiritual portfolios, taking some time away from the pursuit and management of our worldly affairs so that we can pursue and manage our lives in the spiritual world.

Rebalance your portfolio

Finding the right balance in our spiritual portfolios means looking at what we actually spend our time on and comparing it to what we would really like to be spending our time on.

Like dieters who use calorie counting to become aware of what they eat during a day, we can take a hard look at the empty minutes and hours that we devote to activities that don't give us any spiritual nutrition. Think how many times a day you check e-mail. Think how many half-hours you spend watching television.

Keep a log for a day. You may be surprised at the amount of time you spend on things that don't move you forward. Now think how you might make your investments of time perform more robustly and securely. For 30 minutes a day, you could attend a morning or evening prayer service at your synagogue connecting with yourself, a community of searchers like you and sometimes with God.

"It's time to do the due diligence of life because life does not wait. You can start by diversifying your Jewish learning."

Research and diversify your investments

Many of us are walking around with Jewish educations that are the equivalent of passbook savings accounts. They were great when we were kids and could see how the pennies added up, but adults need more powerful investment tools. Spiritually, we artificially impoverish ourselves if we try to navigate life with child-sized Jewish educations.

It's time to do the due diligence of life because life does not wait. You can start by diversifying your Jewish learning. Try some Jewish texts – Bible, Mishnah, Talmud, Zohar, Hasidic stories, Israeli poetry – and find a mix that works for you based on your own tolerance for risk. Risk, that is, of learning something that just may change your life.

Start an investment club

Judaism is a group activity. Just as it's hard to make investment decisions on your own, it might be worthwhile to form the equivalent of an investment club. Talk to your rabbi about what you'd like to learn, and see if you can get a class started with others who want to learn, too. You can singlehandedly start a bull market of Jewish learning in your community!

Add to your 613(k) plan

The traditional count of 613 commandments means that there are that many ways for us to connect to our Jewish selves – and to our ancestors and other Jews today. There may be no tax advantages to a 613(k) plan, but the long-term value is clear.

Start making small daily, weekly and monthly time investments in growing as a person and as a Jew. Often we are just reciting how returning to our true selves, talking frankly with God in prayer and speaking to the people around us in this world through acts of righteousness can annul the severity of our decree for the coming year. The traditional formulation in the *mahzor* noting that while we are judged for our sins, we are nonetheless given the benefit of God's mercy when we engage in the right kind of behavior.

This year, imagine how powerful it would be to actually do these things. The decree itself may remain unchanged, but when we know that we are actively working to reconnect with ourselves, our families and our tradition, we will be far better prepared to deal with what life sends our way in the coming year.

"On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed ... who will be impoverished and who will be enriched." This High Holiday season, let's start rebuilding our spiritual portfolios.

Steven Schwarzman, ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 2008, is the rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Bangor, Maine.

Happy Rosh Hashanah

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A picture tells a thousand words ...

A picture is worth a thousand words; while these pictures represent only a small fraction of our Jewish communal life – here at home and around the world – we hope that these images offer some meaningful remembrances. We wish you and yours a happy, healthy and peaceful L'Shanah Tovah.

Marcy Brink-Danaan, Eleanor Lewis and Richard Schein helped select some of these images. The Voice & Herald *thanks them for their time and attention.*

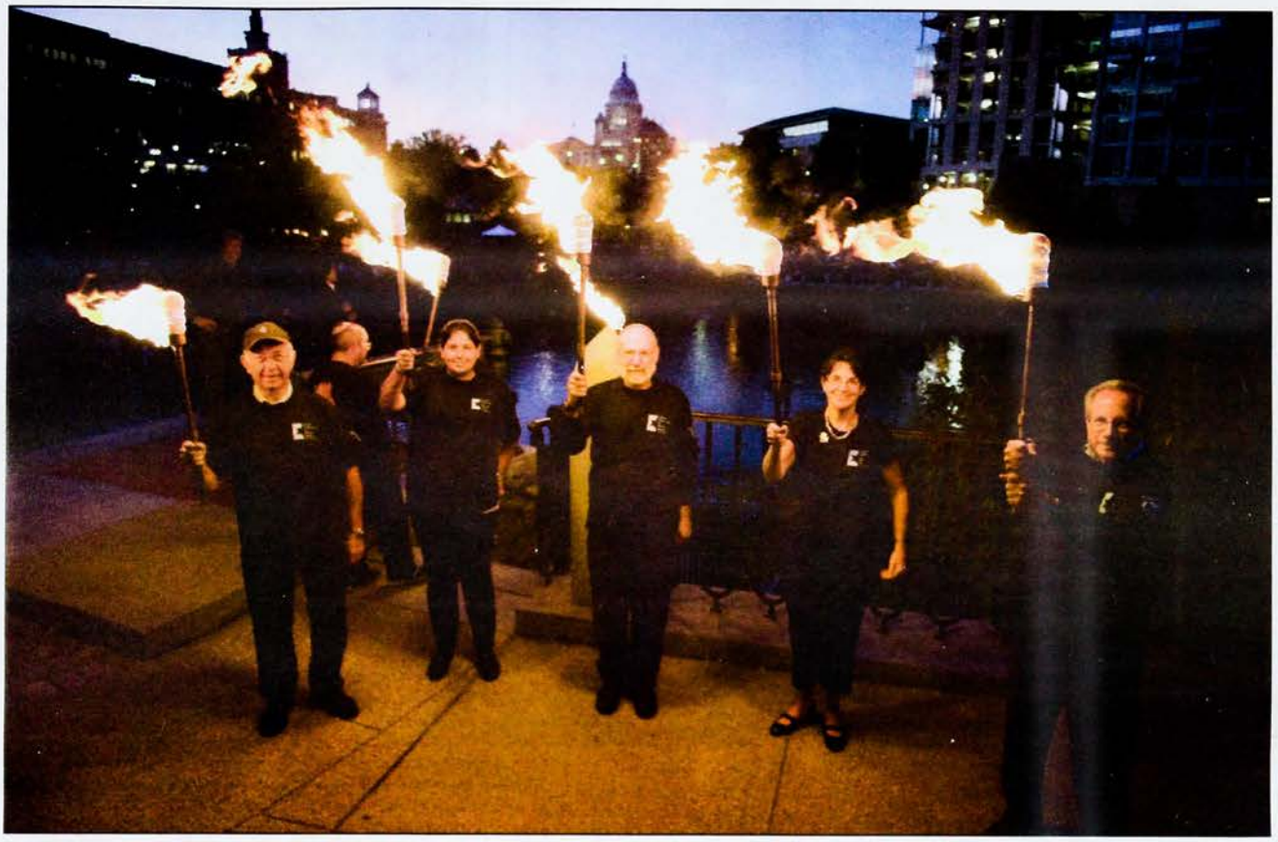
A Purim celebration at Tamarisk brought the generations together: Ina Land, left, Lisa Shorr and her daughter Sami prepare Purim treats for the elderly residents.

JCCRI preschool students learned the finer points of nature, when they participated last fall in planting a community garden.

Bonnie Steinberg Jennis was just one of many JFRI lay and staff leaders who traveled to witness the crucial needs Jews around the world face on a daily basis, and to identify the positive impact Federation dollars have on meeting those critical needs. Here, she examines destruction caused by Hamas rockets in southern Israel.

See next page

What memories does this picture impart?



Last Sept. 17, the Jewish community joined together to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday with a special WaterFire celebration, hosted by the JFRI, and other events. Here, leaders of the Jewish community carry WaterFire torches before the event.

May you and yours enjoy the blessings of a sweet and healthy new year and the warmth and caring of community.

Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island

Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Politics – locally and around the world – dominated

As a presidential candidate, Barack Obama visited Israel, including a trip to Sderot during last summer's rocket assault. Obama, who has yet to visit Israel as a sitting president, has earned mixed reviews from American – and Israeli – Jews.

A member of the Budget and Judiciary committees, among others, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) is Rhode Island's freshman senator, elected in 2006.

A speaker at this summer's annual reading of the George Washington Letter at Touro Synagogue evidencing our nation's commitment to freedom from religious persecution or tyranny, he has also visited Israel and spoken frequently to Jewish groups around the state.

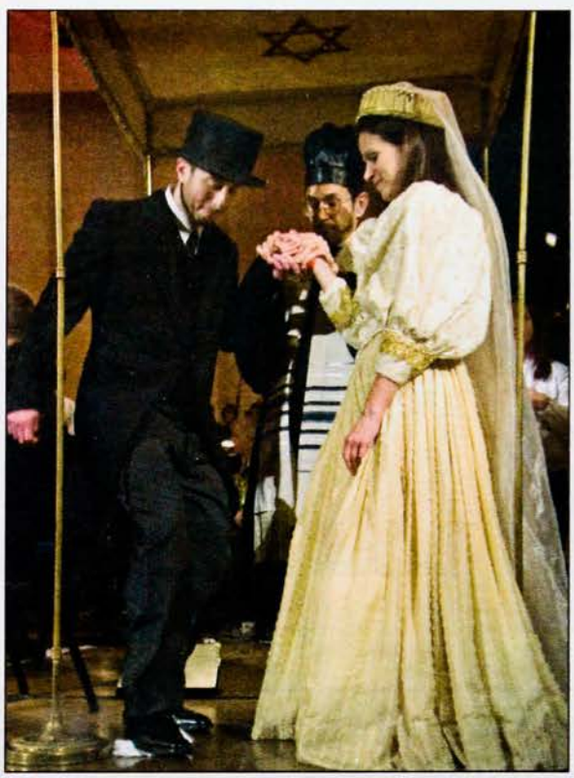
An Israeli soldier demonstrates the universally known sign of peace – and of victory - during Operation Cast Lead. The operation began late in December 2008 and ended one month later, when Israel fought back against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, in an effort to stop the rocket attacks on southern Israel and arms smuggling into Gaza.

During that time, Israelis were forced to leave their homes and resort to shelters for days on end, schools and other public places were targeted by Hamas rockets, and both sides experienced destruction and loss of life. The United Nations issued a report accusing both the Palestinians and the Israeli government of actions amounting to war crimes.

Manmade and natural events are cause for celebration

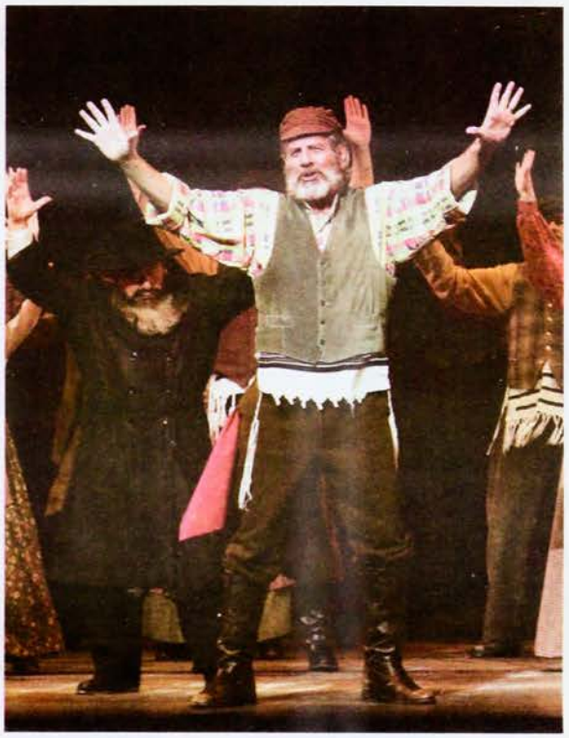
The April 8 "Blessing of the Sun," or Birkas Hacchama, brought worshippers to the Brown rugby field, adjacent to the JCCRI. At the ceremony, which occurs once every 28 years – when the sun is at the exact location where it was at creation – Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, Rosh Yeshiva of the New England Rabbinical College, lead the blessings.

The Voice & Herald was again honored with a Michael J. Metcalf Award from Rhode Island Community & Justice for its body of work this spring. The awards are given to winning media for "excellence in fostering understanding and goodwill." *The Voice & Herald* staff, editorial board members and freelancers gathered for this photo.



At the Nov. 9 concert commemorating Kristallnacht at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, the audience witnessed Dr. Jesse Richman and Nicole Richman reenact ancient wedding traditions, with Temple Emanu-El's Cantor Brian Mayer, center. Some 2,000 people attended the event which included music from hundreds of performers and narration by Leonard Nimoy.

The inimitable Topol, as Tevye, performed in "Fiddler on the Roof" at Providence Performing Arts Center. "Fiddler" was one of dozens of musical, theatrical, artistic and literary programs and events held throughout the area, many of which were free or low-cost, which contained some Jewish content.



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Breaking the fast, Sephardic style

Don't eat this cookbook: cuisines from ound-the-world

By Linda Morel
JTA Staff Writer

EW YORK (JTA) – The day before Yom Kippur, I always go to a local appe- store and buy as much ed fish as I can carry home. elections are hardly ever ered by my wallet, which y I'm staggered when I get ill. I do this from habit and ise my family adores these .

re bagels and lox manda- to break the Yom Kippur

eally this meal should be rative, easy to digest and ily assembled at the last ite. Bagels and lox meet e criteria, so platters of ked fish – along with kugels sliced tomatoes – have me the u of choice ng many kenazim merica. his year I ame curious ut Sephardic toms. Perus- cookbooks, scovered a sure trove of k-fast recipes se variety astounded me. ephardim often partake airy foods on this special night; bagels and lox are not part of their culinary repertoire. Surprisingly, some Sephardim break the fast with soups and stews calling for meat, and with dishes that are typical main course fare, as opposed to the brunch foods enjoyed by Ashkenazim.

While the break-fast menu varies among Sephardim from country to country, their entrees and side dishes are nourishing, delicious, gentle on empty stomachs and economical. They are well worth considering in a year when the stock market remains down and the cost of smoked fish is up.

The Sephardic custom of eating meat to break the fast has roots in Spanish tradition. In *A Drizzle of Honey: The Lives and Recipes of Spain's Secret Jews*, authors David Gitlitz and Linda Kay Davidson cited several instances of meat-based menus. Jews in Castile, who clandestinely conformed to their religion to avoid the terror of the Spanish Inquisition, often broke the fast with fowl or other meat. In Aragon, Spain, and in Portugal, fish and fowl were the preferred foods on this occasion. The authors mentioned the late 15th century custom of Rabbi Simuel of Teruel: "After the fast, in the evening [his family] ate chicken. Amazingly the family of Aldonza Deli of Teruel broke their fast with doves."

Bagels and lox are a traditional treat; try something different this year.

"The break-fast menus are nourishing, delicious, gentle on empty stomachs and economical. They are well worth considering in a year when the stock market remains down and the cost of smoked fish is up."

While I've never tried a dove – at Yom Kippur or ever – I've always felt a nice bowl of chicken soup would be appealing after foregoing food for more than 24 hours.

In Jewish Food: The World at Table, Mathew Goodman discussed the Sephardic custom of breaking the Yom Kippur fast with chicken soup. In Italy, the broth is often heightened with turkey meatballs and pieces of pasta, which sounded very tempting.

Jews in Greece and Turkey end the fast with Avgolemono, an egg-and-lemon soup in a chicken broth base thickened with rice. Light and delicious, it's a staple on Greek diner menus year round.

Several cookbooks featured Moroccan lemon chicken with olives, a wildly popular break-fast stew, which richly deserves its reputation.

Morocco has spawned a spectrum of tempting break-fast recipes. In *The Jewish Holiday Kitchen*, Joan Nathan raved about both chicken couscous and harira, a thick soup brimming with stewing meat, fava beans and lentils. The original recipe dates back to biblical times.

Nathan's cookbook featured an easy but delicious recipe for Algerian chicken tagine with quinces, which the Jaffin family of Algiers served as a main course to break the fast.

Of course, no Jewish holiday meal is complete without fish on the menu. In *The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews*, Edda Servi Machlin waxed poetic about a sweet-and-sour fish in the Jewish style.

After tinkering with the recipe, I realized this piquant dish would be an excellent way to introduce Sephardic food to the usual smoked fish menu, a way to bridge the gap for those who aren't ready to jump to meat.

Although Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews may come from different culinary traditions, we are tied together by a common heritage. Whether we eat dairy foods or meat, after the Day of Atonement we turn to each other, our families and foods we can count on.

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A trio of tempting desserts for break-the-fast

Tried-and-true and something new from Jewish Holiday Cooking

By Emily Weintraub
Special to The Voice & Herald

Breaking the Yom Kippur fast is an occasion to spend with family and friends while eating delicious food. I recall the years when I dreaded Yom Kippur because I was supposed to fast (even though I had nothing to dread because I was unsuccessful every time).

However, now that I am almost out of college and can understand this holiest of holidays, I am able to fast, reflect on the year passed and better myself.

Though I no longer focus all day at temple on the food I would eat after services, I still very much look forward to the break-the-fast meal and quality time with family. Here are some recipes I found that look delicious. Enjoy sharing them with family and friends on Yom Kippur.

Iranian Rose-Apple Ice (Poludeh)

"'Refresh me with apples,' Solomon wrote in the 'Song of Songs,' wrote cookbook author Jayne Cohen. "Iranian Jews, too, recognize the revivifying talents of the universal fruit: they cleanse palates murky from the long fast with a light, very simple apple ice..."

Ingredients

3 medium sweet, fragrant apples (about 1 ½ pounds) such as Braeburn, Gala, Jonagold, or York

5 to 6 tablespoons sugar

1 cup water (quality is important here, so if you use bottled water for coffee or tea, use it here)

1 tablespoon rose water

Finely crushed ice

Method

Peel the apples and grate them using the large holes of a grater or in a food processor. Transfer the apples to a bowl.

Sprinkle with sugar to taste and let stand for about 30 minutes. Stir in the water and the rose water.

Arrange a scoop of crushed ice in each of six stemmed glasses or shallow glass bowls. Top each with a portion of the apples mixture.

Note: For an especially festive presentation, serve the poludeh in hollowed out large lemon halves, garnished with unsprayed edible rose petals. And you can substitute apple juice for the water; reduce the sugar to taste.

Serves 6.

Double Ginger-Caramelized Pear Noodle Kugel

Ingredients

3 cups whole milk

1 thin strip lemon zest

1 cinnamon stick

1 cup fine dried egg noodles

Salt

1/2 cup granulated sugar

4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, plus 2 tablespoons, softened, for topping

1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1 to 2 tablespoons finely chopped crystallized ginger

2 medium-large ripe Bartlett or Bosc pears (about 1 pound), peeled and sliced about 1/4 inch thick

1 cup sour cream

4 ounces cream cheese, softened and cut into bits

3 large eggs, beaten

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

About 1 cup gingersnaps, crumbled

Method

In a 3- to 4-quart heavy-bottomed saucepan, combine the milk, lemon zest, and cinnamon and bring to a boil over medium heat.

Continue cooking over lively heat, stirring occasionally and adjusting the heat if the milk threatens to bubble over, until the mixture is reduced to a little over 2 cups.

Stir in the noodles and a pinch of salt, and cook for 4 to 5 minutes. Add the granulated sugar

See DESSERTS, Page 41

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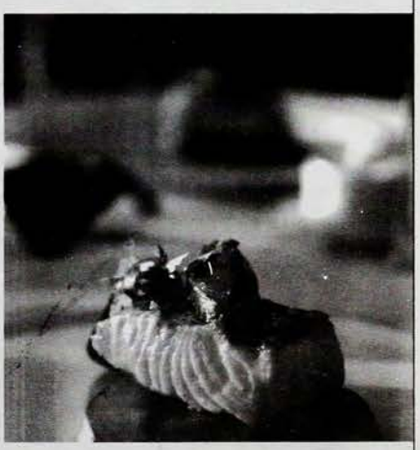
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Family events, summer camp and (gasp) Bernie Madoff

After celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, Camp JORI is going strong. Camp JORI offers a host of outdoor activities as well as Shabbat observances, such as this one, with, from left, Shayna Matzner, counselor; campers Nora Stolzman and Allie Selsberg; and Zohar Bromberg, counselor.

Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai in Cranston, entertained the younger generation – children attending the JCCRI pre-school – when he read a PJ Library book. The Dec. 9 event, held at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, was sponsored by the bookstore, the JCCRI, Shalom Friends, PJ Library, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the JFRI.

Some $50 billion in investments 'went missing' after Bernie Madoff admitted to his years-long Ponzi scheme; his hedge fund company, Ascot Partners, was built on a house of cards. When it came tumbling down, Wall Street and thousands of investors were left reeling. Many prominent Jewish institutions and individuals were left trying to rebuild from the ground up. Although Madoff's victims came from many walks of life (retired teachers and CEOs were affected), many Jewish institutions such as, for example, Yeshiva University, Hadassah, the Elie Weisel Foundation for Humanity, and the Robert Lappin Foundation, suffered.

Community celebrations and policy work in Washington, D.C...

Cranston residents, Rachel Kaplan and her daughter, Maddie, were all smiles at the mid-winter community Shabbat dinner, held at the JCCRI, on Jan. 30. This event, sponsored by Shalom Rhode Island, the Mothers Circle, PJ Library, the JCCRI, the JFRI and its Young Leadership Division, the Network, was one of several events held throughout the year that brought members of the Jewish community together.

Rabbi Joel Seltzer joined our community – and Temple Emanu-El – last year; here, he jams with his guitar at a Sept. 14 celebration of his installation.

Eliana, left, and Ayelet Jaffee of Providence were among the hundreds who gathered at the JCCRI on April 29 to celebrate Israel Independence Day. The day's events were sponsored by the JFRI, the BJE and the JCCRI.

At the Jewish Council for Public Affairs plenary session in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 29, Maxine Richman, a JCPA board member and an active member of the community relations council, spoke to a national audience this spring about the establishment of the council's interfaith coalition to fight poverty. The coalition, which she helped found, includes organizations from across the religious spectrum. Its goal is to reduce poverty in the state by 50 percent within 10 years.

Alice Goldstein, the recipient of the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award; Doris Feinberg, the president of the JFRI; Dr. Jonathan Sarna, a chaired professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and the keynote speaker ("The American Jewish Community in a Post-Madoff World"); and Stephen Sliberfarb, the executive vice president/chief executive officer of the JFRI, enjoyed a light moment at the Federation's May 11 annual meeting.

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A pride in public education: 'This I Believe'

Classical alum helped rescue, revitalize Nathan Bishop School

By Sam Zurier
Special to The Voice & Herald

this i believe Rhode Island

My belief in public education took shape when I attended Classical High School. As I expected, my teachers prepared me well for college. I did not expect, however, the challenges and rewards that came from joining a community of students from the entire city of Providence. The lessons I gained from this second education have only grown in value in my life as a parent and as a citizen.

When I returned to my neighborhood to raise a family, I saw a change. Parents held deep concerns about the quality, and in many cases, the safety, of the local public schools. Almost two thirds of the children attended private school. In return, educators and other people from the rest of Providence were disappointed by the East Side's disengagement from public education.

Matters came to a head almost two years ago. The School Department announced that it would close our neighborhood's low-performing middle school. They planned to sell the building for condos, and use the proceeds to support schools in other parts of the city. When we asked an official to reconsider, we were told that it would take 10 years before the public schools would improve to the point where our neighborhood would return to them.

I felt crushed. Without a middle school, my neighborhood could never restore its ties to public education. For the first time, I considered moving my family out of Providence.

And then a miracle occurred. Hundreds of my neighbors rose up and demanded their right to send their children to a well-functioning public school. As our emails, telephone calls, letters and meetings mounted, officials realized that we really did believe in public education. Answering our plea, the School Department made a commitment to re-open Nathan Bishop as a model school that could benefit the entire district.

Encouraged by new hope, my neighborhood formed the East Side Public Education Coalition. We joined committees to help plan the new school and introduce it to parents. We became advocates for structural reforms throughout the district and the state. At Classical High School, my fellow alumni have joined to contribute charitable funds to the school, so that today's students can have the same opportunities that Classical has offered throughout its 160-year history. The obstacles along the path of progress are powerful, but so are the rewards, such as my daughter's orientation night, which featured a cross-section of Providence families that could have passed for a miniature United Nations.

Public education's gifts extend beyond the children who learn, and the educators who teach, to the parents and citizens who find meaning and purpose in its values. In uniting to improve the public schools, the families in my neighborhood demonstrated how our belief lies at the heart of the American dream and the lively experiment begun by Roger Williams. To paraphrase an old saying about studying the Bible, we can view our belief in public education as equal to everything else we hold dear, because achieving this one goal can lead to the realization of all of our other hopes and dreams.

"And then a miracle occurred. Hundreds of my neighbors rose up and demanded their right to send their children to a well-functioning public school. Officials realized that we really did believe in public education."

A Rhode Island native, Sam Zurier is an attorney who still lives in Providence with his family. His "This I Believe" essay aired on WRNI on Feb. 27, 2008. Essay reprinted with permission of Zurier and WRNI.

/Nancy Kirsch

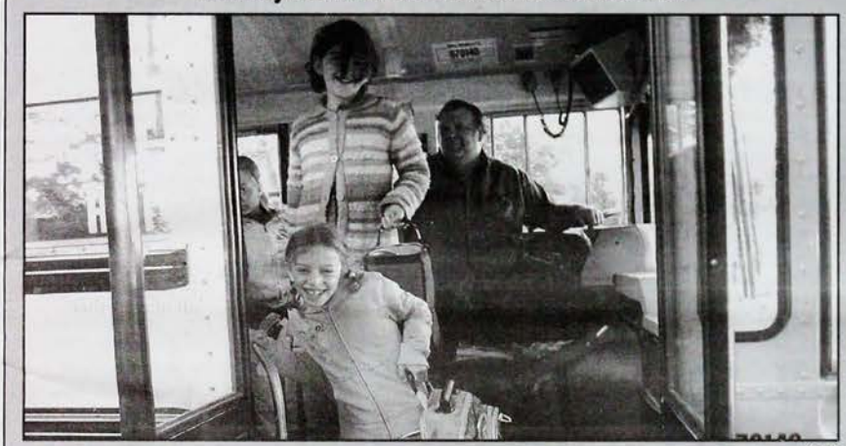
The newly renovated Nathan Bishop School on Providence's East Side.

New England Academy of Torah students meet for Newport retreat

/PHDS

New England Academy of Torah (NEAT) students return to school with their annual retreat to Newport. Rachel Avigdor, an expert on teen education, met with NEAT students on the grounds of the Astor Mansion. The Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 retreat consisted of a variety of student bonding friendship activities, inspiring workshops and trips to a number of local attractions. NEAT reports that 100 percent of its 2009 graduating senior class is studying in Israel, and three students from the 2008 graduating class have returned for Shana Bet, the second year of study in Israel.

First day of school: PHDS students are all smiles



/PHDS

Shira Cohen and Chava Sosis (striped sweater) and 28 other students arrive on the Sharon, Mass. bus to Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) for the first day of school, on Sept. 1. This year, the PHDS begins with 165 students, the highest enrollment in the past 12 years.

Dollars for Scholars luncheon

Fradkin celebrates gold anniversary of his non-profit

FALL RIVER, Mass. – On Sept. 21, Scholarship America/ Dollars for Scholars, a program founded by Dr. Irving Fradkin to fund college scholarships for deserving students, will hold a fundraising "back-to-school" luncheon celebrating the program's golden anniversary.

Founded by Fradkin in 1958, Dollars for Scholars has expanded to 1,300 chapters in 42 states. To date, more than 2,000,000 students have received $2 billion in scholarships from Dollars for Scholars. In the program's first year, Fradkin awarded $4,500 to 24 students.

"If you give these kids a dream and help support it, then we will change them," said Fradkin. "This is the type of program that can make a difference, and that's why I do what I do."

The luncheon, at the Tradewinds Restaurant at BMC Durfee High School in Fall River, Mass., begins at noon. Speakers include Fradkin, Fall River Mayor Robert Correia, Meg Mayo-Brown, superintendent of Fall River schools; and Dr. Robert Ballard, senior vice president of USA Funds.

The keynote speaker, Ballard directs college access and outreach programs that provided, in 2008 more than $15 million for college prep programs.

The luncheon is sponsored by Citizens/Union Savings Bank.

For more information or to attend the luncheon, which costs $10 per person, contact Fradkin at 508-672-0092.

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Touro Fraternal Association awards scholarship grants, loans

CRANSTON – Three young men – a future lawyer, future doctor and future teacher – have been selected as this year's recipients of $3,000 scholarship grants from Touro Fraternal Association. Another 15 students will receive $2,000 interest-free loans, as part of the Association's 2009 student financial aid program.

All recipients are children of members of Touro Fraternal Association, the largest independent Jewish fraternal order in New England, which maintains its headquarters here.

Andrew Lehrer of Cranston, a Bentley College graduate, attends Boston University School of Law. The son of Touro member Stephen Lehrer of Cranston, he was elected to the Bentley College Honor Society and the Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. He also graduated from the intensive Chinese language program at Xiamen University in China.

Kevin Levin, the son of Touro member Robert Levin of Waterford, Conn., is in his second year at the Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, and graduated from Johns Hopkins University. Before moving to New Orleans, he spent two years at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and has had several papers published dealing with drug and alcohol dependence.

The future teacher is Charles Winkleman, the son of Touro member Joseph Winkleman of Providence. He is now a junior at the University of Vermont majoring in early childhood teacher education. During his sophomore year, he served an internship at the university's preschool, and last summer worked at a community pre-school. Last spring, he worked with other students helping the rebuilding program in Saint Bernard's Parish in New Orleans.

A total of $39,000 was available in Touro loans and grants again this year. Since the Leo Greenberg Memorial Student Loan Program was introduced in 1981, Touro members' children have received loans totaling nearly $300,000, and all loans have been repaid.

Regular Touro members, their spouses and children, and children of deceased Touro members, who are fulltime students attending an accredited institution of higher learning are eligible for the grants and may apply for interest-free loans. Loan repayments do not begin until the student has graduated or otherwise leaves school.

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Yiddish is alive and well in Amherst, at the JCCRI

The National Yiddish Book Center is unique

AMHERST, Mass. – The National Yiddish Book Center, the world's largest repository of Yiddish books – some 1.5 million – was the destination for 39 Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) *Shmoozers* on Aug. 8.

JJCCRI

Yiddish books waiting to be catalogued

Some 30 years ago, Aaron Lansky, then a student, envisioned rescuing thousands of Yiddish books that had been abandoned here and overseas. His dream? To keep Yiddish traditions and heritage alive through literature.

Lansky and his assistants gathered these books with loving care. His book, *Outwitting History*, recounts Lansky's diligent efforts to collect and preserve these books; thanks to his work, the Center is now a thriving hub of *Yiddishkeit* with some 35,000 members.

The *shmooz* group was treated royally; after watching a videotape of the Center's founding and then touring the facilities, they had the chance to purchase Yiddish books. Yiddish classes are offered to the Center's interns and new staff. The group's outing concluded with the film, "Mamele." Starring Molly Picon, the film is in Yiddish with English subtitles.

JJCCRI

***Shmoozers* gathered outside the National Yiddish Book Center for a 'family portrait.'**

The National Yiddish Book Center is at Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building, 1021 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002, and the Web site is www.nationalyiddishbooks.org. Yiddish and more is available closer to home with the JCCRI Yiddish *shmooz* group; contact Sue Suls at the JCCRI at 861-8800, ext. 108 for more information.

Common Cause director to speak to Senior Guild

CRANSTON – The Cranston Senior Guild will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, at 1 p.m.

The group will hear from John Marion, executive director of Common Cause of Rhode Island, "The Citizens' Lobby Group," who will speak on "Your Voice for Better Government."

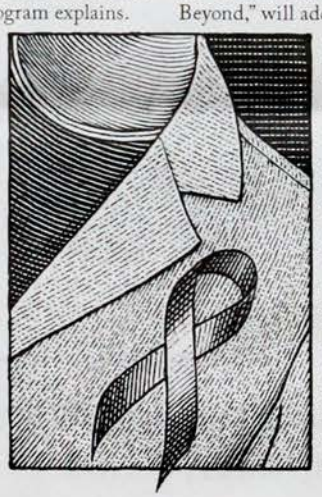
A raffle and refreshments will follow.

Breast and ovarian cancer genetics conference

Program will benefit both physicians and patients

PROVIDENCE – On Saturday, Sept. 26, Women & Infants Hospital and the American Cancer Society will host a symposium for physicians, nurses, social workers and women who have tested positive for the gene mutation (BRCA1 or BRCA2) that dramatically increases their risk of breast or ovarian cancer.

Including patients and their health care providers in the same audience allows everyone to benefit, as Robert D. Legare, M.D., medical director of the hospital's Breast health Center and Caner Risk Assessment and Prevention Program explains. "It's a powerful and emotional diagnosis. It's important that we help educate members of the community and the providers who will work them in the aftermath of a BRCA diagnosis."



The day-long program, "Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer: BRCA Testing and Beyond," will address topics such as "Interpreting BRCA Test Results," "Breast Cancer Risk Management," "Mastectomy-Breast Reconstruction or Not?" and the luncheon lecture, "A Future Physician's BRCA+ Story," by medical student Shanna Levine.

Breast cancer survivor Maxine Richman will also speak at the conference.

The event will be held at Women & Infants Conference Center, 101 Dudley St., Providence, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 26. Fees range from $10 for the general public to $135 for physicians; continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and a syllabus are included. Continuing medical education credits for physicians, genetic counselors and nurses are available.

To register or for more information, call 274-1122, ext. 7263 or visit the Web site at www.womenandinfants.org.

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Walk-Ins Welcome

The next generation of Jewish leaders steps up

Network leaders enjoy social gatherings, philanthropic ventures

By Bradley Laye
blaye@jfri.org

The end of summer cocktail party at AQUA downtown on Aug. 25 kicked off the new year of programming, leadership development, and philanthropy of the Young Leadership Network of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI).

The Network is dedicated to involving young professionals in their mid-20s to mid-40s in a broad range of activities as a means to enhance their commitment and connection to the work of the JFRI, Israel and the greater Jewish community.

"As an inaugural event this year, the party at AQUA raised awareness about community needs, and also engaged the young people of Rhode Island," said Laura Schaffer, co-chair of the programming team of the Network. "The next generation of Jewish leadership is coming together socially while at the same time connecting with the needs in our community. We are making a difference."

Through teams of leaders focusing on philanthropy, education and leadership, and social activities for young professionals and young families, the Network will build the next generation of Jewish leadership in Rhode Island.

> **"The next generation of Jewish leadership is coming together socially while at the same time connecting with the needs in our community. We are making a difference."**
>
> Laura Schaffer
> Co-chair of the programming team of the Network.

In addition to the recent social event at AQUA, and the National Day of Service on Sept. 11, when the Network led a campaign to gather 1800 pounds of food for Rhode Island's kosher food bank, known as the Full Plate, from around the state, they will host an annual campaign event. That event, on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m. at State Ultra Lounge, will feature Jewish comedian Joel Chasnoff.

"By combining an entertaining evening that will be as fun as it is informative, we hope that we inspire our peers to make meaningful gifts of $180 or more, which is less than 50 cents a day, to support the Federation annual campaign," said Bethany Sutton, one of the philanthropy team chairs. Additionally, the Network will play a significant role in Super Sunday on Nov. 15, and will partner with the Bureau of Jewish Education for the Dr. James Yashar and Judge Marjorie Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance, and upcoming PJ Library events.

"We are all so involved in various organizations and programs that affect us, our children, and our community. The Network is where we can bring it all together," said Randi Beranbaum, Network chair.

For more information about the Young Leadership Network or upcoming Network events, please email Bradley Laye at JFRI at blaye@jfri.org. JFRI welcomes and encourages the participation of interfaith and non-traditional families.

/Andrea Hansen

Jennifer and David Arndt, Stephanie Landau, Beth Brier, Meredith Sinel and Nikki Hamburger enjoy a brief break at AQUA.

/Andrea Hansen

Members of the Network at AQUA on Aug. 25.

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R.I. Maccabi teams sizzle in San Antonio

RI delegation distinguishes itself

By Barney Heath
Special to The Voice & Herald

This year's Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's (JCCRI) Maccabi delegation of seven athletes competed with more than 900 fellow Jewish teenagers in the blistering August heat of San Antonio.

Led by 10-year Maccabi games veteran delegation head Darlene Desroches, the JCCRI sent five girl basketball players and two boy soccer players to the 16-and-under competition.

A total of 27 delegations participated in the games. The largest delegation – 90 athletes – was from San Antonio, and the smallest – 2 athletes – came from San Jose. Texas' neighbor, Mexico, sent 18 athletes and Israel sent nine.

The JCC of San Antonio proved to be a very accommodating host. Accessing venues at three local colleges, Maccabi athletes competed in basketball, tennis, soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming, golf, bowling, table tennis and dance.

While the indoor venues and transportation to and from sites were comfortably air-conditioned, the outdoor temperatures were consistently 100 degrees and higher. But no matter, the young athletes seemed relatively unfazed by the uncomfortable conditions.

In boys 16-and-under soccer, Rhode Island Maccabi athletes Aaron Libman and Dan Lebove teamed up with fellow soccer players from Columbus, Ohio; Kansas City, Kansas; Birmingham, Ala.; and Milwaukee to form a complete team, to compete against teams from southern New Jersey, Los Angeles, Baltimore and San Antonio. Playing two games a day in 95 degree plus heat, the Rhode Island boys and their teammates competed valiantly, although they lost in a closely fought bronze medal game to the team from the host city.

In girls 16-and-under basketball, Rhode Island Maccabi athletes Allison Robbio, Daniella Levine, Gabrielle Warshay, Hannah Meharg and Rebekah Heath, and three girls from the Kansas City delegation, formed a team the girls affectionately dubbed "Kansas Island." Following a very respectable 2-2 record, the "Kansas Island" team faced the Israel team in a quarterfinal match. Team "Kansas Island" put up a good fight, but eventually fell to the aggressive "man-to-man" style defense employed by Team Israel.

While the Rhode Island Maccabi delegation didn't bring home any medals this year, the athletes were still winners. Thanks to Desroches, Rhode Island's opening ceremony jerseys, game uniforms, and all-important delegation pins featured Hasbro's Transformers as their theme – a huge hit with their fellow Maccabbeans. Indeed, the Transformers pin became the most prized item to trade among all the various delegation pins. As "transforming" as the pins were, it was the manner in which the Rhode Island contingent conducted themselves at and away from the athletic venues that set the standard for this year's games.

The hardest working athletes of these games may have been not the athletes themselves but Desroches and her able assistant, Elise Landry, who attended every minute of every game, chaperoned (though at a safe distance) the various social activities at night, and generally kept tabs on the Rhode Island kids during the entire Maccabi experience. For that, on behalf of our RI Maccabi parents, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks.

Barney Heath was the girls' "Kansas Island" basketball coach at the Maccabi games held in San Antonio in August 2009.

Courtesy/Barney Heath

The JCCRI Maccabi delegation at T.F. Green Airport before they headed to San Antonio. Front row, left, Hannah Meharg, Daniella Levine and Bekah Heath; back row, left, Dan Labove, coach Barney Heath, Aaron Libman, Allie Robbio, Gabby Warshay and coach Elise Landry.

"While the Rhode Island Maccabi delegation didn't bring home any medals this year, the athletes were still winners."

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Temple Am David doubles its pre-school, opens new locations for Shalom Friends

By Cantor Rick Perlman
Special to The Voice & Herald

On Sunday, Sept. 13, a new school year began at Temple Am David in Warwick. The morning was all abuzz and alive with the sounds of children enjoying a new Religious School year, preparing for the holiday season, getting to know new friends and re-igniting relationships with friends from last year.

The Eunice Zeidman pre-school doubled in size this year, which was very exciting to the temple leadership. The synagogue has assembled a highly experienced cadre of teachers and volunteers to work with our families and children.

Temple Am David is the original home of Shalom Friends, the synagogue's original program that began eight years ago. Shalom Friends is a weekly music and movement class that lasts one hour and is geared to children from birth to 5, and their families. Each class has a theme, such as *mitzvot*, *tzedakah*, Israel or an upcoming holiday. Classes include singing and interactive movement to original and traditional Jewish music; arts and crafts projects; storytelling; and a group celebration of Shabbat including prayers, *challah* and grape juice.

In Shalom Friends, the adults share ideas – from easy *challah* recipes to special family traditions – and build lasting friendships. All participants receive an original Shalom Friends CD of music, and a book with the song lyrics.

Courtesy/www.templeamdavid.org

Cantor Rick Perlman is rarely separated from his guitar; they make beautiful music together.

Shalom Friends classes are now in three locations: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Sunday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.; the Jewish Community Day School, 84 Taft Ave., Providence, on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (this group is almost full); and the South County Jewish Center, 375 Kingston Rd., Narragansett, on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Classes begin the second full week of October.

Beyond Rhode Island, Shalom Friends is also operating at the JCC of Greater Boston with classes in Acton, Mass., Hingham, Mass., and Wayland, Mass. Temple Beth Tfiloh in Baltimore, Md. is also a new member of the Shalom Friends family.

If you have friends or family in Rhode Island or other parts of the country who may be interested in a Shalom Friends program, contact Sharon Sock at 463-7944.

For information about Temple Am David's Religious School, call the synagogue office at 463-7944.

Perlman is the spiritual director and head of the Religious School at Temple Am David. He can be reached at cantorrick@cox.net.

A panoply of programs at Brown University

Theater, political discussions and more on tap

PROVIDENCE – "Tartuffe," the Moliere farce, will be performed at Brown University's ..eeds Theatre from Sept. 24 to Oct. 4.

Brown's production is a contemporary American spin on the classic French farce, investigating the fine line between passion and destruction when fundamentalism is imposed upon a community.

Shows run Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., call the box office at 863-2838 for more information.

Volunteers work diligently to restore property damaged in Hurricane Katrina.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos and former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer will lecture on "The Obama Age and Progressive New Policy for a Post-Crisis World," at 11 a.m. in the Joukowsky Forum, Watson Institute, 111 Thayer St., Providence.

Come listen and learn whether, in the wake of the recent global economic crisis, will progressive policies take root? Will President Obama and his fellow political leaders reform institutions and implement safeguards against another "Great Recession?"

On Friday, Sept. 25, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity in the Gulf, called the "Katrina, Katrina" project, presents a multimedia tribute to the city of New Orleans and its people, featuring trumpeter Matt Leder and his jazz band, and Michelle Bach-Coulibaly and her dance troupe. The festivities begin with a parade throughout campus and end with a gala champagne reception for patrons at the Faculty Club. The Street Band Parade begins at 7 p.m., followed by the concert in Salomon Center for Teaching at 8 p.m.

Suggested minimum donation is $10 for general admission and $5 with a Brown ID. The concert and patron reception package is available for $50 for the general public and $25 for Brown ID holders. For tickets, call 863-3234.

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Students get ready for school bells and rocket sirens

School year opens in Sderot

By Anav Silverman

Although the third Hamas-Israel ceasefire is still in effect, Sderot schoolchildren began the 2009 school year both excited and apprehensive.

Two days before the doors to Sderot's nine schools opened, two rockets fired from Gaza triggered the city's rocket warning system known as the Color Red siren, and sent residents racing for a shelter on Sunday evening, August 30.

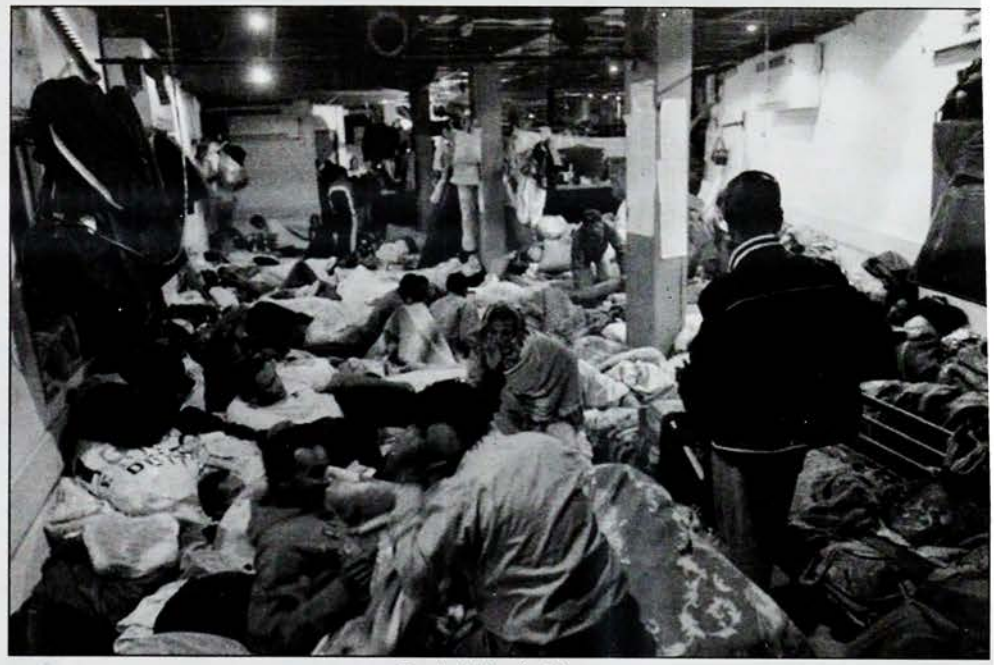
"I was scared but not surprised," says Rotem, a 16-year-old student, beginning 11th grade at a local Sderot high school. "We know that the rocket attacks will begin again, and I don't think that anyone here really believes that the quiet will last. We've lived here [in Sderot] long enough to know that," she says.

Dina Huri, principal of a Sderot elementary school, made sure that the opening school year would offer everything for her first to sixth grade students, and that also included upgrading the school shelters against future rocket attacks.

"During the summer, I had the three school bomb shelters transformed into "kid-friendly" shelters," she says. Huri had the shelter painted in bright colors and installed rugs so that the children would feel more comfortable. Huri doesn't remember the exact date of when the shelters were first installed – "they have been around for a while" – but she says that the original concrete grey slabs made children feel like they were imprisoned. "Last year, every time the siren blared, the students had to run into these concrete structures, wondering when they could leave. Now these shelters are places that the students want to play in."

In any case, Sderot residents had another reason to expect rocket fire on the opening day of this school year.

Two years ago, 10 Qassam rockets slammed in and around Sderot, throughout the first week of the September 2007 school year. One rocket landed between a Sderot daycare center and elementary school, where 12 kindergarten children were hospitalized for shock at Ashkelon's Barzilai hospital.



Bomb shelter in Sderot

"Our students sent balloons up into the air with Jewish New Year messages calling for a peaceful year – for all of us in this region and the rest of Israel."

Dina Huri
Principal of a Sderot elementary school

Iranian-backed, Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for that rocket attack, proclaiming them "a present for the start of the new school year," on the terror group's Web site.

Rotem stated that she was surprised that rockets had not been fired at Sderot on the first day of school. "I woke up in the morning expecting to hear the siren. It is strange – instead of being surprised by rocket attacks, I am surprised when there are no rockets. I thought for sure they would want to destroy the excitement of the first day of school."

In recent days, Palestinian terror groups have increased terror activities, with mortar and Qassam rockets being fired towards Israel for three straight days. On Aug. 29, a rocket exploded in the western Negev, and on Aug. 24, an Israeli soldier was injured by a Gaza mortar.

Two weeks before, on Aug. 10, two mortar rockets were fired at the Erez Crossing, just yards away from ambulances transferring a Palestinian heart patient to Israel, according to the Jerusalem Post. Palestinians suffering from illness cross almost daily into Israel for treatment through the Erez Crossing.

Huri says that she and her staff continue to pray for a quiet year for everyone. "Our students sent balloons up into the air with Jewish New Year messages calling for a peaceful year – for all of us in this region and the rest of Israel."

Anav Silverman is the international correspondent for Sderot Media Center. Visit their Web site at www.SderotMedia.org.il. A native of Maine, she made aliyah to Israel in 2004.

Reprinted with permission from Silverman and Sderot Media Center.

Free college prep workshops

NEWTON, Mass. – The Princeton Review will offer a PSAT practice test and college admissions workshops at no charge.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10 a.m., a full-length proctored PSAT practice test, complete with detailed score analysis, will be offered to high school students at the Radisson Hotel, 220 India St., Providence, and the Barrington Public Library, 281 County Rd., Barrington.

A workshop will provide insight into the college admissions process, advice on the SAT, the ACT and how to maximize students' admissions potential. The session will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 220 India St., Providence.

Space is limited and reservations are required for these free events. For more information or to register, call 800-273-8439 or visit www.PrincetonReview.com/GettingIn.

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Germany convenes anti-Semitism panel, recommendations expected

Hans-Joachim M. Rickel/Courtesy of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Members of Germany's newly convened panel of experts on anti-Semitism include, standing, left, Aycan Demirel, Dr. Martin Salm, Prof. Dr. Hans-Julius Schoeps and Prof. Dr. Armin Pfahl-Traughber; seated, left, Dr. Olaf Farschid, Dr. Juliane Wetzel, Dr. Schäuble; Elke Gryglewski and Dr. Wahdat-Hagh.

By Toby Axelrod
JTA Staff Writer

BERLIN (JTA) - Germany's newly convened panel of experts on anti-Semitism came away from their first meeting with a new challenge: to analyze the gamut of anti-Semitism in Germany today – whether from right-wing or left-wing or Islamic extremists, or from mainstream society – and to make practical recommendations on how to combat the problem.

The independent – and unpaid – panel of ten scholars and educators assembled in August by order of the German Bundestag with backing from the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It is to produce its comprehensive report within the next legislative period – that is, within one and a half years, a source close to the group has told JTA.

A spokesperson for the panel is to be elected at the next meeting, scheduled for early November, the source said.

Ultimately, the report is to cover a broad range of topics, including the classic neo-Nazi anti-Semitism, newer forms of anti-Semitism among Germany's sizable Muslim population, as well as general anti-Zionist, racist and so-called "secondary" anti-Semitism, a more or less German-specific phenomenon in which Jews are resented because of the guilt feelings they engender.

Members of the panel were given a packet of background documents that included federal and police statistics on anti-Semitic crimes, descriptions of current programs, as well as a working definition of anti-Semitism that has been adopted at the European Union level.

Federal Minister of the Interior Wolfgang Schäuble announced the establishment of the panel on August 5.

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JTA/Edmon Rodman

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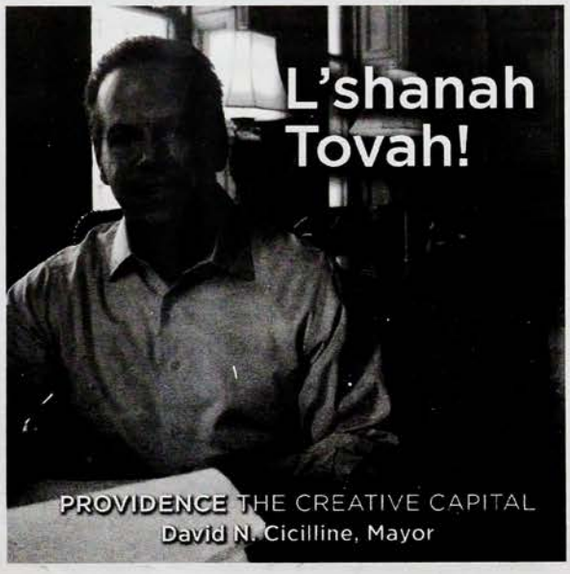

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AS WE GROW OLDER

A cautionary tale about change

There's nothing like experience – and a little wisdom – to shake things up

Tema Gouse

Life's landmarks seem to be occurring with greater frequency these days. And with each one we seem to develop a consciousness of change. Change in apparel, change in architecture, change in interests and activities – and most important, a change in values.

It is hard to clarify if an impression is a real change or whether it is just a modification of taste. These tastes are somewhat controlled by your personal life situation and the important influences of the significant individuals in your current living. Self-esteem (or lack of it) can determine your welcome or resistance to change.

When I was a child, I thought my mother and some of her sisters were the best cooks in the world. When my sister and I became the family cooks, I thought she was the best. Until I married and became the only chef and then, well, you know the end of that story!

Then I grew up and discovered that there were restaurants that deserved the praise and "big bucks" because they made food that was better than I could prepare. And they did the work and the clean-up.

Appearance is another issue of change. First I thought (correctly) that I was too thin to look pretty. Then with successive landmarks, I thought (correctly) that I was too fat to look pretty. And then it became less important. When I was in my teens and 20s, I thought that the girl who wore an angora sweater and Scotch plaid skirt was the height of glamour. She had long hair and manicured nails. She wore mascara!

As senescence took over I altered my image of the handsome woman.

Today I admire a woman who wears makeup that conceals the blemishes and highlights the best features. I think a dress should not be too short as that could expose defects, and should not be too long, because the hem of her skirt will be soiled. Sweaters should be fitted so that they neither hide nor over-display the bosom. I think high-heeled shoes are dangerous, bizarre-looking and do not in any way enhance a woman's appearance. If my mother were alive today she would have equally harsh things to say about thongs.

Only a few comments on hairdos: they've gotten weirder! Whoever decided that men who are getting bald should shave their heads should be punished. And now, at risk of alienating my few surviving friends, let me tell brunettes (turned gray, now blond) that they look fine, but my few friends with ash white hair are gorgeous!

It is amusing to note the changes in attitudes about suitable activities. The man who thought that bridge was for people who had no intellectual leanings learns to play the game, and is quickly addicted to it. He is typical of the flexible senior who has relaxed enough to find pleasure as important as scholarly pursuits. Realizing that crossword puzzles can be fascinating and brain-enhancing is an example of mental flexibility improving your life.

"You realize that change can be beneficial. And even if it is not, it is inevitable."

We have long-standing attitudes about relationships with children and grandchildren. Many senior citizens believe they are entitled to continue control of those relationships. This represents hardships for our offspring and their spouses. Resentment can result and can also alienate you from your grandchildren. But as our sons and daughters mature and reflect the ability to manage their own affairs (and maybe yours, as well), it is time to acknowledge the changes in status. Get off their backs! What grandparent does not recall seeing the first grandchild for the first time? And what grandparent can forget the first time that miracle baby got its first piercing? (Or, God forbid, his first tattoo?) But that calls for big change in Granny's manner. Not her feelings, but certainly her attitude. That's when change demands that you separate your reactions from your actions – and keep quiet!

This is all different from when today's grandparents were the grandchildren. But changes in attitudes and responses can make smoother relationships and ensure that your kids and grandkids will remain close to you. But if you have lived six, seven, eight or, in some cases, nine decades, then you realize that change can be beneficial. And even if it is not, it is inevitable. And if we are inflexible, we elders will suffer the most.

This started out intending to be amusing. Forgive the lecture.

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

Free peripheral arterial disease screenings

PROVIDENCE –Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) affects an estimated 8 to 10 million people in the United States; individuals with the disease face a greater risk for heart attack, stroke and loss of limbs. Free PAD screenings, including varicose vein assessment and stroke assessment, is being offered by radiologists from Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

Individuals who have leg cramping when walking or exercising that is relieved by resting, are older than 50, have high cholesterol, a high lipid blood test or high blood pressure, have diabetes, have smoked, are overweight or who have a family history of vascular disease, such as PAD, aneurysm, heart attack or stroke should be tested.

Testing will be held at Rhode Island Vascular Institute, 690 Eddy St., Providence, from 6 to 8 p.m., on Monday, Sept. 21 and Tuesday, Sept. 29.

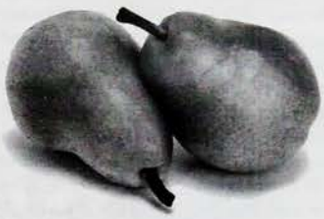
For more information or to schedule a free screening, call 427-7828.

DESSERTS: these are not low fat but they look delicious

From Page 29

and stir until it melts. Remove the pan from the heat and let cool to room temperature.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Melt the 4 tablespoons butter in an 8- or 9-inch square baking pan in the oven (or on top of the stove if the pan is flame-proof), swirling the butter around to cover the bottom and sides of the pan. Sprinkle with the brown sugar and ginger, and arrange the pears evenly on top.



In a large bowl, beat together the sour cream, cream cheese, and 1/4 teaspoon salt until smooth. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla.

Remove and discard the lemon zest and cinnamon from the noodle mixture, and add the noodles to cream cheese mixture. Combine everything well. Pour the contents of the bowl over the pears.

Combine the gingersnap crumbs and 2 tablespoons softened butter, and sprinkle over the top of the kugel.

Bake the kugel for about 50 minutes, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. (The kugel should be slightly firm.) Let cool until set. To serve, run a knife along the edges of the pan, invert the pan onto a serving plate, and unmold. Or simply cut the kugel from the baking dish.

This is best eaten warm (reheat if necessary) or slightly chilled (not icy cold).

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Old-fashioned Rice Pudding

Ingredients

Unsalted butter, softened

1 cup long-grain white rice (unrinsed)

2 quarts whole milk

1/2 cup sugar

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 cinnamon stick

1 and 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/2 cup dark raisins, dried cranberries or cherries (optional)

2 large egg yolks

Optional additions: additional whole or evaporated milk or cream to thin pudding; sliced, toasted almonds; ground cinnamon or freshly grated nutmeg

Method

With long-simmering milk puddings, scorched pots seem to come with the territory all too often. To avoid hours of scouring, choose the heaviest, very large, wide saucepan you have (I use an enameled cast-iron Dutch oven). Rinse it briefly with cold water (but don't dry it), then generously smear the damp bottom with the butter. The butter will help prevent the milk from sticking later.

Combine the rice, milk, sugar, salt and cinnamon stick in the pan and bring to a boil, uncovered, over medium-high heat.

Reduce the heat to moderately low and cook for about 1 hour, or until the mixture is very creamy, the rice grains swollen to form a thick porridge, like oatmeal.

As the rice cooks, stir occasionally at first, then more and more frequently as the pudding thickens; this will release the rice starch and the foam created will help prevent a skin from forming.

Stir in the vanilla and dried fruit, if using, and simmer 5 more minutes.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, beat the yolks until well blended.

Slowly stir a ladleful of the hot pudding into the eggs, then add this mixture back into the remaining pudding in the pan, whisking all the time. Cook over very low heat, stirring constantly, just until the pudding begins to thicken (do not let it boil), about 3 minutes.

Transfer the pudding to a large serving bowl or 3-quart glass or ceramic baking dish. Press plastic wrap onto the surface of the pudding to prevent a skin, cool, then refrigerate until cold.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

"I like to thin the pudding with milk or cream, sprinkle with a little cinnamon or nutmeg, and/or top with the almonds for a bit of crunch," said Cohen.

All recipes from Jewish Holiday Cooking, A Food Lover's Treasury of Classics and Improvisations, *published by Wiley, 2008, by Jayne Cohen.*

Emily Weintraub, currently a resident of Cranston, is a senior at the University of Rhode Island. She is working this semester as an intern for The Voice & Herald.

Bike-a-thon benefits local hospitals' cancer programs

Riders help LIFEcycle raise more than $8,000

PROVIDENCE– The first annual Ride 'Round Rhody, a bike-a-thon hosted by LIFEcycle, Inc., a Pawtucket-based nonprofit, raised more than $8,000 on Aug. 30 to benefit the comprehensive cancer centers at The Miriam, Rhode Island and Newport hospitals and the pediatric oncology department at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

The number of participants – 49 in all – surpassed the expectations of organizers. "We could not have been more thrilled with the turnout, for our inagural event," said Jacob Brier, who co-founded LIFEcycle with his wife, Dani Sahner Brier. "We had a great mix of bike enthusiasts who were looking for an organized ride, as well as people who simply wanted to support a good cause."

Looking for a way to build on their families' traditions – which instilled the importance of *tzedakah* and community involvem[illegible] ng at a young age – the [illegible]lers founded LIFEcycle, Inc., a non-profit in November 2008, because they saw a need to support local health care.

Courtesy/Jacob Brier

Jacob[illegible]er and his wife, Dani Sahner Brier, after the bike-a-thon.

For more information, visit LIFEcycle's Web site, www.lifecycleinc.org.

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MEDICAL ARTS

Rules to obtain full Social Security payments

Tongue-in-cheek advice is full of wisdom and wit

Advocating preventive medicine has always been the physician's second rule – after pledging, first, do no harm.

And newspapers, aware of their societal responsibilities, have often employed their pages to urge that their readership abide by simple rules for living a prudent and healthy life.

Stanley Aronson MD

Listed below are 14 plausible recommendations to lessen the threat of life-shortening ailments. They venture somewhat beyond the conventional suggestions of health magazines.

1. It is critically important, first, that you choose your parents with extreme care. Make certain, for example, that your mother is older than 20, but younger than 35, when you are conceived. Make certain, too, that both your mother and father are healthy, well-educated, not blood-relatives, and, most important, affectionately compatible with each other.

2. Ascertain that your arrival into this troubled world is eagerly sought after and planned by both of your parents.

3. Make certain that your parents are wealthy enough to provide you with a stable home in a peaceful neighborhood. See to it that you have a bedroom and an identity of your own, and that this home be provided with adequate plumbing. Tell me of the good old days with out-houses and I will tell you about 20 percent infant mortality rates.

4. Keep the number of your siblings small, perhaps no more than two with one of each gender. See that both you and your siblings are encouraged to exercise both your minds and bodies in an intelligent and safe manner. Avoid sports that carry a high risk of contact head injury. Do not confine your studies of the wondrous arts and sciences of the world to your formal classrooms. And be prepared to learn, whatever your age; and as you learn, never relinquish the quality of doubt and the need to verify.

5. Physical exercise should not cease after gymnasium classes are concluded. When the urge to lie on a couch to watch television confronts you, jog for a while until the feeling for repose goes away.

"Nourish friendships, build bridges, seek companionship, but fear not isolation."

6. Take affectionate care of your body, particularly when you are young. Preventive maintenance becomes increasingly difficult when contending with obstructive rust in the machinery. Leave tobacco products to Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Robert Montgomery, Yul Brunner and John Wayne – all of whom died of lung cancer. Regard alcohol, at best, as an occasional companion, and not as the spiritual answer to psychosocial problems. Remember, too, that alcohol is not one of the essential life-sustaining vitamins.

7. Your diet should be characterized by constancy and moderation. Gluttony one week and anorexia during the next do not equal two weeks of balanced meals. Cravings for salt and sugar are learned, not inherited. It takes a lot of brainwashing to respond with enthusiasm to a message such as "Coke is life." It then requires a temporary lapse of critical intelligence to equate, uncritically, a watery solution of sugar, caffeine and carbon dioxide bubbles with God-given life.

8. As members of a resourceful society, we have both the time and the means to keep ourselves clean. And while it may or may not be next to Godliness, it certainly reduces the risk of earthly infection.

9. Be kind. Do nothing in excess. Nourish friendships, build bridges, seek companionship, but fear not isolation. Seek repose, but more important, seek enlightenment.

10. Health is often achieved and maintained by the simplest of interventions: Breathe in. Breathe out. Breathe in. Breathe out. Forget this and attaining enlightenment will be the least of your problems.

11. Learn through secular or spiritual endeavors to respect yourself; know yourself and the limits of your capabilities. Practice simple surveillance measures to detect the early beginnings of systemic disease. Being accident-prone is not a random phenomenon: It requires both deliberate ignorance and much self-contempt.

12. Go gently, go softly and always accompanied by common sense. A long and good life is partly inheritance, certainly good care, some Providence but mostly mystery. Be aware of your body and its physical limits. Be attuned to its language, always recalling that most unaccustomed physical sensations are not necessarily symptoms of terminal disease.

13. Life is a precious gift, enriched with infinite possibilities but of finite duration. And remember, too, that seeking immortality, like expecting five years of Red Sox World Series victories, is one of life's ultimate fantasies.

14. Live solely in the present tense, in the now, not in another time period. And wherever you are, be here – not elsewhere.

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

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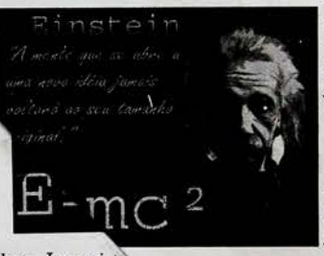
PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island chapter of American Mensa, "The High IQ Society," celebrates Mensa Testing Day on Oct. 17 by hosting qualification tests throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. Two tests are offered. The Mensa Admission Test (MAT) is appropriate for most candidates. It consists of two tests, either of which can qualify you to join Mensa.

The language neutral Culture Fair Test (CFT) is appropriate for those who are dyslexic or those whose first language is not English. It consists of three tests, any of which can qualify you to join Mensa. Two of the tests are untimed (within reasonable limits).

The test fee is $40 and a photo ID is required; the test is open to those 14 and older, though parental permission is required for teens ages 14 to 17.



Test takers should arrive 30 minutes before the test for registration. Visit the Web site, www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org and go to the "Testing" page.

JCDS opening on a strong note

Parents praise opening day ceremonies

By Voice & Herald Staff
voiceherald@jfri.org

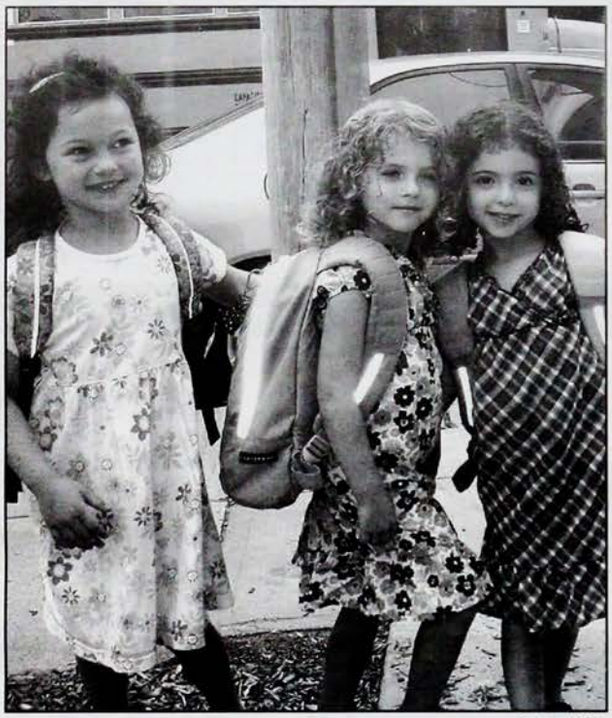
The Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) elementary school enrollment is identical to last year's head count, despite the closure of the school's middle school last June.

Naomi Stein, JCDS admissions director, said that enrollment is stable, with 83 students each year, and added, "Having the same number of kids enrolled in this economic climate is incredibly positive."

Opening day ceremonies on Tuesday, Sept. 8 included an all-school assembly with parents, the blowing of the shofar by Rabbi Wayne Franklin and a block party with music and a barbecue, which was overseen by Bob Sarkisian who, in his day job, is head of JCDS.

Ceremonies drew accolades from parents. Glocester resident Dr. Leslie Robinson-Bostom, a parent of two JCDS students, said, "I was deeply moved by the show of faculty, students and parents, [and] with the emphasis on American Jewish education, individual achievement and the wonderful sense of community."

And, Bonnie Steinberg Jennis, a Providence resident whose son attends JCDS (and another son graduated from there) said that the opening day ceremonies, the first the school has held, gave a clear sense of "the start of something wonderful." The day's events, which included a recitation of the pledge of allegiance, a brief *Torah* lesson and the shofar-blowing by Temple Emanu-El Rabbi Wayne Franklin, "gave the children a sense they were in a serious, yet safe and warm, place where they would be able to spend the year learning and growing, as scholars and as Jews," she said.



Courtesy/JCDS

This "bevy of beauties" – Cranston residents Eliora Woods, left, Baya Ginsburg and Esme Ginsburg – on their first day of kindergarten at JCDS.

Since last year, the school lost 11 students in the pre-K through 5 grades – four whose parents are on sabbatical, three who moved out of town and four others who left for other reasons, but it picked up 11 more students. No younger siblings of middle school students left JCDS, as the school feared they might, with the closure of the middle school.

Of the 45 students in the middle school, eight went to the Schecter School in Norwood, said Stein; overall, the students were fairly evenly split between private and public schools.

Both stable enrollment and teacher retention, Stein said, are strong indicators of school stability; JCDS had an 84 percent teacher retention rate from last year.

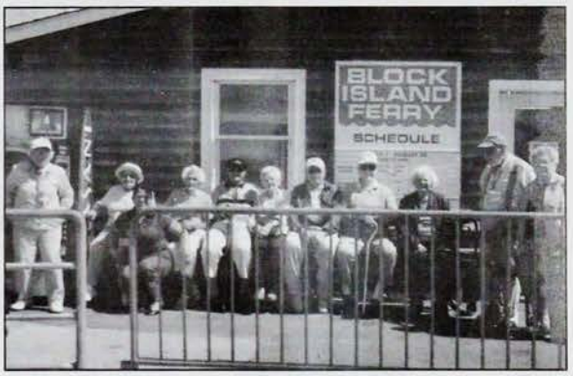
This year, JCDS has a new motto: "JCDS ROCKS;" as JCDS is Respectful and Responsible, taking Our own initiative, Cooperating, showing Kindness, with a Sense of pride in ourselves and the school.

JCDS is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Courtesy/JCDS

Bob Sarkisian, JCDS head of school, finds much excitement in grilling!

Tamarisk residents 'sail away' to Block Island



Courtesy/Tamarisk

BLOCK ISLAND – In the early morning hours of Aug. 29, 10 hearty seafaring souls from the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence in Warwick ventured across the deep blue ocean. Their destination, on a picture-perfect day, was Block Island.

The group was accompanied by three Tamarisk staff members: Ken Botelho, director of plant operations; Lev Poplow, director of resident programming; and Madelyn Pacheco, a certified nursing assistant.

Lathered in sunscreen and equipped for any emergency, the group landed in Old Port on schedule. With 80 degree temperatures and bright sunshine, the group chose not bicycles, but the bus tour, as the safer alternative. The day's highlights included picnicking at the Great Salt Pond, visits to both the north and south lighthouses and a leisurely tour of the rest of Block Island. The unanimous opinion of all involved? "This was great! Where do we sign up for next year?"

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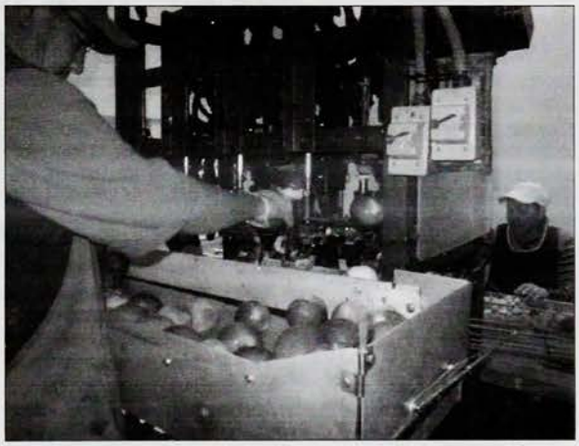
Blossom Trail Orchard sells pareve certified apples

Tamarisk, Rhode Island Hospital, Chelo's are among 54-year-old company's customers

By Nancy Kirsch
nkirsch@jfri.org



An orchard employee puts apples through the coring machine.

GREENVILLE –Blossom Trail Orchard feels like it's a world away from the East Side of Providence and Camp Street's Vaad HaKashrus of Rhode Island, but Donald Connetti, 73, owner of the orchard in Greenville, is familiar with the Vaad's kashrut rules.

As a vendor of sliced and packaged apples certified as pareve by the Vaad, Blossom Trail Orchard has customers who require the kosher certification – such as Tamarisk and Hoff's Bakery in the Boston area – and others who don't, such as Rhode Island Hospital, Wright's Dairy Farm, Holy Cross and Chelo's.

Even though only a few of the company's 150 to 200 commercial customers require the kosher certification, it seems to work out well for everyone. Paul Esposito, Connetti's cousin and all-around right hand man in the business, laughed, "I think customers like the kosher designation. It's like that commercial for kosher hot dogs, 'We answer to a higher authority.'"

Connetti, who inherited the land from his father and his grandfather before him, has run the business since 1955, one year after Hurricane Carol. Before the hurricane, the family grew its own apples and rented other orchards; post-hurricane, they had to sell off acres of farmland and purchase apples.

Around the same time – he bought an experimental apple-coring machine, from a Rochester, N.Y. company; that same machine is still in use today, though with rebuilt parts.

"The machine broke down and we had to have a mechanic come [in 1955[," said Connetti. "He charged $9 an hour; that's when I learned how be a mechanic." He repairs and rebuilds the equipment himself or with help from Esposito, a former engineer.

Though Rhode Island has dozens of apple orchards, the orchard can't get a sufficient local supply; most of the apples are from New York and a smaller quantity from Masssachusetts.

At 8:30 on a recent Sunday morning, the delivery truck was unloading apples from New York - the driver had awakened at 1 a.m. to make the trip – and the employees, all Spanish speaking, were already manning the apple coring machine.

Business Profile

Connetti spoke highly of his work force – about six to eight individuals – and their work ethic. One employee, he said, had been a doctor in Guatelema who came here for a better life. "He only earned $100 a week there; [with Connetti], he is paid $9 an hour."

He is grateful his faithful employees are eager to work, despite the tedium of such repetitive tasks – and the lack of permanence – "there's nothing to show for the work, the apples are gone." A few weeks before Thanksgiving, the employees' typical three-and-a-half-day schedule grows exponentially to include full-time and overtime hours. "They're all good people, they work hard and they are religious. They outwork us," he said, referring to his cousin Paul and himself.

Apples are unloaded outside the red barn building and then brought, on a forklift, to the building. Inside, they go into a hand-built bin that sends apples down a chute into the automated peeling machine. Then, the apples are dropped into a coring and slicing machine that sends the sliced apples into a bath of kosher-certified citric acid and salt which keeps them from browning.

What makes great apple pies? Apples that can take the

See APPLES, Page 49

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A little competition, a little exercise and plenty of fun

Runners of all ages compete in the eighth annual JCCRI 5K road race and youth races

PROVIDENCE – More than 375 racers ages 3 to 83 took to the streets of the East Side on Sunday, Sept. 13 for the eighth annual Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) 5K road and youth races.

Eric Lonergan, a Providence Cobras corporate team racer from North Kingstown, finished first in the 5K, with a time of 15:18. Female overall winner was Ainy Rudolph of Providence with a time of 16:46. Other 5K running teams represented included the Lincoln School for Girls, JFitness, Providence Ronald McDonald House, and LifeCYCLE.

In the children's races, boys and girls competed based on age, with a crowd of parents and fans cheering them on. Everyone who participated received a medal.

The JCCRI 5K is a charity race and all proceeds benefit the JCCRI. Title sponsors include The Miriam Hospital, and East Side Pediatrics. More than 30 other local businesses and many volunteers also contribute to help make the annual race possible.

/Tom Marchand

These young runners show perfect enthusiam, if not perfect form.

To participate in next year's race or to become a sponsor, contact Lisa Mongeau at the JCCRI, 861-8800.

JCCRI is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

/Tom Marchand

These little girls sail along in their oversized t-shirts.

/Tom Marchand

Juliette Saltzman, Lyndsay Goldstein and Bari Weinreich enjoy a group hug after competing in the JCCRI Youth Races.

Pink treadmill initiative supports breast cancer research

JCCRI is first in Rhode Island to offer this program

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) fitness center's new treadmill helps people increase their fitness, while potentially saving a life.

JFitness is the state's first fitness center to offer the new custom-made pink treadmill from Cybex International. Cybex has pledged to donate 10 cents for every mile logged on the specialized treadmill during October, Breast Cancer Awareness month; funds will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF).

"We are committed to raising funds for and awareness of the benefits of exercise, particularly as it relates to improving long-term survival for those who have been treated for breast cancer," said Lisa Mongeau, JFitness director. " Research strongly suggests that physical activity, at all ages, reduces the risk of developing breast cancer later in life. The monies raised from this program can play an integral role in finding a cure for breast cancer. We are proud to be part of this program, and to allow our members to participate, while getting healthy at the same time."

Research published in the Journal of American Medical Association tracked nearly 3,000 women for up to 14 years after their breast cancer diagnosis and found that exercise reduced the likelihood of breast cancer recurrence and increased the odds of living longer. One researcher noted that, "recurrence rates and deaths from breast cancer decreased up to 40 percent among those who exercised most, compared with those who were sedentary. Brisk walking for 3-5 hours per week – about 30 minutes a day – netted the biggest benefits."

The pink treadmill is one of several new machines that JFitness installed in July.

To learn more or to become a member of the JCCRI, please call 861-8800.

JCCRI is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Even behind bars, Jewish life flourishes

Jewish prisoners find ways to incorporate traditions

GIL SHEFLER

STORMVILLE, N.Y. (JTA) – On a breezy summer afternoon at the maximum-security prison that dominates the landscape here, inmates gather around a stocky bearded man as he prepares to blow a shofar.

Philip Drelich sounds one long blast and then the crowd disperses, off to their daily routine.

Just like many of their coreligionists on the outside, the Jews at this prison, the Green Haven Correctional Facility in upstate New York, are mindful of the daily shofar-blowing ritual during Elul, signaling the upcoming High Holidays.

It's one of many Jewish observances performed by inmates who have ended up here for crimes ranging from the possession of illegal firearms and drugs to rape and murder.

Walking down the long, bleak corridors of Green Haven, which are kept immaculately clean by an army of inmates constantly mopping the floors, a number of convicts wearing *yarmulkes* and *tzitzit* are visible.

Every morning and on Shabbat, about 12 regulars show up for prayer services at the prison synagogue; more than double that number are expected for the High Holidays. On Passover, inmates lead the seders.

On Sukkot, says Drelich, who is at Green Haven serving a life sentence for murder, the prison will have two sukkahs: "One for those in solitary confinement, and the other in the general quarters."

"A Yid is a Yid, a Jew is a Jew," says Rabbi Zvi Boyarsky, who visits Green Haven to minister to inmates. "The soul remains pure."

Maximum-security prisons in the United States have relatively few Jewish inmates, according to the Aleph Institute, a Chabad-affiliated organization that reaches out to Jews behind bars.

Most Jews in the prison system usually end up at lower-security facilities for crimes such as fraud or tax evasion.

But Green Haven has enough Jewish inmates that it is the only prison in New York with a hot kosher kitchen, where kosher food is prepared on site rather than being brought in pre-cooked from the outside. Of the 1,984 inmates there, 150 are listed as Jewish. About 70 are on the kosher meal plan.

"Every morning and on Shabbat, about 12 regulars show up for prayer services at the prison synagogue; more than double that number are expected for the High Holidays."

Despite the rigid nature of prison life, authorities say they go out of their way to allow Jewish worship and practice. Jewish inmates at Green Haven have a synagogue and a rabbi who works part-time five days a week. And as at all prisons in New York State, the inmates are permitted to keep *tefillin* in their cells.

"I had a prison guard who asked me, 'Do we really want to let them have these leather straps? They might harm themselves with them, or someone else,' " recalled Mark Leonard, director of Ministerial Family and Volunteer Services for the state of New York. "But it's important for them to have the phylacteries, and in my seven years on the job I've never heard of any problems."

It is not known exactly how many of America's 2.3 million inmates are Jewish. The Aleph Institute says it helps 4,000 inmates and their families, and that at least another 1,000 Jews are in prisons. But data provided by New York prison authorities suggest there are many more. In New York alone, officials say about 3,800 inmates have identified themselves on official forms as Jewish.

JTA

Jewish inmate prepares for the High Holidays.

In recent years, the identifiably Jewish prison population of New York State has risen dramatically – to 6 percent of the prison population today from 1 percent a decade ago. Rather than indicating a hike in crimes committed by Jews, state officials say it's a result of a dramatic increase in the number of convicts choosing to identify religiously – usually for the benefits they entail.

"By declaring yourself part of a religious group – any religious group – you become entitled to rights, like being able to grow your hair or a beard," Leonard said. Other benefits include the right to congregate, wear religious garments and have access to reading material, to name a few.

"Also," he said, "there is this notion that the kosher food is better."

The hub of Jewish life at Green Haven is the kosher kitchen, which dishes out three meals a day. The kosher supervisor, Rony Berkoviz, an Israeli-born inmate jailed for a sex offense, proudly displayed the separate dairy, meat and parve sets of dishes and cutlery and explains how the kitchen works.

Berkoviz laughed when asked if the kosher food is better than the standard fare.

"About 90 percent of the time it is exactly the same food," he said. "It might just be a little more cooked, that's all. But some people think it's better."

Drelich, who has been at Green Haven for 29 years and is the most veteran Jewish inmate there, says observing Judaism in the prison is no different than anywhere else, with one notable exception. He points to the notice board near the entrance to the prison's synagogue.

"The only difference is that instead of putting 'Have a healthy, peaceful New Year,' " he said, "we put, 'Have a healthy, free and peaceful New Year.' "

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Obituaries

Craig Adler

CRANSTON – Craig Adler, 54, died Sept. 10, in Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center, Providence. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late Stanley and Judith (Chinchuck) Adler, he had lived in Rhode Island for 24 years. He was the owner of McVan Inc. in Attleboro for 32 years, retiring two years ago.

He was the father of Jeffrey Adler of Providence, and Stephanie Amy Braunstein and her husband Aaron of Brooklyn; the brother of Fred Adler of Providence, and Marjorie Adler and her husband Michael Fournier of Atlanta. He is also survived by his former wife, Gail Adler of Seekonk, and a nephew, Sam Fournier..

Contributions in his memory may be made to Massachusetts General Cancer Center, 55 Fruit St., Yawkey 7-B, Boston, MA 02114.

Alan David Genter

NORTHRIDGE, Calif. – Alan David Genter died on Sept. 2. Born on April 6, 1931 to Maurice Genter and Natalie Brier Genter, he grew up in Cranston. He was a pharmacist and owner of three pharmacies.

He is survived by his younger sister, Sandra Genter of New York City, his son Peter Genter of California, and his daughters Susan Omell of North Carolina, and Heidi Genter Brewington of California,. He also leaves his grandchildren, Elizabeth Genter, Patrick Genter and William Brewington, of California.

Ellen Goldenberg

EAST GREENWICH – Ellen (Ashman) Goldenberg, 65, died at home on Sept. 6. She was the wife of Michael Goldenberg. Born in Baltimore, Md., she was the daughter of the late Harry and Adele (Salzman) Ashman.

A speech pathologist who graduated from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, she taught in New York and Rhode Island, and had spent her last 16 years in the North Providence school system. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

In addition to her husband, she leaves her children, Alex Goldenberg of San Francisco, Dr. Emily Goldenberg of Providence, and Seth Goldenberg of Boston. She is also survived by her brother, Dr. P. Miller Ashman of Rochester, N.Y.

Contributions may be made to The Miriam Hospital Foundation, 164 Summit Ave. Providence, RI 02906.

Henry P. Ross

ELSEWHERE – Henry P. Ross, 84, formerly of Warwick, died on Sept. 4 in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was the husband of Enid (Gold) Ross, to whom he was married for 46 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Israel and Annie Sarah (Bernstein) Ross, he had lived in Delray Beach for 18 years. He was a truck driver for the former Trans-American Freight Co. for many years, retiring in 1990.

He was a World War II veteran serving in the Merchant Marines in the South Pacific, and served in the Army during the Korean conflict. He was a member of the Masons, Shriners, the Jewish War Veterans and the Teamsters Union.

He was the brother of Samuel Ross of Minneapolis, Hannah Skolnick of Newton, Mass., and the late Albert Ross and Libby Rudnick.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Herbert Scribner

CRANSTON – Herbert Scribner, 90, of West Bel Air Road, died on Aug. 27, at Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center. He was the husband of the late Helen (Garey) Scribner.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Jacob and Dora (Bachman) Scribner, he had lived in Cranston since 1965. He was a merchandise manager for the former Arlan's Discount Department Store, retiring in 1979.

He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran, serving in Guam, and a member of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He attended Northeastern and Boston University. He volunteered with his brother for Meals on Wheels.

He was the father of Kenneth Scribner and Frances Scribner, both of Cranston, and the brother of Milton Scribner, of Providence.

Contributions in his memory may be made to your favorite charity.

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LANDSCAPE INSIGHT

Killing plants with kindness is not a good idea

The dangers of improperly applied mulch

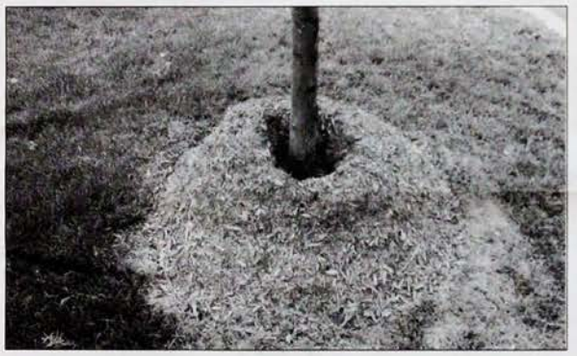
BY DAVID SCHWARTZ

Imagine, if you will, coming home from a day in the "business battlefield" to a "symphony" of flowers, foliage, and attractive plants surrounding your home. Such healthy and attractive plantings benefit you and your property. The value of your property – with improved curb appeal – increases, and you, as the homeowner, enjoy an aesthetically pleasing environment.

Most home settings are not natural plant environments, and, as such, have to be maintained. Where do we start? Let's assume that your trees, flowers and shrubs were properly planted and receive the appropriate sun or shade. Let's also assume that the irrigation is adequate, and so we then approach the question of mulch.

The benefits of proper mulching are well known: temperature and moisture control for the soil and root systems, and adding organic matter as well as beneficial bio-organisms to the soil.

"Most home settings are not natural plant environments, and, as such, have to be maintained."



Courtesy/Dave Schwartz

The "mulch volcano" is a danger to plants.

BUT, and this is a very big but: there is a dark side to the force. Mulch, if improperly applied or maintained, is frequently lethal to plant material. For mulching to be beneficial, it should be applied to a depth of two to three inches, and never touch the bark of the plant. A plant is a living machine with many different organs that must all operate properly for the plant to be healthy.

I see a great deal of the mulching in the form of the lethal "mulch volcano." The damage that the volcano does to a living plant is twofold. First, by keeping the normally above- ground bark constantly moist, the bark is then exposed to dangerous borers and fungal pathogens. Second, the over-mulching creates an artificial level over the soil stratum that is not a substitute for the functions of soil. Mulch does not have the properties of soil and is NOT a soil substitute. The artificial layer does not allow water and air to percolate properly, thus harming the root system.

As consumers, we are sometimes too trusting and too wiling to believe that, "if some is good, then more is better." It is my experience that, as a matter of course, homeowners may apply three or four inches of mulch each year without ever checking the existing grade. The final grade of mulch should never exceed three inches, and it should never be applied in 'volcano' style.

Mulch also benefits from periodic maintenance. If the mulch becomes crusty on top, it should be broken up with a rake. In certain weather conditions, this crust can create a hydrophobic surface that repels water. Remember, proper percolation of air and water is essential to the soil and roots having a healthy relationship.

As a plant diagnostician, I see every property as a puzzle. The pieces of this puzzle must be put together properly if the plants are to be healthy and happy.

David Schwartz is a master gardener and the owner of Schwartz Tree & Landscape.

COURTESY/DAVE SCHWARTZ

THIS TREE IS A VICTIM OF POOR MULCHING.

APPLES: Greenville orchard sells pareve certified apple slices

From Page 45

heat and still hold their shape without getting mushy, Connetti said. "Ida Reds, Cortlands, Golden Supremes, Golden Delicious and Rhode Island Greenings [from Massachusetts, notwithstanding the name]." His favorite? "Ida Reds, I've never had a customer complaint about them," he said.

Connetti says business has been good and unaffected by the recession. When asked why, he attributes his success to low prices and good quality, emphasizing the apples' quality.

He remembers the days when the State of Rhode Island was a huge customer, buying some 2,000 pounds of apples each week to feed the employees and residents of Zambarano Hospital and the State Hospital at Howard.

Although those days are long gone, Connetti sells today about 20,000 bushels of sliced and packaged apples each year, grossing about $400,000 in sales. "We're just a little company," said Connetti, "but we're holding our own. We're starting to grow a little bit."

Donald Connetti displays one of his apples.

Accounts are maintained manually and Esposito calls customers early in the morning to find out what they need. While I wait in the small office for Connetti to return from an errand, I listen to Esposito place calls. "Good morning, it's the apple man," he recites cheerfully, exchanging small talk with one or another customer. "What can we do for you today?"

Traveling each week throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts and up into New Hampshire, Connetti's delivery man puts 1,000 miles a week on the company van.

"The apple peelings and corings are picked up and used by a hog farmer for feed."

Ever curious, I ask, "So, what happens to the apple peelings and corings?"

Given the pareve certification, it's ironic, perhaps, that the apple waste is used by a hog farmer to feed the pigs. It also makes great mulch for blueberry plants – the plants love the acid in the apples, he said.

As I prepared to leave, he pressed on me a large bag of sliced apples that I promised to turn not into pies, but apple crisps. We then compared notes on the best apple crisp toppings – the likes flour, butter and sugar; I like to jazz mine up with vanilla, cinnamon, nuts and, sometimes, oatmeal.

I drove back to the East Side, with my stomach growling, already anticipating a homemade apple crisp.

These customer labels identify the apples as kosher.

Jackie Mason contest winners

The Voice & Herald **thanks our readers for participating in the "Meet Jackie Mason" drawing. We also thank the staff on Mason's team and at Foxwoods for making the meet-and-greet and the free tickets to Mason's show at MGM Grand at Foxwoods on Santurday, Sept. 12 a reality. We conducted a blind drawing and the lucky winners were...**

CAROLYN TICK AND Jed Brandes, pose with Mason (center) and *The Voice & Herald*, before the show. The couple lives in Cranston.

Leonard Klehr of Warwick also won two free tickets to the show.

We Are Read

Where in the world will we go next?

JENNIFER ADLER IN MILAN

ITALY

JENNIFER ADLER BROUGHT *The Voice & Herald* to MACEF, the International Home Show in Milan, Italy over Labor Day weekend. Her company, Survival by Design Cards, was invited to visit the show as part of a new partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Italian government to promote commerce between the two countries.

She wrote, "While I don't think my cards will translate well within the Italian culture, I did meet a Jewish jewelry business owner from California at the show and had a nice chat with him about Brandeis University, the Jewish parts of Italy, as well as where to get the best strudel in Europe."

Engagements

SHANA SHEVITZ AND DANIEL COHEN

DR. AND MRS. HENRY and Susan Shevitz of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Shana Lynn to Daniel Steven Cohen, son of Dr. and Mrs. Leslie and Francine Cohen of Warwick.

Shana earned a bachelor of science in architecture from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a master's degree in architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. She is a registered architect at CBT Architects in Boston, and teaches design studios at the Boston Architectural College and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Dan earned a bachelor's degree in computer and electrical engineering from Northeastern University in Boston. He is employed as an information technology consultant at EMC in Newton, Mass.

An October wedding is planned in Boston.

ALANA EPSTEIN AND JUSTIN RACIOPPA

LARRY AND HOPE (Klein) Langer announce the engagement of their daughter Alana Epstein to Justin Racioppa, the son of John and Barbara Racioppa of Charleston, S.C.

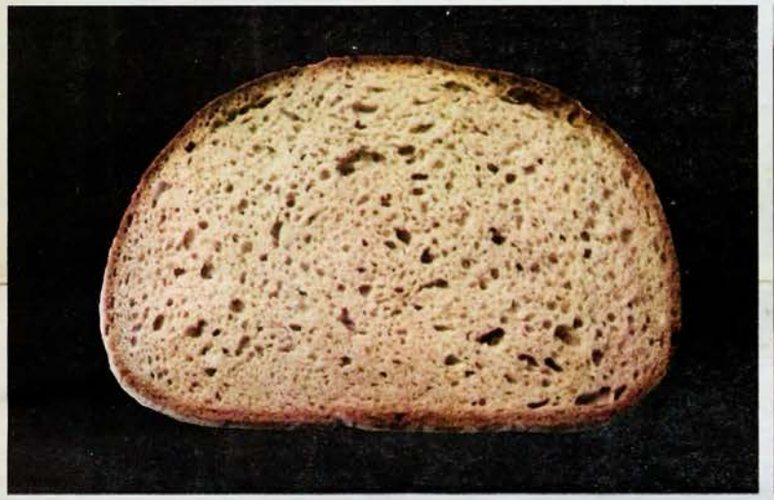
Alana is a graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C, and is pursuing her master's degree in education, while teaching in the Norwalk, Conn. school system.

Justin graduated summa cum laude from the College of Charleston, and is employed as a fixed income analyst with S.A.C. Capital Advisors, L.P., in Stamford, Conn.

Alana is the maternal granddaughter of Richard and Helene Klein of Cranston. Her paternal grandparents are Stanley and Rhoda Epstein of New York City, and Reita and the late Dr. Morton Langer of York, Penn.

The couple plans to marry in the fall of 2010.

YES. TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR ELDERLY, OUR HUNGRY, OUR DESPERATE AND OUR POOR.



They are our cousins and our grandparents, our neighbors and our long lost relatives. They are our family. And whether they are here at home, navigating the most severe economic downturn in generations, in the former Soviet Union or in Israel, more and more are turning to JFRI-supported programs for food and urgent financial relief. In fact, programs that provide basic humanitarian services have now been expanded to meet dramatically increased needs. **Care to help?** To donate, or for more information, to go www.JFRI.org or call (401) 421-4111.

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