

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

19 ADAR 5770

Vol. XII — Issue V

WWW.JVHRI.ORG

March 5, 2010



/Nancy Kirsch

PRE-PURIM FESTIVITIES

JCCRI PRESCHOOL STUDENTS participate in the PJ Library all-day celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Warwick. Music, songs, stories and snacks were part of the day's events. See more pictures on page 16.

Childhood obesity hits home

First Lady establishes 'Let's Move' campaign

By NANCY ABESHAUS
Special to The Voice & Herald

READ A BOX of cereal lately? "More grains, less you!" "Simple goodness." "Natural Advantage. Rich in whole grains." Sound good? It sounds downright delicious – and nutritious. What else is in that bowl of cereal that you might not know? Many cereals – a mainstay of "the most important meal of the day" – are loaded with sugar – up to 20 teaspoons a serving and, with refined grains, offer 0 grams of fiber.

Though sugary, fiber-less cereals aren't the only culprits, our kids are getting heavier – obesity rates have tripled in the past 30 years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), some 25 million American children, or one in three, today are overweight or obese. Thirty percent of Rhode Island's children (age 10–17) are overweight or obese; the smallest state has the 29th highest percent in the country of such children, according to a report by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, two nonprofit, non-partisan organizations focused on improving the health and healthcare of all Americans.



/Karolyn White

LAST JUNE, JONAH BOSTOM, (left) then a first grader, works in the JCDS community garden. Noam Raz, right, who also was a first grader last year, looks on.

In February, Michelle Obama – self-described "Mom-in-Chief" – issued her wake-up call to the country's parents, community

leaders, teachers, doctors and nurses to help fight this health

See ONE, Page 17

J Street kick-off draws large crowd

National group launches Rhode Island chapter

By ELIZABETH HOLLANDER
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – More than 100 people attended a lively kick-off event for J Street Rhode Island, a new liberal Middle East peace advocacy group, on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island in Providence. J Street Rhode Island launches the local branch of the national J Street organization, which describes itself

as a "pro-Israel, pro-peace" lobbying group. It encourages a stronger U.S. leadership role in moving Israel, Palestinians and Arab states toward a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. The evening featured presentations introducing J Street and its policy positions. Janette Hillis-Jaffe, the New England regional political director for J Street, described the goals and structure of J Street. Hillis-Jaffe, who is Orthodox, opened her remarks by sharing her personal reasons for her J Street involvement. After living in Israel during the second intifada, she became

See LOCAL, Page 12

Can Iran's democracy clock outpace its nuclear clock?

Narrowly targeted sanctions may – or may not – work

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Iran watchers keep two clocks: One counts down to a nuclear Iran, the other counts down to a democratic Iran.

Neither clock is guaranteed to keep ticking all the way down.

The international community hopes to thwart Iran's acquisition of a nuclear weapon. And despite the upheaval in Iran last summer, no one is sure that the autocratic regime in Tehran is on its way out – or whether it will be replaced by a true democracy.

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**NEXT ISSUE:
PASSOVER
March 19**

Old favorites from Lloyds

Classic, home-cooked mouth-watering recipes

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – According to long-time Rhode Island residents, Lloyds offered delicious, home-cooked food. Although I've never had the benefit of Lloyds' home-cooking – I moved here after it was sold – I have consumed some delicious treats made by Lloyds' owner, Anita Solomon.

Solomon's parents, Shirley and Abraham Kestenman, started Lloyds, initially as a hobby after her father left the jewelry business. It was only after Solomon's husband,

Eliot, who ran the restaurant for years, became ill (and later died) that she went to work. "I didn't know anything, but I learned fast," she said.

Why the name "Lloyds?" Solomon laughed and said, "It's so silly. I was about 18 when they bought the space they renovated for the restaurant. They kept saying, 'What are we going to call it?' As we drove home (we lived on Taber Avenue in Providence), I saw the street sign "Lloyd Avenue" and said, 'Why don't you call it Lloyds?'"

From a sandwich place with counter space and only a few tables at Brook and Waterman

See CULINARY, Page 20



ANITA SOLOMON, FORMER owner of (the late) Lloyds, reminisces about her favorite recipes.

A congregational response to climate change

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light conference is a call to action

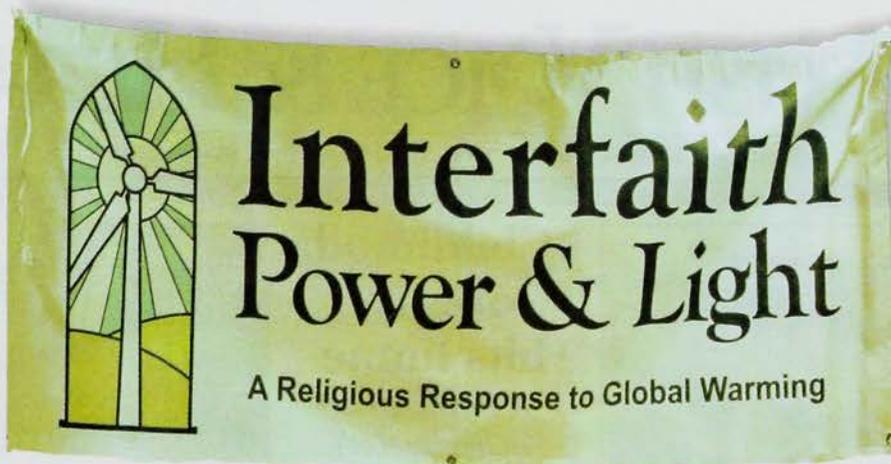
BY LAURA BERLINSKY-SCHINE
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

ON FEB. 11, Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light (RI-IPL), a nonprofit developing a religious response to climate change in Rhode Island, hosted its third annual Rhode Island interfaith conference on climate change. This year's conference, at LaSalle Academy in Providence, "Improving Our Stewardship of Creation," focused on locating and generating resources for responding to climate change. The evening conference included exhibits sponsored by environmentally-themed groups, concurrent workshops and a keynote panel addressing the question, "Where are the resources we need?"

The rabbi of a local congregation, who requested anonymity, came to the conference at a congregant's suggestion. "I'm here to learn about ways to improve [the congregation]," he said.

Exhibitors included New England Green Start, Rhody Fresh Milk Farms, RISE Engineering, Green Light Energy Solutions and R.I. Resource Recovery Corporation, among others.

Russell Holmes, a RI-IPL



/Laura Berlinsky-Schine

board member, noted how this year's conference is different from past years' conferences. "We're tired of convincing people that global warming is real," he said. "We wanted to focus on getting funding for projects and moving forward."

Pam Rubinoff, a coastal management specialist at the University of Rhode Island, led a workshop, "Climate Change Impacts and Implications for the Ocean State."

"Climate change has emerged as one of the clear issues that communities need to work on," Rubinoff said. "We really need to look after our resources. If we don't, who will in future generations?" Climate

change in Rhode Island is representative of larger issues, she said. "There must be an individual, community and statewide initia-

"The Talmud teaches us that the Torah is great when it leads to action."

Rabbi Amy Levin

tive to reduce of greenhouse gas emissions. We must be proactive and think about adapting."

So what's an individual to do? Be aware of climate change and the implications, demonstrate a

willingness to adapt to changes, encourage the community to implement practical changes and support legislation aimed at improving the environment and climate changes.

Keynote panel speakers were Ken Payne, the chief of RI Office of Energy Resources; Thomas Coughlin, National Grid program manager of energy efficiency and distributed resources; Karina Lutz, deputy director of People's Power & Light; Bob Chew, president of Alteris Renewables' wind business; Bonnie Sekeres, executive director of Shalom Apartments; and Father John Codega of Christ the King Church. Rabbi Amy

Levin of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston moderated the panel, whose members offered specific actions people can take to make a positive impact on the environment. Those measures, said Coughlin, often begin at home, such as cooking on a smaller stove to conserve electricity or gas.

Sekeres discussed her experience of applying for a government-sponsored \$1.5 million wind turbine grant, which she eventually received. Although the process was a difficult one, she encouraged others to take similar initiatives. "Was it all worth it?" she asked. "The answer is a definite yes."

Communities have a responsibility to be proactive, said Payne. "The institutions of the community have a leadership role," he said.

And, said Rabbi Levin, our faith must be put into practice in order to better our world. "The Talmud teaches us that the Torah is great when it leads to action," she said. "We must go out and apply the principles of our faith in the real world."

For more information about Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light, visit the Web site at www.riipl.org or call 267-0029.

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

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/Laura Berlinsky-Schine

RABBI AMY LEVIN of Temple Torat Yisrael moderated the keynote panel at the Feb. 11 Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light conference at LaSalle Academy.

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Kol Kesem HaZamir Providence to perform in New York City

*Local youth choir
makes beautiful
music*

By SHARI WEINBERGER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

EVERY SUNDAY morning, Jewish teens from across Rhode Island and Massachusetts meet to sing in the *Kol Kesem HaZamir* Providence Choir, led by Cantor Brian Mayer, and sponsored by Temple Emanu-El and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, as part of the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community Hebrew High School.

Mayer has been directing the *Kol Kesem HaZamir* Providence for 15 years. Of all the duties he has in the community, he says that his work with these teens is among his highest joys. "Spending time with emerging young Jews, making Jewish music with them, traveling with them to choral festivals, teaching them about Jewish concepts and ideals portrayed in the choral texts - all of these elements invigorate me," Mayer said.

Each year, these singing teens develop a special camaraderie built on the sheer fun of making good music together and the shared seriousness of purpose that drives the group toward excellence. Because the group exists around music-making, it attracts teens of all kinds. By virtue of the music being at the center of what they do, kids from all over the area, from various backgrounds and social connections, find a comfortable place in the ensemble.

Begun by Maestro Matthew Lazar in 1993, *HaZamir*, the international Jewish high school choir, offers Jewish teenagers the opportunity to gather together to learn and sing Jewish choral music. This year, in addition to performing in their own local area, *Kol Kesem HaZamir* Providence will join with choirs



THE KOL KESSEM MEMBERS surround Cantor Brian Mayer, conductor.

from across the globe for the 17th weekend festival and concert in New York City on March 14.

Local *HaZamir* chapters exist in cities across the United States and Israel. In addition to Providence, chapters can be found in 17 cities including, Baltimore, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Portland, Ore. and Philadelphia, among others.

The *HaZamir* spring gala concert in Manhattan will be the fifth and final performance for Rosie Fine, a senior at Scituate High School. "When I was younger, I went with my family to a Temple Emanu-El function, where I saw *Kol Kesem HaZamir* Providence perform," said Fine. "I knew then that I wanted to be involved." Fine has been so involved for the past five years that she has held the position of choir

manager for two years. "In addition to the singing itself, the best part of being a member of the group is

**"Spending time
with emerging
young Jews,
making Jewish
music with them...
these elements
invigorate me."**

Cantor Brian Mayer

having a place where I can sing a different kind of music than I normally would. The best part about being

choir manager is helping to make things run smoothly."

Each *HaZamir* chapter meets weekly in its own city to rehearse Jewish choral music. Although each chapter is autonomous in its own city, there is a body of music that all *HaZamirs* learn so that they can perform together at the *HaZamir* annual festival.

By providing a high quality music program, *HaZamir* offers a unique opportunity to foster a lifelong commitment to Jewish culture and music in young people and builds a strong foundation for future Jewish involvement among its participants. *HaZamir* spans the denominations, giving teens a trans-denominational experience, forging close bonds and transcending the boundaries that so often separate them.

This year, three members audi-
See CHOIR, Page 8

**Candle Lighting Times
for greater Rhode Island**

March 5..... 5:20

March 19..... 6:36

March 12..... 5:25

March 26..... 6:36

Daylight saving time resumes March 14.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Copy Deadlines: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

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

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT PROVIDENCE, RI POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906

Published by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island • President Doris Feinberg • Exec. Vice President Stephen R. Silberfarb

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

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

ADVERTISING: *The Jewish Voice & Herald* does not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish, or attest to the kosher status of any product.

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
**Cooking, baking
and writing all
require flexibility**

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

COOKING AND GETTING out a newspaper, I've come to realize, are more alike than one might surmise.

For me, cooking – and more often, baking – are pleasurable activities that let me indulge my creative side, make a mess and then have something wonderful to show for it. Both, though, require flexibility and creativity, whether it's figuring out what to do when you've got no cinnamon (it's too late to drop in on your neighbor, and you just can't deal with going to the grocery store at 10:30 p.m.) and cinnamon is an essential ingredient in whatever you're baking.

Opting for ginger and nutmeg, rather than cinnamon, for example, can lead to a whole new recipe that may surpass the original one. In fact, one of my daughter's favorite brownie recipes is one that I made wholly by accident. I was mixing the ingredients for the brownies and grabbed what I thought was almond extract but was actually peppermint extract. Try it – they're delicious – peppermint and chocolate!

Good cooks have to be flexible and deal with unexpected surprises, even those that don't turn out to be delicious, like the peppermint brownies. I've had to deal with scrambling to replace the 100 eggs (meant for popovers for 100 people, and popovers don't wait) shortly after I dropped a commercial mixing bowl filled with 100 eggs; watching in horror as our grill's propane line came uncoupled – sending flames shooting from the grill area – as we prepared a barbecue for 40 people; and seeing a turmeric-based sauce go flying and splatter my all-white kitchen minutes before guests were due to arrive. What do I do first? Scrub the yellow stain off the countertops and appliances, whip up another batch of sauce or simply pour a glass of wine and ignore the whole mess?

So, how does writing factor into this analogy? Just as good cooks have to be flexible and creative with changes – whether planned or unexpected – so, too, do writers and editors have to prepare for the unexpected. We at *The Voice & Herald* have had our share of that lately, most notably with the serious illness of our colleague, Frank Zasloff, who is being treated for leukemia in Boston. In the interim, we have retained George Peckham to manage our sales functions. We wish Frank restored good health and a full recovery.

In the meantime, we at *The Voice & Herald* work diligently to fully serve the needs and desires of our readers and our advertisers. Just as we need chocolate or cocoa to make chocolate brownies, we need both readers and advertisers to produce *The Voice & Herald*.

Got questions? Got chocolate? Feel free to call me or email me, at 421-4111, ext. 168 or nkirsch@jfri.org.

*J Street comes to
Rhode Island*

A LOT OF JEWS these days don't like J Street, the year-old, pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby based in Washington, D.C. The Dry Bones cartoon that appeared in the Feb. 5 issue of *The Jewish Voice & Herald* – ironically, on the same page as an opinion piece by Jeremy Ben Ami, executive director of J Street's national operation – vilifies J Street as a J-for-Judas operation.



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

Just a couple of days later, on Monday, Feb. 8, the right-leaning *Jerusalem Post* published an equally offensive – or perceptive, for those who see J Street as the sum of all evil – four-panel Dry Bones insult: 1. "Recent reports about J Street are totally false!" 2. "J Street is not dropping its label as 'Pro-Israel.'" 3. J Street is simply expanding its definition of being 'Pro-Israel'..." 4. "...to include being 'Anti-Israel!'"

Many of the Israeli voices condemning J Street carry far more political weight than do such cartoons. As you may already know, Israel's ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, chose to snub J Street by refusing to attend its annual convention last October. Moreover, Danny Ayalon, Israel's deputy foreign minister, has continued to argue that J Street has no right to call itself pro-Israel because it happens to take issue with some of the policies of the Israeli government regarding the settlements and the continuing blockade of Gaza. Indeed, Ayalon refused to meet with six members of the U.S. House of Representatives who were in Israel on a J Street-sponsored trip and went so far as to urge other Israeli officials to follow his example. I am happy to report that recently both Oren and Ayalon have modified their positions somewhat.

IT SEEMS TO ME
Who is J Street?

Many American Jews are equally disturbed by positions taken by J Street – in particular, what they take to be J Street's failure to appreciate Israel's military and political vulnerability. Some members of our local Jewish community have expressed to me their fear for the very survival of the State of Israel. For such individuals 2010 is 1939, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is Adolph Hitler.

I point out to them that the high Palestinian birth rate is a demographic time bomb; that unless there is a negotiated two-state settlement, within a generation or two Israel will no longer exist as both a Jewish and a democratic state. To which my more conservative friends reply: "You talk about a demographic time bomb that may explode some years down the road. We worry about an Iranian nuclear bomb that could explode within a matter of months!" J Street would reply that, if anything, resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would reduce the Iranian threat to the entire region.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 24, well more than 100 individuals came to the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island in Providence to hear J Street make its case; among the attendees were several members of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, Protestant clergy, student delegations from Brown and Roger Williams universities, as well as former United States Senator Lincoln Chafee and State Representative David Segal.

The event, organized by J Street Rhode Island, formerly the Rhode Island Chapter of *Brit Tzedek V'Shalom*, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace, was part of a national "kick-off party" celebrating the establishment of a grass roots education and advocacy arm of the national lobbying group.

Those present watched a videotape of a talk that Jeremy Ben-Ami delivered on a live simulcast last Feb. 4. In essence, Ben-Ami emphasized that the majority of American Jews support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel, the majority of American Jews want our own government to take an

active role in bringing about a negotiated settlement, the majority of American Jews believe that a two-state solution is in the best interests of Israel and in the best interests of the United States. That is to say, the majority of American Jews, like the more than 140,000 supporters of J Street, are

"The high Palestinian birth rate is a demographic time bomb; unless there is a negotiated two-state settlement, within a generation or two Israel will no longer exist as both a Jewish and a democratic state."

both pro-Israel and pro-peace.

Although the debate between supporters of J Street and our critics is often contentious, we are by no means engaged in a war of the Sons of Light against the Sons of Darkness. Both sides do have legitimate differences of perspective; nevertheless, what all of us hold in common is far more significant than what divides us. We are one in our desire to ensure that Israel survives as a secure, democratic, Jewish state. We are one in our desire to nourish a mature and mutually supportive relationship between the Jews of Israel and the Jews here in America.

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg is the rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington. Contact him at rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org.

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length.

Jack Schwartzwald
North Kingstown

Letter to The Editor

Sticking with statecraft

JSTREET EXECUTIVE Director Jeremy Ben-Ami ("Beyond statecraft" in the Feb. 5 issue of *The Voice & Herald*) may or may not be right in claiming that mainstream American Jews see an "independent Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel" as "the best and perhaps only way to ensure Israel's" democratic future. Since J Street's polling data is collected by the organization's own former vice president, Jim Gerstein, it's difficult to tell. Apparently, one conflict that doesn't trouble America's self-proclaimed "pro-peace, pro-Israel" lobby is the conflict of interest.

More doubtful, still, is Ben-Ami's contention that most American Jews favor "pushing all parties to make necessary compromises," since – as most Jews know – not "all parties" are in need of a push. Israel's willingness to accept a two-state solution dates back to the 1937 Peel Commission partition plan – and the Palestinians'

unwillingness to do so is no less enduring.

Mahmoud Abbas didn't even respond to Ehud Olmert's offer of statehood at Annapolis in 2008. More recently, he rejected George Mitchell's summons to return to the negotiating table without preconditions.

When it comes to Palestinians and Israelis, what most mainstream Americans want – irrespective of religion – is not another peace "agreement," but peace itself. The last thing they desire is to see their president step off Air Force One brandishing a piece of paper so worthless that Neville Chamberlain would blush to hold it aloft. Before prodding the American government to apply its muscle, J Street should commission a poll to see who precisely requires shaving.

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

Texas school board actions are alarming

America is not a Christian country

IN MY LAST column I wrote of the dangers when, even for the best of reasons, the state intrudes on religion. My example was the British Supreme Court taking upon itself the right to determine who is a Jew. I approved of the decision, but was appalled that it was made.

Shortly after writing that piece, I read an article in *The New York Times Magazine* of Feb. 14. It was about the Texas State Board of Education, members of which try, via amendment or backdoor deal making, to have textbooks reflect the notion that America is a Christian nation as promulgated by the Founding Fathers. (You can read the article for yourself at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/14/magazine/14texbooks-t.html>).

Should this make us in New England nervous? Yes, it should. Texas' curriculum and textbooks

chosen by the state board are used in every public school in that state, and publishers, desirous of capturing that market, will re-write their textbooks to pacify the Texans and then try to sell their books. One estimate is that Texas' decisions are reflected in 46 or 47 states. Worry now, Jews; worry now, secularists; worry now, Americans. The idea is to capture the minds of children. As Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition put it, "I would rather have a thousand school board members than one president and no school board members." And why?

As Cynthia Dunbar, a Christian activist on the board puts it, "The philosophy of the classroom in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next."

I thought about where I'd heard that sentiment before, but then it came back to me. "He who controls the present, controls the past. He who controls the past, controls the future." It's a line from George Orwell's classic, *1984*, much of which deals with re-writing history so that the current rulers can be proven always to have been right.

The Christian conservatives argue that separation of church and state is a myth perpetrated by

secular liberals. All they are trying to do is to uncover the long-hidden truth that the founders were Christian men of God who established America. Therefore there is no legal justification for disallowing crucifixes in government buildings or prayer in schools.

Look at George Washington. He called for a national day of thanksgiving after the British defeat at Saratoga in 1777 as proof that the founders wanted religion in public life. But the Constitu-

tion by reference" you can connect the two documents, not read them as separate entities. It's almost talmudic, in the worst sense of that word. What the argument ignores is that Nature's God is not another way of saying Jesus Christ; it's a way that the politicians who wrote the Declaration of Independence could put some God into the document without actually referring to any specific deity. What, after all is Nature's God, anyway?

The founders had an overtly biblical view of the world, the Christian Conservatives say. "In the new guidelines, students... are asked to identify traditions that informed America's founding, 'including Judeo-Christian (especially biblical law)' and to 'identify the individuals whose principles of law and government... informed the American founding documents,' among whom they include Moses." Yeah, we made it! Shabbat on Saturday! Stoning Shabbat violators on Sunday!

The separation of powers is based on the Founders' "clear understanding of the sinfulness of man," not, apparently on Montesquieu's theory of government "Spirit of the Laws" or Cicero's *On the Republic*. When told by a professor of history that "The Supreme Court has for-

bidden public schools from 'seeking to impress upon students the importance of particular religious values through the curriculum,' and in the process said that the founders 'did not draw on Mosaic law, as is mentioned in the [Texas] standards,' several of the board members seemed dumbstruck" but they insisted it was true anyway.

Be very worried, Jews. The Wise Men of Chelm are in charge of what your children and grandchildren will be learning in school; and we will all become second-class citizens - Jews and Catholics (who are not recognized as Christian by the evangelical right) and Muslims and...

Josh Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. Contact him at jstein@rwu.edu.

Editor's Note: Send "troublesome material" such as that referenced in Stein's column to Sandra Alfonsi of Hadassah's Curriculum Watch Project at sanalffonsi@aol.com. She is also creating a Web site, www.TextbookAlert.net, that will contain all materials on flawed textbooks that have been critiqued; quotations and explanations of what makes these books flawed; responses from publishing houses; etc. The Web site is currently under construction.



Josh Stein

"Be very worried, Jews. The Wise Men of Chelm are in charge of what your children and grandchildren will be learning in school."

tion (which does not mention God at all and which forbids any religious test for the holding of public office and the First Amendment which bars the establishment of a national religion) had not been written in 1777. Ah, the conservatives counter, but the Declaration of Independence had been written, and it refers to our Creator and to Nature's God. Yeah, and... And by the legal principle of "incorpora-

NOT ALONE

Execution of a Jew

me share some of the arguments on both sides. In favor of clemency, Grossman was a Jew, a member of my tribe; perhaps there was some responsibility to save his life - even though he was a convicted murderer. It was reported that he had made *teshuvah*. He daily regretted his actions and felt genuine remorse. Whether from a Jewish or secular perspective, is there no

culpability. Age 19, he had been under the influence of both illegal drugs and anti-seizure medications; his IQ, reportedly, was 77. Questions existed about the adequacy of Grossman's legal representation, at least for the trial's penalty phase.

Finally, the murder was clearly not planned, but rather something that occurred during an unanticipated altercation. That is, this was not premeditated murder, and given the fact that few homicides result in the death penalty, I think most of us imagine that only the most heinous murderers receive the death penalty and that these killers carry out their acts with premeditation.

Given this expectation, a likely explanation for the sentence's severity is that the murdered woman, Margaret (Peggy) Park, was a Florida wildlife officer; penalties for killing law enforcement officials tend to be harsher. Nonetheless, given the possibly extenuating circumstances, one might think clemency would have been appropriate, whether in the form of a commutation or a stay of execution.

So, with these doubts and my opposition to government-sanctioned death penalties, what made me hesitate? As someone opposed to capital punishment, I wondered where

all these petitioners were coming from. Did they also oppose the death penalty on principle? Or were they concerned only because the condemned was a Jew? I questioned the justice in opposing this execution but not others.

Perhaps part of my uneasiness was the anxiety of speaking up for a Jew convicted of murder. Would engaging in such a clearly limited appeal possibly cause damage to the image of Jews? Despite the insistence by all or most petitioners that they felt empathy for the victim and her family and that they did not mean to diminish the crime's horror, would the public impression be to the contrary? Would the response have been the same if the victim had also been Jewish?

And then there was the worry that the appeal might prove successful! Would that not only feed the anti-Semitic accusation of Jewish influence and control? Would the very public campaign not force Crist to reject clemency on at least two accounts?

First, not to be seen as caving in to a special interest group, and second, not to appear soft on crime while facing a serious challenge from his right in the upcoming Republican gubernatorial primary. The appeal could backfire. Ought capital punishment opponents refuse to try to save a life,

especially with possibly mitigating factors, just to avoid how bad it might make the Jews look? I might suggest - too late in this case - using this situation to raise questions about the wisdom of capital punishment altogether, whether for Jew or non-Jew, about the exorbitant costs to try a death penalty case, the demonstrated fact of wrongful convictions, the documented racial bias in its application and whether we want the state to exercise the power of life and death.

Krinsky's guest review, "We Are All Avatars," a Jewish take on the recent film, can be found at www.nishma.org, the Web site of Rabbi Benjamin Hecht's Torah research and education organization, Nishma.

Alan Krinsky lives in Providence and works in the field of healthcare quality improvement. Contact him at adkrinsky@netzero.net.

Do we support 'members of the tribe,' no matter what?

WHILE I WAS visiting family in South Florida in mid-February, the state executed Martin Grossman, a Jewish man, for a murder committed about 25 years ago.

The impending event brought forth a concerted effort in the Jewish and broader worlds to appeal to Florida Governor Charlie Crist to grant the condemned man clemency by commuting his sentence to life or, at least, staying the execution for 60 additional days. The effort failed, and Grossman was put to death by lethal injection.

My reaction was mixed. Given my opposition on principle to the death penalty, one might assume I would have absolutely no qualms about joining in the campaign to spare Grossman's life. And yet, something about this focused appeal left me feeling uneasy. Let

"Part of my uneasiness was the anxiety of speaking up for a Jew convicted of murder. Would engaging in such a clearly limited appeal cause damage to the image of Jews?"

room for adjusting a sentence in the light of repentance? Perhaps most importantly, there remained seemingly legitimate doubts about the homicide and the degree of



Alan Krinsky

Everyone has an opinion, what's yours?

Are you a person of strong opinions? Do you want to share your opinions in a, clear and persuasive op-ed of no more than 700 words? If so, *The Voice & Herald* wants to hear from you!

Send your op-ed to voiceherald@jvhri.org for us to consider for publication. When you send the op-ed, please put **OPINION** in the subject line. Thank you.

Sixteenth annual Seder of Hope includes havdalah service

Charles Carpenter, M.D. and J. Philip Kane to be recognized

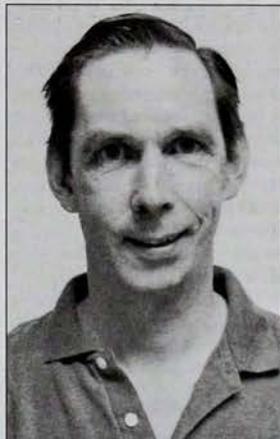
BY MARC PAIGE
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – The Seder of Hope turns 16 this year. This pre-Passover commemoration for those living with and lost to HIV/AIDS, and their friends and loved ones, will be held on Saturday, March 20, at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

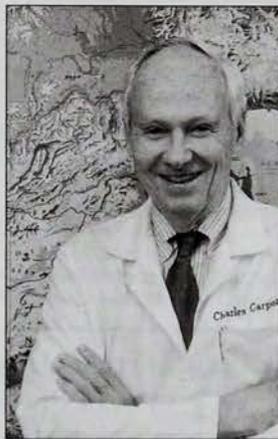
For the first time, the Seder of Hope will be held on a Saturday evening. The event will begin with a *havdalah* service, followed by the AIDS seder and meal. The *Haggadah* used for this event is adapted to tell both the story of Jewish redemption from slavery in Egypt, and the struggle of HIV, a virus that has brought suffering to all communities and challenged our human capacity for compassion, hope and faith.

The AIDS Task Force, a committee of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, is proud that, for 16 years, many diverse communities have come together to laugh, cry, mourn and celebrate, as we remember the ancient story of Jewish liberation, and look forward to a liberation from AIDS and all diseases.

This year, the Seder of Hope will honor two heroes from the com-



J. Philip Kane



Charles Carpenter, M.D.

munity in the battle to end HIV/AIDS – Dr. Charles Carpenter, involved with the clinical management of persons living with HIV for 25 years, and J. Philip

will create and stage an original theatrical performance. As has been the case in past years, attendees at the seder will enjoy the musical collaboration of Judith Seplovin, Temple Beth-El's cantor, and Debbie Waldman; Rabbi Sarah Mack and other friends from the rabbinical community will also participate.

The community is invited to this special evening of remembrance and faith.

Marc Paige is a member of the AIDS Task Force.

“For 16 years many diverse communities have come together to laugh, cry, mourn and celebrate.”

Kane, who, for 22 years, has provided HIV-prevention education and care management throughout Rhode Island.

In addition, young people from the Manton Avenue Project in the Olneyville area of Provi-

Tickets, which include a full seder meal, cost \$25 per person. For reservations, contact Gail Putnam at JFRI at 421-4111, ext. 158, by March 12, or visit www.sederofhope.com.

Interdependence strengthens interfaith initiatives

Two food pantries – Heart of God and The Full Plate – share resources

BY SUSAN ADLER
Special to The Voice & Herald

JOHNSTON – Earlier this year, Arlene Butler, director of Heart of God, called to tell me that they had to move their food pantry, due to flooding. We offered to help; Jerry Kritz, chair of The Full Plate, and Ken Schneider, a volunteer at The Full Plate, transported food from their pantry and promised to help those in need.

When Arlene asked if we could “adopt” 10 families, we agreed without hesitation. The relationship with Heart of God Church in Johnston began when Jerry and I attended a training program last April at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank (“Food Bank”) to learn how to open a pantry. Jerry and I asked

Arlene, who had more experience with food pantries, dozens of questions – from the most basic to highly complicated questions.

Arlene knew that The Full Plate couldn't go “food shopping” at the Food Bank until August 2009 (when The Full Plate received the necessary approval as a food pantry) and she called to donate kosher food items to The Full Plate.

This act of tremendous generosity created a wonderful relationship between the two food pantries. When The Full Plate receives non-kosher items, we donate them to the Heart of God and other pantries.

The true heart of God is reflected in the following proverb: “Open your hand

to the poor and needy kinsman in your land.” Together we have opened our hands, doors and, most importantly, our hearts.

The Full Plate, a program of AgeWell Rhode Island, is funded by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and private donations.

For more information, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or visit www.jsari.org.

Susan Adler is the director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, and the coordinator for The Full Plate. JSA is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



www.jvhri.org

ASK WENDY

Culinary questions for Passover and beyond

The expert has all the answers

Dear Wendy, I would love to take a cooking class. Do you have any suggestions?

No More Take-out, South County

Dear No More Take-out,

Yes. We are fortunate here in Rhode Island to have the Johnson & Wales School of Culinary Arts right here! There are a few different options. For a fabulous one-day experience, you can go to the website <http://apps.jwu.edu/chefschoice/> and click on Providence or call 598-2336. There you will be able to begin exploring your options. You can take a one-time class with your friend, spouse, partner or even your children!

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that RISD also offers a variety of cooking classes. Go to http://www.risd.edu/ce_culinary.cfm for more information.

Happy cooking, Wendy

Dear Wendy,

Can you tell me where I can buy kosher for Passover foods?

Loving your column in Seekonk

Dear Seekonk,

Thank you very much! There are a wide variety of places to buy kosher for Passover foods in your area. Super Stop & Shop in Seekonk on Route 6 has a nice



selection, though the Providence Super Stop & Shop on Branch Avenue has a larger selection.

Also, Shaw's in East Providence, not far from the Seekonk line, located at 585 Taunton Ave., has a nice selection and it is already being displayed.

If you venture into Providence, Davis Dairy at 721 Hope Street has a wide variety, as does EastSide Marketplace and Whole Foods.

The Butcherie II in Canton, Mass., only 20 – 25 minutes from Seekonk, at exit 8 off I-95, has a huge variety of kosher for Passover foods, including kosher meats, prepared foods and ice cream.

Happy Shopping, Wendy

Music galore – with Peter Yarrow – of Peter, Paul & Mary fame

South Area Solomon Schecter Day School holds 'Chaijinks'



Peter Yarrow

NORWOOD – Singer-songwriter-social activist Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary fame will perform at the Chaijinks 2010 benefit gala, at the South Area Solomon Schecter Day School in Norwood at 5 p.m. on March 21. “Chaijinks” is a combination of the Hebrew word “chai” and “high jinks.”

Yarrow helped bring Peter, Paul & Mary to international acclaim while advancing social movements. He wrote such classics as “Day is Done,” “Puff, the Magic Dragon,” and “Light One Candle.” The trio won six Grammy Awards between 1963 and 2003 and 12 nominations.

The musical evening will also feature the school's jazz band and several other performers, includ-

ing Steve Heck, a Berklee College faculty member who has performed with The Birds and Richie Havens and was a piano coach for John Mayer; and Rabbi David Paskin playing music from his group, Shirav.

For tickets or more information, contact Diane Joiner at 781-769-9400; djoiner@sassds.org; or visit the Web site, www.sassds.org.

A TEEN'S VIEWPOINT

My hair tells the story

HANNAH ZURIER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE – Everyone can tell I'm Jewish just by looking at me. And I'm proud of that.

It's not because of my nose, the feature most prominently recognized on many Jewish people. I don't have jewelry with Hebrew writing on it. But, I do have something distinctively Jewish; my hair. It's wild and curly and all over the place. I got it from my father; I was the only one of my siblings to get it. I've never tried to tame its crazy spirals with an iron or a blow-dryer, I'm too lucky to have it to bother changing the way it is.

My Jewish identity is tied up in my hair. Both are unique and constantly changing. My Jewish identity is something I still haven't been able to describe in words; it's hard to articulate it in a way that would make sense. And my hair is the same way. Both have too many nuances and intricacies to fit within the confines of language.

The Jewish Afro, or "Jew-fro," is also a good metaphor for Judaism as a whole. Both are made of many distinct and unlike parts that band together to produce something relatively homogeneous that still retains the qualities of all that went into it. They both start from a single place, my hair from my scalp; the Jewish people from Israel, and spring out in all directions. And both require



Hannah Zurier

(Zurier Family)

constant care to remain healthy. Judaism as a religion has varied levels of observance, but all require some care for it, or else all the traditions would die. I am proud of my "Jew-fro," and I'm proud to be Jewish. And I'm proud of how similar they are.

Hannah wrote this essay as part of the class "What's My Story" taught by storyteller Mark Binder during the fall 2009 semester of Midrascha.

For more information about participating in the Harry Elkin Midrascha Community Hebrew High School, please contact Shari Weinberger at sweinberger@bjeri.org.

Hannah Zurier, the daughter of Sam and Lauren Zurier, is now a freshman at Classical High School in Providence.

Women's Alliance Endowment Fund adds 11 new members

By CHRIS PARKER
cparker@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – The Women's Alliance Endowment Fund (WAEF), a Jewish Federation of Rhode Island endowment that is run by women, for women, has added 11 new members to the endowment so far this year.

New members make a one-time \$1,000 donation and then meet annually to allocate the income from the fund to programs and services supporting women and children.

This year's new members are: Gussie Baxt, Beatrice Bazarsky, Carol Bazarsky, Frances Friedman, Hope Hirsch, Sally Lapidès, Maybeth Lichaa, Roanne Licht, Marcia Riesman, Joyce Robinson, and Gail Siletechnik.

Judy Robbins, president of the WAEF, said "We are thrilled to be able to add these very special women to our growing list of Endowment Fund members. Their generosity will increase our ability to respond to the needs of Jewish women and children in our community and in Israel. We welcome them heartily and hope that their example will encourage others to join with us as well. *Kol Ha'Kavod!*"

Women who become members before May 2010 will participate in determining allocations for the upcoming year.

If you are interested in becoming part of this group, or would like more information, please contact Beth Dindas at bdindas@JFRI.org or 421-4111.

www.jvhri.org
Visit us often!

The Young Leadership Network of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island invites you

to our Signature Event **L'CHAIM | TO LIFE | לחיים**

An evening to celebrate gratitude and commitment to our Jewish Community

Saturday	Hope Artiste Village	Cocktails + Hors D'oeuvres	\$50 Per Person Dietary Laws Observed
March 13, 2010	1005 Main Street	Music Dancing Fun	No Solicitations Will Be Made
8 – 11 PM	Pawtucket, Rhode Island	Cocktail Attire	RSVP via www.JFRI.org

joy+gratitude+celebration+love+philanthropy

L'CHAIM | TO LIFE

THE network +



www.JFRI.org

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

JFRI welcomes those who would like to connect with the Jewish community and encourages the participation of interfaith and non-traditional families.

New reasons to give to Birthright Israel

Foundation has new \$20 million matching grant program

By JACOB BERKMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) – A new matching grant program by the Birthright Israel Foundation will provide a dollar-for-dollar match on any increase in donations to the foundation based on 2008 gifts.

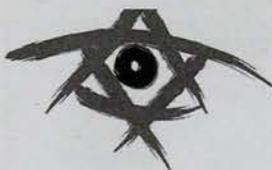
That means if a donor gave \$100 in 2008 and gives \$120 in 2010, the foundation would match the \$20 increase.

Private philanthropists, the Jewish federation system, the Jewish Agency and the government of Israel fund the Birthright program. The foundation oversees the private money given to the program, which makes up the vast majority of the Birthright budget.

The foundation has up to \$20 million to use for the matching grants, which are being funded by a \$10 million gift from casino mogul Sheldon Adelson and another \$10 million from a small group of other donors. The Adelson money is the second installment of a \$30 million pledge he made in 2008.

According to Birthright, the foundation is in the middle of a

huge push to broaden its donor base. In 2008, the foundation had 2,823 donors. The number nearly tripled to 8,370 in 2009 as it rolled out



תגליט · TAGLIT · birthright israel

a national grass-roots campaign. The foundation aims to have 50,000 donors by 2015.

The matching grant program came out of a late January summit of 49 major donors held by the foundation in Las Vegas and

right. The rest have dropped off either because of changed economic circumstances or philanthropic focus, or death.

This trend, Aronson said, highlights the need to build a much broader donor base. According to Aronson, funding for the trips has held steady. In 2008, the foundation raised \$55 million to \$56 million, and in 2009 it brought in \$57 million – even as the mega-gift from Adelson dropped by \$10 million. Fund raising, when subtracting Adelson's mammoth gift, rose from \$26 million to \$37 million.

By 2015, Aronson wants to be raising some \$49 million per year without Adelson money. Anything Adelson would pledge at that point would be gravy.

“Among the 15 original donors, only eight are still giving to Birthright.”

hosted by Adelson, although he was not in attendance.

Of the 49, only three of the 15 original private funders who helped launch Birthright – Michael Steinhardt, Charles Bronfman and Lynn Schusterman – were present, according to Bob Aronson, the foundation's chief executive officer. Among the 15 original donors, only eight are still giving to Birth-

This article was adapted from JTA's philanthropy blog, TheFundamentalist.com.

SOUTH AREA SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

Presents

CHAIJINKS 2010



with legendary musical artist

Peter Yarrow

of *Peter, Paul and Mary*

March 21, 2010

One Commerce Way, Norwood, MA

5:00 p.m. Reception
Book Signing with Peter Yarrow

6:15 p.m. Program and Awards

A TIME TO HONOR

Community Friends and Leaders

Jordan Hershman and Diana Lloyd, and Robert Starr

A TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sponsorship and Tribute Journal opportunities are available.

For details, visit our website at www.sassds.org
or contact djoiner@sassds.org.

Chaijinks is the school's single largest annual fundraiser.

All proceeds benefit scholarships.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Space is limited and reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

Reserve your tickets now-

Call the Institutional Advancement Office at 781-769-9400.

Event/Tribute Co-Chairs:

Jason and Valerie Frank
Steve and Shari Holstein

Honorary Co-Chairs:

Aram and Rebecca Elovic
Doron and Kelly Ezickson

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South Area Solomon Schechter Day School • One Commerce Way, Norwood, MA • 781-769-5555

www.jvhri.org

CHOIR: Sings Hebrew music in New York

From Page 3

tioned their way into the elite HaZamir Chamber Choir: Michelle Goliger, Rachel Kaufman and Abby Kaye-Phillips.

Goliger is a junior at Classical High School in Providence and a member of Temple Emanu-El. This is her fourth year participating in the choir, and the upcoming gala is her third. Her number-one experience singing with the group was the *Kristallnacht* Concert in Providence in November 2008. "It was meaningful to me because it touched the entire community," she said.

Vivian Lazar, Lazar's wife, heard Goliger sing at a *Kol Kesem HaZamir* rehearsal last year and recommended Goliger audition for the chamber choir. It was the extra push she needed, and Goliger looks forward to a rewarding experience as a member of that elite singing group. "I am counting down the days to the festival!" Goliger said.

Kaufman, a freshman at the Lincoln School for Girls in Providence and a member of Temple Emanu-El, heard about the chamber choir

last year, but had to wait until ninth grade to try out. "I knew I wanted that experience," said Kaufman. "It brings me up another level and helps me better my singing."

Kaye-Phillips, a Providence Country Day School senior and a Temple Emanu-El member, has been singing in the choir since eighth grade. "It is thrilling to sing with 200 people who all share your love of music," said Kaye-Phillips. "Chamber choir offers the opportunity to sing with the best of the best and reach a whole new level of musical performance." The teenagers are all different, but they all share a love for Jewish music, she said, and through that experience strong friendships bloom. "Everyone feels like they are part of something bigger than themselves," said Kaye-Phillips.

For more information about Kol Kesem HaZamir Providence, to buy tickets to the festival or donate to the travel fund for the singers, contact Shari Weinberger at 331-0956 or email swweinberger@hjeri.org.

Shari Weinberger is the director of teen education at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.



HAZAMIR CHAMBER CHOIR members, Michelle Goliger, Abby Kaye-Phillips and Rachel Kaufman

COMEDIAN: Robert Klein on stage in March

A well-kept secret, after 40 years

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

WESTCHESTER, N.Y. – In an hour-long conversation with comedian Robert Klein, conversation hopped from the marvels of Manhattan and the sexual indiscretions of such famous names as Woody Allen, Eliot Spitzer and, most recently, Tiger Woods to the comedians whose work he admires.

Klein, who's coming to the Comedy Connection, an East Providence club, on Thursday, March 18 for a one-night only show, is funny, very funny, even in a one-on-one phone riff with this interviewer.

Klein, who's preparing to launch his ninth HBO show – in early June – takes five years between shows. Here are some "out-takes" from our wide-ranging conversation.

JV&H: Who were your early influences? What comedians did you admire?

Klein: My first exposure to live stand up comedy was in the Borscht Belt, where I worked as a lifeguard and an amorous busboy – amorous, though with few results.

I loved the way it made people feel – the mastery that comic had. Lenny Bruce, Jonathan Winters and Richard Pryor were all influ-

ences; Richard Pryor was the best I ever saw in person.

JV&H: And what about Jewish influences in your youth?

Klein: I had a bar mitzvah and we had Passover seders. I was brought up with Jewish traditional culturally, but not religiously. My dad didn't like milk with his steak, but being Jewish is more complex than not eating milk with meat, wouldn't you agree?

I was born in 1942 and I saw many numbers on many arms [on Holocaust survivors' arms]. The older I get, the less religious I am and the more Jewish I am.

When I signed with my agent [who also represented Woody Allen, whose given name was Allen Konigsberg], I didn't want to hide my ethnicity. I kept my own name – Robert Klein – and now I get Kevin Kline's mail! There are Kleins all over the place.

JVH: Were your parents supportive or did they want you to be a doctor, a lawyer or a rabbi?

Klein: I actually started as a premed student at Alfred University in New York, but didn't pursue it.

I didn't start acting until I was in college, and then went to Yale School of Drama for graduate school [Klein stayed there a year and then went to work, as a substitute teacher and later as an actor with the fledgling Second City comedy troupe.]

My father was terrified but he



HBO

staked me to \$600; my mother was more optimistic. At my first concert at Carnegie Hall – with some 3,000 people there – someone asked my mom, 'Aren't you excited for your son?'

Her response, 'Yes, and if this doesn't work out, he can always go back to teaching!'

JVH: What else are you working on now?

Klein: I play Jennifer Lopez' ob-gyn in a movie called "Backup

Plan" that's due out in April. It's a romantic comedy where Lopez wants a baby and she needs me, as her doctor, to inseminate her with the sperm she purchases. It's very fun and she's very sexy.

I enjoy being on stage and making people laugh. Come and see me – I'm a well-kept secret even after 40 years of doing this work.

JVH: Did you lose money with Madoff?

Klein: No, and Madoff – he's not Jewish, neither is Eliot Spitzer – Spitzer is Lutheran. And remember David Berkowitz [Son of Sam]? He's not Jewish, either. But Sully Sullenberger, he's Jewish – his parents were very Orthodox, they were herring merchants. They were so observant they wouldn't let the kids watch Porky Pig [cartoons].

JVH: Have you ever been to Rhode Island?

Klein: Rhode Island? Of course, everyone has. Rhode Island is so small that when you say, 'I'm in Rho...' you're not there anymore.

Klein performs for one night only, Thursday, March 18, at the Comedy Connection Rhode Island, 39 Warren Ave., East Providence. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. For tickets: www.comedyconnection.com or 438-8383.

Klein, who was a guest on the "Tonight Show" more than 80 times and a host, although far less often, also wrote a memoir, The Amorous Busboy of Decatur Avenue, A Child of the Fifties Looks Back, Touchstone (Simon & Schuster, Inc.), 2006.

Editor's note: I read a page of Klein's book on Amazon. Even reading just the small bits that Amazon and the publisher allow, the book is laugh out loud funny. I almost cried I laughed so hard.

I received no money or other remuneration for plugging Klein's book.

Brown University Program in Judaic Studies Presents:

THE ANNUAL ELGA K. STULMAN VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE

Prof. Yael Zerubavel ~ Rutgers University

Revisiting Exile: Zionism, Cultural Diversity, and the Politics of Identity in Israel

Monday, March 15 — 8:00 p.m.

Smith Buonono 106

YAEL ZERUBAVEL is the Founding Director of The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Rutgers University. She is the author of *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition* (University of Chicago Press) and the forthcoming *Desert Images: Visions of the Counter-Place in Israeli Culture* (University of Chicago Press).



BROWN

Jewish Community Calendar

Sunday

March 7

South County Hebrew School "Bowl-A-Thon" Fundraiser

Old Mountain Lanes, 756 Kingstown Rd. Wakefield

Noon - 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 783-5511, or Ethan Adler at 789-3437 or eadler3@cox.net.

Grand Opening Celebration of the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center

URI President David M. Dooley and Hillel International President Wayne Firestone will speak, celebration includes food and music.

6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston
2 p.m., Mezuzah ceremony at 2:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: Amy at 874-2740 or amyolson@mail.uri.edu

Boy Scout Religious Award College

Tiger Cubs can earn their Maccabees; Cub Scouts can earn their Alephs; Boy Scouts, ages 11-14, can earn their Ner Tamids; and Boy Scouts, ages 15-17, can earn their Etz Chaim.

Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence
2 - 5 p.m.

MORE INFO: Curt Abbott at 732-2784 or gdead21@aol.com.

Kollel's Jewish Unity Live

Celebrate the Rhode Island *She'ma* Initiative with comedian Mark Weiner and a dessert reception.

Providence Renaissance Hotel, 5 Avenue of the Arts, Providence
7 p.m.
\$36/per person

MORE INFO: 383-2786 or jul@providencekollel.org

Monday

March 8

JERI Satellite Hours with Susan Adler and Ethan Adler

"Spring Training - Let's Get Our Winter Minds in Shape"

Brightview Commons, 57 Grandville Court, Wakefield
1-2:30 p.m.

Tuesday

March 9

Seder: Teaching the Theme of Environmental Sustainability

MacLean Campus Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, UMass Dartmouth, 285 Westport Rd.,

North Dartmouth, Mass
5 p.m.

MORE INFO: Rabbi Jacqueline Satlow, 508-910-6551 or jsatlow@umassd.edu

Thursday

March 11

JERI Satellite Hours -

See March 8 entry for more information

Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown

10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sisterhood's Free Wine Tasting with The Savory Grape

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Friday

March 12

Senior Café welcomes Attorney General Patrick Lynch

JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

Noon - Lunch, 12:45 - Program

\$3 suggested donation for disabled and those 60+

The JCCRI Senior Café meets every Wednesday and Friday.

MORE INFO: Neal Drobnis or Lucy Flam, 861-8800, ext. 107

K'TANTAN SHABBAT AND DINNER

For families with children age 6 and younger. Cantor Judy Seplovin and Debbie Waldman lead age appropriate service.

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

5:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070, open to the community.

Saturday

March 13

Annual Meir Panim Dinner

Dinner benefits soup kitchens in Israel.

Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

6:30 p.m.

\$9 adults/\$7 children 4-7/free for children 3 and younger

RSVP: Joyce at 463-7944 by March 2. Please bring a kosher canned good for The Full Plate

Sixth Annual Spring Concert

Fred Scheff, Kara Lund, and Kathryn Jennings sing the songs of Broadway, Hollywood and the Hit Parade.

Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown

8 p.m.

\$30

MORE INFO: 885-6073 or contact@templeshalomri.org

Sunday

March 14

A Taste of Torah

Introduction to Judaism and Jewish learning classes.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

9 a.m.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Family Passover Projects

Create Passover cards, decorations, and *haggadot*.

BJE/RI Creativity Center, 130 Sessions St., Providence

Noon - 3 p.m.

MORE INFO: Diane Cerep at 331-0956, ext. 182

Sisterhood Film Festival at Temple Beth-El

Rabbi Sarah Mack introduces "And the Gates Opened: Women in the Rabbinate," a documentary of the first women rabbis

Silverstein Meeting Hall, Temple Beth-El, 90 Orchard Ave., Providence

2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070; return at 2 p.m. on March 21 for another film, "Making Trouble."

Monday

March 15

March Book Club reads *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

The Jewish Center of South County, 375 Kingstown Rd., Narragansett

7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 783-7453 or Marilyn Moskol at mmoskol@cox.net

Tuesday

March 16

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Amy Levin

Discuss human trafficking with the rabbi and fellow congregants.

T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Rd. (Benny's Plaza), East Greenwich
Noon - 1:30 p.m., order from the menu

Class on Maimonides

Rabbi Stein teaches "Articles of Faith - Maimonides and the Jews of Spain."

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

10 a.m.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Thursday

March 18

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Amy Levin

Discuss human trafficking with the rabbi and fellow congregants.

Cozy Grill Restaurant, 440 Warwick Ave., Warwick

Noon - 1:30 p.m., order from the menu

Informational Adoption Meeting

Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence

6 p.m.

MORE INFO: Betsy Alper at 331-5437, toll-free at 800-337-6513 or betsy@jfsri.org

Rabbi Eugene Korn, Ph.D., at Providence College

His speech is on "Israel and the Priesthood - In Holy Scriptures and Today."

Aquinas Hall (for reception) and Feinstein Academic Center, Room 400 (for lecture), Providence College, Providence

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Reception, 7:30 p.m. - Lecture

RSVP: Jackie Gilman at 865-1514 by March 10

Author Maxim Shrayer at Temple Beth-El

Silverstein Meeting Hall, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

Professor Maxim Shrayer, who wrote *Waiting for America: A Story of Emigration*, will read from and discuss his memoir.

7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070, open to the community

Friday

March 19

Senior Café Community Seder

Join other seniors at Temple Torat Yisrael for a model community Passover seder.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Service, Noon Meal. Bus leaves the JCCRI at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 1:30 p.m.

\$3 suggested donation for disabled and those 60+

The Torat Yisrael Senior Café meets every weekday.

MORE INFO: Neal Drobnis or Lucy Flam, 861-8800, ext. 107

RI's Three Reform Congregations Celebrate Shabbat at Habonim

Rabbis Leslie Gutterman, Sarah Mack and James Rosenberg lead the worship services; Cantors Judith Seplovin and Remmie Brown and rabbinical student Marc Katz will lead singing.

Dr. Norman Cohen, HUC-JIR provost emeritus, will speak: "What Can Moses, a Symbol of Every Person, Teach Us as Human Beings?"

Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

7:30 p.m. - Service, Sisterhood-sponsored oneg follows

MORE INFO: 245-6536 or visit: www.templehabonim.org

Saturday

March 20

Services and Kiddush Luncheon

Dr. Norman Cohen, HUC-JIR provost emeritus, will speak.

Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

10:30 a.m. - Services, Kiddush lunch follows

RSVP: No charge for lunch; RSVP to Margie Blowers at 245-6536 or visit www.templehabonim.org.

16th Annual AIDS Seder of Hope

Dr. Chuck Carpenter and J. Philip Kane will be honored, children's theater group - Manton Avenue Project - to perform.

Meeting Hall, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

6 p.m.

\$25/per person, full course dinner

RSVP: Gail Putnam at the JFRI, 421-4111, ext. 158

Sunday

March 21

Holocaust through the Arts

"Secrets of the Dead: Escape from Auschwitz," a PBS documentary film about two young

See CALENDAR, Page 11

Send calendar entries for the March 19 issue by March 8 to voiceherald@jfri.org. CALENDAR in subject line, or *Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

Habonim youth learn how to 'repair the world'

D.C. conference offers communal song, prayer, study and action

By RABBI ANDREW KLEIN
Special to The Voice & Herald

Washington, D.C. – Have you ever spent four days and nights with 300 high school students? Traveling through security, visiting national monuments and museums, studying how our legislative process works, making presentations to congressional staffers? If not – you don't know how much fun you're missing!

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 1, I was privileged to accompany nine Confirmation students from Temple Habonim on just such a trip. We joined other high school students and chaperones from all across the country for the Religious Action Center's (RAC) *L'Taken* High School Seminar, an intensive four-day study retreat that focuses on Jewish values and social justice.

"L'Taken" is a Hebrew word meaning "to repair," and learning another way to repair the world is exactly what our students did. Students learned how to express their political view points to their elected officials and to become effective advocates for their beliefs.

They made presentations to staff at the offices of Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and of Rep. Patrick Kennedy; students shared their views on current legislative bills about which they felt passionate.



HABONIM'S STUDENTS went to Washington, D.C. earlier this year for a Religious Action Center conference. Pictured are, bottom, from left, Ashley Daugherty, Melanie Chitwood, Devon Wallick, Josh Zucker and Rachael Zeltzer; top, Amy Entin, Greg Fain, Rachel Hill and Willie Gutman.

In addition, Habonim students lead Shabbat morning services for the entire conference; two of our students – Amy Entin and Melanie Chitwood – chanted Torah. My heart was filled with pride as I

watched our kids leading worship, being adventurous and making new friends, engaging each other at a deeper level, and really looking out for each other as "family."

Students' views of *L'Taken*

Rachel Zeltzer: One [formerly homeless] man told about how his life drastically changed. He began to turn his life around and he now is the director of a huge homeless organization. He inspired me to never judge and always help people in need.

Ashley Daugherty: Meeting with [legislative] assistants made me realize that I could really make a difference. It was also a really great opportunity to meet a lot of Jewish kids.

Amy Entin: The best part of the trip was the service we went to. It was amazing to realize that there were 300 other Jews in the room and we were all singing together. The trip was a great bonding time for our class.

Willy Gutman: My favorite part was lobbying the [staff] of our [Members of Congress]. Our group consisted of nine high school students, and they treated us as if we were important politicians. After seeing what these people do, I might want to enter politics at some point.

Melanie Chitwood: My Saturday shuk was on the green movement and climate change. The shuk made me realize the distinct connection between Judaism and advocacy. *L'Taken* taught me that, although the Reform movement is relatively small, if we work together we can make our

voices heard.

Josh Zucker: My favorite part of the trip was all the sight-seeing. Walking around Georgetown, with the ability to explore, was incredible. We explored all of the museums. I was surrounded by people of my religion; it was nice that Jews could feel like the majority.

Greg Fain: One of the most memorable things was visiting the Holocaust Memorial. Although this was my second time going to the Memorial, it was still as moving the second time. Yet the Memorial was not entirely a "humanity is hell" lesson, there is an entire wall covered in the names of people who resisted the Nazis.

Devon Wallick: Going to services everyday, and being able to spend a lot of time together has inspired me to continue to learn and do more. I also loved being able to learn about not only the issues in the world today, but the Jewish perspective on those issues.

Rachel Hill: Meeting so many people from around the country was really cool because we all had something in common...being Reform Jews. I loved [that] they really showed how you as an individual can make a huge difference. *L'Taken* showed me exactly how I could go about making a difference.

Jewish Community Calendar

From Previous Page

Slovak Jews who escaped Auschwitz. Executive producer Jared Lipworth will speak.

Showcase Cinema, 1200 Quaker Lane, East Greenwich
10 a.m.

MORE INFO: 453-7860 or
mzeidman@hercri.org

Hadassah Donor Luncheon

Johnson & Wales food demos and ballroom dance performances.

Radisson Hotel, Warwick

1 p.m.

Donation: \$72 minimum

MORE INFO: 463-3636 or Rhode-IslandChapter@Hadassah.org

Film in Middletown

"Time of Favor" (*HaHesder*) is a political-psychological drama and a love story that won six Israeli Oscars, including Best Picture. Hebrew with English subtitles.

Middletown Public Library, 700 West Main Rd., Middletown

1 p.m.

MORE INFO: 846-3318

Richie Havens Sings at Temple Torat Yisrael

330 Park Ave., Cranston

7 p.m.

\$35/per person, sponsorships available

MORE INFO: 785-1800

Monday

March 22

JERI Satellite Hours

See March 8 JERI entry.

Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Rd., Tiverton

10 – 11:30 a.m.

"Treating the Whole Patient"

Susan F. Korber, MS, RN, will address customized cancer care. Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence,

11 a.m.

MORE INFO: 793-2520 or
mferreira@lifespain.org



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For details call 401-463-3636 by March 16th
Drawing on March 21st

LOCAL: Jewish community welcomes J Street Rhode Island

From Page 1

increasingly concerned that, if there was no settlement of the situation soon, Israel would soon be either not Jewish or not democratic.

Hillis-Jaffe described several ways to get involved. In addition to the national lobbying office in Washington, D.C., J Street consists of J Street Local, which does grassroots organizing and education, J Street PAC, a separate entity to allow for political contributions, and J Street U, the campus affiliate. Sophie Manuel, a Brown University student who attended the event, is the national head of J Street U.

Attendees watched a brief video of Jeremy Ben-Ami, executive director of J Street in Washington, D.C., addressing remarks to the kick-off audience. Ben-Ami emphasized the diverse reasons that brought people to the event, including a sense that the peace process has stalled, that the United States and all parties in the Middle East could do more, and that liberal Jews often felt intimidated speaking up.

Many Jews also feared they could not reconcile their love of Israel and commitment to Jewish values with the continued policy of occupation and illegal settlement expansion.

During the question and answer session, Judy Kaye, co-chair of the event and the host for the evening, and Hillis-Jaffe fielded questions on J Street and the



/Noa Nessim

JUDY KAYE, left, and Janette Hillis-Jaffe answer questions at the Q&A session during the J Street Rhode Island kickoff on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

prospects for Middle East peace. Later, those interested broke up into working groups to plan strategy.

“People have been talking about peace for decades. What makes you think that peace is achievable now?”

The event drew a diverse crowd including academicians, business and professional people and local rabbis. Several government officials

also attended, including former United States Senator Lincoln Chafee, State Representative David Segal, and the Deputy Consul-General from the Israeli Consulate in Boston, Rony Yedidia. Balloons, wine, a bagel spread, and a klezmer band, *Yarmulkazi*, a group of Brown University students, made for a festive atmosphere, but also belied the difficulties ahead. People have been talking about peace for decades, one questioner observed. “What makes you think that peace is achievable now?” he asked. Kaye answered that political,

ideological and demographic realities are different in every era, and that giving in to despondency and despair were counter to Jewish teachings and to our highest human strivings.

J Street’s debut nationally in April 2008 in the Washington lobbying scene has provoked some controversy. Some conservative Jewish groups and hawkish Israeli government officials have questioned J Street’s claim to be “pro-Israel.”

Kaye estimated that the impressive host committee, which featured several government representatives, local rabbis, prominent local doctors and business people, including philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein and members of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Community Relations Council, helped demonstrate wide-ranging support for the group.

The large turnout at the event exceeded organizers’ expectations. It demonstrated, said Kaye, “the need for an articulate Jewish liberal voice that is pro-Israel but also supports more pressure on all parties to move quickly to a two-state solution.”

“Eighty percent of Jews are liberal,” said Louis Gitlin, another event organizer who was presiding over the wine table. “There is now a long-overdue liberal advocacy group on Israel to articulate their views.”

Elizabeth Hollander served on the planning committee for the Feb. 24 event.

For more information about J Street Rhode Island, contact rhodeisland@jstreet.org. The Web site for J Street is www.jstreet.org.

Snowbirds, take note!

WE HOPE you have enjoyed receiving *The Voice & Herald* at your seasonal address. If you have not yet notified us of the date you will be returning home, please call 401.421.4111 ext. 177, or email us at voiceherald@JFRI.org. Include your name, home address and return date, and also add the word “Snowbird” to the email subject

line. Providing an accurate date of return assures uninterrupted delivery of *The Voice & Herald* to your home address. Welcome back!



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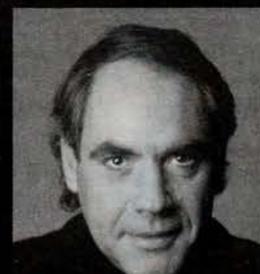


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Marty Cooper, Maxine Richman speak at JCPA plenum

Jewish social activists convene in Dallas

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@JFRI.org

DALLAS – Marty Cooper, director of the Community Relations Council (CRC) for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island; David Leach, CRC chair; and Maxine Richman attended the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) plenum. Held in late February in Dallas, the event had as its theme *B'Yachad: Building Bridges – Acting Together.*

The JCPA – the umbrella organization of CRCs, the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadasah, Anti-Defamation League and the Orthodox Union – welcomed some 200 leaders from around

the country who heard Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to the United States (who spoke earlier this year here at Brown University); William Daroff, vice president for public policy and the director of the Washington office of the Jewish Federations

of North America; and Henry Cisneros, the former mayor of San Antonio and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Clinton administration; and Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, among others, speak.

As member of the panel, "Iran at a Crossroads: Community Responses," (about the risks of Iran acquiring and using nuclear weapons), Cooper shared with the audience what Rhode Island's CRC is doing in this regard. "We have legis-

lation pending at the Statehouse urging the state to divest itself of pension funds of companies that are doing business in Iran," he said. "Nationally, we've met

with our congressional delegation three times to talk about Iran."

There was a "real focus on Israel," said Cooper, "especially with the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

**"There was a real focus on Israel, especially with the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement."
Marty Cooper**



ABRAHAM FOXMAN, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, speaks at the 2010 JCPA plenum in Dallas.

As a result of our meetings in Dallas, I have a better understanding of the BDS problem and what other CRCs are doing. It gives us an opportunity to develop a strategy to deal with the issue."

In an email during the plenum, Leach wrote, "Look for direction and action to oppose efforts to delegitimize Israel locally and in the national and international

arenas. Be prepared to act to stop the BDS movement against Israel."

In addition, Richman chaired a workshop, "*Kehilat Tzedek: Beyond the Canned Food Drive*" about meaningful social action and advocacy.

As Leach wrote in another email, "Little Rhody is being well-represented."

Cooper also shared with other

CRCs his plans for the March 4 "Israel Technology Day" that will take place this week.

As for other actions taken at the JCPA plenum, the group passed a resolution backing the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (the current Department of Defense policy about gay and lesbian members of the military); the Orthodox Union abstained from voting on the resolution.

In total, the plenum attendees voted to approve 10 resolutions, including a resolution calling for legislation, health measures and early education to reduce the risk of breast cancer that Richman was instrumental in pushing for; and another resolution – that was co-sponsored by the RI CRC – calling for

action against usurious practices.

The 2011 JCPA plenum will be held March 5-8, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the CRC or its role with JCPA, contact Marty Cooper at 421-4111, ext. 171 or mcooper@jfri.org.

Brown University Presents:

David Makovsky and Ghaith Al-Omari

In Memory of Avi Schaefer

Israel And Palestine: Stalemate and The Possibility Of Peace

Moderated By Professor David C. Jacobson

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2010 — 7:30 p.m.

MacMillan Hall, Starr Auditorium, Room 117

DAVID MAKOVSKY is the Ziegler Distinguished Fellow and Director of The Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He is the former Executive Editor of the Jerusalem Post and was diplomatic correspondent for Israel's leading daily Haaretz.

Ghaith al-Omari is Advocacy Director at the American Task Force on Palestine. Prior to that, he served in various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including Director of the International Relations Department in the Office of the Palestinian President, and advisor to former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.



BROWN

Sponsored by Program in Judaic Studies, Middle East Studies, Common Ground: Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel, Puzzle Peace, Brown Students for Israel, Israel on Campus Coalition

Marc Weiner entertains at Kollel celebration

A nice Jewish boy can be funny

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@fjri.org

ASK COMEDIAN Marc Weiner how a "nice Jewish boy" ends up a Nickelodeon TV star, and he will credit a faith in God. The entertainment at Koll-el's Jewish Unity Live event on Sunday, March 7, Weiner said in a phone interview with *The Voice & Herald*. "I was a standup comedian with 'Saturday Night Live' [in the early 1980s] and touring the country doing all the comedy clubs. I discovered something missing in my life and I heard an inner voice ask me, 'If you were the last Jew alive, could you tell people what the purpose of the Jews were?' When I realized I couldn't, I went on to discover my Judaism and I became Orthodox."

When Weiner married and

became a father, their first child had medical problems and subsequently died. Caring for their son before he died made Weiner more sensitive to children, he said. "I started working on Jewish comedy and became *shomer* Shabbat," he said. Keeping Shabbat and working in comedy clubs didn't work, so he turned to one of his other skills — that of puppetry.

"My story is all about my return to Judaism."

He connected with the late Jim Henson on one of Henson's Muppet shows and began doing a lot of puppet work. That work took him to Nickelodeon; he eventually established his own production company called Weinerville Productions, Inc., which has created and produced shows for Nickel-

odeon and created two shows for Comedy Central.

Weiner didn't disclose whether he'll bring either of his two kinds of puppets to the Feb. 7 show, his hand puppets called The Weinerettes, or The Weinerville style head puppets, which are human heads on puppet bodies. He did though, promise clean family fun with his performances. "I pray to God to allow me to contribute to the happiness of people and inspire them to live joyfully," he said. "It all comes from God."

Asked if he has any favorite jokes or teasers he could share before the event, he offered this one. "My daughter was about to go to Israel to study in a seminary a few years ago. There are a lot of dangerous things in Israel," he said. "My concern was for her safety, so...I sent my mother-in-law instead."

Judaism is clearly important to Weiner; he studies Hasidic texts to learn how to become a better person. "My story is all about my return to Judaism," said Weiner. "I hope that people come to support Koll-el — it's an amazing gift to everyone."

Visit Weiner's two Web sites, www.marcweiner.com and

/Marc Weiner

"GENERAL" MARC WEINER talks of *Kiddush* in his comedy routine.

inthe.com for more about his work.

The Feb. 7 event, Koll-el Jewish Unity Live, to celebrate the Rhode Island *She'ma* initiative, includes a dessert reception and entertainment by Marc Weiner. The event begins at

7 p.m. at the Providence Renaissance Hotel, 5 Avenue of the Arts, in Providence. The cost is \$36 per person; for more information, contact the Koll-el at 383-2786 or jul@providencekoll-el.org.

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/Temple Emanu-El

A 'Hitchcockian' Purim?

GERSHON LEVINE is Mordechai and Shanna Yarmovsky is Vashti at Temple Emanu-El's "Dial M for Mordi" Purim *spiel* with a film noir theme. The *spiel* was held on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 27.

Purim playfulness



/Rabbi Andrew Klein

WHO ELSE BUT QUEEN ESTHER AND MORDECHAI?

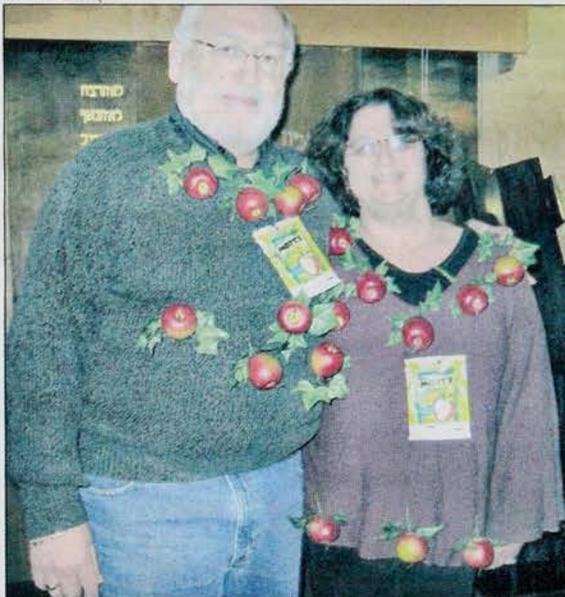
RONI PHIPPS, Temple Habonim's first grade Religious School teacher, and Joe Friedman, a fifth grade teacher, portrayed Queen Esther and Mordechai, respectively, at the synagogue's Purim *spiel* on the morning of Sunday, Feb. 28.



/Temple Beth-El

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE BEATLE? JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE OR RINGO?

MEMBERS OF TEMPLE BETH-EL in Providence play the Beatles in "The Megillah according to the Beatles" Purim *spiel* on Saturday evening, Feb. 27. Back row, left, Andrew Caslowitz, Matt Goodwin and Chelsea Edmonds; and in front, Alan Rosenberg portray the Fab Four.



/Merle Green

REV. ETHAN ADLER and his wife Lorrie dressed up as "Apple Jews (juice)" at the annual Purim celebration on Saturday evening, Feb. 27, at Congregation Beth David in Narragansett.



IS IT ELVIS OR RABBI PETER STEIN?

The Purim *spiel* at Temple Sinai in Cranston on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 27 drew some 150 people for the *Megillah* reading, pizza party and talent show. Rabbi Peter Stein channeling Elvis Presley, is with his daughter, Eliana.

If only the markets were as steady as our team.



Front row: (l-r) Marie J. Langlois, Peter R. Phillips, Barbara S. Williams; back row: (l-r) Gerald J. Fogarty, Gary J. Friedmann, Eugene J. McCabe, Jr., Kent W. Glaudding, L. Peter Sheebem, Galan Daukas.

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Purim playfulness



WHO IS THIS JCCRI pre-schooler? Queen Esther, perhaps?



BIG NAZO PUPPETS and Purim characters were plentiful at the Purim parade, sponsored by the New England Rabbinical College, on Feb. 28. /Nancy Kirsch



PHDS STUDENTS PLAY music at the Feb. 23 PJ Library celebration. /PHDS



MORE FUN AND GAMES at the Feb. 23 PJ Library celebration. /Nancy Kirsch



Brighten up your seder table.

Join us for a Family Passover Workshop

Bring your family to the BJE/RI Creativity Center to create Passover napkin rings, visors, puppets or seder plates. Families with children ages 5 & up are welcome on **Sunday, March 14th** between 1:00 - 2:30 pm or 3:00 - 4:30 pm. Fee of \$5.00 per child. Kindly RSVP to Diane Cerep at 401 331-0956 x182 or dcerep@bjeri.org. Drop-ins welcome if space available.



Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island
130 Sessions Street
Providence, RI 02906
401 331-0956
www.bjeri.org

A partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island



JFRI EXECUTIVE VICE President Stephen Silberfarb reads to the younger generation at the Barnes & Noble PJ Library day. /Nancy Kirsch

ONE: In five kindergarten age children in Rhode Island are obese

From Page 1

crisis. She's also called on Cabinet members, mayors, sports and entertainment stars, business leaders, nonprofit groups and governments to help.

On Feb. 9, she officially launched "Let's Move," a nationwide campaign to promote healthy lifestyles and end childhood obesity – within one generation. An ambitious goal, it's one she believes must be addressed now. "I don't want our kids to live diminished lives because we failed to step up today...what is fully within our control...is to give them the very best start in their journeys," said the First Lady at the campaign launch.

WHY IT MATTERS

According to the CDC, overweight youth face risks of heart disease, Type II diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, certain cancers and other chronic conditions. One study showed that children's lives might be shortened by two to five years due to obesity; overweight children are more likely to be overweight or obese adults. Becoming a healthy adult starts with being a healthy child.

And, the country takes a financial beating for obesity-related medical conditions. National data indicate an annual price tag of \$150 billion; Rhode Island Department of Health says the state spends some \$227 million each year on weight-related medical costs.

"Childhood obesity is a problem in Rhode Island," said the department's director, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH. "One of every five kids [here] is obese when they enter kindergarten. It is time to break the obesity cycle."

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

In encouraging parents and children to make smarter food choices and become more physically active, "Let's Move" focuses on schools. Each school day, some 11 million kids and 31 million eat breakfast and lunch respectively at school, thus consuming some 30 to 50 percent of their daily caloric intake in those school meals.

The Institute of Medicine, an independent, nonprofit organization that advises decision makers and the public, recommends schools eliminate junk food; decrease sugar, fat, and salt; and increase fruits, vegetables and whole grains in their meals.

At a recent National Press Club luncheon, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urged Congress to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act, legislation that prioritizes

improving national school lunch and breakfast programs. Elsewhere, he encouraged schools to "focus on community and school gardens."

SCHOOL GARDENS

The Jewish Community Day

the dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) in Providence. This year, all 165 students are in a formal physical education program. Elementary school students have calisthenics and organized sports (using Brown's

GOT MILK?

Two years ago PHDS removed vending machines – filled with candy and junk food – and the high school students now study culinary arts. And last year Kids First, a Rhode Island nonprofit organiza-

and absorbed more slowly – and they're less likely to snack between meals. Fewer snacks help children maintain a proper weight for their age and body type. Adolescents struggling with weight issues, though, might access the weight control programs offered at The

Miriam Hospital's Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center. Center Director Rena Wing, Ph.D. and collaborator Elissa Jelalian, Ph.D., both professors of psychiatry and human behavior, lead a team of professional exercise physiologists, registered dietitians and psychologists; the Center's multidisciplinary approach to promote weight loss and maintenance focuses on healthy eating, exercise, and behavior modification.

"There has been much more work done with school-age children than with adolescents, with behavioral weight control interventions," said Jelalian. Though teens strive for independence and autonomy, parents can help teens

See ENDING, Page 21



SWIMMING – at the JCCRI pool – is an excellent form of exercise for children of all ages.

School (JCDS) in Providence is already there, with a second consecutive year of spring plantings underway. "Each class has its own plot," said Renee Rudnick, assistant head of JCDS.

"We already have herbs for Passover!"

Last year more than 100 students ages 4 to 14 participated in the JCDS' community gardens project (last year's enrollment

included the middle school, now closed); this year, 83 students are preparing the garden beds – with a little volunteer help from parents. "The children plant it [the garden], work it, and experience the satisfaction of growing – and taking home – their own fresh vegetables," said Rudnick, speaking of the corn, tomatoes, basil, other fresh herbs and different lettuces.

Families can also purchase additional fresh greens grown there and last year, the cafeteria made tomato sauce from student-grown tomatoes. The gardens, on school grounds, include a composting area.

GETTING FIT IS KEY

Physical activity is also part of "Let's Move." Current government recommendations encourage at least one hour each day of physical activity for youth.

"We keep them moving," said Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman,

nearby track and field); recess offers time to play, shoot hoops and jump rope. The annual school production for the high school girls requires dance practices and rehearsals that keep the girls moving.

tion, led a "Healthy Eating" year-long program to teach parents and teachers basic nutrition concepts.

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Michelle Obama



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Alphabet Soup

BY MARILYN SHEALEY
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

UNLESS SPECIFIED the amount of each ingredient used is up to you. You should assemble all the ingredients before putting your soup pot on the stove.

Ingredients

- A asparagus
- B butter
- C carrots
- D dill
- E ear of corn
- F fennel
- G green beans

- H horseradish (a pinch)
- I Italian peppercorns (ground)
- J jalapeno pepper
- K kidney beans
- L leek (white part only)
- M marjoram
- N noodles (preferably alphabet)
- O onion
- P peas
- Q quarts (2) of chicken broth
- R radishes
- S salt to taste
- T turnip
- U us (you and me working together)
- V vegetable mix (1 package, frozen)
- W water chestnuts, sliced

- X Kiss the cook!
- Y yam
- Z zucchini

Method

Begin with U.
Wash and chop all the vegetables to bite size.
Melt butter in a large pot. Add onion, leek, scallion, jalapeno and sauté until soft.
Pour chicken stock into onion mixture and add the rest of the ingredients, except for X and U, of course.
Turn the heat up to high and stir until very hot.
Turn the heat down to medium/



/Lauri Friedn

FROM LEFT, MATTHEW FRIEDMAN and his brother, Eri Friedman, the sons of Michael and Lauri Friedman, are "soup tasters and testers" with their grandmother, Marilyn Shealey, in her kitchen.

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low, cover and simmer until vegetables and noodles are tender. Sit down at a table set with soup bowl, spoon and napkin.

Ladle soup into bowls and it's time for X. Kiss the cook! Take your spoon and scoop up alphabet letters that you can read or make into words. Share your words with U.

If you are not too hungry and have plenty of time, try to think of categories like names or feelings, or colors that you can "fish" out of the bowl with your spoon.

Enjoy!
I designed this recipe to use with a group of children of different ages during a "Choosing" at Moses Brown Lower School. Obviously, we did a lot of hand- and vegetable-washing before starting to assemble the ingredients. We read the ingredients list while children helped to identify each item and its beginning letter.

Older children helped younger ones with the chopping and cutting. There are so many learning experiences that can occur during the preparation: how to use cooking tools safely, naming things that begin with each letter of the alphabet, identifying places you've been that start with a specific letter, guessing how many words you know that start with a letter (like Q), explaining what your favorite letter is and why, thinking about why X stands for kiss...The list is endless!

Older children can be prompted to come up with their own questions or to share memories/experiences that they've had with cooking. You will be surprised at how many spontaneous associations arise from these conversations.

While the soup is cooking, the children should help with cleanup and table setting.

Another option is a cozy read of *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown, or you

SOUP: Involve the whole family to make savory soup

From Page 18

can Google "Stone Soup Story" and get the gist of it. Children never get tired of this story and it reinforces the sense of their own experience.

Cooking isn't as much fun without the eating that follows. Make the most of celebrating the delicious creation that took only 26 ingredients to complete!

Marilyn Friedman's favorite thing to do, when she's not busy with the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the National Council of Jewish Women or The Miriam Hospital's Women's Association, is spending time with her grandchildren, Matthew and Eric.

Cooking up a Grandparents' Corner cookbook

We want your child-friendly recipes

BY NICOLE KATZMAN
nkatzman@bjeri.org

THE PJ LIBRARY Grandparents' Corner, a program of the Bureau of Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, are 'cooking up' an interactive, multi-generational cookbook project. The committee of cooks is chaired by Barbara Sheer and inspired by Francine Beranbaum, a grandmother and avid cook who loves spending time in the kitchen with her grandchildren. Beranbaum, who recently taught her granddaughters, Brooke and Isabelle, to make homemade applesauce using the same tools that her grandmother used in the kitchen years ago, said, "There is something beautiful about passing down recipes from generation to generation."

The cookbook, due to come out in spring of 2010, will include recipes, anecdotes and drawings by grandparents and grandchildren that are related to the recipes and photographs.

PJ Library has created an easy template for grandparents to follow; recipes can be submitted either electronically or by 'snail mail,' in handwritten form; pictures need to be submitted electronically and clearly labeled. You will be asked to sign a release so that we can use the picture in the cookbook.

Recipes should be child-friendly, taste good and be easy to prepare.

If you want to share your recipes and/or pictures with us, please contact Nicole Katzman at 331-0956, ext. 180 or nkatzman@bjeri.org.

Nicole Katzman is the director of The PJ Library and Shalom Baby programs of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. She holds a MAT and MA in education from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Local agriculture, fresh food and public health

Farmers markets offer fresh, healthy produce and more

BY HANNAH MELLION AND
NOAH FULMER
Special to The Voice & Herald

AT A TIME when our local farms are growing and the local food economy is enjoying great success, Farm Fresh Rhode Island ("Farm Fresh RI") wants every Rhode Islander to have access to our (Rhode Island) of plenty.

Agriculture stagnated for many decades, in part, because farms and fresh food became increasingly irrelevant to people's lives. So, going forward, how do we ensure that Rhode Island agriculture reaches every Rhode Islander? How do we ensure that every Rhode Islander feels invested in our farms and our food, and that our farmers have a stake in our cities and towns?

Farmers markets are one way that rural and urban Rhode Island can connect. By running farmers markets in Providence, Pawtucket and Woonsocket, Farm Fresh RI provides ways for city folks to participate in local agriculture, and for local agriculture to play a role in the city. These markets provide an important source of fresh fruits and vegetables in many neighborhoods and are a key source of income for many farms. This win-win is helped by innovative programs that make these foods even

more affordable at a time when a record number of Rhode Islanders are using SNAP, the new name for food stamps.

This past year Farm Fresh RI ran "Bonus Bucks," a SNAP incentive program funded by the Wholesome Wave Foundation and the RI Foundation that matched, in part, SNAP dollars. The Bonus Bucks program drew hundreds of low-income families to our summer and wintertime farmers market each week to purchase fresh foods with their SNAP dollars. More than \$30,000 was spent by low-income families at the farmers markets; that's a lot of healthy foods and a huge boost to farmers' incomes.

Farm Fresh RI believes that linking low-income consumers to fresh, local foods is an important solution to the health crisis in America. Diets high in fruits and vegetables have been consistently linked to improved health, weight loss and weight maintenance. Farmers markets' products are fresh-picked and only travel a short distance to reach the consumer. Fresh food tastes better and is affordably priced, when it is in season. Farmers markets also educate customers about agriculture and where our food comes from.

First Lady Michelle Obama is bringing attention to many of these issues through "Let's Move," her new anti-obesity campaign (see story on page 1, "Childhood obesity hits home"). We believe that local agriculture can play an important role in her campaign,

by providing the freshest, healthiest foods possible in grocery stores, corner stores and neighborhood farmers markets around the state.

While summer farmers markets won't open until June, local foods are still available all winter and spring at the Pawtucket Wintertime Farmers Market. With 50 vendors, including farmers, cheese-makers, bakers, and more, the Wintertime Farmers Market is a hub for fresh, local foods.

The Wintertime Market offers vegetables - root crops, such as potatoes, onions, carrots, turnips, and parsnips - that store well and are plentiful. Try root vegetables roasted, in soups, pasta dishes and more. Sign up for our weekly newsletter at the market that features new recipes and cooking ideas. At the market you can also find apples, cabbage, salad greens and winter squash. And, don't forget to shop for meats, seafood, cheeses, eggs, milk and jams!

As the days get longer and warmer, leafy greens such as collards, kale, spinach and lettuces will be increasingly available; asparagus will appear around mid-April.

The Wintertime Farmers Market is open every Saturday through May from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Hope Artiste Village in Pawtucket.

Noah Fulmer is the executive director and Hannah Mellion is the markets coordinator at Farm Fresh Rhode Island. Visit the Web site: www.farmfreshri.org.

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CULINARY: Secrets are revealed

From Page 1

to a larger place on East Avenue and then its ultimate destination on Hope Street – where India is now, near where Blackstone Boulevard spills into Hope Street/East Avenue – Lloyds brought all kinds of customers in, Solomon said. They included plenty of Rhode Island regulars, and Marvin Hamlish, Morley Safer, Sammy Davis, Jr., and John F. Kennedy, Jr., when he was a Brown student.

Solomon remembers the time and date she sold Lloyds – at 3 p.m. on June 10, 1988. “It took five owners before India bought the property and made the corner a success,” she wrote in an email. “No one could make Lloyds a winner after I sold. [I] couldn’t convince anyone that there is more to a restaurant than serving food.”

Although the Solomon daughters – Gail, Jamie and Judi – weren’t regulars in the restaurant, Solomon calls them all “excellent cooks. They’re better than I ever knew how to be. And I always liked baking more than I did cooking.”

Basic quiche

Ingredients

- 8 eggs
- 2 pints half-and-half
- 4 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 3-4 cups diced onions
- 12 ounces grated cheese
- nutmeg, salt and pepper, onion powder to taste
- unbaked pie shell
- 48 ounces spinach or broccoli, chopped and cooked, or 48 ounces salmon

Method

Press pie shell into plate. Sauté diced onions (optional). Mix all other ingredients together and pour into shell. Bake at 350 until firm and brown, for approximately 45-60 minutes. This makes four 9-inch quiches, so if you’re not ready to host a crowd, get out your calculator and do some division! Recipe is from Lloyds.

Cabbage Soup

Ingredients

- 2 pounds cabbage
- 3 cans tomato soup

- 1 27-ounce can whole peeled tomatoes

- 1/4 cup of brown sugar or more, to taste

- Juice of one lemon

- 1 pound lean ground beef, sautéed

- 2 cloves crushed garlic

Method

Finely shred cabbage and mix all ingredients together.

Put in a soup pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook for many hours. Cabbage should be very soft and tender.

The next day, cook again – simmer, simmer and simmer again.

If soup gets too thick, add a little water, tomato soup or chicken broth. The more it cooks, the better it is.

Make days ahead of when you want to serve it.

Serves 12-14; recipe is from Anita Solomon’s kitchen.

Barbequed brisket

Ingredients

- 3 pounds single cut brisket
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 1 package dry onion soup mix

Method

Place brisket in 9x13 pan. Mix remaining ingredients together and pour over brisket. Cover tightly with foil.

Bake for 3-and-1/2 hours at 375 or until fork tender.

Remove and let cool.

Slice meat against the grain and put it back in sauce to reheat.

Freezes well.

Serves 10-12; recipe is from Anita Solomon’s kitchen.

Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting

Ingredients

- 1 pound carrots – sliced
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 heaping tablespoon cinnamon
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 7 ounces white raisins
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 8-ounce can well-drained pineapple

Method

Blend first five ingredients in food processor.

Stop and add the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt.

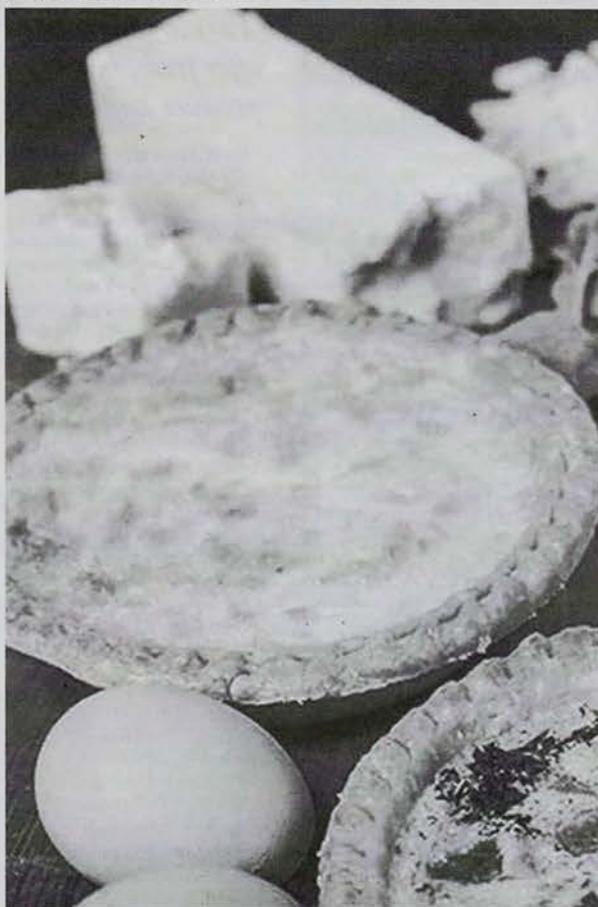
Blend again and pour ingredients into a large bowl. Add nuts, raisins and pineapple.

Mix well and divide into two greased 9-inch cake pans.

Bake at 350 for about 35 minutes.

Frost with cream cheese frosting (see recipe below)

Serves 12; recipe is from Lloyds.



Combine flour with 1/4 cup sugar and sprinkle mixture over pie shell.

Place sliced apples in the pie shell. Sprinkle remaining sugar over the apples.

Pour the cream over the apples and sprinkle with cinnamon and nutmeg.

Bake 425 for 15 minutes.

Turn oven down to 375 for 40 minutes.

Top with sweetened whipped cream and sprinkle with nuts.

Serves 8; recipe is from Lloyds.

Banana fudge pie

Ingredients

- 1 pie crust, baked
- 3/4 cup Nestle chocolate chips
- 3 cups whipped cream
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 medium bananas, sliced

Method

In saucepan, melt chocolate chips over low heat and remove from heat.

Stir in 1 cup whipped cream, eggs and sugar. Mix well.

Pour into baked crust and bake at 350 for 28 to 32 minutes or until crust is lightly browned. Cool 10 minutes. Chill for one hour.

Layer bananas and remaining whipped cream onto pie. Top with remaining chocolate chips. Garnish with banana slices, if desired.

Keep refrigerated. Serves 8; recipe is from Lloyds.

Method

Blend first five ingredients in food processor.

Stop and add the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt.

Blend again and pour ingredients into a large bowl. Add nuts, raisins and pineapple.

Mix well and divide into two greased 9-inch cake pans.

Bake at 350 for about 35 minutes.

Frost with cream cheese frosting (see recipe below)

Serves 12; recipe is from Lloyds.

Cream cheese frosting

Ingredients

- 1 pound cream cheese
- 1 pound margarine
- 8 ounces well-drained crushed pineapple

Method

Ingredients

- 1 pound powdered sugar

Method

Mix all ingredients together and frost a cooled carrot cake.

This makes more than enough for one carrot cake; recipe is from Lloyds.

Apple cream supreme

Ingredients

- 9 inch pie crust
- 4 large apples, peeled and sliced
- 1/4 cup flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 pint half-and-half cream
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

Method

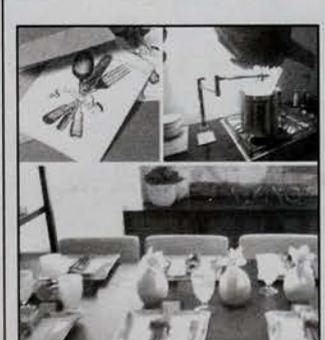
Send us your nostalgic food memories

PROVIDENCE – What memories do you have of Lloyds? What were your favorite menu items and which location did you visit most often?

For many of us, childhood memories of foods are among our most evocative – whether it was the macaroni and cheese your mom made (homemade or for those less fortunate, from a box) or the matzah ball soup your bubbe made every Pesach. Some of those memorable meals, may have taken place at Lloyds or at another long-gone Rhode Island venue.

Share your memories with us and we will publish the best of them. Reading about your memories of Lloyds’ brisket or cabbage soup may not be as gustatorily pleasing as consuming the brisket or cabbage soup, but they’re worthwhile nonetheless.

Send them to voiceherald@JFRI.org (with FOOD MEMORIES in subject line) or by mail, Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 09206



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Pork products tempt some Jewish palates

Are Jews confused?

By LISA KEYS

NEW YORK – Utopia Bagels in Queens is known for its bacon-flecked egg bagel. In Manhattan, the restaurant JoeDoe boasts a sandwich called the “Conflicted Jew” – a concoction made with bacon, challah and chopped liver. During Hanukkah, the Web site YumSugar suggested frying *latkes* in bacon fat. And last year, Top Chef winner Ilan Hall opened his Los Angeles restaurant, The Gorbals, and made a splash with bacon-wrapped matzah balls, pork belly braised in Manischewitz and Israeli couscous pudding with bacon brittle.

“Pork has become very much in vogue,” says food writer Ed Levine. “It tastes good. People can cook with it easily; you can make pork chops or roasts, or you can cook with bacon – and bacon makes everything taste

better.”

But for Jewish chefs and foodies, such an indulgence is more complicated. Though the rules of *kasbrut* forbid pork consumption, the advent of a bacon-cream cheese *shmeor*, to choose instead of lox spread, suggests that adherence to anti-pork restriction is hardly what it used to be.

“We’re living in an era of ‘post-modern food,’” says Hasia Diner, a professor of American Jewish history at New York University and the author of *Hungering for America: Italian, Irish and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration*. The *treif*-meets-traditional combinations are just another example of a phenomenon that includes “jalapeno-Jack *rugelach*, chocolate chip bagels and, frankly, Tandoori salmon,” she says. “Show me a salmon that went anywhere near India.”

The particular mix of Jewish cui-

sine and pork is “part of the increasingly porous world we live in,” Diner says. “The idea is that things don’t have to be in fixed boxes: X is Jewish so it can’t have pork; Y is Italian so it can’t have pineapple and tuna. All of these are now open to the creativity and predilections of whomever wants to make or consume them.”

Not everybody does. For Gil Marks, a kosher-observant rabbi, chef and cookbook writer, “the thought of a bacon bagel sort of turns the stomach,” he says. “Not just from the religious perspective – though there is that – but from a sociological perspective. It’s like an American eating a horse.” Nonetheless Marks, at work on an encyclopedia of Jewish food due out this summer, sees a bright side to the heretical trend. “You always retain your roots, to a certain extent, no matter how hard we try to reject them,” he says. “No matter how assimilated you are,

certain things

draw you back – like comfort food and nostalgia for childhood; when you were sick you got homemade chicken soup with matzah balls.

To many Jews, the allure of pork is simply irresistible. “It’s the ultimate taboo,” says Dan Levine, who as Porky LeSwine is the co-founder of BbqJew.com, dedicated to news about North Carolina pork barbecue, a topic that enjoys religious-like devotion. The “ultimate taboo” makes a great marketing tool.

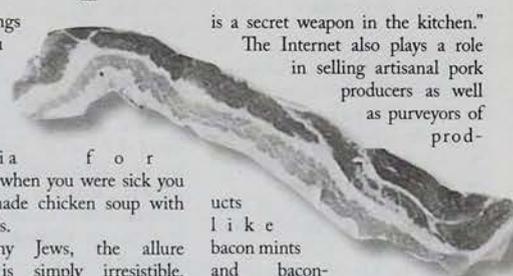
“It gives us a bit of identity and sets us apart in the barbecue world,” says David Rosen, a co-founder of Jubon’s, a competitive barbecue-making enterprise with a name that plays on the words “Jew” and “Ubon’s,” the Yazoo City, Miss., barbecue restaurant that mentored the team.

The team mascot is a *yarmulke*-wearing pig, and its slogan is “At least the salt is kosher.” “It’s a little controversial, but so what?” Rosen says. “We’re not out to offend.”

This movement evolved thanks, in part, to the increased prominence of celebrity chefs, says Heather Lauer, author of *Bacon: A Love Story: A Salty Survey of Everybody’s Favorite Meat*. “Now we’re watching more cooking shows and doing more cooking at home,” she says. “Bacon

is a secret weapon in the kitchen.”

The Internet also plays a role in selling artisanal pork producers as well as purveyors of prod-



ucts like bacon mints and bacon-print shoes.

Others are less tolerant of the combination. “It’s sacrilegious and disrespectful of the tradition,” says David Sax, the author of *Save the Deli: In Search of Perfect Pastрами, Crusty Rye, and the Heart of Jewish Delicatessen*. “Jewish food was defined by the fact that it was made in this way and didn’t have these certain products.”

Jubon’s is winning accolades at contests across the country for its slow-cooked pork ribs, and a retired Israeli cardiologist, Eli Landau, is self-publishing an entire cookbook devoted to pork, allegedly Israel’s first.

Jews eating pork, as Diner points out, is a fact of modern life. “There are people who believe there is a clear boundary between ‘authentic’ and ‘inauthentic,’” she says. “But what we think is authentic was once brand new. Culture is always being reinvented, and every time it has a certain contentiousness to it.”

Lisa Keys is a freelance journalist in New York City.

Reprinted from *Tabletmag.com*, a new read on Jewish life.

ENDING: Obesity in children is Michelle Obama’s goal

From Page 17

modify their behavior by knowing how to talk sensitively about weight, diet and exercise, she said. “There are teens who have figured out a way to make this work. We have a lot to learn from them.”

START EXERCISE EARLY

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) offers fitness program for kids – and adults – of all ages.

Infant and toddler swim program participants “hit the pool” once a week, with adult supervision, of course. Gymnastics and dance classes for the little ones, recreational activities in the Early Childhood Program and the new yoga class for 4-year-olds keep kids active.

School-age children play organized sports;

while all programs are coed, swimming programs for those 7 to 11, include coed, boys only or girls only, said Leslie Sax, the JCCRI’s interim executive director. Healthier alternatives to TV or computer time include the JCCRI’s sports leagues and classes in Pilates, spinning, yoga or cardio-kickboxing for teens.

A BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Nutritional labels on those cereal boxes are required reading. Choose cereals with more than five grams of fiber a serving, 100 percent wheat or bran, oat bran and barley and watch the sugar content.

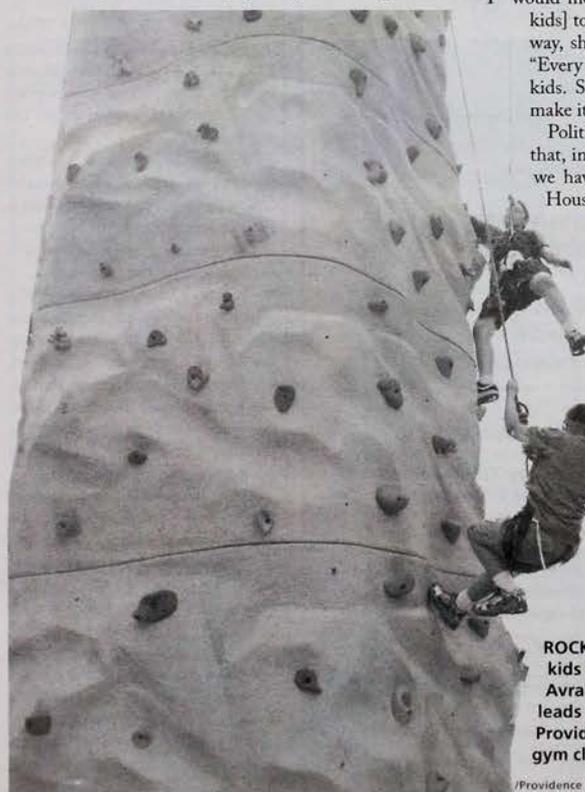
A bowl of low-fat, low-sugar, high-fiber, whole-grain cereal, perhaps with some fresh fruit, and skim or no-fat milk, gives children and teens a healthier start.

Transforming breakfast cereal is just the beginning. “I would move heaven and earth for them [my kids] to be at the top of their game in every way, shape and form,” said the First Lady. “Every family wants the same thing for their kids. So we’re going to figure out how to make it easier for them to get it.”

Politics aside, it’s reassuring to know that, in the quest to end childhood obesity, we have a like-minded ally in the White House.

Nancy Abeshaus is a freelance writer in South Kingstown who declined to reveal her “breakfast of champions.” Contact her at nabeshaus@cox.net.

For more information, visit “Let’s Move” at www.letsmove.gov; Kids First at www.kidsfirstri.org; and The Miriam Hospital Adolescent Weight Control Registry at www.weightresearch.org/AWCR.html



ROCK CLIMBING will keep kids in shape. Here, Rabbi Avraham Jakubowicz leads some students in his Providence Hebrew Day School gym class in rock climbing.

©Providence Hebrew Day School

www.jvhri.org

Where Rhode Island stands

By NANCY ABESHAUS
Special to The Voice & Herald

HOW DOES RHODE Island compare with the other states in its recent initiatives toward ending childhood obesity? The newest “F as in Fat” report, an annual review of federal and state government policies aimed at reducing or preventing obesity, was published on July 1, 2009.

According to that report, published by the nonprofit organizations Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Rhode Island is:

- One of 19 states whose

nutritional standards for school lunches, breakfasts and snacks are stricter than current federal requirements.

- One of 27 states with nutritional standards for competitive foods sold a la carte, in vending machines, in school stores or at school bake sales.

- One of 20 states with requirements for body mass index (BMI) screenings of children and adolescents or with legislation requiring other forms of weight-related assessments in schools.

Nancy Abeshaus is a freelance writer in South Kingstown. Contact her at nabesaus@cox.net.

Body Mass Index (BMI) can reveal weight problems

OVERWEIGHT is defined differently for children and teens than it is for adults. For youth ages 2 to 20, the Body Mass Index (BMI) is determined by comparing their weight and height against growth charts that factor in age

and gender. A child or teen whose BMI is between the 85th and 95th percentile or more is considered overweight. Your healthcare provider can monitor your child or teen’s BMI.

CLOCKS: Are ticking, ticking, ticking

From Page 1

Still, recent developments – the rise last June and subsequent repression of Iran's democracy movement, and Tehran's apparent nuclear gains – have altered assessments about the two countdowns and whether they are influencing one another.

Some hard-liners such as John Bolton, the Bush administration's pugnacious U.N. ambassador, say getting tougher on Iran would empower its democracy movement. Others, like Shoshana Bryen, the senior director for security policy at the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, counter that the democracy movement has essentially been snuffed out – providing another reason for the West to get tougher.

Bryen says the nuclear clock is ticking faster – earlier this month, Iran announced plans to build 10 new nuclear fuel plants – and the regime in Tehran has figured out how to gum up the democracy clock.

"I think we are now not able to wait for the overthrow," JINSA's Bryen said, arguing that mass imprisonments and executions have intimidated Iran's opposition.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak delivered the same message last week in meetings with top U.S. officials, including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Dennis Ross, the top White House official handling Iran.

"We see that the grip of the regime on its own people and even the cohesion of the leading group of ayatollahs are both being cracked and probably the countdown, historic countdown, toward the collapse has already started, but I don't know of any serious observer who can tell us whether it will take two, four or six years or 10," Barak said to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "The clock toward the collapse of this regime works much slower than the clock which ticks

toward Iran becoming a nuclear military power."

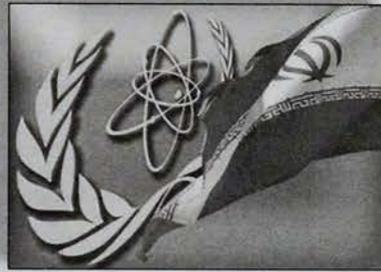
A similar split is taking hold among those who oppose harsh sanctions. Many in this camp, spearheaded by the National Iranian American Council, say that the successes of the Iranian opposition movement bolster the argument for holding back on tough measures.

Others, however, heeding "realists" such as former George W. Bush administration officials Flynt Leverett and Hillary Mann Leverett, say sanctions are futile precisely because the Iranian government is here to stay, so it's better to talk to the current regime.

The Obama administration appears to be shifting toward a dual track of investment in the democracy movement and tougher sanctions.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is accelerating talks with major powers toward a new sanctions package and said recently that Iran's government is assuming the trappings of a *junta*.

A report earlier this month by the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, cited as "credible" reports from Western intelligence agencies that say Iran is actively working toward a bomb. The



report is helping the United States make the case for sanctions to hold-outs in the U.N. Security Council.

On Feb. 22, P.J. Crowley, the State Department spokesman, said the Obama administration is still focused on outreach – specifically an offer to get Iran to give up its low-enriched uranium in exchange for uranium enriched to medical research levels. He said an international, multilateral sanctions regime was close – underscoring the Obama administration's focus on pressing for U.N. sanctions targeting the regime's leadership and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps that protect it.

Crowley would not count out unilateral congressional sanctions targeting Iran's energy sector – the approach being pushed by many pro-Israel groups.

Ori Nir, a spokesman for Americans for Peace Now – the only major

"Sanctions are futile because the Iranian government is here to stay, so it's better to talk to the current regime."

pro-Israel group opposing the congressional sanctions described as "crippling" by their sponsors – says Iran needs active diplomatic engagement precisely because of the nuclear threat and the futility of sanctions, which he warned could backfire.

Nir says the prospect that the regime in Tehran would give way to democracy is too ephemeral right now to count on as policy.

A group of foreign policy realists for months has been advising the administration that investment in the Iranian opposition movement is futile.

In an op-ed last month in *The New York Times*, the Leveretts derided Obama's outreach to Iran as half-hearted, and said engagement with the real power – the Iranian regime – made better sense than staking anything on the democracy movement.

Not everyone is ready to count out the democracy movement.

David Cvach, until recently the second counselor at the French Embassy in Iran and now the Middle East specialist at the French Embassy in Washington, says he believes the fissures in Iran reach deep into the power structure.

Cvach says the successes of the opposition coupled with the Obama administration's attempts at outreach to Iran lay the groundwork for sanctions that would target the regime's elites.

"We should now focus on pressure on the regime," Cvach said. "We don't need to know whether it has nuclear weapons or how deep the fissures are – what we know is enough to raise the pressure."

"Sanctions that truly target the Revolutionary Guards but spare the population will likely not damage the Green movement," Trita Parsi, head of the National Iranian American Council, said. "But blind, indiscriminate sanctions that hurt the population make the struggle for democracy more difficult."

Meir Javandanfar, a respected Iranian-born Israeli analyst who believes the post-June unrest has wounded the Iranian regime, favors sanctions targeting the Guard's banking and business interests – for now.

Broader sanctions, he says, are risky, but the prospect of a nuclear theocracy is riskier.

"Not imposing sanctions will be the worst option," he said. "It will send a signal to Khomeini, the supreme ruler of Iran, 'that the West is weak.'"

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Jewish response to Chile crisis

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) is partnering with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to provide aid and relief to victims of the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile on Saturday, Feb. 27. Donations can be made at www.JDC.org/donation.

The earthquake struck about 200 miles south of Santiago, killing at least 700 people and displacing or injuring some 2 million others.

Chile is home to a vibrant and active Jewish community of approximately 16,000, of whom 90 percent are concentrated in the capital city of Santiago.

Based on information from our partner agency, the JDC, and ORT-Chile and the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, Jewish communal institutions have been spared from major earthquake damage due to Santiago's distance from the earthquake epicenter. However, there are reports of damage to two synagogues close to the epicenter, and the JFRI awaits further details.

The JFRI has previously partnered with the JDC in responding to international natural disasters such as the tsunami in Southeast Asia and, most recently, the earthquake in Haiti.



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FISHEL BRESLER left, and Russell Raskin serve as masters of ceremonies at the Providence Hebrew Day School annual "Prize is Right" event on Sunday, Feb. 21 at the Providence Marriott Hotel.

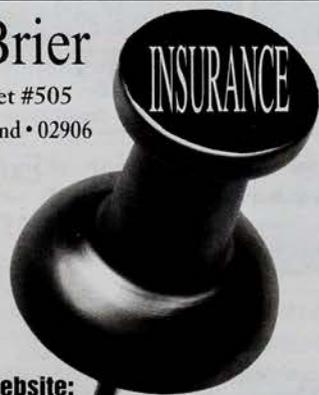


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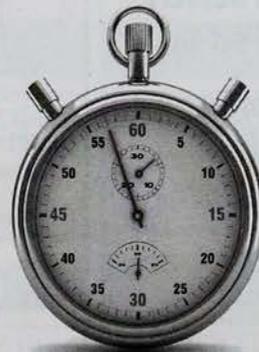
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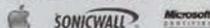


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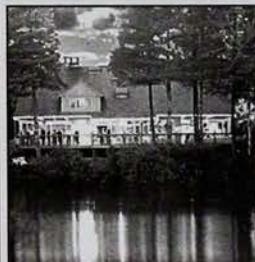
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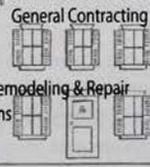
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Israel Apartheid Week on college campuses

Pro-Israel literature distributed, forums held

NEW YORK (JTA) – At universities across the globe, the annual springtime ritual known as Israel Apartheid Week (“IAW”) is kicking off this week, and Jewish students and pro-Israel groups have been readying themselves to respond in force.

Unlike past years, when intense pro-Palestinian activity in the wake of Israel’s offensives in Gaza and Lebanon caught many Jewish students off-guard, this year the pro-Israel community is ready with initiatives of its own.

The largest effort, Israel Peace Week, is helping coordinate responses at 28 campuses and counting. StandWithUs, the Los-Angeles based pro-Israel group, is promoting a U.S. speaking tour by Israeli soldiers to counter claims that the Israel Defense Forces engaged in widespread misconduct during the 2009 offensive against Hamas in Gaza. The David Project, the Anti-Defamation League and CAMERA all have material online to counter the apartheid charge and help students disseminate pro-Israel literature.

In Canada, where IAW activity is often far more intense than in the U.S., a pro-Israel initiative called “Size Doesn’t Matter” enjoyed a brief spell of notoriety when it released a sexually suggestive video that spoofed Israel’s smallness.

The pro-Israel PR house Blue-Star released a poster with information about how to cure “Anis” – Anti-Israel Fixation Syndrome.

Now in its sixth year, IAW is actually two weeks, running March 1-14. Mainly confined to university campuses, the internationally coordinated series of events aim to reinforce the analogy between Israel and apartheid South Africa and strengthen the activist tools that helped bring that regime to its knees.

Events often employ an element of political street theater – obstructing campus byways, for instance, with mock Israeli checkpoints or an “apartheid wall” – in addition to more conventional lectures and film screenings. IAW is closely aligned with the so-called BDS movement – an acronym for boycott, divestment and sanctions – and calls for an end to Israel’s “occupation and colonization of all Arab lands” and the right to return of Palestinian refugees.

Given the harsh rhetoric and strident anti-Israel policies encouraged by the events, IAW has united a broad spectrum of Jewish groups that, while often agreeing on few other Middle East questions, have all condemned the Israel-South Africa analogy as illegitimate and anti-peace.

Joining StandWithUs, the David Project and Hasbara Fellowships in their condemnation

“The largest effort, Israel Peace Week, is helping coordinate responses at 28 campuses and counting.”

of IAW is J Street and its campus arm, J Street U, and the liberal Zionist group Ameinu.

J Street has taken a slightly different tack than the other groups, largely eschewing on-campus flyers in favor of a campaign, “Invest Don’t Divest,” which aims to promote fundraising for cooperative efforts between Israelis and Palestinians that “help set the

context for a sustainable peace.” A spokesperson for J Street told JTA the group did not want its “nuanced pragmatic” approach to get lost in the “shouting match” that some groups engage in during IAW.

And inevitably, shouting does happen. IAW reliably brings at least a few speak-



each year who

shock the campus Jewish community by tiptoeing ever so close to the line separating anti-Zionism with outright anti-Semitism – and arguably marching right over it.

Even so, the wider significance of IAW is a matter of some dispute in the pro-Israel community. At many, if not most, American schools, little or nothing is done for IAW, whose official Web site lists events in 45 locations, only about a quarter of them in the

U.S. Anti-Israel activists at some schools – like the much-discussed University of California, Irvine – run apartheid activities at other times.

“In the U.S., I’m aware of some isolated pockets of activity, but in five years that IAW has been running, we haven’t seen it catch on in the mainstream campus community,” said Stephen Kuperberg, the director of the Israel on Campus Coalition, an umbrella group comprising 30 groups.

Still, virtually everyone in the pro-Israel campus community agrees that the frequency and intensity of apartheid/BDS activity is growing. And some even link it to a spike in anti-Semitic activity on campuses. At the University of California, Davis last week, a Jewish student found a swastika carved into her dorm door.

“It’s absolutely a big deal,” said Lawrence Muscant, acting executive director of the David Project. “The fallacious lie of Israeli apartheid is seeping into the mainstream. It’s extremely disturbing.”

To learn more about local college activity, visit <http://providence.apartheidweek.org/>

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SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

The welcoming suburbs: The new Jerusalem

Newfound sense of security in post-World War II

RESIDENTIAL areas adjacent to, but geographically separated from, the larger city, have been given many names. England in the 14th century called them the "purlieus," a Norman-French word, while contemporary Americans are content with calling them "outskirts," suburbs or merely the "burbs" (to be distinguished from the "hoods" which designate districts within the inner cities).



Stanley Aronson, M.D.

To the Jews of the 1920s and 1930s, the suburbs represented forbidden territory, both a barrier and a goal. In 1930, at the onset of the Great Depression, more than 80 percent of American Jews called large cities their home; and those who lived elsewhere generally resided in small towns, but almost never in those restricted regions at the suburban margins of cities set apart by architecture, atmosphere and attitude.

World War II marked a fault line in the lives of American Jews. Large numbers entered the military; and upon their return to civilian status, the sense of being a segregated minority had diminished. The ubiquitous dogtag dangling around their necks was more than a means of identification. It proclaimed the bearer's religion as

either Catholic (C), Protestant (P) or Jewish (H). Jews interpreted this as conferring equality upon Judaism: "In terms of religion, we are now in the major leagues and the playing fields are now level."

A maritime tragedy reinforced the belief that Judaism, the religion, was of equal stature with the Christian faiths. An American troopship, the USAT Dorchester, was torpedoed in the North Atlantic, on the night of Feb. 3, 1943, with a heavy loss of lives. Four army chaplains – a Catholic priest, two Protestant ministers and a rabbi – were aboard. And when life-preserver jackets ran out, they relinquished theirs to young recruits. The chaplains were last seen embracing each other on the sinking deck. The story touched the hearts of many; and Jews whispered to themselves, "We are fully American."

And when that generation of American Jews returned to civilian life, the vision of a home without fire escapes, a street without teeming crowds and pushcarts, and a front door not leading into 32 tenement apartments was immensely appealing. Builders converted farmlands into thriving suburbs such as Levittown, east of Brooklyn, where simple bungalow-type private homes were attractively priced for those now seeking starter homes.

The older, established suburbs, in the past restricted by the barriers of income, religion and eth-

nicity, loosened their entry gates and many a veteran added lawn mowing to his many civilian responsibilities. There was now a well-trodden pathway from the inner cities to the Levittowns and then to the Scarsdales of America.

The sense of full citizenship spread in many directions. Jews, in large numbers, now sought elected public office, entered such heretofore unknown vocations as the police force and engaged in non-sectarian activities. Even their synagogues reflected the sea change for that generation of American Jews who were tempered

structures languishing on back streets. The post-war houses of worship were architecturally assertive, bold and, to an objective eye, almost Nordic. These air-conditioned sanctuaries, constructed on prominent avenues, provided a proud community center for the newly suburbanized Jewish community. And, more often than not, the subjects for discussion from the *bimah* were the current inequities

in civil rights rather than some ancient t a l -



"Synagogues now arose in the suburbs, no longer nondescript structures languishing on back streets. The post-war houses of worship were architecturally assertive, bold and, to an objective eye, almost Nordic."

mudic *midrash*. Such was the sense of security experienced by this Jewish generation that the temple became an arena where other peoples' problems were the primary issue for serious contemplation and subsequent community-based action. This truly was a new species of Judaic ecclasiasticism. Geographic names such as Haiti, Bosnia, Gaza or Sudan would have never been mentioned in the American synagogues of the

both by the Depression and the annealing years of warfare.

Synagogues now arose in the suburbs, no longer nondescript

JFS 40+ social group launches

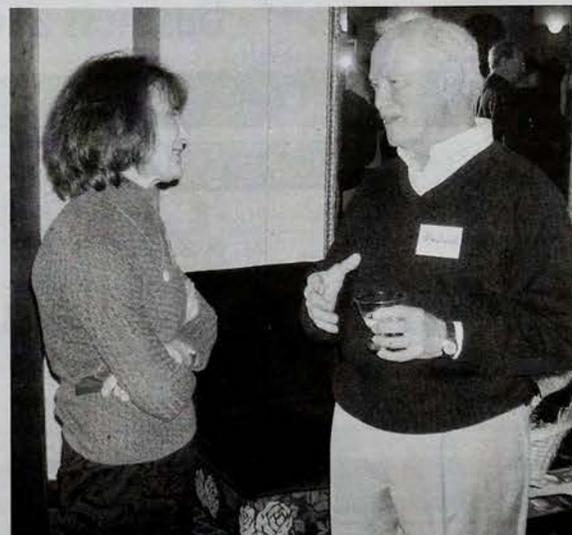
BY NANCY THOMAS SLACK
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – More than 65 of the 100 or so people who have expressed interest in the newly formed Jewish Family Service (JFS) 40+ social group attended an "interested parties" meeting on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Hotel Providence.

After Erin Minior, chief executive officer, and Elisa Heath, president, talked about JFS' services, Patricia Raskin, host of the WPRO-AM radio program, "Positive Living with Patricia Raskin," engaged everyone in conversation.

Participants expressed interest in activities as diverse as hiking, dancing, studying genealogy and starting a dream circle. Individuals were encouraged to share more ideas and to complete informational surveys; the survey results will be shared with those who are interested in participating in the 40+ group.

"It is easy to become socially isolated – at any age – and the opportunity to meet others is more limited," said Minior. "We think we can help bring people together to increase the quality of people's lives, and to expose them, informally, to the programs offered by JFS. It helps us reach out while helping others to meet new



PATRICIA RASKIN AND RICHARD COHEN, both of East Greenwich, talk with one another at the Feb. 13 event.

friends."

The Hotel Providence hosted the first meeting and provided food and drink. Eastside Prescription donated a basket of fine wines for raffle, and EastSide Marketplace provided a red rose for each participant. Ledgemont Country

1920s. American Jews now professed their faith, not only in Judaism, but in being Jewish.

This was the transformative generation of Jews who knew of the *shtetls*, pogroms, wanderings, steerage accommodations and filthy tenements solely as historic happenings of the nebulous past. Their parents were the pioneers who sacrificed to enable their offspring to become the generation with a compulsion for scholarly inquiry, for success in a diversity of domains, with a passion for wealth and with little personal experience of overt anti-Semitism.

Cleveland Amory tells of interviewing some elderly ladies whose families had dominated Boston Brahmin society. "And where do you purchase your hats?" he asked. They responded in astonishment, "We have our hats!" The members of this Jewish generation, less ambivalent about their Judaic roots, are now confident of a valid place in society. No longer are they hesitant about their hats – even when these are *yarmulkes*. They have truly arrived.

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., the founding dean of Brown's medical school and a retired physician, can be reached at smamd@cox.net.



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AS WE GROW OLDER Unfinished business

Life is short, when our lists are long

LIFE IS FULL of demands and wishes and responsibilities – and time limitations. And this becomes ever more obvious with every birthday.

The lists of unachieved goals and neglected activities vary. The list of possessions we wished for and never got, is usually lengthy. Aspirations for achievement are usually overly ambitious. And then we reach an age when, if we are sensible, we accept the limitations over which we have little or no control. But that does not free us of the desire and the ability to evaluate what we should address and hope to complete.

Some of it is simple and subtle and does not require genius or wealth.

Like most people of my generation (old-old), I have lost many friends and relatives whom I dearly loved. I feel that many knew I cared for them even if I never voiced it.



Tema Gouse

But there are others who never heard me verbalize how they enriched my life. It is easy to tell your baby you love him but when baby becomes boy and when boy becomes man, those words feel less natural. And that is too bad because that same individual needs those reassurances even more when dealing with adulthood. So remember to tell our middle-aged sons, who towers over us, that we love them.

Friends need the same nurturance. Stop for a moment and think what life would be like without them. Stop and think how we miss those friends whom we have lost.

In everyone's life there are people whose lives impacted on us, but whose paths in life took them and us to different destinations. How many times have we sighed and said, "I must call and find out how she is?" And how often have we acted on that thought? Life is short – get with it!

We all have neglected enterprises. The books we liked but never finished, the mastering of baking a meringue, forgetting to send birthday greetings (especially

horrific if the birthday honoree is someone who never forgets our birthdays), neglecting to donate to needy causes, neglecting to visit lonely people and forgotten promises.

As we age, we become more narcissistic. We "paid our dues" and now "it's OUR time." But if we reach a point where our only interests are our own needs, we will have a hard time find-

ing and the pleasure of seeing them wear it. Write our own obituary (a nightmare for survivors). And put important papers where our heirs can find them and trust them enough that they are aware of our wishes. (It is true that we cannot rule from the grave).

And in a lighter vein, examine what we always wanted

we would have wished. I could fill an arena with the seniors who are heartbroken because they never went to Israel. There were many reasons they did not travel. It was too expensive, or there was no one to leave the kids with. Or, they had to grow old to realize what they missed out on.

My list of undone things is long. I never learned to swim. (I had lessons but was scared of drowning. I have never admitted this before.) I never conquered my dislike for carrots, mushrooms, sharp cheese or cinnamon. I wish I had been more tolerant of people who disagree with me. First I was skinny – I mean really skinny. And then I was overweight. Now, I would like to be svelte, or at least less obese.

Will I finish the unfinished in the time I have left? Probably not, because I have not listed even half the untended affairs – and I started receiving Social Security decades ago. But to have meaning in your later years, it is important to still have goals. It makes life meaningful.

Tema Gouse is a retired social worker. She can be reached at nbgtpp@cox.net.

"To have meaning in our later years, it is important to still have goals."



ing others who are willing to concentrate on our desires. The unfinished business that is discovered when our time is shortening is very important because of the probable shortness of time. We need not turn into a "bleeding heart," but the kindnesses we undertake will enhance our lives more than it will tax our bodies.

Let our grandchildren fight over our jewelry while we are living,

to do and never did, and what we always wanted to own but never did.

The question of possessions not acquired is easier to address. Partly because age does a wonderful job of changing tastes, and partly because what we yearned for is now affordable and has therefore lost most of its allure.

The question of uncompleted actions are more complex. For many seniors there is regret at not having traveled – or not as much as

JTA World Briefs

Biden meets Jewish leaders before Israel trip

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Jewish leaders, including Dan Shapiro, who handles Israel and its neighbors for the National Security Council, and Dennis Ross, who handles Iran, were expected to meet with Vice President Joseph Biden before he tours the Middle East next week.

The Obama administration is pressing the Israelis and Palestinians to return to talks. Israeli officials have said that such talks could start within weeks. The Palestinians have said they want a freeze on all Israeli settlement building before they return to talks.

Poll: Israel among Americans most favored nations

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel ranked fifth among countries viewed most favorably by Americans in a new poll found.

Israel finished behind Canada, Britain, Germany and Japan in a February Gallup survey. Respondents were asked to provide their opinions on a list of 20 countries that also included the Palestinian Authority.

Some 67 percent answered that they have a favorable opinion of Israel, compared to 25 percent with an unfavorable opinion.

Some 20 percent of respondents viewed the Palestinian Authority

favorably, an improvement over last year's total of 15 percent, placing it fourth from the bottom. Iran continued to rank last, with a 10 percent favorable rating.

Some 30 percent of Americans polled answered "yes, there will come a time" to the question, "Do you think there will or will not come a time when Israel and the Arab nations will be able to settle their differences and live in peace?"

Jewish athletes take silver, gold

NEW YORK (JTA) – Two Jewish athletes took home medals at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

Steve Meisler won a gold medal for the U.S. in the four-man bobsled, pushing his team to a combined time of 3:24:46 in the four-heat race.

Jewish ice dancer Charlie White claimed a silver medal in ice dancing along with partner Meryl Davis.

White's victory edged a fellow ice dancer and American Jew, Ben Agosto, off the medal podium. Agosto and his partner, Tanith Belbin, finished fourth. The pair won a silver medal at the 2006 games.

Other Jewish competitors in ice dancing, the Israeli brother-sister duo Roman and Alexandra Zaretsky, finished 10th. Their

routines included music from "Schindler's List" and "Hava Nagila," and in one performance, Roman wore a *yarmulke*.

Bill would honor Miep Gies

WASHINGTON (JTA) – A bill honoring the life of the woman who hid Anne Frank's family and salvaged her diary is winding its way through the U.S. House of Representatives.

The non-binding resolution seeking to honor the life of Miep Gies is sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy (D-Ohio) and has 60 co-sponsors. Gies helped to hide the Frank family from 1942 until they were turned in by an unknown informant in August 1944.

The bill commends Gies, who died on Jan. 11, just shy of her 101st birthday, "for her bravery during Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and her dedication to preserving the memory of Anne Frank and the Holocaust."

Australia PM 'not satisfied' with Israel's explanation

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) – Australia's prime minister said he was "not satisfied" with Israel's response regarding the use of three Australian passports in the assassination of a senior Hamas official in Dubai.

Kevin Rudd said in a news conference on Feb. 26 that Amba-

sador Yuval Rotem had not yet clarified Jerusalem's position on the Jan. 20 assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh.

Executive Council of Australian Jewry President Robert Goot spoke publicly for the first time on March 1, saying the government had "acted correctly" by ordering an investigation into the alleged fraud.

Meanwhile, Australia altered its position on a U.N. vote last Friday, abstaining on a resolution demanding that Israel and the Palestinians investigate alleged war crimes during last year's war in Gaza. Australia voted against a similar resolution three months ago.

Spanish students send anti-Semitic cards to Israel Embassy

ERUSALEM (JTA) – Israel's embassy in Madrid has received dozens of postcards from Spanish schoolchildren containing anti-Semitic messages.

Israel lodged a formal complaint with the Spanish government charging that Spanish schools are promoting anti-Semitic and anti-Israel ideas among young children.

Some of the postcards read "Jews kill for money," "Leave the country to the Palestinians" and "Go somewhere where they will accept you," *Haaretz* reported.

Farrakhan blames Obama woes on Jews, whites

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Louis Farrakhan blamed the Jews, among others, for President Obama's difficulties.

In a 3-and-1/2-hour speech marking Saviours' Day, a Nation of Islam holiday, the movement's leader told 20,000 followers in Chicago's United Center that Obama's political difficulties came after he stood up to the Jewish lobby at an Oval Office meeting.

"When they left the White House, his problems began," the *Chicago Sun-Times* quoted Farrakhan as saying.

Obama's meeting last summer with leaders of Jewish groups was mostly friendly, but there were differences over his administration's tone in dealing with Israel's Netanyahu government.

"The Zionists are in control of Congress," Farrakhan said as he listed a slew of Jewish economic advisers, adding that the "blood-suckers of the poor" were rewarded with a bailout.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, responded to Farrakhan's inflammatory remarks.

"It's the same Farrakhan: ugly and anti-Semitic," Foxman said. "With age he doesn't get milder, he gets uglier."

Mourning is particularly heart-wrenching, with a young person's death

BY RABBI MORDECHAI RACKOVER

ISRAELIS ARE KNOWN for many inventions. What many do not know is that the considerable ingenuity that has brought flowers to the desert, victory in the face of massive armies and thousands of patents, cures, discoveries and pieces of art, has also been applied to the art of mourning.

We excel at mourning. We'd be happy to not lead the world in this category.

Mourning is ancient, and Jews have, from our ancient tradition, many ideas and many modes. We begin with the shock of learning of a death by tearing our clothing — a physical expression of the tearing of the fabric of the universe. Then we plan and we care. We wash the deceased, more carefully than we would a baby. We wrap the body and then we guard it. We do not leave the departed alone, not even for a moment, until we return them to the earth from which they were formed.

In the hours or days between death and burial all we worry about is the deceased, caring for the one who can no longer care for him or herself. We are exempt from all other service to man or Creator — off the hook but for the care of the departed.

Next comes the funeral where we are encouraged to speak in a way that evokes grief. We simultaneously bless and question. We also laugh and cry. Some sing and some recite. Always working to create memory and to make us more mindful of our emotions to move us along.

The next phase is focused on the mourners. In the most ancient customs, they sit for a week in a home on low chairs or pillows. They do not leave, they do not bathe, they do not change clothes. No TV, movies, Internet or distraction. Not even the study of our most beloved Torah.

All this for a week, as guests come and go. Relatives feed and care for the needs of the mourners, who are the immediate family and spouse of the deceased. This week is hard but healing. It allows for stories to be told and the neces-



"We excel at mourning. We'd be happy to not lead the world in this category."

sary movement from the depths of despair forward and on with life. No one is alone, no one can run away — the physical debasement of the mourner reminds them of the gaping hole that is newly created, and that life will never return

to "normal."

On Shabbat, the mourners go to temple or synagogue. They change their clothes, stretch their legs and shed any public or visible signs of mourning. On Shabbat, we rest from mourning.

Those who were present Friday [Feb. 12] at Hillel did not witness a memorial service as they may have expected. They witnessed a regular week at Hillel, where normally 200 people come to celebrate themselves, or God, or life, or Brown, or rest. [On Feb. 12], 400 or more came and celebrated Avi [Schaefer, who was killed the week before in Providence], his life and the love he created.

At the end of the seven days, the mourners change their clothes and are accompanied on a short walk out of the house. They are released back to a reality. Out of the cocoon, on with life. Back to work. Back to self-care. The mourners are not to forget, they are to re-appropriate their thoughts and grief.

There are more periods, 30 days, eleven months and then the anniversary of the death, commemorated for all time by relatives, students and descendants.

I can tell you of many deaths that will forever hurt. And so to the Brown community finds itself with a fresh wound in a *shiva* of sorts. The Gross-Schaefer's on the other side of this vast country are sitting low, surrounded by their friends and Avi's. And we, here in Providence, are looking to each other for care and love. We also have a chance to be in *shiva* together — to hold hands and hug and talk and reminisce and, as we Jews are known to do, eat, sing and laugh. *Shiva* will end. It must, and we must go on. Accept Avi's challenge,

build a better world. Remember why he was here and why you still are — to grow and learn and achieve. We will emerge from our grief with memory. We should also emerge with a clearer sense of what we need to do, what ingenuities we can apply to the question of how to make the world better and safer and more open to dialogue and peace.

It is with sincere love that I share these words with the entire community. I thank you for allowing me

the opportunity to share with you. With love and blessings for peace.

Mordechai Rackover is the rabbi at Brown/RISD Hillel and associate University chaplain for the Jewish community. He can be reached at rabbi@brown.edu.

This was excerpted from the Brown Daily Herald's blog and reprinted with permission of the author and the Brown Daily Herald, Brown University's newspaper.

JCDS announces staff leadership changes

Renee Rudnick to lead school

PROVIDENCE — In a March 3 email communication, Bruce Wolpert, president of the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) board of trustees, announced that Irene (Renee) Rudnick has accepted the position of principal/educational leader of JCDSRI, effective July 1, 2010. His email continues:

"Many of you already know Renee as she has been the Assistant Head for our school during the current academic year. She has been working very closely with Bob Sarkisian, our current head of school, and is well respected within our community."

Rudnick, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Goucher College, has an M.A. in Near Eastern Judaic Studies from Brandeis University. Rudnick has received the prestigious Grinspoon-Steinhardt National Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Further, Wolpert wrote, "Renee is a strong leader and exemplary educator. We are confident that the transition from Bob to

Renee will be transparent and seamless. I cannot tell you how excited we are with this news. Bob Sarkisian has been an excellent head of School and has improved our school in so many ways. While we are changing Renee's title (as part of the strategic planning process that the JCDSRI is undertaking), I am confident that Renee is well prepared to provide us with the leadership that we need, and we look forward to great things from Renee."

In the same announcement, Wolpert said that Dan Gamm, who has children at JCDS, has been nominated to serve as president of the board of trustees, and Guy Bermeil, a JCDS parent, has been nominated to serve as treasurer. "I have worked closely with both Dan and Guy, and I am sure that they will do a great job," wrote Wolpert.

"As we make the change in our professional and lay leadership, our goal is, and always has been, to make JCDS a quality and financially responsible educational institution," he wrote.

The Jewish Community Day School is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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D'VAR TORAH

The holiness in each of us – great and small

EXODUS 30:11-34:35

Parashat Ki Tissa

By Rabbi Joel Seltzer
Special to The Voice & Herald

GOOD CONTRACTORS are sometimes hard to come by. That is why when we find someone who is reliable, one who can stick to both a timetable and a budget, we have no hesitation in sharing that name with others who might be looking to do some construction work of their own.

The Torah is no different. For the past several weeks, our Torah portions have concerned themselves with the details of the construction of the *Mishkan*, the Holy Tabernacle; but in this week's *parashat, Ki Tissa*, for the first time we are introduced to the contractors who will be responsible for overseeing this massive project.

"If we can build a community that learns, lives and loves together... then we will have created something that is truly holy."

In Exodus 31:2 the Lord speaks to Moses saying: "See, I have singled out by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah." Bezalel, the Torah goes on to inform us, is not only a qualified contractor with a stellar reputation, but he has been rewarded with the ultimate prize: "A divine spirit of skill, ability and knowledge in every kind of craft," in other words, a pretty good recommendation from a pretty reliable source.

But just a few verses later God informs Moses that Bezalel will not be left to accomplish this task alone; instead, God assigns to him "Oholiav son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan" to serve as Bezalel's partner in this, the holiest of construction projects. Together, along with Moses, they are to collect materials, organize a crew of laborers, and eventually construct the *Mishkan*, God's desert-dwelling place among the People of Israel.

An obvious question to ask is: Why would Bezalel, a divinely-appointed architect, need the help of this second laborer, Oholiav? The rabbinic sages of the *Midrash* offer an explanation. In Exodus Rabbah 40:4, Rabbi Hanina ben Pazzi explains that, "of all the twelve tribes of Israel, none was greater than the tribe of Judah, and

none more lowly than that of the tribe of Dan. Hence the Holy One commanded: let Dan come and team up with Judah...for in the eyes of God, Who is everywhere, the great and the small are alike!"

The message of the *Midrash* is clear: God not only had a plan with regard to the physical structure of the Tabernacle, God also had a plan for the socio-economic structure of the entire People of Israel. In other words, God is using a 'teachable moment,' the construction of the *Mishkan*, in order to educate the people about the holiness of each and every individual in our society.

According to God, the *Midrash*

explains, the lowly are not really lowly, nor are the great so great.

I learned this lesson personally when I was a student at the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies in Israel during my rabbinic training. During much of that year we would spend countless hours in the *Beit Midrash*, the study hall, poring over the classical texts. As we did so, we noticed that the building's maintenance man was usually nearby. As we studied Talmud and *halakhab*, he mopped the floors and repaired the radiators, ensuring a comfortable and clean environment. That is until one day, as my *bavruta* (my learning partner) and I were strug-

gling with a certain text, we heard a small noise from the corner. It was the maintenance man, who was gently clearing his throat. He motioned to us, as if to ask if he could sit down. "Of course," we said, and for the next several hours we learned together.

As it turned out, he was extremely knowledgeable and, with the help of his native Hebrew as well as his insightful life experience, we learned more than we ever could have on our own. At the end of that first day we paused and asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Holy," he said. "Holy?" we asked, "As in *Kadosh*?" "No," he laughed. "Holy is short

for Oholiav, and, like my biblical predecessor, God has also blessed me with hands that are skilled and wise."

May it be God's will that our own community will continue to live by this important principle: that the lowly are not really lowly, nor are the great truly great. But rather if we can learn to come together to build a community who learns, lives and loves together, then we will have created something that is truly holy.

Rabbi Joel Seltzer, a rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, is a member of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis.

THE NEW ENGLAND Academy of Torah high school girls perform at their annual Drama, Song and Dance Festival. This year's production, held on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 13, and on Sunday, Feb. 14, "A Long Way Home" tells the story of a child raised by a Catholic family during World War II.



/NEAT



New England Rabbinical College festivities

PROVIDENCE – On Feb. 7, some 180 people participated in the New England Rabbinical College's 23rd annual dinner. Celebrating the school's 25th anniversary, the event honored key leaders. The fundraising event, catered by Divine Providence, celebrates the College's accomplishments and thanks its volunteers.

RABBI AARON LAPIN, LEFT, the director of Project Shores and the rabbi at Yeshiva Gedola of Providence; Rabbi Raphael Schochet, the dean of the Providence Community Kollel; and Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, the dean of the Yeshiva Gedola of Providence, at the Feb. 7 dinner. Schochet and his wife received the Pillars of Torah award.



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No charge for the Kiddush luncheon, but please RSVP to Marjorie Blowers at 245-6536 or Marjorie@templehabonim.org and let her know that you'll be joining us.

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Obituaries

Jean Segal Fain

BARRINGTON – Jean Segal Fain, 75, died on Feb. 4. She was the daughter of Paula (Scheinman) Segal and Meyer Segal of South Orange, N.J. She is survived by her husband, Barnett Fain of Barrington, and her children, Kenneth William Fain of Providence and Jill Fain Lehman of Pittsburgh. She also leaves three grandchildren, Alexander, Charles and Sarah; her brother, Richard of Kiawah, S.C., and her sister, Elizabeth of Florham Park, N.J.

She graduated from Bennington College with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and from Brown University with a Master of Arts degree. She worked for many years in the education department of the Rhode Island School of Design where she also volunteered in the department of prints and drawings. She was a longtime member of the Providence Art Club.

Donations may be made to the Artists Development Fund, c/o The Rhode Island Foundation, One Union Station, Providence, RI 02903.

Natalie Gunther

WARWICK – Natalie "Nettie" Gunther, 91, died on Feb. 10. She was the wife of the late Joel S. Gunther. Born in Arlington, Mass., a daughter of the late Edward and Anna (Goldstein) Ginsberg, she had lived in Cranston for 49 years before moving to Warwick seven years ago.

She had worked for Uncas Manufacturing Company in Providence for many years. She was a member of Temple Beth-El.

She was the mother of Martin Gunther (Kyoung Rodrigues) of Coconut Creek, Fla.; Bruce Gunther (Mary Lynch) of Cassatt, S.C.; and Avis Gunther-Rosenberg (Alan Rosenberg) of Warwick. She was the sister of the late Nathan Ginsberg, the grandmother of Zachary, Joshua, Ethan, Rebecca and Jacob, and the great-grandmother of Chance, Faith

and Jesse.

Contributions may be made to Impossible Dream, 575 Centerville Rd., Warwick, RI 02886 or Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Donna Lubner Morse

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Donna Lubner Morse, 63, who was born on June 26, 1947, died on Feb. 12. She graduated from Pawtucket West High School and Chamberlain Jr. College for Interior Design.

She and her former husband, William Morse, ran an insurance brokerage firm in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; she retired in 1991.

She was an avid philanthropist, making contributions to PBS and the Trinity Children Foundation.

The eldest daughter of George and Rosslyn Lubner of Providence, she leaves her children, Gavin Morse, of Gainesville, Fla., and Cristin Morse and Brielle Morse of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; her sister Patti Goldman of Woodcliff Lake, N.J.; Stephen Linder, Esq. of Providence, and Dr. Alan Linder of San Francisco.

Contributions may be made to Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or Temple Bat Yam, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

A memorial service will be held in Ft. Lauderdale at Temple Bat Yam on Sunday, March 7, at 12:30 p.m. Individuals who wish to contact the family may do so by email, pcpractice@gmail.com.

Shelly Beth Waxman

WORCESTER, Mass. – Shelly Beth Waxman, 44, died Feb. 21. Born in Worcester, Mass. on Jan. 29, 1966, she was the daughter of Dr. Harvey and Judy (Fogel) Waxman. She also leaves her sisters, Ellen



Waxman of North Kingstown, and Deborah Staw and her husband Michael of Westport, Conn.; and her nephews, Benjamin and Joshua.

She was a graduate of Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, Mass., and Anna Maria College in Worcester, Mass. Before her illness, she had a 10-year career as a dental laboratory technician, primarily in the office of Drs. Waxman, Pollack and Mendoza in Worcester, Mass. After moving to Rhode Island, she worked, until her illness, as a jewelry fabricator in Pawtucket.

Donations may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI or your local animal shelter.

Helen T. Weisman

NEWPORT – Helen T. Weisman, 68, died Feb. 24. She was the wife of Al Weisman. They had been married for 44 years.

Born in Newport on Feb. 21, 1942, she was the daughter of the late Florence (Werner) Tobak Goldberg and the late Leo Tobak. She was the stepdaughter of the late Edward Goldberg. She lived in Westford, Mass. for 26 years before returning to Newport.

Before her illness, she had been the president of Potter & Co., her family's clothing store on Thames Street in Newport. She had been an executive assistant at Digital Equipment Corp. in Littleton, Mass.

A 1959 graduate of Rogers High School, she wrote a Thanksgiving Day proclamation honored by the governor as the best essay in a statewide competition. A 1963 Simmons College graduate, she taught English at Thompson Middle School and later at Westford Academy.

In addition to her husband, she leaves her sons, Lawrence Weisman of Newport, and Andrew Weisman of Sharon, Mass.; two grandsons, Jordan Weisman and Alec Dov Weisman of Sharon, Mass., and a niece and a nephew. She was the mother-in-law of Janine Weisman and Jill Weisman and the sister of Anne Navarro of Jackson, N.J., and

James Tobak of Providence.

Donations may be made to the Potter League for Animals, 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, RI 02842 or the Visiting Nurse Services of New-

port & Bristol Counties – Hospice Program, PO Box 690, Portsmouth, RI 02871.

In Memoriam

Zelda Kudish (Died 2005)

Mom/Gams,

It's been five years since your passing and we miss you so much! We miss the smell of your kitchen – your *ruggalah* and *strudel* that you prepared with so much love –

Not a day goes by when one of your children and grandchildren tells a story about how special you were to everyone – You will forever live in our hearts and our souls.

Love you whole big world,
Beth, Joy, Dana, Marisa, Marc and Kara

News about obituaries

PROVIDENCE – As many of you know, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island recently conducted a readers' survey to learn more about what our readers like – and don't like – about *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.

While more information about the survey results, and the names of the five winners of the \$100 gift cards to area grocery stores, will be revealed in an upcoming issue, we thought a quick bit of news about the obituary page might be informative. Survey results indicate that 70.7 percent read the obituaries. (The question was "What topics do you read in *The Jewish Voice & Herald*? Select all that apply.") That percentage tied with those who read the calendar events/listings and those who read opinions/letters to the editor. Only community news – with 80.8 percent

– ranked higher in readership response. In fact, our goal in coming months is to post obituaries on the paper's Web site (www.jvhri.org) within a day or two of our receiving them, so that people can get more up-to-date information.

Clearly, these survey results indicate that the obituary page is a critically important source of news for our readers. In light of that, making a donation to *The Voice & Herald* when a loved one's obituary runs reinforces that commitment. Unlike *The Providence Journal*, *The Jewish Voice & Herald* does not charge to publish obituaries or pictures; we provide this information as a community service.

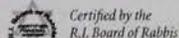
For more information, contact Nancy Kirsch, executive editor, at nkirsch@JFRI.org or 421-4111, ext. 168. Thank you.

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75	6.3%	8.8%
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85	8.1%	11.9%
90	9.5%	14.3%

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This Passover, please help ensure there's a place at our table for everyone. Your Passover gift today will help the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island continue to provide for our community's urgent needs now, and to keep the door open for anyone who needs our help in the months ahead.

Go to www.JFRI.org to make a difference right now.



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