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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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## Zero hour with Iran looms

Differences emerge on sanctions

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As long as the Iran conversation was broad and dealt only with "sanctions," the Congress, the White House and the pro-Israel community seemed to be on the same page.

But now that Iran has rejected just about every bouquet sent its way and the talk has turned to the details, longstanding differences over how best to go forward are taking center stage.

With the backing of many Jewish groups, Congress appears to be pressing ahead with a package that targets Iran's energy sector.

opposition forces in Iran. But also playing a role is the Obama administration's continuing emphasis on securing international backing for tougher measures against Tehran, the idea being that sweeping U.S. sanctions aimed at the Iranian energy sector could turn off several key nations.

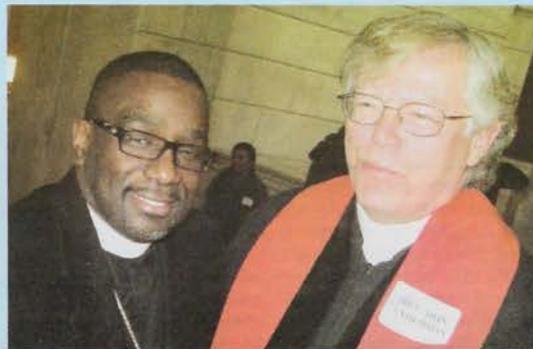
Additionally, the Obama administration has not counted out the prospect of engagement with Iran, although the Mahmoud Ahmadinejad government has put to rest any notion that it will entertain the West's offer to enrich Iran's uranium to medical research levels in exchange for transparency about the Islamic Republic's suspected nuclear weapons program.

"Our goal is to pressure the Iranian government, particularly the Revolutionary Guard elements, without contributing to the suffering" of Iranians, "who deserve better than what they currently are receiving," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a news conference Monday.

Opponents of the congressional sanctions, which target just about any investment anywhere in the world in Iran's energy sector, say they would be inhumane and rally support for the regime.

"Having opposed the adoption of crippling sanctions all along, Americans for Peace Now (APN) is glad to see further affirmation from the White House that it does not seek such crippling sanctions," said Ori Nir, a spokesman

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Reverend Jeffery Williams and Reverend Dr. Donald Anderson at the vigil



The Jan. 5 vigil drew faith leaders from many denominations.

## Clergy and activists convene at Statehouse

Message to R.I. politicians:

'The budget is a moral document'

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — On the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 5 — the first day of the 2010 legislative session of the Rhode Island General Assembly, a rainbow

of ethnically and religiously diverse leaders flocked to the Statehouse to urge the state's elected officials to remember our state's most vulnerable individuals.

Organized by the Rhode

See RAINBOW Page 9

## Hospice eases end of life

Families and patients nurtured, at home or in facilities



Diana Franchitto, chief executive officer of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, explains the role of hospice volunteers.

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

**B**UT FOR THE identifying sign outside, one could easily mistake the building at 1085 North Main Street for a more-than-moderately priced hotel. Each individual room has a flat screen TV, a mini-fridge, individual temperature controls and light, plenty of sunlight. The building's floors are a light hardwood and the sage green color scheme is both soothing and sophisticated. The lobby is filled with seasonal plants and overstuffed, comfortable chairs, and the walls are lined with beautiful pieces of art. Coffee, tea and morning muffins or afternoon cookies are available in a sunny dining area.

Since June 2009, the building has been not a hotel, but the home of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, established more than 30 years ago. Providing care to 24 patients on site and hundreds more at nursing homes, hospitals or in their own homes, Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island — like all hospices — focuses on care and comfort, rather than cure — for individuals facing advanced stages of cancer, end-stage lung and heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, or neurological disorders. Generally, patients with a life expectancy of six

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Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

While the White House appears to support new congressional sanctions, it appears to favor more narrow measures targeting the Iranian leadership and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, considered especially vulnerable because of the recent anti-government turmoil.

In part the debate is over which approach would do more to help

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Coming Jan. 22:  
Our Wedding Issue

## After several visits, Orli Mintz now calls Israel 'home'

Brandeis University graduate from Rhode Island makes aliyah

By LAURA BERLINSKY-SCHINE  
Special to The Voice & Herald



Orli Mintz is one of Israel's newest immigrants.

**T**HE FINAL CHARACTER *aliyah* flight of 2009, facilitated in part by Nefesh B'Nefesh (Nefesh), brought 210 new immigrants (*olim*) to Israel from North America on Dec. 29.

These *olim* were only a hand-

ful of the record-setting 3,814 new immigrants from the United States and Canada this year, an increase of 17 percent compared with 2008. According to Nefesh, the 2009 numbers are the largest since 1973.

Orli Mintz, a 22-year-old recent Brandeis University graduate, was

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JERUSALEM JOURNAL

Second Stieglitz family member makes *aliyah*

'Welcome home, Evy'

**T**HE HARDEST PART of my *aliyah* was leaving my entire family behind. This was in stark contrast to the feelings I had upon my arrival in Israel as a new *oleb* (immigrant). After disembarking from the airplane that brought me and over two hundred other *olim* (immigrants) to Israel, we were shuttled to the terminal for our arrival ceremony. As the shuttle doors opened, I was hit by a wave of emotion when I observed the singing, dancing, music and cheering that erupted from the hundreds of people who had come to greet us.



Daniel Stieglitz

As I walked through the path that was cleared by two rows of soldiers enthusiastically waving flags, I was given a unique emotional experience that has not been duplicated in the two-and-one-half years since my *aliyah*. That is, until my sister Evy made *aliyah* on Dec. 30.

It was this past April when my sister told me she wanted to make *aliyah*. For me, it was a dream come true to hear this, since I would finally have a member of my immediate family with me in Israel. In the months that fol-

lowed, Evy began her preparations. Like me, she signed up to

**"My blessing to my sister is that her entire *aliyah* will be smooth and meaningful."**

spend her initial few months in Israel living and studying at Ulpan Etzion. Also like me, she arrived in Israel with a job already in hand, since she will continue to work as an executive recruiter at the Israel branch of her New York City firm, AC Lion.

Then, finally, the day of Evy's *aliyah* arrived. Our father had the responsibility of bringing Evy to JFK Airport the day before for her departure from the U.S. A few hours later, my mother and brother — who had arrived for a visit several days earlier — and I went to the Nefesh B'Nefesh arrival ceremony at Ben Gurion Airport. As I've mentioned in past columns, Nefesh B'Nefesh is largely responsible for reinvigorating and increasing *aliyah* from North America and the United Kingdom. In addition to providing significant help to *olim* both before and after their *aliyah*, they also arrange chartered *aliyah* flights to Israel, and the

incredible ceremonies to greet the new *olim*.

As Evy's plane landed, I was hit by a feeling of nostalgia when I saw the lines of soldiers waving Israeli flags while the crowd cheered, some people holding up specially prepared "Welcome Home" signs, and everyone waited for the *olim* to begin their welcome walk through the path of soldiers. However, I wanted to greet my sister in a somewhat more unusual fashion.

As I had worked at Nefesh B'Nefesh before beginning my army service, with the help of my former co-workers, I was granted permission to stand and wait for my sister where the shuttle buses would drop off the new *olim*. I waited patiently as shuttle after shuttle brought over *olim* from the plane. Before greeting Evy, I welcomed Orli Mintz, another Providence native, as well as Evy's friend, Estee. Soon, the



Daniel and Evy Stieglitz in Israel

/Pinchas Orbach

shuttle carrying Evy arrived. As emotional as my own arrival was, it was nothing compared to what I felt when I greeted my sister as she stepped off the shuttle. Both

life in Israel. My blessing to my sister is that her entire *aliyah* will be as smooth and meaningful to her, as mine has been for me. And, to help ensure this, I'll make sure



/Dani Stieglitz

Evy collects "a lifetime of luggage" at the baggage claim in Ben Gurion Airport.

of us were moved to tears by the power of the moment. As a result, I was able to relive the high point of my own arrival, but this time it was done side-by-side with my sister who was experiencing it for herself.

Now, with her *aliyah* only a few days old, I look forward to helping Evy through these initial few weeks, months, and years of her

that I'm by Evy's side through her own life and journey in the Land of Israel. Welcome home, Evy!

A Providence native, Daniel Stieglitz lives in Jerusalem and is studying for a master's in creative writing at Bar Ilan University. Contact him at [dstieglitz@gmail.com](mailto:dstieglitz@gmail.com).



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## Kollel launches 'Just Say Shema Campaign'

*Program engages children and their parents*

By Rabbi Raphie Schochet  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**T**HE *SHEMA* IS "the Jewish Pledge of Allegiance." The six Hebrew words that make up the *Shema* are a simple, yet complete, declaration of our faith.

They have been with Jews wherever we have gone. Many Jews have died with these words on their lips, at all stages throughout our tragic and bloody history. The ideas, expressed in the *Shema* declaration and the paragraph that is customarily recited together with it, are relevant to life in every age and generation.

Last year, Jewish Unity International, a coalition of outreach organizations (including the Providence Community Kollel) throughout North America, began this national initiative to encourage children and their parents to study the *Shema* together. The "Just Say *Shema*" program has come to Rhode Island this year, so children here and in cities around North America in primary grades (K-4) and their parents will recite the *Shema* each day during February, the "Just Say *Shema*" month.

To reinforce this program, many Rhode Island Hebrew schools, Jewish day schools and other venues of Jewish education and outreach,

such as the Bureau of Jewish Education's (BJE) PJ Library, will highlight the *Shema's* relevance. The Providence Kollel will distribute, through the Hebrew and Jewish day schools, materials for the children that will make reciting the *Shema* every night before bed both fun and engaging.

After a child recites the *Shema* with his mother or father, he will put a sticker on his calendar. After a child completes a week of *Shema* recitations, she is qualified to enter a prize raffle. When children say the *Shema* every evening, they develop a comforting and consistent bedtime routine, and an opportunity to bond with their parents.

### COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Although this program is new to Rhode Island, community response seems positive, as final plans get underway. "The Just Say *Shema* program will provide our families with a terrific opportunity to have a spiritual 'night-night,'" said Ethan Adler, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth David. "It will reinforce the importance of [the *Shema*], prayer, reflecting a basic tenet of our tradition."

Cantor Richard Perlman, spiritual leader at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, said, "What a wonderful way to bring the basic declaration of faith into the homes

of our students and families. The *Shema* is the most important statement that Jews remember and must know from birth to the moment we are about to enter *ha-'olam ba-ba* (the world to come)."

### PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parents will be fully engaged in the educational experience, when Kollel offers classes (or materials for classes) each week in different areas around Rhode Island. Online, parents who've registered for "Just Say *Shema*" – and their children – can listen to supplementary stories, daily thoughts on the *Shema* and podcasts of talking point highlights.

These classes and talking points provide parents a deeper insight into some of the messages of the *Shema*. Better-informed parents will be able to engage their children in meaningful conversations about the relevant and significant messages the *Shema* offers for daily life. This model of parental participation in their children's education is a powerful tool to helping children appreciate and value their Jewish education.

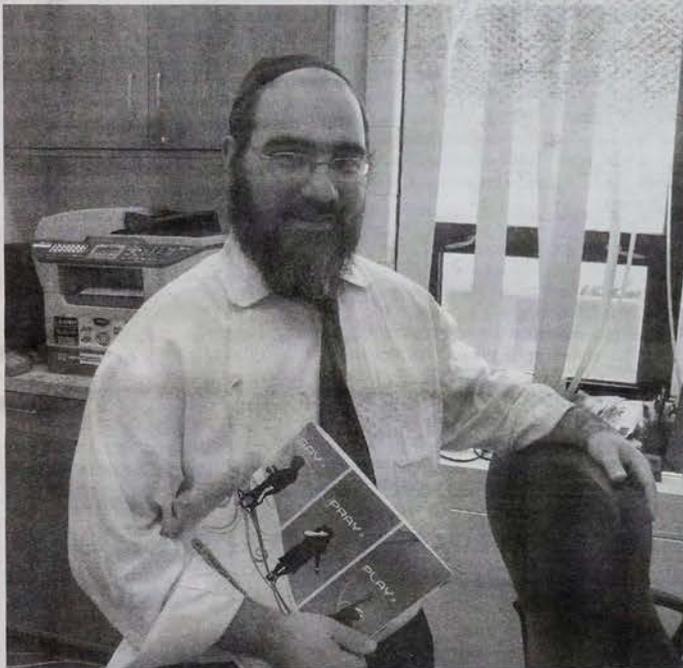
"*Shema* is recited by parents with

their babies every night," said Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, the Providence Hebrew Day School dean. It is, he said, "the very same prayer recited by adults in their daily prayers and in their final moment of life. How fitting it is to have the community and our students joining together in such a special unifying program."

**Shema**  
*Hear, Israel,  
the Lord our God,  
the Lord is one.*

*Rabbi Raphie Schochet is the dean at the Providence Community Kollel. Contact him at info@providencekolel.org.*

*The Providence Community Kollel, along with its partners at the BJE, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, Hebrew schools, religious day schools, and synagogues, is pleased to bring a seamless cooperative educational initiative to the broader community. In March, there will be an adult celebration at the Providence Renaissance Hotel (on March 7) and a gala children's celebration (on a date to be determined). For more information about Just Say Shema, contact the Providence Kollel at info@providencekolel.org or 383-2786.*



Rabbi Raphie Schochet in his office

## PJ Library supports 'Just Say Shema'

BY NICOLE KATZMAN  
nkatzman@bjeri.org

The Rhode Island PJ Library is proud to support the "Just Say *Shema* Program" in the month of February. The PJ book, *The Bedtime Sh'ma*, written by Sarah Gershman, can be enjoyed by children of all ages and adults as well. Reading to children

is one of the oldest and most beloved rituals. "Good Night" books help children unwind and feel safe falling asleep. Saying the *Shema* can easily be incorporated into your child's bedtime routine. Traditionally the prayer is said when you lie down and when you wake up. Happy reading and *Laylah tov!*

## Candle Lighting Times for greater Rhode Island

January 8 ..... 4:12  
January 15 ..... 4:20  
January 22 ..... 4:28

January 29 ..... 4:37  
February 5 ..... 4:46

Visit often: [www.jvhri.org](http://www.jvhri.org)

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR'S  
REPORTHere's  
to more  
resilienceBY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

EACH AND EVERY one of us has a story that can break your heart. Broken hearts and broken bones, lost keys and lost jobs, fractured and fragmented relationships. It's as certain as death and taxes that, if you're old enough to be reading this column, you've experienced grief and loss.

As I write this, I think about all the friends and family members I know who have, as I have, experienced those losses. Some have experienced losses that we wouldn't wish for anyone – losing a young child who became ill and, fewer than 72 hours later, died, or watching their five-year-old son lose a year-long battle against an inoperable and fast-growing brain tumor. Yet, the two couples who experienced these losses – the first about five years ago, and the second more than 55 years – are among the most positive, vital and engaged-in-life people I know. Their losses were huge – our children are supposed to outlive us, after all – yet they found their way back or out of the depths of their grief, picked themselves up and persevered.

I think about my childhood friend's father, Mike Vogel, who spent his childhood in a concentration camp and came to the United States alone as a young teen. He was the most loving, the most filled with *joie de vivre*, and the most vital of all the adults I knew. I knew another adult who climbed into bed and pulled the covers over her head – and pretty much spent her adult life there – crushed by some lesser losses.

So, why are some people so much more resilient than others of us? It's not that the resilient people dodge those "bullets of loss," they just don't fall apart when they experience them. Is there a resilience gene? If not, can we learn resilience – is it a muscle or a skill that, with repeated effort, we can develop?

While I didn't have the time to do any serious research on this question, some poking around the Internet turned up a Mayo Clinic Web site that offered some useful tips that I've re-interpreted slightly. So, for those of you, like me, who want to strengthen your resilience skills, try these tips:

- Develop or reinforce strong positive relationships. Stay connected with family and friends, volunteer or get involved in your synagogue.
- Laughter and humor can be great coping mechanisms. If you're feeling pretty humorless, try a funny book or a silly movie.
- Learn from experience. Remember how you've coped with past hardships; use the successful techniques and don't repeat the ones that didn't work.
- Remain positive and hopeful. Look

See LOSSES Page 6

IT SEEMS TO ME  
Male and female, God created them*Gender segregation and discrimination in Israel must cease*

ON ROSH HODESH Kisleh, the first day of the Jewish month of Kisleh, this past Nov. 18, Nofrat Frenkel, a 28-year-old fifth-year medical student, was detained by Israeli police at the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, in the Old City of Jerusalem. Her "crime" was

Rabbi Jim  
Rosenberg

wearing a *tallit*, a prayer shawl, and carrying a *sefer Torah*. The police took her to the station at David's Citadel, where they questioned her for two-and-one-half hours. The police would not release her until she signed a statement promising to keep away from the *Kotel* for 15 days. The reason for this apparent "arrest" is an Israeli Supreme Court decision made about 20 years ago: "in the interest of public safety," the Court declared it illegal for women at the Wall to engage in such "provocative acts" as holding an organized prayer service, singing out loud, wearing prayer shawls or carrying the Torah. Please note that these "provocative acts" are prohibited in the relatively small women's section of the *Kotel* plaza. In accordance with Orthodox custom, women are not permitted to worship with the men under any circumstances.

To quote Frenkel directly: "In my interrogation I was asked why I was praying with a *tallit* when I knew that this was against the Law of the Holy Places. I am an Israel Defense Forces officer, a law-abiding citizen, a volunteer in the Civil Guard – I have never incurred even a parking fine – and the idea of having broken the law was most trying. Nevertheless, I cannot allow my basic right to freedom of religious worship to

be trampled because of a court ruling given years ago."

On Dec. 18, Rosh Hodesh Tevet, one month after Frenkel's detention, 153 women – Orthodox, Conservative, Reform – braved a heavy rain and possible arrest to return to the *Kotel*, where, wearing *tallitot* under their raincoats, they stood praying at the rear of the women's section. According to

**"Some Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) men spit at them, threw potatoes at them and called them whores and Nazis, among other choice epithets."**

Anat Hoffman, chairwoman of the feminist group, Women of the Wall, when the time came to read from the Torah, the women, along with a couple of dozen male sympathizers, carried their Torah scroll towards Robinson's Arch, around the corner from the major plaza.

As they proceeded to move in the direction of this far less public space, some Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) men spit at them, threw potatoes at them and called them whores and Nazis, among other choice epithets.

As disturbing as these events at the *Kotel* might be, they represent only the tip of the iceberg. In the Dec. 7 issue of *The Pluralist*, the email newsletter of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center (RAC), Hoffman, who also serves as RAC's executive director, offers example after example of gender segregation in public

places throughout Israel. In addition to the well-publicized segregation at the *Kotel* and on certain bus lines, Hoffman points to "medical clinics that see male and female patients on separate days, post offices that have separate lines and stores that have separate entrances. There are even funeral homes in which men and women are forbidden to sit together, where a prominent sign warns them that 'when men and women mix in a funeral, it causes sadness and agony in the soul of the deceased. Beware, and keep separate.' Women are also not allowed to give eulogies – no exceptions made if the deceased was a woman's parent or child..."

Given all the problems that the State of Israel is facing today – entire nations would prefer that Israel cease to exist! – the arrest of Frenkel might seem to be of secondary significance. Nevertheless, what is at stake in the Frenkel affair concerns the future unity of the Jewish people. If women continue to be treated as second-class citizens at what is arguably the most sacred site in the Jewish world, then the cause of gender equality is threatened in Jewish communities everywhere.

It is unjust and immoral for an intolerant minority to impose their cramped view of gender segregation upon the overwhelming majority of Jews who find such enforced segregation in public places patently offensive. Our Torah tells us (Genesis 1.27) that God has created all of us *b'tselem Elohim*, in the image of God. "Male and female, God created them."

It is time for every Jew who wants us to survive as one people to take this Torah teaching seriously.

Contact Rabbi Jim Rosenberg, formerly the rabbi at Temple Habonim, at [rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org](mailto:rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org).

## Letters to the Editor

## Do Jews have no history?

THERE IS A sweet irony in opening *The Voice & Herald* on Christmas morning to read about Jewish colonists in Palestine. When half the world is celebrating the birth of a Jewish boy in Bethlehem, we are treated to Professor Nina Tannenwald chastising Jewish colonists for living in places like Bethlehem. There is also a bitter irony. On Dec. 24, Meir Hai, a Jewish father of seven and a kindergarten teacher, was shot dead. He was travelling on a road near Karnei Shomron, which Tannenwald tells us is populated by Jewish colonists. I don't know if she is fine with the murder of a Jewish father and teacher in biblical Israel, but her rhetoric suggests that his murder was nothing more than a native resisting a colonist – in a post-colonial world where colonists are fair game.

## Mazel tov to Sid Skurkovich

GATEWAYS: ACCESS TO Jewish Education is proud to have played a role in supporting Sid Skurkovich's path to his bar mitzvah day ("Hope and spirit shine..." in the Dec. 11 issue of *The Voice & Herald*). We believe that every Jewish child deserves a Jewish education and your compelling pictures and story captured the joy that every family longs to experience. The members of the Skurkovich family were the perfect partners in our efforts to secure access to Jewish learning for every child with special needs,

Many lands have sought to expunge the Jews by claiming they were a foreign element in their midst; I never thought I would see the day when Jews living in their ancestral lands would also be accused of being a foreign, colonizing element. We Jews must accommodate everyone else's narrative but the moment we dare have our own we become "colonists." A world where Jews in biblical Israel are colonists is one where Jews are not allowed a collective history, and one where we have no past and no claim on the future. In such a world we are dispensable, just as Meir Hai was dispensable. Sometime we truly are our own worst enemies.

Rabbi Asher Oser  
Congregation Beth Shalom

regardless of his or her ability or disability. We welcome your readers to visit our Web site to learn more about mission. We know there are other children in our mutual areas that would benefit from having this opportunity.

Mazel tov, Sid!

Jan Schwartz

The development and communications manager for Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, Newton, Mass.  
[www.jgateways.org](http://www.jgateways.org)

Specter of  
nuclear  
weapons

*Editor's note: Rep. James Langevin submitted these comments for the Dec. 25 story, "Iran sanctions bill passes House," but the information came in after press time. As his office agreed that they be shared as a letter to the editor, we offer them here.*

I WAS DISHEARTENED, but not completely surprised, to learn of the existence of yet another secret Iranian nuclear facility at Qom. Iran's continued deception only increases suspicions that they are working to develop nuclear weapons and threaten the security of all its neighbors. It is important that the President have strong tools to enforce U.S. policy and ideals, which is why I cosponsored the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act. By targeting Iran's import of refined petroleum, the U.S. would put a squeeze on the regime and discourage illicit nuclear activity.

The specter of nuclear weapons can only be solved through a multinational effort to counter their proliferation. It is crucial that we maintain a united international front when dealing with Iran. It is in no one's best interest to see a nuclear-armed Iran and we must work together to keep focused on this critical issue.

Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)  
Washington, D.C.

See MORE Page 6

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

# The minority should not subvert the will of the majority

*Israel's policies are askew*

**I** THINK OF TWO Rosas – Luxemburg and Parks – and of the Grimké sisters – Angelina and Sarah.

I think of Emily Pankhurst and of Susan B. Anthony. I think of Emilia Shroyer standing up to the Communist authorities in the old Soviet Union. I think of Nofrat Frenkel in Israel.

All were women who knew something was wrong and risked everything to correct it. Some were killed, others were imprisoned, each was the object of ridicule. What do these

**“Modern Orthodox in America also feel the sting of their Haredi brethren.”**

women know about how things are or should be? Things are as they are because of divine ordinance. Read the Bible. Slavery is divinely sanctioned; women must know their place because they are a pernicious, though necessary, gender. “Now, I find

woman more bitter than death; she is all traps, her hands are fetters and her heart is snares.” (Ecclesiastes 7:26) Enough said, right? Wrong. We also find, “She is clothed with strength and splendor; she looks to the future cheerfully. Her mouth is full of wisdom, her tongue with kindly teaching.” (Proverbs 31: 25-26) When I think of the Women of the Wall, the arrogance of the authorities who arrested a woman for wearing a *tallit* at the Western Wall still rankles. Granted, Frenkel wasn't stoned to death – for all their puritanical “fussbudgettiness” the *Haredim* of Israel are not the Taliban. But they insist that they know the truth and that the truth shall deny others freedom. Just like the Taliban, just like the Puritans from whom Roger Williams fled. And we who are not ultra-Orthodox are asked to bend our wills to theirs, since they are the authentic Jews. Women must sit in the back of the bus, they insist; a 13-year-old child converted by a Conservative rabbi has to be buried in a non-Jewish section of a cemetery in Spain by decree of Rabbi Shlomo Amar, not a Spanish rabbi, but the chief Sephardic rabbi of Israel. So, not only do the Ayatollahs of the extreme right in Israel try to dominate in that country, they seek to extend their purview to

the world. Recently mixed-group singing at the Wall was declared *verboden* so singing *Hatikvah* there to celebrate the return of the Old City to Israel is now a criminal offense. If I were a conspiracy theorist, I'd suspect that the ultra-Orthodox who opposed the creation of the State of Israel have found a new way to destroy it – by alienating the vast majority of us who have entered the current century. It's like supporting Hamid Karzai. Americans look at his corrupt regime and ask, for this we have to pledge our soldiers and our cash? For the *Haredi* we have to fight in Congress and the White House? Avi Shafran, spokesman for the Orthodox Agudath Israel of America, has a strange argument. On the one hand, “Israel is a country that has functioned with a certain understanding among its religious and not religious Jews. If

the activists don't want to alienate Jews, they shouldn't thumb their noses at the traditional Jews in Israel.” The fault is all on the side of the progressives. On the other hand, it's only a

activists or with the *Haredi* hot-heads? Pick one. Oh, he also argues that the problem is with foreign Jews who are trying to impose their views on the traditional ways of Israel. Rather like Ross Barnett or George Wallace complaining about outside agitators coming to their states. The defenders of the benighted old ways always blame outsiders. Modern Orthodox in America also feel the sting of their *Haredi* brethren who, not content to deny Reform and Conservative conversions, now challenge the validity even of theirs. Oh, lest it be thought that my ire is directed against the *Haredi*, it's not. They are what they are. It's Israel's government which kowtows to them, allowing a minority within a minority to dictate public policy. That's the *shande*.

*Josh Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. Contact him at [jstein@rwu.edu](mailto:jstein@rwu.edu).*



handful of the *Haredi* who protest the women and others who violate traditional standards. Most are in favor of a reasonable compromise, but there are always holdouts, he says. So, which is it – the fault is with the

NOT ALONE

## Political humility and constructive dialogue

*Is honest, open communication a hope or a reality?*

**I**N MY PREVIOUS column, I sought to articulate a rational, centrist position on the Israeli-Arab conflict, and I concluded that the lessons of Hanukkah offer us reason for hope.

Well, if we can learn something of hope from the miracles of Hanukkah, we also know that these miracles came only in the wake of commitment and effort. As Thomas Jefferson is reputed to have said, “I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work, the more I seem to have of it.”

And so let us rephrase the saying with miracles or hope instead

**“We ought to be suspicious if we find almost everyone else to be mistaken, deluded or evil.”**

of luck. We need to work for it. At the suggestion of a friend, I therefore want to take another step, to try to explain just what might give grounds for some more hope (though, I confess, I am not entirely confident this endeavor will be successful).

For, given the disagreements – among Jews – about the Israeli-Arab conflict, the question is this: is constructive dialogue even possible? Or, is the polarization so great that we cannot have meaningful conversation? And yet, if constructive dialogue is possible, what might be its guiding principles?

It strikes me that there are, roughly, three types of dialogue: (1) an open exchange, where all contributors are open to reasoned arguments and persuasion; (2) a sharing of

views in a framework of mutual respect, with no desire or expectation of persuasion; and (3) a discussion of limited focus, where the ground rules place certain issues off-limits (for example, many would argue that Jewish-Christian theological discussion lacks value, though cooperation on social issues might provide benefit). We might identify a fourth category, an anti-dialogue, (4) the rejection of any sort of dialogue, where the potential parties lack a common language and therefore have nothing to discuss.

How should we categorize the internal, Jewish debates over the Israeli-Arab conflict? My fear is that too often the fourth approach governs, or that, at best, the third model characterizes the situation. Even the mutual respect of the second option often seems like the threads of a fragile dream. Yet, if we are to work together, if we are to act constructively on behalf of Israel, perhaps we need to strive for the first, for a genuine, respectful exchange, where we remain open to persuasion.

Acknowledging that we are far from this ideal, how do we get there?

Perhaps the fundamental task is to cultivate political humility. Simply said, political humility is the recognition that I could be wrong. Now, it is no doubt human nature to think that I am rational, whereas other people – well, not so much. So, we go so far as to suppose, for example, that God must be a Democrat, or a Republican, or a Libertarian, etc. (And here we touch upon the notion of theological humility, the ability to say, “I hope I am on God's side,” as opposed to the insistence that “God is on my side.”) We ought to recognize that other people can be quite intelligent and that we ourselves can make errors in reasoning. We ought to be suspicious if we find almost everyone else to be mistaken, deluded or evil.

For instance, political humility demands that we reject the claim that, “Anyone who disagrees with me is an enemy of Israel and complicit with its enemies.” Political humility reminds us that it is pos-

sible to agree on a goal (e.g., Israel's survival and flourishing), but differ on the best strategies to get there. Those who see land for peace as undermining Israel's security and those who see it as a necessary sacrifice to secure it both value and seek the same end. It's possible that one or the other exercises poor reasoning or places ideology before reality, but that both developed and hold their views in good faith.

We therefore ought to extend the benefit of the doubt to others, assume they are well-meaning – even if we suspect they are deluded.

In the end, I believe that if we can cultivate political humility and carry on more constructive dialogue, we will be stronger and more effective in our defense of Israel – especially in a world where so many are committed to its destruction.

*Alan Krinsky, who works in the field of healthcare quality improvement, can be reached at [adkrinsky@netzero.net](mailto:adkrinsky@netzero.net).*

## A READER'S PERSPECTIVE

# Israeli settlements: Neither 'colonial' nor 'illegal'

## West Bank Jewish settlers in ancestral homeland

By Dr. Jack L. Schwartzwald  
Special to The Voice & Herald

IN NINA TANNENWALD'S latest epistle ("Palestinians aren't grateful..." *The Voice & Herald's* Dec. 25th issue), she asserts that Israel's West Bank settlements rest on "land confiscated from Palestinians," and are, therefore, "illegal" and "colonial." She is wrong on all counts. Tannenwald compares Jewish West Bank settlers to "the white settlers in America" who "displaced the Indians." But if she put shovel to ground beneath her Brown University office, which, technically speaking, sits atop confiscated Indian land, she could dig clear to China without uncovering evidence of her own heritage predating the European colonial expedition in America.

In contrast, Jews can dig almost anywhere on the West Bank with a reasonable likelihood of unearthing some Jewish artifact or other from ancient Judea and Samaria

that not only predates the modern Jewish presence in these lands, but predates the Arab conquest of 637 CE. Such archeological evidence proves that Jewish settlers in the West Bank have returned to their ancestral homeland. No "colo-

**"Secure borders for Israel are no less integral to the solution than is sovereignty for the Palestinians."**

nist" can make that claim. This doesn't mean that settlements are the best idea from an international relations standpoint or that Israel should claim eternal sovereignty over the whole of the West Bank. But it does mean that Israel's West Bank presence differs from any "colonial" venture in history, a good indication that Tannenwald's adjective does not apply. Likewise, Jewish settlers do not

"confiscate Palestinian land" and do not "displace" Palestinians from their homes. To the contrary, many Jewish "settlements" are built on sites from which Arabs expelled Jews during or before the 1948 War (for example, Kfar Etzion and Hebron). During the 1970s, some privately owned Palestinian land was requisitioned for Israeli settlements on security grounds. But this led immediately to court cases, and, in 1979, the practice ceased. Apart from this exception, all Jewish

settlements, which, taken together, comprise 1.7 percent of the West Bank, have been built on uncultivated, unregistered land or, in rare cases, on land purchased from willing Arab sellers.

Nor are Israeli settlements "illegal." The 1922 League of Nations Mandate Charter, which calls for "close Jewish settlement on the land" (including what is now the West Bank), remains the last legally binding document that specifically addresses the subject. It is frequently argued that the settlements violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Paragraph 6 states that an "occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian popula-

tion into the territory it occupies." Written after World War II, the text was intended to clearly state, in writing, that it was illegal for Adolph Hitler to have transferred Jews from Germany to the ghettos and death camps of Poland during the Holocaust. Comparing voluntary Jewish settlement in the West Bank to the deportations of the Holocaust is not only inappropriate, but in bad taste.

On April 14, 2004, George W. Bush wrote a letter to Ariel Sharon declaring that, in any foreseeable final status negotiation, Israel should and would emerge with defensible borders encompassing the major West Bank settlement blocs. On June 23, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives approved these assurances by a vote of 407 to 9, and on the 24th, the United States Senate approved them by a vote of 95 to 3. Israel's pre-1967 borders were militarily indefensible. A return to them now will not bring peace. It will invite further anti-Israel aggression. If peace is the goal, secure borders for Israel are no less integral to the solution than is sovereignty for the Palestinians.

*Dr. Jack Schwartzwald, a North Kingstown resident, is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School.*

## LOSSES: Need not define us

From Page 4

toward the future for something good. Find something – even as small as a smile from a stranger – positive each day.

- Take good care of yourself, by eating well, getting enough sleep and enough exercise and doing something you enjoy.

- Take some action. If you don't like that your friendships keep slipping away, figure out whether – and how – you contribute to that situation and work on addressing the problem.

- Practice stress management techniques such as yoga, meditation, deep breathing or prayer.

- Maintain perspective. I have a friend who says, "If I wake up alive, it's a good day."

In 2010, may we all learn and grow from our losses, strengthen our resiliency muscle and remember to be kind to others – for they, too, have a story that can break your heart.

## More Letters to the Editor

From Page 4

### What's up with WGBH?

I APPRECIATED JOSH Stein's op-ed ("Classical musical junkies left music-less," in the Dec. 11 issue of *The Voice & Herald*) on the dumping of classical music by WGBH. I am furious at their decision to relegate classical music to the WCRB ghetto. They haven't eliminated all music; so is prejudice against classical music the underlying cause for the change? They must be aware that more than half their WGBH audience will not be able to receive WCRB with a home or car radio. Obviously they don't care.

This segregating of classical music appears to be a national movement. Look at what has happened to WQXR in New York. WGBH is always claiming to be listening to their members. Was this decision brought about by a clamor of listeners for

a deletion of classical music? I doubt it.

I noticed in recent years that the morning news paid less attention to classical composers and musicians; almost all the reporting was about rock and folk. So the change in attitude has been brewing for quite some time. It may be that they are just going with the tide. After all, the arts and humanities are on quicksand in our schools and colleges. Is there a time when the people who cherish high culture should draw a line in the sand? It had better be soon! I am concerned about the coarsening of our future.

Dr. Geoffrey Gibbs  
Emeritus Professor of Music,  
URI  
Kingston

### 'Thumbs up' for Stein, 'thumbs down' for WGBH

I THOUGHT JOSH Stein's column on WGBH ("Classical musical junkies left music-less," in the Dec. 11 issue of *The Voice & Herald*) was wonderful. I have been thinking exactly the same thing about the changeover in formats. We have been card-carrying members of WGBH for more than 30 years.

One of my favorite times of the week was to turn on Robert J. (Lurtsema) early Sunday morning, put on a pot of coffee and read *The New York Times*. Such a pleasure!! My cat (no

longer among us, unfortunately) was driven CRAZY by the bird-calls and songs, however. The music and his commentary were wonderful.

I also enjoyed Ron Della Chiesa's afternoon programs featuring "The Great American Songbook." Show tunes, with stories about how they came to be and their artists, were great. One Friday afternoon, I got into my car with the radio set to 89.7. Ron was interviewing the actor Joel Grey, who spoke at length about his bar mitzvah, and his

father, Mickey Katz, the Borscht Belt comedian, klezmer musician and band leader. I thought to myself, "What a great way to end the week and start Shabbat!"

I will be letting WGBH know how I miss the classical programming (I do get their classical broadcasts somewhat on my drive to work in Fall River, Mass.) and perhaps they could bump up the transmitter on their classical outlet.

Stuart Levine  
Barrington

## Why do we need a Holocaust Education Center?

THE RECENT DESECRATION of the Auschwitz sign in Poland has no emotional bearing unless we know the history. We need to know the historical events that produced the sign and how those events impact our world today.

If we are not touched emotionally, historically and educationally, a monument's existence doesn't mean a thing. At the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island (HERC) which covers Rhode Island, from

Woonsocket to Westerly, and across state lines to Massachusetts and Connecticut, we teach the students how such evil and injustices came to be and how their role in their personal lives today can make the world a better place in which to live.

Personal stories of courage that changed and saved lives are powerful messages about the dangers of merely being a bystander. If we do not react and engage ourselves, we are giving tacit approval of the violation of people's lives and

welfare. HERC currently reaches the



minds and hearts of more than 6,000 students each year. The teachers are incredibly creative

in blending the large historical issues and personal issues during those terrible times.

Our workshops are well attended by public, private and parochial school teachers.

This spring, during our annual "Holocaust Through the Arts" program, the film, "Secrets of the Dead: Escape from Auschwitz," will be shown at the Showcase Cinema in East Greenwich in several theaters during a three-day period. Some 2,600 students from schools throughout Rhode

Island and Massachusetts will attend these film screenings.

Because of classroom activities, the support of HERC and the dedication of teachers to teach this period of history, students are educated to understand the tragedy of the theft. Without education, there is no understanding.

Selma Stanzler  
A past president of HERC  
East Providence

## Ken Schneider: Volunteer extraordinaire

*Schneider devoted to The Full Plate, HERC, Israel and JFRI*

BY CHRISTINE PARKER  
cparker@jfri.org

**Y**OU NEVER KNOW when you'll run into Ken Schneider. Maybe you know him as the owner of Sundaes, a retail ice cream business with two Rhode Island locations and one in Seekonk, Mass. Or maybe you sat side-by-side with him at a Jewish Federation of Rhode Island board meeting, or have seen him working as a volunteer at The Full Plate, or lending his insights at a *Jewish Voice & Herald* business committee meeting. Maybe you heard about his annual three-week trek to Israel for Volunteers for Israel, or during snowy winter months, he might be the friendly individual plowing your driveway.

Ken Schneider is just one of those people who deeply cares about the Jewish community, and he puts his energy where his heart is. He is one of the volunteers who make JFRI's work possible.

After participating in a leadership-building trip sponsored by JFRI, Schneider realized that he wanted to commit more time to helping our Jewish community – here and abroad. “That trip was a real turning point for me. I think that the existence of Israel actually protects Jews,” he said. “I’m a big believer that Israel has to be around for all the Jews in the world to be strong.”

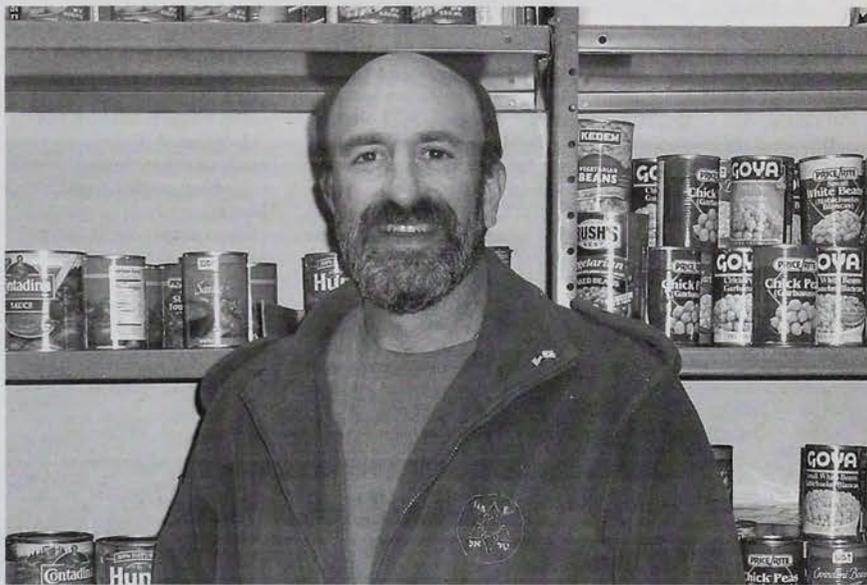
The trip was eye-opening for Schneider who said, “I learned about JFRI, and the local work it does here, and the money it sends

to Israel. I personally do what I can for Israel, and the work I do for The Full Pantry really brings home local needs for me.”

Schneider has supported the JFRI annual community campaign since the late 1980s. After his trip to Israel, he became more and more involved in Jewish community affairs and JFRI. He is currently the co-chair of the Leaders Division of the Annual Community Campaign, a member of JFRI's Communications Committee and he serves on *The Voice & Herald's* business committee. He also serves on the board of the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island.

### THE FULL PLATE

About his volunteer work at The Full Plate, a JFRI-funded program in partnership with Jewish Seniors Agency and AgeWell RI, Schneider says, “I like that I get to help people. Sometimes when I make home deliveries, I just spend a little time with people... I listen to them, check to make sure that they are alright.” Sometimes the people he meets need more than food. “A Jewish veteran was living in such bad conditions,” Schneider explained. “He was also having some mental health issues; it was clear he needed more help.” Help came from Susan Adler, the director of Jewish Elder Care of Rhode Island, who, with the help of the Veterans' Administration, arranged other housing for the individual. Schneider, along with Jerry Kritz, helped move the veteran – and his belongings – from his apartment to the assisted living



Ken Schneider is a regular volunteer at The Full Plate, Rhode Island's kosher food pantry.

facility.

### THE GENESIS OF VOLUNTEERISM

How did he get started? It was Ken's wife, Roberta, who reminded him of Ocean State Steel. “I almost forgot about that. When I first moved to Rhode Island, this steel plant in East Providence was a real polluter,” said Schneider. “The smell alone was overwhelming, and some days, you couldn't open your windows.” Schneider was one of several individuals who formed a neighborhood association to try to get them to clean up their act. “We were just a bunch of local people, with families and jobs, but

we took them on,” he said. “We'd show up at a city meeting with two or three local neighborhood guys, and they'd have all these lawyers.” After years of fighting, Schneider said, “we got the attention of the right people, and the steel plant was shut down. That was pretty amazing.”

That lesson – that individuals can make a difference – is something that is part of Schneider's DNA, though that's not the only reason he volunteers. “I meet the most wonderful, interesting people all around the world. It is mind-boggling to me how many

people volunteer, and the time and effort people put in to help others, despite having jobs and families.”

Asked what he would tell other potential volunteers, he said, “It all depends on what you are interested in, that's where it starts.”

*Ken Schneider invites anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for JFRI or other Jewish agencies to contact the Jewish Volunteer Connection by emailing Wendy Joering, wjoering@jfri.org or him at kenschneider33@cox.net. He'd like to meet you.*

## JCCRI open house is open to all

*Free fitness center, classes, babysitting*

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) is offering a free open house on Sunday, Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members



and non-members are invited to participate in the day's activities free of charge. Activities include fitness classes, use of the indoor pool and basketball gym, Family Funday activities for families of all ages, and babysitting.

In addition, a membership promotion is being offered during the Open House.

The first 10 individuals/families who join for the year will receive \$100 off their annual membership fee for the year. Also, current JCCRI members who refer new individuals/families who join the JCCRI will receive a \$100 discount on their renewal fee for the next year.

*For more information, contact the JCCRI at 861-8800.*



## WANTED: JCC Maccabi Games players, coaches

PROVIDENCE – Sign up now for this annual, weeklong international, athletic and cultural event that unites Jewish teens.

Jewish girls ages 13 through 16, who enjoy basketball or lacrosse, and Jewish boys and girls, 13 through 16, who enjoy tennis, dance, soccer or swimming can participate in these games. The year's Maccabi Games will be held in Baltimore during August 2010. Games held: August 2010, Baltimore Maryland.

*For more information, contact Darlene Desroches at 861-8800 ext. 155 if you are an athlete or coach.*

www.jvhri.org

## Keith Stokes to lead the EDC

NEWPORT – Keith Stokes, the executive director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and a former chair of Touro Synagogue Foundation, was named to lead the state's Economic Development Corporation (EDC). On Jan. 5, Governor Carcieri tapped Stokes, who had served as a member of the EDC Board of Directors since 1995, most recently as treasurer, to serve a one-year term, pending advice and consent of the Rhode Island State Senate. Stokes will resign his board seat to take the executive director position.

In a brief phone interview, Stokes, a Newport resident, said, “We're in the worst recession we've seen, so we can't wait for another four or five months... we need to move immediately to continue the momentum Governor



Keith Stokes

Carcieri has established.”

The state, he said, has to “actively engage each of the communities and be an agent to help build capacity. It's about growing existing companies.”

## WAEF is looking for a few good women

*A simple, yet powerful, way to benefit women and children*

By CHRIS PARKER  
cparker@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island has a unique giving opportunity for women in our community. The Women's



/Alisa Grace Photography

This woman lights Shabbat candles that were given to Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island participants by the WAEF.

en's Alliance Endowment Fund (WAEF) is a fund whose earnings are directed by fund members to support programs that help women and children. "WAEF is a unique opportunity for women to help other women," said Judy Robbins, chair of the WAEF, "and to have direct impact on where their dollars are used."

Here is how this special endowment works: Any woman who has made a contribution to the current Annual Community Campaign is eligible to become a WAEF member. All that is required is a one-time gift to the WAEF of \$1,000. Members then meet once each year to review funding requests, and decide how to distribute 5 percent of the WAEF's value to programs that they believe will best fulfill the needs of women and children in greater Rhode Island, Israel and around the world. As the WAEF grows, so does the ability to

support these causes.

In 2009, Women's Alliance Endowment Fund members:

- supported joyful noise at Camp JORI by helping purchase sound equipment for its theater arts program;
- encouraged self-empowerment in a program for women col-

lege students at URI Hillel;

- protected children through The ELI Outreach and Abuse Prevention Program in Israel; and

- brightened the lives of elderly Jewish women through a gift of Shabbat candles from Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island.

"It's so simple: one \$1,000 gift – grants given to women's causes of our choosing – and the ability to have an immediate impact," said Robbins. "Talk about by women, for women! It is an elegant, powerful way to give in our community."

*The Women's Alliance is currently seeking new Endowment Fund members. To learn more, contact Beth Dindas at 421-4111, ext. 174 or bdindas@JFRI.org. You can also read about the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund at www.JFRI.org.*

## Memorial weekend at Beth Sholom

PROVIDENCE – Congregation Beth Sholom hosts the Bernard C. Gladstone Memorial Weekend with Rabbi Chaim Rapoport of London. Friday, Jan. 8 includes a Shabbat dinner and lecture (around 6:30 p.m.) entitled, "Is Jewish Law Science or Art?" Shabbat morning services begin at 9 a.m., and the sermon is on Halakhik Practice; the Saturday afternoon talk is on "From Isolation to the Norm: The Changing Place of the Assimilated Jew." And, the

Saturday night soiree – with beer and pizza at the Rosenbaum home (24 Mutual Place in Providence) – will address "Judaism, Gays and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View."

*The synagogue is on the corner of Rochambeau Avenue and Camp Street in Providence. For more information, contact BethSholomRabbi@gmail.com.*

## Marital harmony lecture

PAWTUCKET – On Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 8 p.m., Rabbi Dovid Schwartz will offer a lecture on marital harmony. Offering Jewish perspective and practical insights to a better marriage, the presentation is open to men and women. It

will be at the Providence Community Kollel's satellite location, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket.

Call 273-3923 for more information.

## How to publicize your 'Jewish news'

*Federation's three communication tools*

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceread@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – Most of us use more than one method of communication – think landlines, cell phones, email and texting – to stay in touch with friends, family members and colleagues. So, it's no surprise that the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) uses more than one communication tool to inform the Jewish community about events, happenings and meetings.

Given some recent confusion about what each tool is for, we thought a "how-to" guide for the entire community would be helpful. While this information has already been communicated to agency, school and synagogue leaders, we hope that the wider exposure will clarify and ease the process.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- A scheduling tool that is the central calendar for the entire Jewish community of greater Rhode Island.

- Use it to list both open-to-the-public and private meetings.

- Check here before scheduling a meeting to avoid or minimize conflicts.

**How do I submit something to the Community Calendar?**

- Visit [www.JFRI.org](http://www.JFRI.org) and click "Community Calendar" (left column). Click "Suggest an Event" (top left corner) and fill in the form. This information is then sent to the calendar

administrator who will accept it or request changes and then post information to the calendar.

For more information, email [kclarkson@jfri.org](mailto:kclarkson@jfri.org).

### SHALOM RI E-VENT CALENDAR

- A monthly mailing to more than 3,000 email addresses.

- Only includes events that are open to the public.

- There is no limit to how many items you can post on this e-mailed calendar.

**How do I submit something to the Shalom RI E-vent Calendar?**

- You must submit information within the deadline. Information is DUE BY NOON ON THE 20th of the month, for events happening the following month, unless the 20th falls on a weekend. IF SO, the information is DUE BY NOON ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE that weekend of the 20th.

- Email your submissions to [kclarkson@jfri.org](mailto:kclarkson@jfri.org) and be sure to put E-vent Calendar in the subject line.

- Submission MUST include: Event name, location and address.

- Day, date and time of event. The target audience (young families, singles, etc.).

- Sponsor agency/organization's name.

- Brief (two sentences, maximum) description of event.

- Cost, registration deadlines, if any, for event.

- Contact info, including Web site link.

- Do NOT send photos or graphics.

- For more information, email [kclarkson@jfri.org](mailto:kclarkson@jfri.org).

### THE JEWISH VOICE & HERALD CALENDAR

- The community calendar in the biweekly paper that reaches more than 9,000 Jewish homes in greater Rhode Island.

- Calendar of events of interest to Jewish community, space is limited.

- Includes events open to the public, not private meetings.

**How do I submit something to The Jewish Voice & Herald Calendar?**

- Submit entries TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE in which your item will appear. Each issue will have calendar items from that date and for 10 to 14 days thereafter, depending on space and number of calendar submissions.

- Entries may be edited for space and clarity. Photos welcome. Space is limited, not everything will get in, so submit your most important events.

- Email your submission to [voiceread@jfri.org](mailto:voiceread@jfri.org), and be sure to put Calendar in the subject line.

- Or mail Calendar, Jewish Voice and Herald, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906.

- For more information, email [nkirsch@jfri.org](mailto:nkirsch@jfri.org).

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## SANCTIONS: Will they work?

From Page 1

for APN, the only major Jewish group opposing the congressional package.

In defense of the proposed legislation, one insider from a centrist pro-Israel group recounted a much-repeated scenario: The cab driver who runs out of gas in the middle of a traffic clogged street, gets out of the car, and raises his fist and curses – not the West as he might have just a year or so ago, but Ahmadinejad and the rest of Iran's leadership.

"In tyrannies, the fiction that keeps people under control is the trust they have in government to take care of them and the fear they have of confronting the government," the insider said. "In Iran, the trust is gone and the fear is still

there, but going."

Concerns that the congressional package will lead to human misery are overstated, its backers say. The bills include provisions for presidential waivers and are meant first as leverage.

Similar sanctions packages passed by Congress in the 1990s also were never implemented by presidents Clinton and Bush, yet they had an almost immediate effect because of the threat of being implemented. Major Western traders pulled out of Iran, which is partly why the country's refinement capabilities are in disarray. Iran, a major oil exporter, still must import up to 40 percent of its refined petroleum.

The principals in shaping the previous sanctions – in Congress, the Clinton administration and

the American Israel Public Affairs Committee – now openly admit that they were playing a coordinated "good cop-bad cop" game: Republicans who backed the sanctions would quietly shape their criticisms of the Clinton administration in consultation with administration officials; Clinton officials then would cite that "pressure" in getting European nations to join in efforts to isolate Iran.

It's not clear now whether a similar dynamic is at work between the White House and Congress. Some insiders say it is; others say the Obama administration is genuinely wary of punishing sanctions and is unhappy with the pressure from Congress and the pro-Israel community.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed its sanctions pack-

age in late December, and Senate

**"The principals in shaping previous sanctions admit that they were playing a 'good cop-bad cop' game."**

Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has pledged to attend to the Senate version as soon as the chamber reconvenes Jan. 19.

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has said he

is willing to consider the White House's objections, particularly to a proposed blacklist of companies that deal with Iran and to sanctions that target third-party entities – companies and nations that deal with Iran.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration is moving ahead with the following actions:

- Pressing other major powers to back a proposed U.N. Security Council resolution that would expand existing sanctions on travel and business dealings to 3,000 individuals associated with the Revolutionary Guards;
- Intensify enforcement of existing U.S. sanctions on doing business with Iran;
- Intensify efforts to uncover and fine companies that cover up their financial dealings with Iran.

## RAINBOW: Of diverse leaders gather

From Page 1

Island Interfaith Coalition, "Fighting Poverty with Faith," the vigil drew a group of nearly 100 individuals that included at least the half-a-dozen children who represented, perhaps, future activists.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Community Relations Council (CRC) is one of the Interfaith Coalition's founding members; the coalition includes more than 60 faith-

based and non-profit organizations from around the state. Its goal is to reduce poverty by 50 percent within 10 years.

Although the group was smaller than that which gathered at the first vigil in January 2009, this year's participants appeared determined and undaunted by the state's fiscal situation. Rhode Island's unemployment rate of 12+ percent is one of the nation's highest and our budget deficits – statewide and in

many communities across the state – make addressing and responding to social service needs even more challenging.

Reverend Dr. Don Anderson, executive director of the R.I. State Council of Churches, was pragmatic. Given the state's financial situation, "there will be pain somewhere," he said. "But, it shouldn't be felt solely by the most vulnerable." Anderson, one of the original members of the Interfaith Coalition, is gratified by the group's accomplishments to date. "By working together, we have a greater ability to influence outcomes; as people have worked together, side-by-side, trust grew

and relationships developed." As a result, he said, "We'll have more opportunities to take on other social justice issues."

About the current situation, he said, "The General Assembly has hard decisions to make and there's a moral element to the [decision-making]. It's not just about balancing the budget," which, he called, a "moral document." Whether or not General Assembly members have faith traditions, they face real and substantive issues that will require them to look at the entire budget, he said.

TIKKUN OLAM

Rabbi Peter Stein, rabbi at Temple Sinai in Cranston and

the president of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, said, "Poverty is such a critical issue, it needs to be on the front of everyone's mind." With so many distractions as the General Assembly begins its work again this year, it's critically important to make sure poverty concerns are heard, he said. Asked whether he feels like the proverbial Dutch boy with his finger in the dike, holding back the flood, Stein said, "No, we've done good work. With such a diverse interfaith group, there's [a sense of] hope and progress."

Reverend Jeffery Williams, of

See FAITH Page 10

**"Elevating the poor will enrich the prosperous."**

Father John Kiley

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## FAITH: A powerful presence in our midst

From Page 9

the Cathedral of Life Church in Providence, called on legislators to "craft laws that not only alleviate pain and suffering, restore dignity and hope, but also to govern with a prophetic gaze, envisioning what could be." We are here, he said, "not as spectators, but to support, challenge, inform and hold our



Rabbis Peter Stein and Sarah Mack listen to a vigil speaker at the Statehouse.

elected officials accountable for the decisions they render."

Rabbi Amy Levin, of Cranston's Temple Torat Yisrael, participated because, she said, "It's essential that we bridge the gap between theology and practice. The Jewish community is a leading voice in issues like poverty and homelessness." Not only does Levin write and preach about these concerns, synagogue congregants contribute to the Rhode Island Family Shelter and the Edgewood Food Closet. Virtually all of Greater Rhode Island synagogues, including Torat Yisrael, also contribute to The Full

Plate, Rhode Island's kosher food pantry.

Father John Kiley, an ecumenical officer of the Catholic Diocese of Providence, and the priest at St. Francis of Assisi in Warwick, said, "Elevating the poor will enrich the prosperous."

Marty Cooper, executive director of the CRC, expressed gratitude for those who came from their warm homes or houses of worship to the Statehouse on such a frigid day. "We are stronger together than we are apart," he said. "The CRC and the Interfaith Coalition welcome individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of our neediest neighbors," said Cooper.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE?**  
"The poor are the easiest group to forget," said Anderson. "That's why we're here—to make sure their voices are heard." In a state this small, he said, we should be able to bring all the stakeholders to the decision-making table.

State Representative David Segal, a Democrat, whose district includes parts of Providence's Fox Point and East Providence, talked

briefly before the vigil. Somewhat comforted by federal stimulus money flowing into Rhode Island, Segal is deeply concerned about property taxes, which he calls regressive. "Property taxes stifle economic development — they are burdensome on homeowners and renters," said Segal. Fearing the cuts in state aid cities and towns will face, which will lead to reduced services to those most in need, Segal argues for a more progressive sales tax on more services and products (though not food). He's also no fan of "the best-off people" getting tax breaks during these tough economic challenges. "It's just not feasible," he said.

State Senator Harold Metts, a Democrat who represents South Providence, attended the vigil. As a church deacon, he receives information about the interfaith coalition's activities. "I stay in prayer, and it's inspiring to know of the support for this issue," said Metts. "It [poverty] is as much a spiritual issue as a political issue." Metts believes the state is long overdue for statewide education funding formula.

### STRONG JEWISH PRESENCE

Several other members of the Jewish community were present, including Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer of the Jewish Community Day School, Rabbi Sarah Mack of Temple Beth-El in Providence and Doug Emanuel — when he's not busy at work, home or leading the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's board meetings —

he's blowing the shofar, as he did to convene vigil members. Maxine Richman, as co-chair of the faith coalition, offered opening and closing comments, and Cooper, who helped orchestrate the vigil's speakers and program.

Asked why he was at the vigil, Anderson said, "I can't say no to

[Rabbi] Alan [Flam]."

For more information about the CRC or the Interfaith Coalition, Fighting Poverty with Faith, contact Marty Cooper at 421-4111, ext. 171, or at [mcooper@jfri.org](mailto:mcooper@jfri.org).

## We are all responsible

By MARTY COOPER  
[mcooper@jfri.org](mailto:mcooper@jfri.org)

brothers and sisters who require our assistance.

PROVIDENCE — January in New England is a cold, frigid month. It's also the month that marks the beginning of Rhode Island's new legislative session where our elected officials begin the task of creating laws to make Rhode Island a better place to live, as they also adopt a fiscally responsible, prudent and balanced budget. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that January also marks the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a person who fought for the civil rights of all.

On Jan. 5 at 3 p.m., just one hour before the new General Assembly was to open its new legislative session, the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition held a One Voice to Fight Poverty Vigil to remind our government leaders that they must govern for all of us.

During the week of Jan. 17, a number of events will honor King, so that we do not forget his legacy and his work. It is a time to reflect on our system of government and evaluate how we honor and defend our fellow

Many believe the civil rights movement began in the 1960s. In fact, there has always been — and always will be — a civil rights movement. Our ancestors marched out of Egypt when we were slaves to the Pharaoh. In the 1960s, many Jews marched and worked side-by-side with the African-American community to help them achieve their civil rights.

Today, we must continue to lead by example by helping others who need our support and understanding. Poverty, unemployment, poor healthcare, homelessness, lack of quality education, and hunger are challenges that can and should be cured in our state.

While we may daydream in January of fun times at the beach in July, we should also dream of and work for a day in which no one in Rhode Island is hungry or homeless. And we should dream of a future where our children will receive the education to help them find and retain good jobs in Rhode Island.

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A sample of Spring 2010 ..

- Dickens and Victorian England
- The Weimar Republic and the Rise of Hitler
- Making Sense of Contemporary Art (at RISD Museum)
- The Atom Bomb 65 Years Later
- The Financial Crisis of 2008-2009
- Freedom of Speech, 1931-2009
- Reading and Understanding Poetry
- Theatre Conversations (at Trinity Rep)
- The New Genetics
- The Vanishing Cultures of Africa
- Food Culture: On the Table and Beyond
- The Italian Jewish Experience
- Documentary Film Series

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## JFS hosts a new singles group

*Non-denominational group for the 40+ crowd*

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Family Service (JFS) is launching a new program for area (Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts) singles, ages 40 and older who are interested in coming together to plan activities for fun, friendship and networking. While JFS will host the group and provide support for communications, public relations and event planning, the group will be self-directed as members discuss mutual interests and activities.

An "Interested Parties" meeting is planned for late January or February at Walter's Ristorante d'Italia, on Atwells Avenue in Federal Hill, Providence, a restaurant that has hosted dinners traditional to the Italian Jewish heritage and offered Italian Jewish cooking classes.

Groups exist to provide activities and opportunities for younger singles, but there seems to be a lack of informal social opportunities for those 40 and older, said Erin Minior, chief executive officer of JFS. "This dovetails perfectly with several [issues] JFS has identified as future priorities – expanding our geographical reach and attracting the next generation of leadership."

It's easy to become socially isolated, said Minior, in the fast-paced world we live in and, for those who are single, the opportunity to meet others can be even

more limited. "We can help bring people together to improve the quality of their lives, and to expose them, informally, to JFS programs. It helps us to reach out while helping others meet one another," she said.

"We hope individuals will bring their friends and let people know about this exciting and new opportunity," said Nancy Thomas Slack, the JFS director of development. Because the group will be self-directed, getting involved early gives people the chance to direct future activities, she said.



*The singles group is open to all, regardless of religion, and meetings will be held monthly at various locations. To receive an invitation or for more information, contact JFS at 331-1244, nancy@jfsri.org, or visit the JFS Facebook page at Jewish Family Service of RI.*

*Jewish Family Service is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.*

## FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

# Lay leaders are the heart and soul of our community

*Volunteer commitment speaks to a strong future*

**A**S WE BEGIN 2010, I hear many people looking forward to what the New Year will bring, along with a glad farewell to 2009, a year that no one, apparently, will miss. But while 2009 brought plenty of bad news, there was a very significant bright spot: Even during this period of personal financial and family concerns brought on by the negative economic climate, our devoted Jewish community volunteers continued to stay involved.



**Doris Feinberg**

Volunteerism is the engine that drives our community. It is because of volunteers that meals continue to be served to the larger numbers of families that now rely on the kosher food bank. It is because of volunteers that seniors receive the visits, meals and other services they need. It is because of volunteers that the funds necessary to our operations are raised; and it is because of volunteers that the events that bring us together are pulled off with such style and grace.

The efforts and impact of our community's volunteers can be

measured in the thousands of hours they collectively put in, the human contacts they make, the phone calls they place, the meetings they hold, and the plans over which they deliberate. Volunteers deliver direct services through our community agencies and lead decision-making at the leadership level statewide. Our volunteers' commitment is a testament to the vibrancy of our community – their labor keeps us strong and our 80-year history of volunteerism provides us with deep roots as we shape our future.

That future is being shaped right now by a group of dedicated volunteers whose sense of devotion and duty to our Jewish commu-

streamlining the way our community delivers services, is the result of countless hours put in by a task force made up entirely of volunteers who understood that they held the future of our community in their hands.

Under the inspired leadership of past federation president Mark Feinstein, a group of lay leaders – each with a history of involvement with a specific agency – came together to determine our new direction. Mark, who has held many roles over the years, told me this is the most impactful task he's ever taken on as a Jewish community leader. The work he and the task force have done will reverberate for decades.

The sheer numbers of volunteers at all levels show how many people share my commitment to keeping our community and the Jewish people strong. We care about Jewish education, serving the needy, and supporting the Jewish people around the world. Without volunteers, we would not be a community at all. With them, we can do anything.

*Doris Feinberg, the JFRI president, uses this space to inform you about JFRI, the programs it supports and the community.*

**"Without volunteers, we would not be a community at all. With them, we can do anything."**

nity moves me deeply. Federation's Strategic Restructuring Task Force has just delivered its final report to the Board of Directors. This report, which makes recommendations for reorganizing and

**Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

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## Jewish Community Calendar

### Friday

Jan. 8

#### "Hopes and Dreams" Sermon at Temple Beth-El

Nancy Kirsch, executive editor of *The Voice & Herald*, will speak. Open to the community.

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

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

#### Congregation Beth David Family Service

Sixth- and seventh-graders lead the Shabbat service.

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

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

**MORE INFO:** Merle Green at 783-7453 or ammas1@cox.net

### Saturday

Jan. 9

#### Torat Yisrael Game Night

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

**WHEN:** Following *Havdalah* at 5:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

### Sunday

Jan. 10

#### Sisterhood Tea Party

Women of all ages are invited to a Tea Party to celebrate women. Sandwiches, desserts, tea and apple cider; entertainment; tea party attire is encouraged (all children must be accompanied by an adult).

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

**WHEN:** 1 p.m.

**COST:** \$10 individual; \$18 for two; \$25 for 3 or more

**MORE INFO:** Rona at 331-6070

#### Mini Israeli Film Fest

"Live and Become" will be shown; in Hebrew with English subtitles.

**WHERE:** Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick

**WHEN:** 3 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 861-8800.

#### "Green Reel" Film Series Opens

"Food, Inc." is the first in a series of films for sustainable living.

**WHERE:** Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 508-695-2389

### Monday

Jan. 11

#### JERI Satellite Hours

"Jewish Comedians – Laugh

ter IS the Best Medicine," with Susan Adler, director and Ethan Adler, assistant director, to counsel seniors and their families. Ethan is available for pastoral counseling.

**WHERE:** Brightview Commons, 57 Grandeville Court, Wakefield

**WHEN:** 1 – 2:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

### Tuesday

Jan. 12

#### JCDS Happy Hour for Tots

Happy Hour for Tots is an hour-long program for young preschoolers, toddlers and babies up to age 3, and their parents and caregivers.

**WHERE:** Jewish Community Day School of RI, 85 Taft Avenue, Providence

**WHEN:** 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Naomi Stein at 751-2470 or nstein@jcdrs.org

### Wednesday

Jan. 13

#### Spaghetti Dinner

Kosher spaghetti dinner for students, parents, siblings and relatives.

**WHERE:** South County Hebrew

School, 375 Kingstown Rd., Narragansett

**WHEN:** 6 p.m.

**COST:** \$3; maximum of \$10 per family

**MORE INFO:** Eric Axelrod at susananderic@msn.com

#### Women's Yiddish Evening

Discuss "Yiddish for You," celebrate the Jewish woman of today; snacks and drinks.

**WHERE:** Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick

**WHEN:** 7:30 – 9 p.m.

**COST:** \$10

**MORE INFO:** Shoshana Laufer at 884-7888 or slaufer@netzero.net

### Thursday

Jan. 14

#### JERI Satellite Hours

See Jan. 11 JERI entry

**WHERE:** Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road, Middletown

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. – noon

**MORE INFO:** Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

### Saturday

Jan. 16

#### Documentary at Beth Sholom

"Orthodox Stance," a documentary about a 25 year-old Russian immigrant who is a professional boxer and a rigorously observant

Jew.

**WHERE:** Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence

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

**MORE INFO:** 621-9393 or movie@bethsholom-ri.org

#### Rikud & 'Ritas!

Dance instructor Deborah Stanton Bianca teaches salsa and other dance styles.

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

**WHEN:** 7:30 – 10 p.m.

**COST:** \$18

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616 or happenings@teprov.org

### Sunday

Jan. 17

#### Southern New England Conference for Jewish Women

Financial planning, health care reform, challah braiding, wisdom from the Midrash, ancient wisdom and contemporary lessons. Gourmet lunch is included.

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**COST:** \$50

**MORE INFO:** rabbiraphie@gmail.com

See story on page 25

See CALENDAR Page 13

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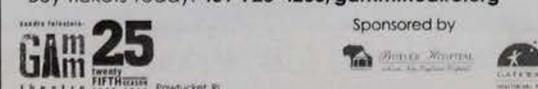
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# CALENDAR

From Page 12

## CAMP JORI PRESENTATION

Learn about Camp JORI from the camp's director and from JORI families at this informational session for parents and students.

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

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 942-3260

## Tuesday

Jan. 19

### East Greenwich Lunch & Learn

Join Rabbi Amy Levin from Temple Torat Yisrael and study Jewish sources addressing current issues. Participants order from the menu.

**WHERE:** T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Road (in the Benny's Plaza), East Greenwich

**WHEN:** noon – 1:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

## Thursday

Jan. 21

### Bat Mitzvah for Senior Women

EPOCH Assisted Living on the East Side and Temple Emanu-El offer a bat mitzvah program and ceremony for Jewish women. Hinda Eisen from Temple Emanu-El will lead classes, which will meet once a week for 12 weeks.

**WHERE:** EPOCH Assisted Living, One Butler Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** Karen Feranti at 275-0682

See Story on page 20

### Cranston/Warwick Lunch & Learn

See Jan. 19 Lunch & Learn entry

**WHERE:** Cozy Grill Restaurant, 440 Warwick Avenue, Warwick

**WHEN:** noon – 1:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

### JERI Satellite Hours

See Jan. 11 JERI entry

**WHERE:** The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick

**WHEN:** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

### Adoption Options

Adoption Options offers a free informational session for those considering adoption and interested in hearing about available options. Licensed adoption workers will be available to provide information and answer questions.

**WHERE:** Adoption Options, 959 North Main St., Providence

**WHEN:** 6 – 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Peg Boyle at 331-5437 or www.AdoptionOptions.org

**Hug N'hamah: Circle of Consolation**

Dr. Judith Lubiner, a licensed psychologist, and Rabbi Amy Levin lead this bereavement discussion group. Open to the community.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue, Cranston

**WHEN:** 7:30 – 9 p.m.

### An Evening with Nadav Tamir

The Consul General of Israel to New England will speak on "Challenges and Opportunities in the Middle East."

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

**WHEN:** 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 245-6536

## Friday

Jan. 22

### Shabbat Hallelu

Shabbat Hallelu is an uplifting musical Shabbat, featuring Temple Beth-El musicians. Open to the community.

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

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m., light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. before the service.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

## Sunday

Jan. 24

### Knit and Kvetch

Share your knowledge of knitting, crocheting, embroidering and needle-pointing.

**WHERE:** Village Lower School, 2220 South County Trail, East Greenwich

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. – noon

**MORE INFO:** RSVP at 785-1800

### Temple Habonim's "Green" Tu Bi-Sh'vat Seder

Rabbi Klein and Education Director Linda Silverman Levine lead this seder that uses earth-friendly materials.

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

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.

**RSVP:** by Monday, Jan. 18 at 245-6536

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo

Vendors include DJs, florists, caterers, event planners, and photographers. Open to the community.

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

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Paul Knasin at 942-8350 or templesinai.org

See Story on Page 18

### RI Jewish Historical Association 5th Annual Florida Meeting

"From Peddlers to Moguls: America's Great Jewish Department Store Families," by Lois Cohen. Social hour and refreshments will follow the presentation.

**WHERE:** Temple Sharrei Shalom, 9085 Hagen Ranch Rd. (1/2 mile north of Boynton Beach Rd.), Boynton Beach, Fla.

**WHEN:** 2 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Contact Stephen Brown at 561-865-8024 or stevebrown@aol.com.

### The Voice & Herald welcomes calendar submissions

Calendar entries, which may be edited for content, length and relevance, must be submitted two weeks PRIOR to issue date of the publication. Example, calendar entries for the Feb. 5 issue must be received by Jan. 25.

Send to voiceherald@jfri.org (ATTENTION: Calendar) or by mail, The Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.




**Rikud & Ritas**  
*Salsa & Bohmoza South of the Border!*

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**Rikud & Ritas!**  
*Salsa and Bohmoza South of the Border!*

Shalom and Hola!

Experience the tastes, sounds and movements of Mexico at Rikud (dance) and Ritas (Margaritas of course)! Dust off your dancing shoes - we've invited experienced dance instructor Deborah Stanton-Bianca (www.danceinstructornewengland.com) to teach us the sizzling moves of salsa and other dance styles! No partner necessary!

The night will be an Fuego! Be sure to invite your friends too - this is a community event!

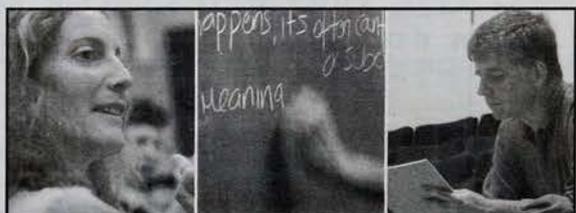
\*Non-Alcoholic beverages will be available  
\*\*Dietary Laws will be observed.

*The night will be an fuego!*

**Location:**  
Temple Emanu-el  
99 Taft Avenue  
Providence, RI 02906

**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2010  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$18.00 per person  
**RSVP:** 401-331-1616  
**E-mail:** happenings@teprov.org  
**RSVP By:** January 4, 2009

\*Presented by: The Outreach Committee of Temple Emanu-el



## BROWN

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## Books sustain me

*Develop someone's character and explore the world with a book*

By Lisa Van Allsburg  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

REMEMBER SO clearly, my father calling from the kitchen on Sunday afternoon, "Leah, collect your books – we are going to the library."

My books were usually at the

When the first copy of his new book arrives, the inspection begins. He goes page to page, comparing the printed illustrations to the original art, which can be an ordeal or a delight. Having seen both, I have come to know books – from the inside out.

Today, 50 years after my library

is like traveling from Istanbul to Mumbai – while never leaving the kitchen table.

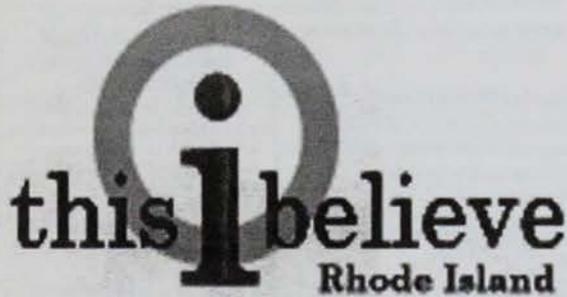
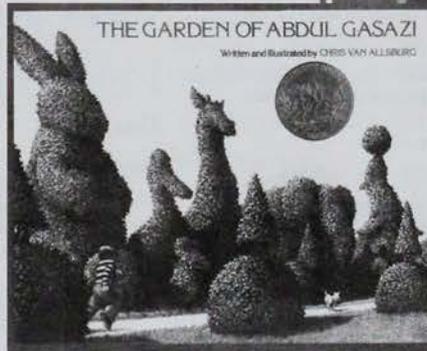
My daughters will cull through the editions of these cookbooks in their own way. Flavors and memories that started in a recipe from a well-worn book solidify tender moments in one's childhood, adding another layer to what makes us who we are.

I think back to my parents' passing – when family items had to be divided and shipped to their new homes. All was fine until we got to my father's unusual book collection. My siblings and I traded

memoirs – for the Churchill boxed set, and art history volumes – for the beloved cartoon anthologies from *The New Yorker Magazine*.

This passing down of books is an important ritual from one genera-

tion to another – the holding of books, the giving of books – can't be accomplished with a Kindle. Consider what Anne Frank wrote in her



end of my bed, under the covers, or never far away from wherever I was. This ritual of going to the library with my father lasted some 10 years, from the time I was 8 years old until a week before I left for college.

I love reading books, in part, because I am married to an author and because he feeds the fire.

adventures with my father, books are dependably nearby. In the kitchen my cookbooks stand ready – often using two or three to assemble the best creamy lentil soup with carrots and lemon.

One recipe calls for grated ginger, another for cumin with a pinch of cayenne. Crossing over, from one book to another,

Morgan believes, in which you can examine a fragile thought – without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face!

It's one of the few places where one can get lost, take flight, feel the heat of a volcano, in the privacy of one's own chair. Books are never far from me because – they sustain me – for this I believe.

*Lisa Van Allsburg lives in Providence with her husband, Chris Van Allsburg, and their two daughters.*

*"This I Believe," a weekly program produced by Rick Reamer, is reprinted with permission from WRNI.*

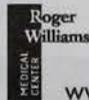
"Passing down books is an important ritual from one generation to another [that] can't be accomplished with a Kindle."

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## Calm trumps controlled chaos

JCCRI pre-schoolers learn through play

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – As award-winning teacher Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) Esta Yavner leads some 20 pre-schoolers (mostly 4-year-olds) through an abbreviated *Havdalah* experience, one little boy persisted in singing “Shabbat, Shalom.” No worries, though, as the children in this “Sabras” class learn about all the Jewish holidays and other essential life skills.

Learning how to share, take turns, use ‘inside’ voices and respect one another, as well as learning about numbers, letters, science and nature are all part of the curriculum.

The curriculum is driven, said Yavner, one of three classroom teachers, by the

“They’re all gems, and we’re here to find the sparkle.”

Esta Yavner

Jewish holidays and the Jewish values of Pirkei Avot, the seasons and, often, children’s interests. When I visited, the students were engaged in a variety of activities involving snow and ice... a perfect

choice for a bitterly cold day.

Yavner, who seemed to have endless reserves of energy and patience, doled out equal measures of nurturing hugs and appropriate attention to both the sobbing “perpetrator” and the seemingly uninjured “victim” of the crime: “He hit me, Esta. He hit me.”

As children this age learn through their senses, said Yavner, plenty of sensory activities – other than the physicality of hitting – are available to engage both boys and girls. A sand table filled with sand, plenty of small toys and tongs (for grasping the toys) provided plenty of opportunities for them to dig, discover and build. Smock-covered children used frozen paint blocks to make colorful pictures; while two girls rolled out

sparkly (think the first snowfall of the year) Play-Dough into slabs and then used cookie cutters to make them into star-shaped cookies. “Are you going to eat those cookies,” I asked, “or take them home to your parents?”

The blond beauty looked at me, with the slightest hint of scorn – or, perhaps, disbelief (Could this grownup really be so stupid?) in her voice, and said, “Of course not, they’re made of Play-Dough!”

At another play area, children chipped away at big blocks of ice, each of which contained colorful beads and other small trinkets. Anything they freed from the ice block, said Yavner, was theirs to keep. Reinforcing the concept that “children’s



Esta Yavner, and clockwise, Jackson Gerstacov (obscured), Angus Adams, Zachary Meisel, Vivian Morrisette, Phoebe Porder and Sophie Isenberg gather as a visitor leaves their classroom.



Kelila Woods and Vivian Morrisette play at the sand table.

play is work and children’s work is play,” one student came to us, flexed her muscle and said, “It’s very, very hard work.”

See LEARNING Page 16

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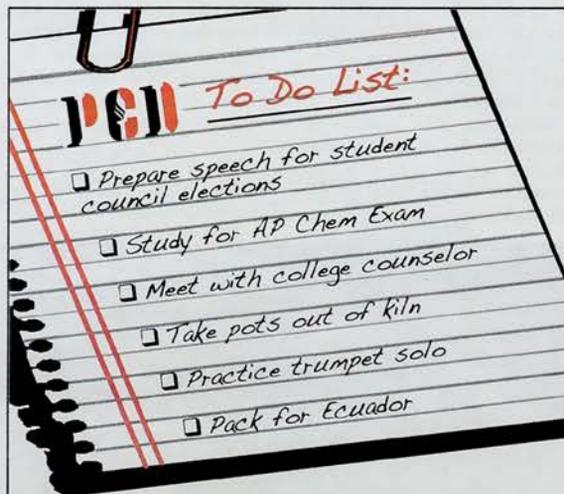


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## ISRAEL: Not to be taken for granted

From Page 1

one of the 210 passengers on that *aliyah* flight. Soon after Orli spent a gap year between high school and college in Israel, in 2005-06, she realized that Israel was where she wanted to be. "At first, I thought Israel was a given, something that would always be there,"

Orli said. "But when I was there, I realized that it's not something you can take for granted. You have to work for it."

At first, many of Orli's friends and family members thought her desire to move to Israel permanently was just a stage. But Orli has felt a connection with Israel for

quite some time, and her gap year in Israel was not her first experience there.

Orli grew up in Providence, attended high school in Brookline, Mass., and worshipped at Congregation Beth Shalom in Providence. While she was in high school, she went on a trip to Spain and Israel through NCSY, formerly the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, a Modern Orthodox Jewish youth group sponsored by the Orthodox Union.

Orli did not originally plan to spend her gap year in Israel, because the timeline for applications to the programs in Israel coincided with those for college applications. However, once she decided to go, her parents, who predicted that she might end up staying in Israel, insisted that she come back to the United States for at least a year before moving to Israel permanently. Orli agreed, and chose to finish her bachelor's degree in the United States. Eager to return to Israel, she graduated in three-and-one-half

years.

Once her parents, Dr. Howard Mintz, a pediatrician, and Sharon Groh-Mintz, a social worker, realized that Orli's desire to make *aliyah* was not just a phase, they endorsed her decision. "They've been extremely supportive," said Orli. "Some of my friends had trouble convincing their parents, but not me. They're as enthusiastic as I am."

## LIFE IN ISRAEL

Orli chose to make *aliyah* through Nefesh because, she said, it has one of the best programs in the country for learning Hebrew. According to the organization's information, Nefesh is responsible for 27 percent of the individuals around the world who made *aliyah* in 2009.

At the outset, Orli will attend Ulpan Etzion located in "Beit Canada" in Jerusalem that allows her – and other *olim* – to become acclimated to the culture, learn Hebrew and get to know other new immigrants. She plans to get a job in the afternoons, and, she said, she might return to school. She learned that school is the best way to become acclimated to the new culture without joining the army.

Eventually, she plans to move to northern Israel to settle down.

## WHAT WILL HER FUTURE HOLD?

"My dream is to work in animal-assisted therapy," Orli said. Israel offers a couple of programs for animal-assisted therapy, and Orli has also considered the possibility of starting her own program.

Orli is very optimistic about her move to Israel. Several friends are also making *aliyah*, including one who was on the same flight. Her brother, now in his second year in a yeshiva in Jerusalem, plans to make *aliyah* this summer. In a few years, her parents might also move to Israel, either part-time or full-time. She calls herself lucky to have such a wide support system.

Orli's main purpose in making *aliyah* is to do something for Israel. "I'm not going to be a billionaire, but what I can do for Israel is go there, vote there, experience Israel and its culture, and be there for the people," Orli explained.

*Laura Berlinsky-Schine, who recently graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University in three-and-one-half years, is pursuing a career in writing and editing.*



/Abigail Mintz

The message adorning the shirts worn by Orli's parents, Sharon Groh Mintz and Howard Mintz, tells the "whole story."

## LEARNING: Occurs through play

From Page 15

Fellow teacher Diletta Cambio, an 11-year veteran at the JCCRI who also taught school in Italy, said, "Children 'never stop amazing me. They always do something that is surprising.'"

We're here, said Yavner, "to advocate for the children. They're all gems, and we're here to find the sparkle. We want them to gain self-confidence and to treat one

another with respect."

The JCCRI Sabras class has a 7-1 student-teacher ratio, with the third teacher, Jackie Caparco, pursuing an early childhood education undergraduate degree from the University of Rhode Island. With extended day, children can stay from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All classes at the JCCRI Early Childhood Center, including the Sabras class, are certified by the Rhode

Island Department of Children, Youth and Families and the Rhode Island Department of Education. The Early Childhood Center is also certified by the National Association for Education of Young Children, and its recertification process is currently underway.

For more information about this or other classes in the JCCRI Early Childhood Center, contact Shirley Moskaluk at 861-8800, ext. 130.



/Nancy Kirsch

Angus Adams, left, and Zachary Meisel paint with frozen paint blocks.

## Aliyah: What's it all about?

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

**ALIYAH** IS THE term that describes the return of Jewish people from the exile in the Diaspora back to the land of Israel. The word *aliyah* is derived from the verb "la'alot" which means "to go up," or "to ascend" in a positive, spiritual sense. A person who makes *aliyah* is called an *oleh*, meaning "one who goes up" or more colloquially known as an "immigrant."

Israel's law of return holds that, with a very few exceptions, all Jews are eligible to become citizens of the State of Israel.

According to a marketing representative at Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), anyone living in North America who wants to make *aliyah* must submit an application to Nefesh B'Nefesh (Nefesh) As the only branch of the Israeli government authorized to process applications in the U.S., JAFI has contracted with Nefesh; applications are submitted to Nefesh and evaluated and processed by JAFI.

Once an application is submitted, a Nefesh *shaliach* (or

emissary), an Israeli citizen who encourages and promotes the concept of *aliyah* to Israel, will work with the potential *oleh* on identifying the best programs for the individual, the paperwork needed, etc.

There's no specific time frame involved in the *aliyah* process, the JAFI representative said. Some individuals, who come in with all their paperwork prepared and homework completed, can sail through the process in a matter of three weeks, other individuals may file an application and then wait months or even years to get started.

The Ministry of Absorption, she explained is responsible for providing benefits packages to new *olim*. The Israeli government, she said, wants people to make *aliyah*.

For more information, visit JAFI at [www.aliyah.org/JewishAgency/English/Aliyah](http://www.aliyah.org/JewishAgency/English/Aliyah) or Nefesh B'Nefesh at 1-866-4-ALIYAH or [www.nbn.org.il/index.php](http://www.nbn.org.il/index.php).

## HOSPICE: Provides peace as death approaches

From Page 1

months or less are eligible for hospice care. Some 300 employees and 300 volunteers nurture and care for approximately 500 patients' and their families' physical, emotional and spiritual needs. "We live in a death-defying, death-denying culture," said Diana Franchitto, the president and chief executive officer of the nonprofit agency, as she explained that hospice is a relatively new approach in Western societies to end-of-life care. With reimbursements from Medicare and private insurance companies (routine hospice care at home is reimbursed at \$155 per day, per patient, and general inpatient hospice care at the facility, a hospital or nursing home is \$688 per day, per patient; Home & Hospice gave away \$334,000 in free hospice care last year, Franchitto said.

### PHYSICAL FACILITY

"We bought the Summit Medical Center [building] in 2006 for \$4.25 million," said Arthur Robbins, a former Home & Hospice Care board president, who accompanied two other members

ing is the brick exterior, he said. Reconstruction, decorating and stocking with supplies and equipment cost another \$12.5 million, said Franchitto. Funds came from a \$12.5 million bond and \$4 million raised to date from the \$5 million "soft campaign," according to Robbins.

### FOOD AND PETS OFFER COMFORT

Once in hospice – typically a seven-day stay – a patient's desire for comfort trumps nutrition, so Mitch Goldstein, the executive chef, and his three staff will fulfill patients' requests. The most commonly requested food is a grilled cheese sandwich, though he once made a breakfast of cod for one hospice patient. For those who keep kosher, produce is always available and Goldstein buys ready-to-eat (shelf-stable) kosher meals from Sysco. In addition to nurturing with food, the agency also welcomes patients' pets into the facility, within limits. "We have pet therapy dogs who visit, and some pets from home," said Franchitto. "We've had cats, dogs and rabbits, but no snakes! I

### VOLUNTEERS

As one of the eight hospice facilities in Rhode Island, said Franchitto, Home & Hospice Care provides more than 50 percent of all hospice services in the state. Physicians, nurses, social workers, bereavement counselors, spiritual care coordinators, hospice aides and volunteers make up the multidisciplinary caregiver teams which meet regularly

to review each hospice patient, whether at home or in the facility. The large number of active volunteers isn't just a fluke of fate; Medicare mandates, said Franchitto, that 5 percent of hospice care be provided by volunteers. Some focus on administrative tasks – such as helping with mass mailings or fundraising – while others greet hospice patients' families or sit at the bedside of a dying hospice patient. Given the hospice tenet, "No one should die alone," volunteers may be called – at all hours of the day and night – to sit with a dying patient who may be without available family.

### ATTENTION TO FAMILIES

The 50,000-square foot facility addresses the needs of the patients, and the visiting family members and friends. Each private room has plenty of storage space for toiletries and extra clothes, as well as a recliner, should someone wish to spend the night. A shower is available for family members, should they wish to freshen up. Several "family-only" rooms and areas – all off-limits to Home & Hospice Care staff – include the dining area, with fresh muffins, coffee, tea and juices; a play room stocked with children's toys and games; and



Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island

a quiet room for spiritual reflection. A separate entrance reserved for families and patients affords an additional measure of privacy. The facility includes terraces, an indoor waterfall, and plenty of room for family members to walk

**"We live in a death-defying, death-denying Western culture."**

Diana Franchitto

around and decompress without feeling cooped up in their loved one's private hospice room. Fresh air is pumped through the building every 15 minutes, said Franchitto, and there are huge expanses of glass, rather than solid walls, that "bring the outside in."

### NURTURING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

With so many staff and volunteers dealing with death and grief, how does the organization nurture

the nurturers? Just as family members have "no-staff areas," so, too, do the employees and volunteers have areas just for them. The entire fourth floor is just such an area, and staff input was sought before the building plans were finalized. Staff members have a quiet room where they can relax and regroup; one social worker, said Franchitto, ends her workday there with a cup of tea and time for reflection. The employees' dining room has one glass wall that faces another exterior glass wall – bringing plenty of natural light and green space into the building.

"One of my challenges is how to care and nurture the staff so they can continue to care and nurture others," said Franchitto. "Turnover is not high, [this work] is in the DNA. People are either passionate about end-of-life care or not."

For more information on Home & Hospice Care, call 727-7070 or visit [www.hhcri.org](http://www.hhcri.org).



Created by volunteers, this American flag quilt is one of several quilts used when someone dies. Offering a measure of respect and dignity to the individual who has died, his or her family and those still at hospice, the quilt covers the body bag as it is carried from hospice to a waiting hearse. The flag quilts are used for deceased veterans.

of the Jewish community and me on a tour recently. All that remains of the original build-

hate snakes." Massage, Reiki and music therapies are also offered.

### CAREGIVER TEAMS INCLUDE

## One volunteer's experience

By Gladys Jacober  
Special to The Voice & Herald

NARRAGANSETT – I am sitting at my computer watching the snow fall. My neighbor just called to see if I needed anything; during our conversation, she told me her daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer. Another friend called to report on her non-ending battle with leukemia, and yet, the snow continued to fall. Life goes on. A couple of years after a tragedy in our family, my husband's health began to fail, and that's when hospice came into our lives. A team assigned to his case provided emotional support for my husband, Harold,

and me, to deal with his illness and our earlier tragedy.

The hospice team consisted of a case manager/registered nurse, a social worker, someone who offered spiritual support, nurses' aides and a volunteer coordinator.

Harold was treated at all times with respect, tenderness and professional care. Harold's nurse, Andy, assured me that I could call him at any time of the day or night. Being the caretaker for a loved one who is ill can be tiring and lonely, but at that moment, I felt a sense of relief, and not so alone. I have wonderful family and friends, but I hesitated to burden those I love.

During our six months with

Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, everyone we met or spoke with was patient, compassionate, well-trained and knowledgeable. Harold was at home, in his bed, surrounded by family and friends, until he closed his eyes. It was a gift I could give him because of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island.

Gladys Jacober now volunteers for Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island. She has done administrative work for the agency and volunteered at the agency's Camp Braveheart, a two-day summer camp session for children who have lost loved ones.



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# BAR MITZVAH EXPO

## Sinai is the site of second annual bar/bat mitzvah expo

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

CRANSTON – For the second consecutive year, Ellen and Paul Knasin have organized a bar/bat mitzvah expo at Temple Sinai. Open to the entire community, it will be held on Sunday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. This year, said Ellen, “We’re more savvy – we had the experience of our daughter’s bat mitzvah and organizing one expo, so we know more now.”

### NEW VENDORS

Despite the down economy, the number of vendors held steady – the same as last year – and the Knasins are pleased that this year’s expo includes some new vendor offerings, including special dress clothing vendors. We hadn’t thought about that before, she said, but it’s important. “Where do girls or boys go to get their clothes? Sometimes people don’t

think about what they need to buy to wear until [the event],” she said.

Other new vendors include those who provide activities for the kids and, sometimes, the adults. “We’ve noticed, by going to these events, that the adults also take advantage of the give-away gifts – the hats, the T-shirts, etc.,” she said. Two kosher caterers will be among the new vendors, as are a waiter/waitress service that, Ellen said, is a big help with pre- or post-celebration events, such as a Shabbat dinner or Sunday brunch at home. “Ethan Adler is available to conduct bar/bat mitzvah services if you are unaffiliated with a synagogue,” said Ellen.

It’s not just about the bar or bat mitzvah celebration this year, she explained. The expo is trying to include vendors – such as Camp JORI (confirmed) and BBYO (tentative) – that offer opportunities for Jewish kids to remain involved in Judaism, after their bar or bat mitzvah.

### TIMING IS EVERYTHING

“When you get your date for the bar/bat mitzvah, book the ‘big 4’ – the photographer, the caterer, the DJ and the location,” Ellen said. “If you think, ‘oh, 2013 is so far away’ and you forget to reserve these vendors, you may not get the ones you want. Once you reserve the ‘big 4,’ forget about it until about eight to 10 months out when you can then start to look at invitations, party themes, etc.”

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

For the Knasins, whose daughter, Alison, became bat mitzvah last fall, having a party planner was essential. “If there was a problem,” said Ellen, “I never knew about it. If I needed something, she took care of it.” Don’t go it alone, Ellen recommended, and get someone who has more experience than you do who will take care of any problems. “The [only] job for me at my daughter’s bat mitzvah was to mingle with my guests,” she said.

Given Ellen’s role as past president of the Temple Sinai board and her husband Paul’s position as chair of the fundraising committee, the couple is ideally suited to organize this synagogue fundraiser. “A bar or bat mitzvah is such a big part of every Jewish family’s life and Temple Sinai is trying to show it’s not such a daunting task,” she said. “It takes a village, but Temple Sinai is the village.” The Knasins hope that proceeds from this year equal those of last year – about \$11,000, as every little bit helps, especially in this economy. And other synagogues, said Ellen, are helping promote the event,

Temple Sinai is simply the host.

*Voice & Herald. For more information or to reserve a vendor table, contact Paul Knasin at 946-8552 or egbk@cox.net.*

**Reminder! Bar/bat mitzvah expo**  
**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** Open to the entire community. Free fundraiser for the synagogue.



A view of last year's expo

/Paul Knasin

### Bar/bat mitzvah expo vendors\*

#### Hotels and party venues:

- \* Hampton Inn & Suites Providence/Warwick Airport
- \* Hotel Viking
- \* Quidnessett Country Club (new to expo)
- \* Renaissance Providence Hotel
- \* Westin/Hilton/Sheraton Providence

#### DJs and other live entertainment:

- \* A Touch Of Class DJ's
- \* Fun Enterprises (new to expo)
- \* New England Photo Booth
- \* Siagel Productions Entertainment & Event Planning
- \* Track Seven Events

#### Photography and videography:

- \* KCC Photography
- \* Kenneth Berman Photography
- \* Labitt Video
- \* PMA Industries/Event Technologies (new to expo)
- \* Prime Time Video Productions
- \* Skorski Photography

#### Catering, food and wine:

- \* Abel Caterers – ACI Catering Group
- \* Casual Elegant Catering (new to expo)
- \* Catering By Tevya/Larry Levine's Kosher Market (new to expo)
- \* Cornerstone Catering at Providence Biltmore (new to expo)
- \* Local Hero Catering
- \* East Side Prescription Center (wine) (new to expo)
- \* The Party Server (new to expo)

#### Miscellaneous:

- \* Camp JORI
- \* Clad In (for clothing) (new to expo)
- \* Event Planning Specialists, LCC Folia (invitations and party planning)
- \* Reverend At Your Service (Ethan Adler can perform bar/bat mitzvah ceremony (new to expo)
- \* Smiles & Miles (travel service) (new to expo)

\* This list is current as of the deadline date for The Voice & Herald. The newspaper is proud to be a co-sponsor of the bar/bat mitzvah expo.

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# BAR MITZVAH EXPO

## Planning a cruise or island bar/bat mitzvah can be a breeze

*Leave the details to the travel agent*

By Mary Korr  
Special to The Voice & Herald

SOUTH EASTON, Mass. — Ellen Paderson's travel business is up 20 percent this year — a sign of the economic times. Simply put, **BUSINESS PROFILE** destination weddings and bar/bat mitzvah celebrations are less expensive than hosting a traditional reception at home.

"With fewer participants, usually just the immediate family and grandparents, expenses are kept down," Paderson, the owner of Smiles & Miles Travel Inc., says. She will be participating in the Jan. 24 bar/bat mitzvah expo at Temple Sinai in Cranston.

Paderson launched her niche service of bar/bat mitzvah cruises/vacations about three years ago after seeing a CNN segment on it. She and an associate did marketing and research for two years in preparation for adding this product. She also traveled extensively, visiting historic synagogues in various Caribbean islands to meet rabbis and the temple communities.

Among the synagogues she visited were Aruba's Beth Israel synagogue, a Conservative congregation with both Sephardic and Ashkenazic roots, led by Rev. Cantor Irving, and the St. Thomas Hebrew Congregation in the harbor town of Charlotte Amalie, U.S. Virgin Islands, which dates to the 18th century. The synagogue is Sephardic in origin with a "unique sand floor," Paderson says, that is reminiscent of Jewish practices during the Spanish Inquisition, when Jews secretly continued to practice their faith in cellars with

sand covering the floor to muffle their prayers.

Paderson also sailed the seas to select what she considered the best in family cruise travel. She books on Royal Caribbean International or Celebrity Cruises, typically for four, seven or eight nights leaving from Fort Lauderdale or Miami. Popular ports-of-call and island destinations are Costa Rica,

**"For families who do not belong to a synagogue, some island rabbis will hold six study sessions via Skype with the student."**

of four could do a bar/bat mitzvah cruise for as little as \$5,000 to \$6,000, she said, depending on the time of year, and the cabin selection, and go up from there. The island vacations can range from a five-star resort on St. John's or in Aruba, to an eco-lodge in a rain forest in Puerto Rico. One of the more unusual bar mitzvah ceremonies Paderson remembers was in a

forest in Puerto Rico. One of the more unusual bar mitzvah ceremonies Paderson remembers was in a



Travel agency owner Ellen Paderson is on board the Oasis of the Sea in November.

St. Thomas, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Cozumel and St. Maarten.

The ceremony can be held on the ship, with Cantor Glen Sherman of Florida officiating. The officiant's fees range from \$1,500 to \$2,000. If the family holds the celebration on board, typically in a non-denominational chapel or reception room, the family also pays for the cantor's cabin expenses. Some families elect to have their own rabbi fly to a destination or cruise with them.

Costa Rican rain forest, although it was not for one of her clients.

Paderson said children prepare in their home synagogues and religious schools, or with tutors. For families who do not belong to a synagogue, some island rabbis will hold six study sessions via Skype with the student. Mitzvah projects include community service for island schools or for non-profits.

Paderson recommends families book at least a year in advance, although she has planned some ceremonies in as little as six months. Her bottom line, and which has grown her business to an international clientele, is embodied in the name of her agency, Smiles & Miles. Before her clients travel the miles, she does so, visiting what she offers, so they can return with smiles.

Contact Ellen Paderson of Smiles & Miles Travel, Inc., in South Easton, Mass., at 508-238-4088, or [ellen@barmitzvahvacations.com](mailto:ellen@barmitzvahvacations.com). Visit the Web sites at [www.smilesandmilestravel.com](http://www.smilesandmilestravel.com) and [www.barmitzvahvacations.com](http://www.barmitzvahvacations.com).

Contact Mary Korr at [mkorr@verizon.net](mailto:mkorr@verizon.net).



Interior of the historic synagogue in St. Thomas has a unique sand floor.

### The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Alternative

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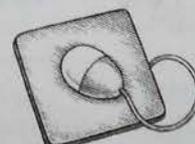
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# BAT MITZVAH EXPO

## Growing wiser: Jewish seniors to become b'not mitzvah

*EPOCH and Temple Emanu-El sponsor 'express' bat mitzvah*

By NANCY ABESHAUS  
*Special to The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE – If “a dream is a wish your heart makes” (from Disney’s “Cinderella”), then a group of Jewish women from our community will start this New Year by taking their first step toward making their heart’s wishes come true. They will begin the process of becoming b’not mitzvah, through a program that EPOCH Assisted Living and Temple Emanu-El are offering. The senior living facility and the Conservative synagogue, both the on Providence’s East Side, have teamed up to offer older Jewish women the opportunity to prepare for and celebrate this coming of age experience. Brand new to Providence, this “express” bat mitzvah program will start on Jan. 21 at EPOCH Assisted Living, (next to Eastside Marketplace) at One Butler Avenue.

In contrast to the three years for an adolescent girl or 18 months for a grown woman to prepare for her bat mitzvah, the EPOCH/

Temple Emanu-El “express” bat mitzvah program prepares senior Jewish women in just three to four months. The women will meet for study sessions every Thursday at 10 a.m. at EPOCH.

At the conclusion of the bat mitzvah course of study, this coming spring, all graduates will participate in a bat mitzvah ceremony at Temple Emanu-El, and a festive party back at EPOCH will commemorate this memorable milestone.

### HINDA EISEN TO TEACH

Hinda Eisen, Temple Emanu-El’s ritual director, will teach the bat mitzvah preparation course, while Karen Ferranti, EPOCH’s life enrichment director, will manage all related activities at EPOCH.

The inspiration for this program came from a conversation between Eisen and Ferranti last fall after a Rosh Hashanah service Eisen had conducted at EPOCH for residents. After the formal service, a lively discussion ensued among residents as they

shared their memories of past Rosh Hashanah services. One woman queried, “Is it ever too late to become a bat mitzvah?” From that question came the “express” bat mitzvah program.

Jean Costa, RN-BC, executive director of EPOCH, wholeheartedly embraced the idea. She immediately extended the program to EPOCH residents and their guests, as well as other interested senior women in the community. Costa, at EPOCH since it opened 10 years ago, had read about a group of seniors in another state who had just celebrated becoming b’not mitzvah. “It piqued my interest because we have a large group of Jewish residents who seek challenging educational opportunities,” said Costa. “We are pleased with the response of our residents and the assistance we are receiving from Temple Emanu-El for this program. I look forward to the celebration!”

Janice “Jan” Rosen, a lifelong Providence resident, and now at



Hinda Eisen

EPOCH, was the first woman to enroll in the bat mitzvah course. What attracted Rosen to the class? “It’s very simple. All through my life, I have always been interested in learning something new,” said Rosen, who explained that education was always important to her and her family. A lifetime member of the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum and Temple Emanu-El, Rosen traveled the world with her husband (now deceased) before she moved into EPOCH.

She recently celebrated another personal milestone; on New Year’s Day, 2010, Rosen

turned 91. Her current great passions are sports and reading; her favorite book, a gift from her oldest son, Stephen, is *The Celestine Prophecy*, by James Redfield.

According to Rosen, she and Temple Emanu-El, “go way back...I witnessed the first shovel full of dirt at the temple’s groundbreaking ceremony. Then in 1942, my husband and I were married in the temple. My two sons, Stephen and Peter became b’nei mitzvah there. In those days, a girl could not become bat mitzvah, so my daughter, Barbara, was active in temple activities. I joined the Sisterhood. And when each of my sons were studying to become bar mitzvah, I initiated a bar mitz-

vah breakfast at Temple Emanu-El for all the students who were studying with them.” In order to prepare those bar mitzvah breakfasts, she got up very early every Saturday morning and walked to the temple. “I left my house at 6 a.m. and walked [to the temple] because I didn’t want to disturb

my neighbors by starting my car so early in the morning,” said Rosen.

Those bar mitzvah breakfasts continued for many years thereafter. “It was a small kitchen and we had 40 boys every Saturday for years,” said Rosen. “The boys loved those breakfasts, and

some mornings the fathers would accompany their sons.” After all her years of devotion to Temple Emanu-El, it seems only natural that Temple Emanu-El now will have an opportunity to reciprocate by bringing its bat mitzvah program to Rosen at EPOCH.

“I am excited that Hinda [Eisen] is reaching out to a wonderful group of seniors who automatically became b’nei mitzvah years ago, by virtue of reaching the Jewish age of maturity, but who never had the privilege of celebrating this milestone,” said Rabbi Wayne M. Franklin, Temple Emanu-El’s senior rabbi.

See WOMEN Page 21

*Giving a Generation  
a Chance  
to Celebrate  
Coming of Age*

### EPOCH Sponsors Bat Mitzvah Classes for Jewish Women

EPOCH Assisted Living on the East Side and Temple Emanu-El are working together in ensuring an older generation of women can experience and celebrate their bat mitzvah. Beginning early next year, Temple Emanu-El will host a 3 to 4 month “express” bat mitzvah preparation course for women who would like to experience the coming of age celebration, which was not practiced a generation ago.

Preparation classes will be held every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. starting January 21.

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# BAT MITZVAH EXPO

## WOMEN: Have reason to study and to celebrate

From Page 20

"The group's desire to learn and add to their Jewish knowledge and skills is impressive. It is a marvelous example of lifelong

Although Eisen has taught both teens and adult bat/bar mitzvah preparation courses, she has not yet prepared Jewish seniors for this *simcha*, so this inaugural bat mitzvah program is a first for her, too. What are Eisen's goals for

Eisen. "Many Jewish women did not have an opportunity to study for and experience this coming of age milestone when they were younger," said Eisen.

The first American bat mitzvah in 1922 (Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan's daughter, Rebecca) initiated a ceremony that continues its development even today. Eisen said that before the early 1980s, Jewish women were not allowed to read Torah or Haftarah, or lead any part of services in front of the community. More recently, the Conservative movement has "welcomed women into all of these aspects [of participation in synagogue]," said Eisen. She said that today she doesn't teach anything differently whether she prepares boys or girls to become b'nei mitzvah.

Enthusiastic about the program, Eisen has high hopes about offering more "express" bat mitzvah programs in the future. "It is really exciting for me," said Eisen.

Ferranti echoed Eisen's sentiments. "Everyone at EPOCH is so excited about this new program," said Ferranti. "There is a very high level of interest among the women here."

Click or call: EPOCH Assisted Living: [www.epochsl.com](http://www.epochsl.com) or 275-0682, Temple Emanu-El: [www.teprov.org](http://www.teprov.org) or 331-1616.

Nancy Abeshaus is a freelance writer based in South Kingstown.



Janice Rosen

Jewish learning and growth. All of us at Emanu-El look forward to celebrating their *simcha*."

NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ALL INVOLVED

this first group of graduates? "I hope to have each student make an *aliyah* (read from the Torah), give an exegesis (an interpretation) of the text she is reading, and give a *d'var Torah* (words of truth)," said

## Free 'express' bat mitzvah program for Jewish seniors

Space still available

PROVIDENCE - All interested Jewish women are invited to enroll in a new "express" bat mitzvah program for seniors. The program, which is free of charge and open to all EPOCH residents, their guests, and others in the community, is sponsored by EPOCH Assisted Living and Temple Emanu-El.

Classes for the new three to

four month "express" bat mitzvah program begin on Thursday, January 21 at 10 a.m. at EPOCH Assisted Living at One Butler Avenue in Providence. All preparation classes, the bat mitzvah events and related transportation are free of charge. Prospective students can learn more or register for classes by calling EPOCH at 275-0682.

## Event expo in Sharon, Mass.

SHARON, Mass. - Temple Sinai will host an "Event Extravaganza 2010" on Sunday, Jan. 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you're planning a wedding, bar or bat mitzvah, anniversary party or other special celebration, visit the Event Extravaganza where you'll see more than 67 vendors displaying their products and services. Event visitors can sample foods from kosher and non-kosher caterers, watch videos of DJs in action and check out the latest party favors. Party planners, pho-

tographers, videographers, cake specialists, calligraphers, function halls, florists and balloon vendors, among others, will be available to answer questions.

Admission to the event is free and includes free samples and the opportunity to win a door prize. For more information, contact Temple Sinai at 781-784-6081, or visit [www.temple-sinai.com](http://www.temple-sinai.com). Temple Sinai is at 25 Canton St., Sharon, Mass.

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## New twists on some old standards

Keep your strength up for planning your simcha

By Voice & Herald Staff  
voiceherald@jvri.org

**H**ERE'S AN ASSORTMENT of salad and tart recipes from the bar mitzvah chapter of a new tongue-in-cheek book, *The Jewish Princess Feasts & Festivals*, by Georgie Tarn and Tracey Fine, published by Sterling, 2009.

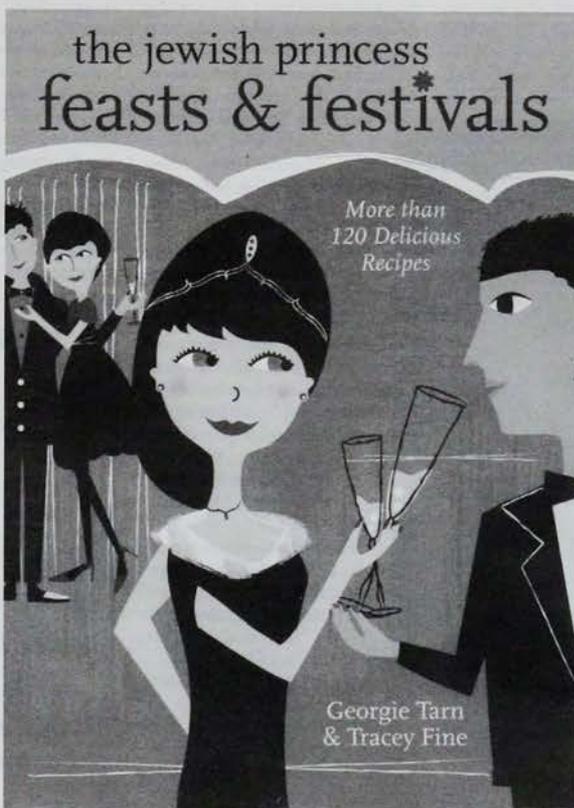
The chapter notes, in part, "So, as your son opens his book to study his portion of the Jewish law, to *lein* (sing) or chant, depending on his voice (every Jewish mother hopes her son will have the voice of Pavarotti, the looks of Brad Pitt and the intelligence of Einstein), or your daughter works on her *d'var Torah* (every mother hopes her daughter will marry a boy who has the voice of Pavarotti, the looks of Brad Pitt and the intelligence of Einstein), you can work out how many workouts it will take so that when you walk into the celebratory party, wave to your guests, dance to that bar mitzvah classic 'Reach for the Stars,' in the mother of all mother-of-the-bar-mitzvah outfits, you will know there won't even be so much as a hint of the commonly known (and dreaded) 'bar mitzvah

bat wings." It continues, "These recipes are for you or your Princess Pals to make when you get together at the traditional pre-bar/bat mitzvah lunch to discuss the very important topic: 'What are you going to wear?'"

### Pear Waldorf salad

#### Ingredients

- 14 celery ribs, "de-stringed" and chopped
- 3 pears, chopped
- 1 cup walnut halves
- 6 Medjool dates, chopped
- 1 orange, sectioned, plus the juice of 1/2 orange
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise



#### Method

Preheat the broiler.

Cut the challah (or challah roles) lengthwise through the middle.

Spread the cut sides with the pesto sauce. Add cubed feta or your preferred cheese, and other preferred toppings.

Decorate with the basil leaves.

Put under the broiler, 4-5 inches from the heat, and cook until the cheese browns, about 5 minutes.

Serve immediately.

If you don't like feta, substitute another cheese, such as mozzarella. Be

Serves 4 to 6.

### Mozzarella and onion tart

#### Ingredients

- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound refrigerated or homemade pie crust
- 2 tablespoons red-onion chutney (or chutney of choice)
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 extra-large egg, beaten
- 4 ounces mini-mozzarella balls (approximately 16)

#### Method

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Sauté the onion slices in the olive oil until soft and lightly browned.

Roll out the pastry on a floured board and use to line a 10-and-1/2-inch tart pan.

Stir the red-onion chutney into the sautéed onions and add salt and pepper to taste.

Spread the mixture in the pastry shell. Sprinkle with the basil.

Bake for 20 minutes.

Remove from oven, add the beaten egg and dot the mozzarella balls over the top.

Bake for 10 minutes longer. Let cool slightly, then serve.

#### Method

Mix all the ingredients in a bowl and serve.

Serves 8.

### Coleslaw - hold the mayo

#### Salad Ingredients

- 1 head of cabbage, shredded
- 1 heaped cup of golden raisins
- 3 scallions, minced (use only the white part)

#### Dressing Ingredients

- 3-and-1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 2 tablespoons honey

#### Method

Combine all the salad ingredients in a large bowl.

Mix the dressing ingredients together and pour over the salad.

Toss well. Transfer to the serving bowl and serve.

Serves 6.

### Challah pizza

#### Ingredients

- 1 challah that is a couple of days old or use challah rolls prepared pesto sauce
- 7 ounces feta cheese cubed, or cheese of your choice
- other toppings you desire
- one handful of fresh basil leaves

creative and use a variety of different toppings - anchovies, canned artichokes, corn... whatever takes your fancy.

If you want to make these into canapés, just buy mini-challah rolls.

Serves 4.

All recipes and illustrations are from *The Jewish Princess Feasts & Festivals*, by Georgie Tarn and Tracey Fine, published by Sterling, 2009.





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## SCIENCE AND SOCIETY Listening with both ears

*The enchantment and power of the radio*

EVERY ROOM IN a home has a focal point, whether the room is a drab tenement kitchen or an elegant condominium family den. For the typical living room



Stanley Aronson, M.D.

of a Brooklyn tenement, circa 1935, the object of compelling interest, invariably, was the radio. Such a contrivance was not some small, utilitarian instrument encased in plastic but a freestanding machine of majestic proportions.

There was nothing shy about the Depression-era radio. It was an impressive piece of furniture, a complex instrument with many illuminated radio tubes, all encased in an elaborate oak or mahogany frame embellished with pilasters and entablatures worthy of a Greek temple. It sat backed to a wall with the chairs in the room all facing its cloth-covered loud speaker as though it were a high altar in a place of worship.

If a teacher or a local rabbi uttered something, it may or may not have been accepted; but any statement issued over the radio was acknowledged as something equivalent to gospel doctrine, whether it was a weather report, an advertisement or a religious sermon.

The Depression interval generated a new genre of entertainment consisting of a daily 15-minute interval portraying a continuing story line involving the fanciful lives of typical folks condemned

**“Any statement issued over the radio was acknowledged as something equivalent to gospel doctrine.”**

to face an incredible sequence of bad luck, relentless domestic strife and near-fatal illnesses. These tales, sponsored principally by companies such as Proctor & Gamble, were collectively defined as the soap operas.

In addition, some ethnically oriented programs aired in the evening. One, called “Amos & Andy,” allegedly a comedy, portrayed African-Americans as hyperbolic stereotypes.

Another continuing program, very popular in the New York region and a pioneer in tracing the progress of a single family, was a saga called “The Goldbergs.”

It depicted a Jewish family in the Bronx with Molly Goldberg as the benevolent matriarch endowed with an all-encompassing Talmudic wisdom that would have brought envy to the heart of the Vilna Gaon. Molly — through tact, Solomonian jurisprudence and Freudian insight — solved all of the domestic and neighborhood problems of her friends and extended family. Most oral communication was conducted from one courtyard kitchen window to another, such critical dialogues beginning with the iconic yell: “Yoo-hoo, Mrs. Goldberg!”

The Jews of New York City, a people who had forgotten the great Ashkenazic Diaspora and had not yet confronted the Holocaust, lived from day to day in tolerable poverty, with only the threat of eviction and Aunt Esther’s tuberculosis as real impediments to a satisfying life. The gentle wisdom of a Molly Goldberg, and her acquiescent husband, brought a gentle serenity, like a cup of pungent tea, to their tenement lives.

At the onset, each emerging Goldbergian problem seemed unresolvable; yet, as they were manipulated by Molly, they became increasingly malleable and eventually clarified, even the formidable illnesses of her neighbors. I remember my elderly grandfather muttering: “I should only have such sicknesses!”

But then came Oct. 30, 1938, the night before Halloween. The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) presented an hour-long program that eroded the American public’s abiding faith in the integrity of the broadcast word. A young Orson Welles adapted an H.G. Wells’ science-fiction tome called *War of the Worlds*, a tale of

Martian invasion of the earth. Welles, then created a *roman à clef*, with a story situated in Grover’s Mill, New Jersey: The locals witness a curiously tubular meteor descending upon their village.

A reporter, seemingly a news commentator from CBS, then describes the emergence of

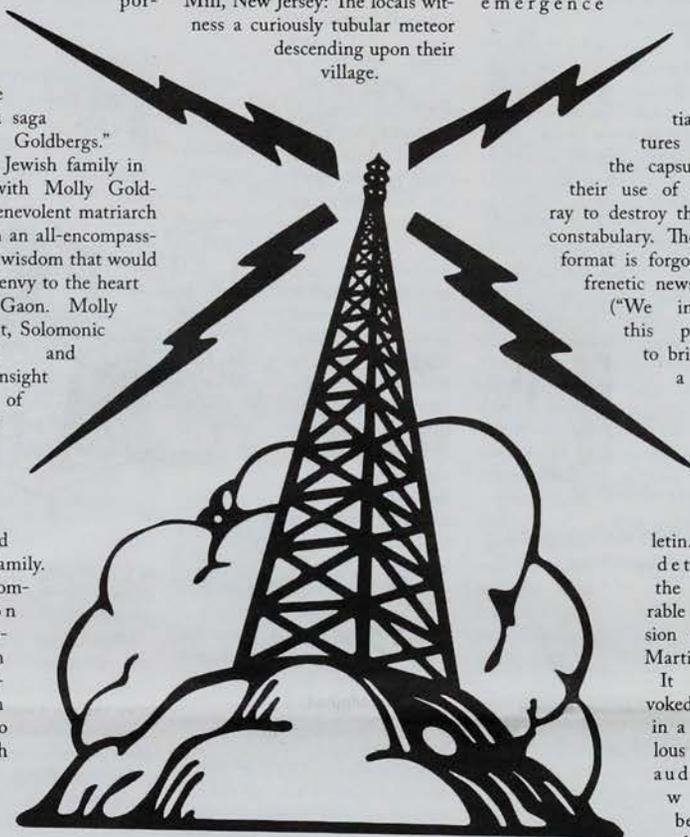
simulated news bulletins were authentic as they depicted open warfare between the alien creatures and the defending military. The last fragment of the program has a frantic amateur radio operator seeking some vocal response as he cries: “Hello, is there anyone on the air?”

Fortunately, the listening audience was relatively small, as the NBC studios broadcast a competing program featuring the popular Don Ameche, Nelson Eddy and a young ventriloquist named Edgar Bergen.

The Orson Welles program brought a sense of realism to the broadcast medium that had heretofore been an exercise in sedative pleasantries. Historians declared that the public trust in the radio had been betrayed, giving this nation a needed lesson in unforgiving verisimilitude.

The nation was but 10 months away from the German invasion of Poland and the onset of World War II. And given the serious news happenings to emerge in the succeeding five years, the phrase, “We interrupt this program for a bulletin...” was no longer frivolously employed.

*Dr. Stanley Aronson, the founding dean of Brown University’s medical school and a retired physician, can be reached at smamd@cox.net.*



Martian creatures from the capsule and their use of a heat ray to destroy the local constabulary. The basic format is forgotten as frenetic news items (“We interrupt this program to bring you a news bul-

letin...”) detailed the inexorable invasion of the Martians. It provoked panic in a credulous radio audience who believed that the

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## AS WE GROW OLDER Unfinished business

*Ambitions range from the personal to the global*

**N**O MATTER HOW long we live, every one of us leaves with some unfinished business.

Some is tangible. Some is intangible. Some is purposely delayed because it is unpleasant or difficult. And the rest is postponed because we give priorities to other demands or desires.



**Tema Gouse**

What inspired this treatise was the realization

that there are housebound contemporaries who I should have (but have not) visited. Is that due to my inability to realize, "there but for the grace of God go I"? Do I feel that old age frees me of such responsibilities? If so, why do I experience guilt about my negligence?

There are other issues that the elderly avoid, feeling entitlements that were never earned. In a lighter vein let me discuss my closet. Or my pantry. Or the "catch-all"

room. They are disasters! The plan to cleanse them of things outgrown, inoperable, or just plain surplus is always deferred because, "I am tired." (Also known as: I DO NOT WANT TO DO IT). There are frequent discussions with the other resident in my home, who agrees that the cleaning is essential while he sits down to read a book. There is complete agreement that our children will cuss us when they invade those storage areas "after we are gone." I do not dwell on the fact that they do not value what I value.

Not clarifying the contents of desks, file cabinets, and unidentified boxes is second only in unforgivable behavior; second only to not informing those affected of the existence of significant papers such as wills, trusts, safety deposit boxes and cemetery designations. Which grandchild is to receive which piece of jewelry must be clarified in the interest in post-mortem family unity.

**"Am I too ambitious? Should I aspire to do more with my remaining time?"**

In less morbid fashion, let me tell you of "unfinished business" that is more individualized — or more likely just the problems of the writer. I no longer do any home baking but I still wish I could master separating parts of the yolk from the white of the egg when my daughter-in-law asks for help on

Thanksgiving Day. I wish I could develop a taste for mushrooms so that I could be like most of the rest of the world. My mother taught me to eat green vegetables but I would be more socially acceptable if I could learn to eat carrots, squash and sweet potatoes.

In terms of personal maintenance, I would be more normal looking if I could properly apply eye makeup. I had anticipated that my vanity would diminish with aging or that my skill at hair care would improve when I was no longer short of time. I had thought that my one-day of the week of looking acceptable (Fridays are when I go visit the beauty parlor) would expand, at least, through the weekend. Forget it!

Another unresolved ambition. When I retired, I bought a piano and hired a superb teacher. Despite Bella's greatest efforts and my aspirations, the goal of playing at Carnegie Hall (or any other public forum) will also remain unachieved.

My ambitions for the world are huge. First, I want to see the serenity of an unthreatened Israel.

Racism and prejudice are still rampant. I would like to see the end of selfish politics in Rhode Island. One might ask what that might have to do with my completed (or uncompleted) business. If you have

every restored every ounce quickly. My unfinished business, in terms of that body image, is to reach a weight where my clothes fit better. (Is this yet another unachievable goal?)

I have just reread my own words and wonder how different or how similar these aspirations are from those of others of my age and background. Am I too ambitious? Should I aspire to do more with my remaining time? Are my goals too selfish? It seems my words say "What I Want." What is absent is I feel I should (or could) do to "finish my business." But like the average senior in the middle of her ninth decade, I just want to accept the fact that I did the best I could and just want to rest



to ask, it means that no matter my aspirations, the solutions seem unlikely.

Some of my goals for fruition are potentially achievable but highly unlikely. I was a 90-pound bride. (I kid you not!) And then in middle age, the hormones or some other devils ruled that everything I ate should stick to the middle third of my torso. An illness once sliced off 30 pounds but recov-

on my laurels. (Even if there are not too many of them.) And I will rely on my sons and granddaughters to pick up where I left off.

*Tema Gouse, a retired social worker, is at nbjtpg@cox.net.*

## Twice the fun at the JCCRI Senior Café

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) Senior Café (Lunch and Learn) will now serve a kosher Shabbat-style meal on Wednesdays and Fridays each week. The kosher Shabbat-style lunch, catered by Accounting for Taste, is served at noon and program entertainment is free. The

suggested per person donation for lunch is \$3 for someone 60+ or for someone younger than 60 who is disabled.

On Wednesdays, programs precede the noon lunch and begin at 11 a.m.; "Ask the Rabbi" with Rabbi Raphie Schochet (the Senior Café will invite different rabbis to present at these sessions) will be

held on Wednesday, Jan. 13; table games are offered on Wednesday, Jan. 20; and the Kibitz Group — the winter version of "Plain Talk" — will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

On Fridays, lunch is served at noon and the presentations begin at 12:45. On Friday, Jan. 15, Walter Anthony will lead a medi-

tation workshop; and on Friday, Jan. 22, John Scotti will play music at a birthday party celebration. All who celebrate January birthdays will receive gifts.

Reservations must be made at least two days in advance. RSVP by Monday for Wednesday lunch and by Wednesday for Friday lunch. To

RSVP or for more information, call Neil Drobnis or Lucy Flam at 861-8800, ext. 107.

The JCCRI Senior Café is sponsored by Jewish Family Service (JFS) and Meals on Wheels of RI. The JCCRI and JFS are partner agencies of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

## Seminar for elder care professionals

PROVIDENCE — A senior citizen suicide prevention program for health care professionals will be held at EPOCH Senior Living on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 4:30 p.m. This geriatric assessment and prevention of suicide program helps health care professionals who work in elder care identify risk factors for depression and suicide.

Donna Amaral, PMHCNS, BC, the intake assessment coordinator at Saint Anne's Center for Behavioral Medicine Geriatric Psychiatry Partial Hospital and Intensive Outpatient Programs, will speak.

The issues that older adults often face — such as grief and loss, health problems, decreased mobility, memory deficits, social isolation and worries about independence — frequently contribute to depression and anxiety, which can lead to suicidal thinking and behavior.

To RSVP or for more information about this event, which includes a pasta dinner, call EPOCH Senior Living at 273-6565.

EPOCH Senior Living is at 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence.

## Yiddish shmoozers welcome Ethan Adler

PROVIDENCE — The Yiddish *shmoozers* welcome Ethan Adler, Yiddish educator and spiritual leader of Congregation Beth David in Narragansett, to discuss Tu Bi-Shevat, celebrated on the 15th day of Shevat, which falls this year on Jan. 30. The holiday is closely identified with the land of Israel and embodies the great value that Judaism places on nature and plants.

Adler, who is also the assistant director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island and the education director of the South County Hebrew School, wants to estab-

lish South County as a vibrant community. He hopes to meet the varying needs of South County community members, while offering avenues of Judaic expression through prayer, Torah study and ages-wide involvement.

Come as a guest and remain as a member of the *shmoozers*.

The program will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) on Friday, Jan. 22, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Neal Drobnis at the JCCRI at 861-8800, ext. 107.



**Ethan Adler**

## Former binge eater has advice

*Mindful eating leads to healthier lifestyle*

By Voice & Herald Staff  
voiceherald@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – It's the New Year and, for many of us, resolutions are "a dime a dozen." But an upcoming program at the Providence Public Library called "Mindful Eating: The Key to Making Peace with Food & Your Body," by Barbara L. Holtzman, MSW, LICSW, an author and therapist, inspired *The Voice & Herald* to discover some healthy eating/healthy living techniques from Holtzman.

*Voice & Herald:* What led you to this approach? Was it something from your own experience?

*Holtzman:* As a child, I would sneak food – it soothed and distracted me when I was upset. And since I felt deprived as I wasn't allowed sweets, I would get them in whatever way I could. In retrospect, I am grateful that I found food (the way a lucky infant finds her thumb) because it worked and I didn't have any other tools, at the time. I did the yo-yo-dieting for many years.

My first diet – 500 calories a day – was when I was 16. I'd lose weight and then gain it back once I started eating "normally" again. I learned about the non-diet approach in the '80s and stopped dieting. Yoga and walking also helped me start living inside my body.

*Voice & Herald:* How do you deal with temptation?

*Holtzman:* The deal I make with

**"Eating when you're not hungry is a 'red flag' that something is bothering you."**

myself is that if I really want it [a certain food], I will get the best can find and eat it mindfully, savoring every bite. And I only eat as much as I need to satisfy me – and it's easier, as I give myself permission to have it whenever I really want it.

*Voice & Herald:* Don't most people want the quick fix? People spend millions on diet books, diet foods, yet it seems to be a simple proposition – eat fewer calories than you need.

*Holtzman:* I agree that most people want a quick fix. They think they can go on a diet, lose the weight and, despite past experience, it will stay off. Losing weight is not that easy, especially if you have gained and lost weight multiple times.

*Voice & Herald:* Does being Jewish inform your teaching or

counseling?

*Holtzman:* I am deeply spiritual and that informs how I see the world and the human condition and how I work. And being Jewish feels integral to who I am, although I am not religious.

*Voice & Herald:* Is your therapy practice predominantly for patients with food issues or eating disorders?

*Holtzman:* No, not all. Some clients initially come in around their eating or for help in losing weight and others come in around relationship issues, illness or other life transitions. Clients with eating issues soon realize that the food issues are the symptoms and the strategies they've used to avoid underlying issues such as relationships, trauma and feelings of inadequacy or low self-esteem. Eating when you're not hungry is a "red flag" that something is bothering you.

*Voice & Herald:* Why don't diets work?

*Holtzman:* Diets do work – short term. But if we've been eating in a way that we cannot sustain, we will go back to our old eating habits. And if we don't deal with the underlying reasons why we are eating, a diet cannot work. I focus on the triggers for compulsive eating and understanding how the eating is trying to help. When people learn healthier strategies and tools, they won't use food to meet those needs.

*Voice & Herald:* Since you don't recommend diets, what do you suggest for losing weight?

*Holtzman:* Eat when you're hungry, eat slowly enough to really taste the food (mindful eating) and stop when you are comfortably full. If you eat mindlessly,

you are much more likely to overeat. Don't deprive yourself. If you really want a particular food, eat a small amount and savor it.

*Voice & Herald:* What predictions for changes in food consumption/food habits do you foresee?

*Holtzman:* I wish Michelle Obama would push for subsidies for fruits and vegetables rather than for corn. Most corn ends up in animal feed (when livestock should eat grass, instead) or in high-fructose corn syrup – difficult for us to digest and a contributor to obesity and diabetes.

*Voice & Herald:* What other advice can you offer?

*Holtzman:* Try to accept your body as it is. Right now. Even the parts you don't like or you wish were different. Dieting from self-hatred (in the form of body loath-

ing) doesn't work. We take better care of ourselves by eating foods that make us feel healthier and more energetic. When we have an eating "slip," forgive ourselves and let it go.

The free program at the Central Library, 150 Empire Street, 3rd floor Barnard Room, will be held on Sunday, Jan. 24 from 2-3:30 p.m. Holtzman's book, *Conscious Eating, Conscious Living: A Practical Guide to Making Peace with Food & Your Body*, will be available for purchase at the presentation.

Visit [www.makingpeacewithfoodandyourbody.com](http://www.makingpeacewithfoodandyourbody.com) for more information about Holtzman.

To learn about the library's new series, "Be Mindful at the Library: Empower Your Mind to Improve Your Health," visit [www.provlib.org](http://www.provlib.org).

## 'Spice for Life' with Kollel women

PROVIDENCE – The Women's division of the Providence Community Kollel will hold its fourth annual conference on Sunday, Jan. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's event with the theme, "Spice for Life," includes Judy Rajchenbach, a lawyer, lecturer and community activist in Chicago, who will give a keynote speech on personal excellence.

Other topics include Jewish Chinese history, healthy dieting, the life of Rachel and the wisdom of King Solomon, as well as *Midrash*, the national debate on health care reform, challah braiding and a question-and-answer session on women's health care issues.

Divine Providence Catering will provide lunch for attendees.

For more information or to register, contact the Providence Community Kollel at 383-2786 or 273-3923.

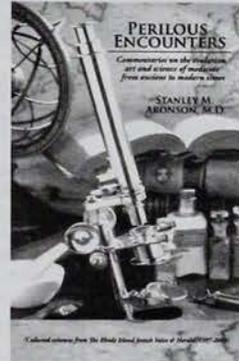


Judy Rajchenbach

[www.jvhri.org](http://www.jvhri.org)

## Aronson's book recommended

PROVIDENCE – *The Voice & Herald* still has a limited supply of Dr. Stanley Aronson's book available to purchase. His book, *Perilous Encounters: Commentaries on the evolution, art and science of medicine from ancient to modern times*, was highlighted in *The Providence Journal's* opinion pages on Dec. 31, as "his entertaining, sometimes very funny, sometimes sad and always... 'content-rich' essays... They reflect their author's turbulent and thoughtful life as a physician, scholar, medical school leader and international public health luminary.... It's a great read; it's literature."



If you want an autographed copy of the book, please contact The Voice & Herald soon – supplies are limited. Call 421-4111, ext. 168 or email: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org). The cost is \$10/per book picked up at the Federation offices; \$16/per book if it is mailed.

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## A social, concierge and healthcare referral service

*New private-pay membership organization*

By Nancy Abeshaus  
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Here's a plan: a luxury motor coach picks you and your party up at your home and brings you to one of Providence's fine restaurants for dinner. After dinner, it's on to the latest show at the Providence Performing Arts Center where your reserved seats are waiting. After the show, you travel home by luxury motor coach.

This theater package is just one example of the social and cultural programs that a new, private-pay, concierge-style referral service offers older adults (there is no minimum age requirement) through its membership organization, At Home in Rhode Island™. Some services are included as part of an annual membership fee, others are on a fee-for-service basis, and at a discounted rate when members use At Home In Rhode Island's preferred providers. The one-year memberships may be renewed annually; fees vary for individuals and households. Only individuals in Rhode Island are eligible to join.

In October 2009, the organization put out its welcome mat

to all older Rhode Islanders. This lifestyle concept is the brainchild of John Folan, CPA; Jenny Fogel Miller, MSW; and Caroline Naughton Rumowicz, B.S. B.A., MSHCA. Collectively, these three professionals possess 30 years of healthcare industry experience and are "dedicated to maintaining quality services at home,"

### BUSINESS PROFILE

said Miller. "At Home in Rhode Island is all about convenience and lifestyle choices. But most of all, it's about providing our members with personalized services that they want and need."

### CONVENIENT ONE-CALL ACCESS

A one-year membership fee covers a number of services. These include: transportation (up to five hours or 40 miles per month), errands and grocery shopping, an initial personal training session with a written plan, wellness and nutritional assessment, prescription delivery, health care planning resources and social, cultural, and special events coordination.

Here's how it works. Either Miller or Rumowicz meets with a new member at the member's home to explain in detail the services and

to review fees. After this initial consultation, most other covered services are handled by telephone. At the beginning of each week, each member receives a call from an At Home In Rhode Island associate asking what he or she needs that week in terms of errands, grocery shopping or transportation. Or, a member may request a telephone consultation with a registered dietitian about meal planning. Another covered service is an initial personal training session with a written plan. After that, a member can follow his training plan at home or the gym. Or, for an additional fee, he may request a personal trainer from At Home In Rhode Island and receive that coordinated service at a discounted rate. "We have a relationship with a personal trainer who specializes in the older-than-55 population," said Rumowicz. Another covered service, healthcare planning resources, might involve a telephone consultation between a healthcare professional and a member about what her forthcoming hip replacement surgery might entail.

At Home In Rhode Island also offers members other services

upon request on a fee-for-service basis. While not required to do so, members may receive services at a discounted rate from a preferred provider from At Home In Rhode Island's preferred provider list.

The organization fulfills its members' service requests using an array of local providers. "We have a large list of providers we have thoroughly vetted and who carry their own licenses and insurance," said Miller. No money is exchanged between member and provider. Instead, members receive a monthly invoice from At Home In Rhode Island with an itemized list of all services that are coordinated, but not covered, by their annual membership fee. Although At Home In Rhode Island's office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., services are personalized to meet members' unique requests and needs, so flexibility is necessary. Airport transportation, for example, requires a member to be in direct contact with the transportation service.

Who joins At Home In Rhode Island? Miller said that members are healthy, active, busy people; they are independent, sophisticated, financially secure, age 55

and older who are committed to staying in their homes. Initially the social aspects attract members. "But if something happened – you fell and broke your hip, for example – as a member of this organization, you can pick up the phone, call this one number, and we would get a skilled nurse into your home and a geriatric case manager to help you navigate the [health insurance] system," said Miller. Another frequent query by members is about their long-term care insurance. "They bought it years ago and cannot remember how to activate it," said Rumowicz. "Some policies have waiting periods and you have to know when to turn it on. John [Folan] has a lot of experience with long-term care insurance and Medicare."

### AGING BRINGS CHANGED NEEDS

As people age, their needs change. If a member wants her

See **CONCIERGE** Page 28

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## CONCIERGE: Service satisfies



The principals of At Home in Rhode Island™, Caroline Rumowicz, John Folan and Jenny Miller

From Page 27

kitchen to be more accessible, for example, At Home In Rhode Island works with a company that can do that renovation. "If a member needs a personal chef, we can connect him with a personal chef," said Miller. Whether it's organizing an excursion to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts escorted by an art historian, finding a creative writing class to take, arranging pharmacy delivery, getting a plumber to fix the toilet, locating a widows or widowers support group or renting

medical equipment, At Home in Rhode Island, said Miller, can fulfill members' requests easily and conveniently, enabling them to stay in their homes - at home in Rhode Island - for as long as they want. "We have the services and the providers in place," said Miller. "One call and it's done."

Visit At Home In Rhode Island at [www.athomeinri.com](http://www.athomeinri.com) <http://www.athomeinri.com> or call 331-2849.

Nancy Abeshaus is a freelance writer in South Kingstown.

## Obituaries

### Linda "Lynn" Dember

PROVIDENCE - Linda "Lynn" Dember, 60, died on Dec. 19. A lifelong Providence resident, she was the daughter of Irving Dember of Providence and the late Claire "Blanche" (Klitzner) Dember.

She was a graduate of American University and was an arts and antiques dealer. She was the sister of James Dember of Pawtucket.

Donations may be made to the American Heart Association or Temple Emanu-El.

### Joseph Dress

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. - Joseph Dress, 94, died on Jan. 2. He was the husband of the late Frances (Malachowsky) Dress. Born in Providence, a son of the late Nathan and Ida (Friedman) Dress, he was a lifelong resident of Providence before moving to Virginia Beach six years ago. He was the owner of Joe Dress Fruit and Produce Company in Providence for 25 years, retiring many years ago.

A World War II Army Air Corps veteran, he served in Europe. He was a life member of Touro Fraternal Association, a member of the former Majestic Senior Guild, Jewish

War Veterans Post 23 and he served on the board of Beth Shalom Synagogue.

He was the father of Hyman Dress of Virginia Beach, Va., Esta Karp of Cranston, Annette Dress of Warwick and the late Idelle Dress. He was the brother of the late Harry and Louis Dress, Betty Clark, Mollie Rakatansky, Nettie Goldberg and Sally Seltzer; the grandfather of Joshua, Jeffrey, Robert and Rachel; and great-grandfather of Connor

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

### David Feldman

PROVIDENCE - David Feldman, 88, a resident of Barrington for 45 years before moving to Providence in 2003, died on Dec. 29. He was the husband of the late Dorothy (Appel) Feldman. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was a son of the late Isidore and Ida (Dobsevitsh) Feldman.

He received a B.S. from the CCNY in 1940, an M.S. from NYU in 1946, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1949. He was involved in defense work at the National Bureau of Standards during World War II. From 1949-50 he was an AEC post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies; from 1950-56, he was an assistant professor of physics at the University of Rochester; from 1956-59, he was an associate professor of physics at Brown

University; and from 1959-1991, he was a professor of physics at Brown.

A fellow of the American Physical Society, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, he played a signature role in modernizing Brown University's physics department and broadened the program to include particle and nuclear physics. He worked with C.N. Yang, a Nobel Laureate, defining asymptotic states in quantum field theories, an important contribution to the development of modern particle physics.

He is survived by his children, Charles Feldman of Providence, and Robert Feldman and his wife Peggy Coates of Annandale, Va.; and his granddaughters, Amy and Laurie Feldman. He was the brother of the late Anna Karlin.

Donations may be made to NAMI R.I., 154 Waterman St., Ste 5B, Providence, RI 02906.

### Lawrence James Goldstein

TAUNTON, Mass. - Lawrence James Goldstein, 74, died on Dec. 17. He was the husband of the late Felice (Weiss) Goldstein. A lifelong resident of Taunton, he was a son of the late Charles Samuel and Florence (Howitt) Goldstein. He was the owner of Goldstein's 5 & 10 and Party Cake Party Cake.

A graduate of Bryant College, he was an Army veteran of the Korean conflict. He was a member of Con-

gregation Agudath Achim.

He was the father of Lance Goldstein of Taunton, and the late William Goldstein; and the brother of Donald Goldstein of Phoenix, Ariz., Harold Goldstein of Mashpee, Mass., and Rhoda Goodman of Taunton.

Contributions may be made to the Felice Goldstein Memorial Fund, c/o Congregation Agudath Achim, 36 Winthrop St., Taunton, MA 02780.

### Gladys Greenberg

CRANSTON - Gladys Greenberg, 82, died on Dec. 29. She was the wife of the late Irving Greenberg. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Hyman and Esther (Markowitz) Brotman, she had lived in Cranston for 55 years.

She was an administrative assistant for the Providence School Department for 25 years, retiring 16 years ago. She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston Senior Guild, Hadassah, O.R.T. and The Miriam Hospital's Women's Association. She was a life master of American Contract Bridge League.

She was the mother of Howard Greenberg of Plainville, N.Y. and his late wife Mona, Marlene DiPrete and her husband Gerald of Lincoln, and Robert Greenberg and his wife Robin of Warwick. She was the sister of Martha Kaufman of Providence, and Frances Levin of Cranston; and the grandmother of Melissa, Cindy, Allison and Adam.

Contributions may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

### Marilyn Hackett

MIDDLETOWN - Marilyn (Pedlikin) Hackett, 71, died Jan. 4. She was the wife of the late Robert Hackett. Born in Providence, the daughter of the late Michael and Kathryn (Strashnick) Pedlikin, she had been a lifelong Rhode Island resident. She was a member of Temple Shalom.

She is survived by her children, William Hackett and his fiancée Terri Pantini of Middletown; Karen Misarti and her husband James of Bristol, Conn.; Deborah Hackett of Newport, Michael Hackett and his fiancée Tabitha Dancy of Mountain City, Tenn.; Steven Hackett of Middletown, and Shana Hackett, Anthony Hackett and James Hackett, all of Middletown. She also leaves her grandchildren, Ryan, Rachael, Hannah, Kayla, Zachary, Bryan, Alex and Daniel.

Donations may be made in her memory to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445-7226, Attn: Contribution Services.

### Rita Hoffman

PAWTUCKET - Rita (Cohane) Hoffman, 77, formerly of Providence, died on Dec. 25. She was the wife of the late Allen Hoffman. Born in Chelsea, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Maurice and Esther Cohane.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood and a member of Kirkbrae Country Club.

She is survived by her daughter, Wendy Hoffman.

Donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

### Hilda Rose Horowitz

CRANSTON - Hilda Rose Horowitz died on Dec. 27. She was the wife of the late Philip Horowitz. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Charles and Sarah (Liebowitz) Baker, she had lived in Cranston for 38 years.

She was a bookkeeper for Max Pollock Auctioneer for 10 years.

She was the mother of Kenneth Horowitz of Cranston, and Jordan Horowitz and his wife Linda of North

See OBITUARIES Page 29

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## JTA World Briefs

### Poland requests Sweden's help in Auschwitz case

(JTA) - Poland has made a formal request to Sweden for help in investigating the theft of the sign from the entrance to Auschwitz.

On Dec. 18, the iconic wrought iron *Arbeit Macht Frei* sign was stolen; it was recovered 72 hours later, sawed into three pieces and set to be shipped out of the country.

A wealthy British Nazi sympathizer was the intended buyer of the sign, via an extreme-right wing group in Sweden, the British newspaper *Mirror* reported.

### Jewish construction in eastern Jerusalem approved

JERUSALEM (JTA) - The Jerusalem municipality approved the construction of four apartment buildings on the Mount of Olives in eastern Jerusalem.

Monday's approval comes as the Palestinians continue to refuse to come back to the negotiating table until Israel halts all settlement construction, including in Jerusalem.

### Barak gets death threats

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak received a death threat report-

edly from far-right extremists, according to Israeli media.

Barak's ministry has been working to enforce a 10-month freeze on new construction in West Bank settlements that was announced at the end of November.

### Israeli military officials cancel Britain trip

JERUSALEM (JTA) - A delegation of Israeli military officers canceled a visit to Britain out of fear that they would be arrested on war crimes charges. One month ago, Israeli opposition leader Tzipi Livni canceled a

visit to Britain after learning that a London court had approved a warrant for her arrest on war crimes charges.

The warrants seek to charge Israeli officials with war crimes in connection with Israel's Operation Cast Lead in Gaza last winter. In December, Hamas said that it was working with lawyers in Britain and other European countries to pursue war crimes cases against Israeli leaders.

### 2,500 descendants of one Holocaust survivor

(JTA) - A 94-year-old Holocaust survivor died, leaving behind at least five generations of some 2,500 descendants.

Yitta Schwartz of New York survived Bergen-Belsen, leaving the concentration camp with her family intact when World War II ended in 1945.

Schwartz, who reportedly was reluctant to talk about the Holocaust, had about 170 grandchildren - and knew all their names.

### From Page 28

Providence; the sister of Robert Baker of Boynton Beach, Fla., and the late Harry, Morris, Louis, Benjamin and Isadore Baker and Ann Melamut-Botkiss, Ida Ennis, Helen O'Malley and Rebecca Norman; and the grandmother of Jonathan.

Contributions may be made to the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, 58 Burlington St., Providence, RI 02906.

### Anne Leventhal

CRANSTON - Anne (Port) Leventhal, 93, died on Dec. 31. She was the wife of the late Morris Leventhal and Harry Fridenreich. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Sadie (Chorney) Port, she had lived in Cranston for 25 years, previously residing in Montpelier, Vt.

She was an executive assistant for National Life Insurance Co. in Montpelier for more than 35 years, retiring 29 years ago. She was a member of Temple Sinai and its Sisterhood and a life member of Hadassah.

She was the sister of Ira Port of Warwick, Mary Zisserson of Cranston and Esther (Estelle) Goldman of Warwick, and the aunt of many

nieces and nephews.

Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai.

### Barry Levine

FALL RIVER, Mass. - Barry Levine, 72, died on Dec. 25. He was the husband of Sandra R. (Straschnick) Levine. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Philip B. and Fannie (Shechtman) Levine.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Mark W. Levine and his wife Hillary, and Scott D. Levine and his wife Jennifer; his grandchildren, Sydney, Noah, Justin, and Thea; his sister, Barbara Feldstein and her husband Edward; and his brother-in-law, Stephen Saltzman. He was the brother of the late Marilyn Saltzman.

Donations may be made to the Barbara & Edward Feldstein Fund, c/o Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

### Sanford I. Litchman

FALL RIVER, Mass. - Sanford I. Litchman, a resident of West Palm Beach, Fla., died on Dec. 17.

He was the husband of the late Charlotte (Servita) Litchman, father

of Sayre Litchman and his wife Roseanne of Fall River, Mass., and the late Steven Litchman; the grandfather of Michael Litchman and his wife Ann of Haverford, Penn., Cindy Litchman of Providence and her friend Philippe Cordina of Taunton, Mass., Mark Costa and his companion Hope Davidson of Van Etten, N.Y.; and a great-granddaughter, Zoe Charlotte Litchman of Haverford, Penn.

Donations may be made to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720.

### Cori Goldenberg Maass

ELSEWHERE - Cori Goldenberg Maass died on Dec. 21. She was a clinical social worker and psychotherapist with a private practice called Heart-to-Heart Counseling that provided stress management and health and wellness services to patients with chronic illnesses.

The daughter of Charlotte I. Penn of Providence and the late Harold Goldenberg, she was born on March 8, 1945 in Fort Benning, Chattahoochee County, Ga. She spent her early years in Pawtucket before moving to Providence. She attended Hope high school and graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1967. She later received her M.S.W. from Fordham University while living in Katonah, NY and before relocating to White Plains in 1999.

A former member of Temple Beth-El in Providence, she became affiliated with Temple Kol Ami in White Plains, N.Y.

In addition to her mother, she leaves her brothers, Larry (and his wife Muay) of Bang Saen, Thailand, and Jonas (and his wife Karen Weiner) Goldenberg of Northborough, Mass.; her sons, Aaron Maass of Philadelphia, and Ethan Maass (and his wife Laura) of Pembroke, Mass. She also leaves her mother-in-law Dolly Maass, wife of the late Richard Maass.

A volunteer with the National Council of Jewish Women, she had served as vice president of the Westchester chapter of the New York State Society for Clinical Social Work.

Donations may be made to Westchester Jewish Community Services in White Plains, www.wjcs.com/donate, or the American Liver Foundation, <http://go.liverfoundation.org/goto/cori.maass>.

### Walter W. Roth

SOUTH DENNIS, Mass. - Walter W. Roth, 89, of South Dennis, Mass., and formerly of North Providence, died on Dec. 18. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jeannette, his son Jonathan and his daughter Joan.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, the son of the late Solomon and Dora

Wohl-Rothstein, he moved to the United States as a teenager and later attended MIT in Cambridge for engineering. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Rhode Island where he began his career with Teknor Apex Company and started his family.

A memorial service will be held in Providence at a later date. Donations may be made to VNA of Cape Cod (Hospice & Palliative Care), P.O. Box 370, Hyannis, MA 02601.

### Blanche Tartell

PROVIDENCE - Blanche (Heller) Tartell, 86, formerly of New York City before moving to Providence seven years ago, died on Dec. 26. She was the wife of the late Henry Tartell. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Alexander and Beatrice (Karr) Heller.

She is survived by her children, Dr. Michael Tartell and his wife Judith, and Dr. Linda Tartell and her husband Gerald McKenna; her grandchildren, Deborah Schwartz, Corey, Jill and Colin McKenna; her great-grandchildren, Charlie and Eli Schwartz; and her sister, Marilyn Hillman.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3004, Warwick, RI 02886.

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Daniel Stieglitz and Ruth Simenoff

## ENGAGEMENT

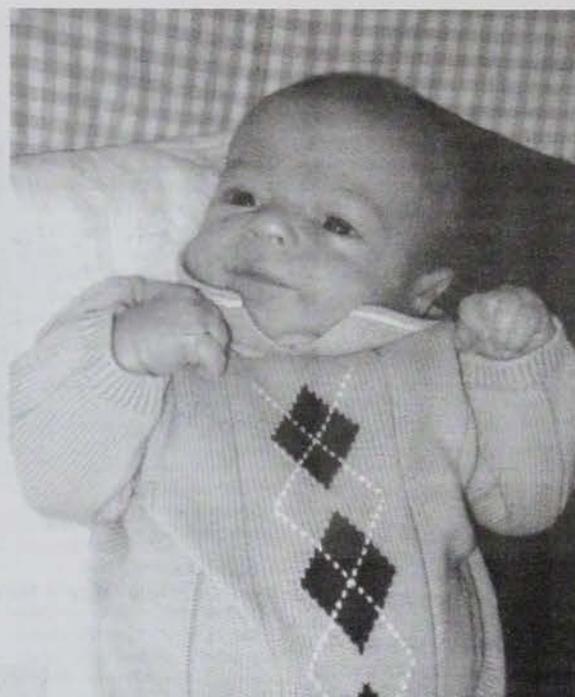
**DR. AND MRS. EZRA STIEGLITZ OF PROVIDENCE** announce the engagement of their son, Daniel, to Ruth Simenoff. Both Daniel and Ruth reside in Jerusalem.

A 2004 Yeshiva University

graduate, Daniel served as a combat medic in the Israel Defense Forces, and is now a graduate student at Bar Ilan University. He writes a column, Jerusalem Journal, for *The Voice & Herald*.

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Simenoff of Manchester, England, Ruth is a third-year nursing student at the Jerusalem College of Technology.

A wedding is planned for February 2010.



Miles Oelbaum

## BIRTH

**HEATHER BAER AND DOUGLAS Oelbaum** of Marlborough, Mass. announce the birth of their son, Miles Frederick Oelbaum, on Sept. 24. Miles' maternal grandparents are Sylvia and John Baer of New Jersey and Florida, and his paternal grandparents are Phyllis and Sruel Oelbaum of Providence.

## D'var Torah

### EXODUS I:1-6:1

## God is not static

*Parashat Shemot recounts Moses' early years*

By Rabbi Wayne Franklin  
*Special to The Voice & Herald*

**L**AST WEEK IN synagogues, we finished reading the Book of Genesis, with its stories about the founding family of the Jewish people. In the Book of Exodus, which we begin this week, we will read about the early enslavement of the Jewish people as a nation in Egypt and about our deliverance into freedom, with all the responsibilities that freedom and independence require. In this week's portion, *Parashat Shemot*, we meet Moses as an infant, whose mother hides him in a basket in the Nile to save him from Pharaoh's decree of death for all newborn Hebrew males. He is discovered in the river by none other than Pharaoh's daughter, who adopts him and has him nursed by a Hebrew woman, who happens to be his own natural mother, Jocheved. Sometime later, Moses goes to live with his stepmother and is raised in the palace, apart from his people, but he continues to sympathize with his kinfolk. We later see him fleeing Pharaoh's wrath

**"I am wary when people are too certain of God's essence and too sure what God wants of us."**

after he kills an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave. He escapes to Midian, where he finds shelter, as well as a wife, Tziporah, and a benevolent father-in-law, Jethro.

While Moses is tending Jethro's sheep, God appears to him as a flaming fire in a burning bush, from which God commissions Moses to lead the Hebrew slaves to freedom. Moses asks God to announce an identity by which Moses can tell the people who sent him to rescue them. God's intriguing answer provides us a profound insight into the nature of God, as Jews understand God.

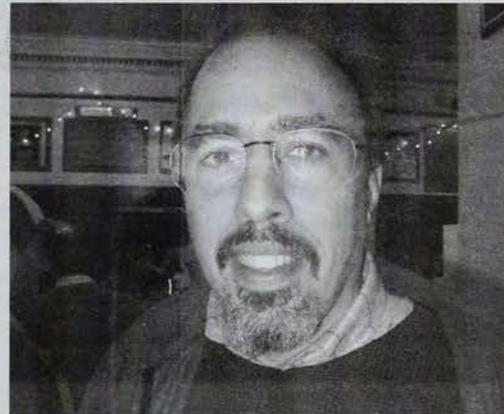
God self-identifies as "*Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh*," meaning "I Shall Be What I Shall Be." Rabbi Ya'akov Yitzhak, the Hasidic *Rebbe* of Peshiskha, who was known as "The *Yebudi*," suggested that this ambiguous name of God teaches us about the possibility of *teshuvah*, which we often translate as "repentance" or "turning." *Teshuvah* implies growth and the possibility for change. Just as God is always becoming, we can change and grow. God is in the future as life evolves; God is not static. God is revealed as

we move through our own lives and understand more about the world and ourselves. God is not a fixed entity; thus, no one can say with certainty "I know God, and I know what God wants."

My teacher, theologian Rabbi Neil Gillman, often speaks of "theological humility." With this concept, he articulates the reality that each of us perceives God in our own way. If God is always becoming, then our attempt to grasp God's essence may also be an ongoing, evolving endeavor. Some people may be threatened by this lack of certainty. I, on the other hand, am wary when people are too certain of God's essence and too sure what God wants of us.

If we can grasp God's self-definition, "I Will Be What I Will Be," as it is conveyed in this week's Torah portion, we may be able to open ourselves to hearing how other people understand God, without being dismissive. And if we can achieve this level of discourse and understanding within our community, we just may be able to achieve greater trust and cooperation, for the benefit of our whole community. A little humility goes a long way...

*Rabbi Wayne Franklin, the senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, is a member of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis.*



Roger Blumberg

## BOARD ELECTION

**ROGER BLUMBERG**, the chair of the board of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, was elected to the board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils (FSHC). Founded in 1977, the Washington, D.C.-based FSHC represents and supports the work of 54 state humanities councils that receive funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

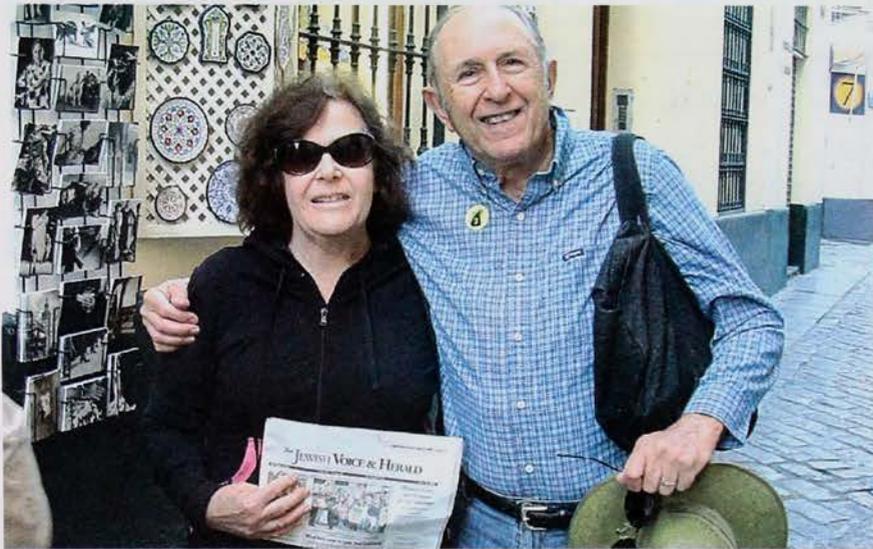
Blumberg, a Providence resident, has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, teaching undergraduate courses in the humanities and the sciences at Columbia University, Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University, where he is currently a visiting scholar in the department of computer science.

### SEND US YOUR SIMCHAS....

Do you have new babies at home, an engagement pending or a 50th anniversary celebration? Share your simchas with your friends in the Jewish community by sending the information to the *Jewish Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, Attention: SIMCHAS, or email [voiceherald@jvri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jvri.org) SIMCHAS in the subject line of the email.

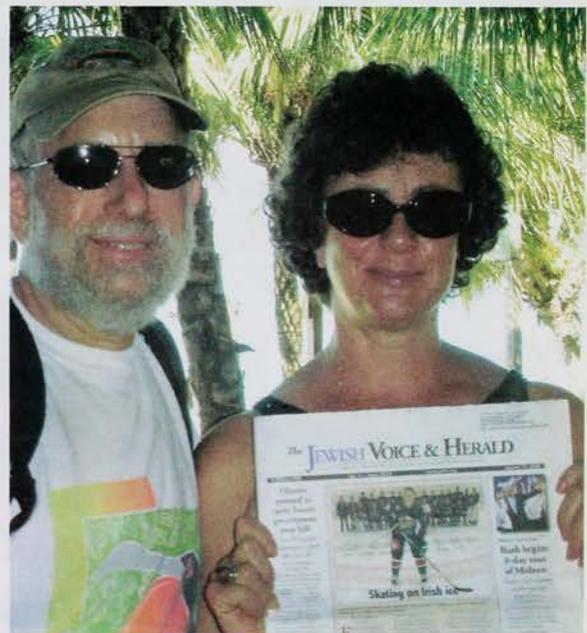
Still not sure what to do? Call Nancy Kirsch, executive editor, at 421-4111, ext. 168.

# WE ARE READ



**SEVILLE, SPAIN**

LINDA AND JACK Winkleman of Wallingford, Conn. hold a copy of *The Voice & Herald* in Seville, Spain in November 2009.



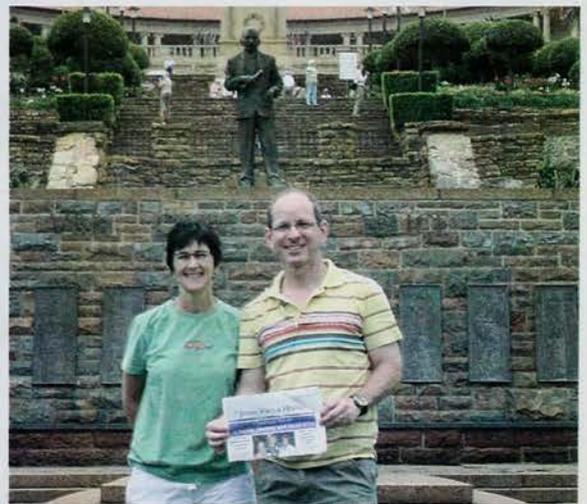
**SOMEWHERE NEAR HONDURAS**

IRA AND KAREN Asher of South Kingstown visited Roatan, an island off the coast of Honduras, and took their copy of *The Voice & Herald* with them.



**IN BRAZIL**

SANDY AND HARRY Finkelstein of Cranston traveled to Manaus, Brazil where they displayed their copy of *The Voice & Herald*.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

MELANIE AND JEFF Miller of Attleboro, Mass. visited South Africa. They pose here, in front of the Union Building, in Pretoria with *The Voice & Herald*.



**A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE**

RENA DRESSLER, LEFT, of Slatersville, and Sharon Finn of Cranston aboard the Norwegian Jade's Mediterranean cruise on Dec. 18, the last night of Hanukkah. Sharon wrote, "It was lovely to take a moment out of our 12-day cruise to observe this with fellow Jewish passengers. A rabbi and his wife were also passengers and held services for all of us each night."



**PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS**

MOE COHEN OF East Greenwich, formerly of Cranston, visited his children Jean and Steve Cohen in Paradise Island, Bahamas. Here, he holds his copy of *The Voice & Herald* in front of the fountains at Atlantis Resort.



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