



Our "Boomers" & Seniors live active lives.

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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Monty Brinton/CBS

WINNERS JORDAN (LEFT) AND DAN at the finish line at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

Pious brothers go all the way

\$1 million to winners of 'The Amazing Race'

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

BARRINGTON — "I'd be proud to call them [Jordan and Dan Pious] my kids," said Louis Stravato, who competed against them in the 16th season of CBS' reality television show, "The Amazing Race," said. "They're great young men." In a classic Rhode Island encounter, this reporter happened to meet Stravato at the Wayland Square Starbucks a mere few hours before the phone interview with Jordan and Dan Pious.

While Jordan and Dan probably had to keep plenty of secrets from Stravato during the competition, keeping secrets from their actual parents — Lezli and Jamie Pious, of Barrington — proved extremely challenging. Though contractually bound to do so, keeping secrets — first that they were chosen to compete and later, that they had won, earning a cool \$1,000,000 in the process — was disconcerting for the Pious brothers. "Anyone who knows me [would know] that keeping my mouth

See BROTHERS, Page 17

An outsider's view into police work

A weekend night 'ride-along' is eye-opening

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

"SHOTS FIRED, shots fired in the vicinity..." With that message, delivered calmly and clearly by a dispatcher through a mobile two-way radio to Providence Police Department (PPD) patrol cars in the area, Patrolman Eugene Chen calmly swings into

action.

With lights flashing and sirens blaring, Car #242 heads to the area. A few blocks later, we learn it was a false alarm. Chen, an eight-year PPD veteran, says, "Sometimes people call in 'shots fired' to get a faster response."

On a weekend night in late May, Chen is one of some 75-80 individuals from the PPD out on the streets of Providence — about half are patrol officers, and others are detectives, undercover officers are those dealing with juveniles. As a journalist, I was fortunate to have a bird's eye view.

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Nancy Kirsch

FROM LEFT, FLORENCE KATZ, Sema Ullian, Hy Jacobson, Frimette Roberts and Al Feinstein, residents of Tamarisk in Warwick, collectively represent 438 years of physical health.

Exercise and fitness ramp up in retirement

Today's octogenarians — and older — are fit as fiddles'

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

IS 90 THE NEW 40? If you're one of the residents at Tamarisk, Albion Court or Epoch, you may feel — and act — like a 40-year-old. Wanting

to know more about what keeps some of these senior citizens so hale and hearty, we set out to learn their "aging with grace" secrets.

At 93, Tamarisk resident Hy Jacobson attributes his good health to clean living — no smoking or drinking — and plenty of athletic activity as a young man. Now exercising three times a week for an hour at a time in the Tamarisk classes, Jacobson, a widower with two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, recalled that, in his younger days,

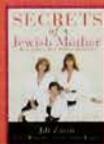
he played basketball and baseball and also ran track. "Keep active, both mentally and physically," he said. Jacobson joked that he earned more as a commission sales person than as a senior executive, all at the same company. "You can't pay your bills with a title," he laughed. Jacobson said, "Whenever I go to the Veterans Administration for medical care, someone says to me, 'Our records must be wrong. You can't be 93.'"

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'Steal a Pencil for Me' screened at JCCRI

Holocaust film, survivors move audience

BY NANCY ABESHAUS
Special to The Voice & Herald

IS IT A HOLOCAUST story? Is it a love story? Is it a Holocaust love story? "Steal a Pencil for Me," is all that—and more.

The compelling documentary film is based on the book, *Steal a Pencil for Me: Love Letters from Camp Bergen-Belsen and Westerbork*, by Ina Soep and Jaap "Jack" Polak. It is an epistolary history of the courtship of Soep and Polak in the two years they were interned during World War II, beginning in the transit camp, Westerbork (in The Netherlands) and later in Bergen-Belsen (in Germany).

In 1943, Ina was just 20-years-old; Jack was 30, when they were arrested in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam and brought to the same camp and housed in the same barracks—together with Jack's first wife, Manja.

(Manja and Jack divorced immediately after the war. Manja never remarried and remained close to the family until her death in 2005 in a Dutch nursing home.)

Ina and Jack's love story, based on the intimate, richly detailed letters that they exchanged clandestinely, written with pencil stubs on found scraps of paper, depict a love for one another that deepened with each passing day as they



FROM LEFT, RACHEL WODA, Marisa Garber, Leslie Sax, Mindy Stone, Jack Polak, Ina Polak and Ann Durham at the screening of "Steal a Pencil for Me."

shared their dream for a future together after the war. Fortunately, their dream of being together and free came true.

The movie also tells an extraordinary story about the power of love and faith to triumph over unimaginable hardship. "We were not living our lives; we had to do everything they [the Germans] told us to do," said Ina by telephone from her home in Eastchester, N.Y.

A few days later, on Sunday night, May 16, Ina and Jack brought the movie and their story

"Jack's unwavering love gave Ina the strength to face unspeakable conditions of life in the camps."

to Providence's Jewish community. The event drew more than

40 people to the social hall of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) for the film's Rhode Island premiere.

Ann Durham of Providence, one of the Polaks' five grandchildren, initiated the event as a fundraiser for the JCCRI's early childhood program. Durham is a member of the early childhood committee; her son, Owen, attends the

JCCRI's infant toddler program.

How does Durham feel about her grandparents sharing their Holocaust story with the world? "It speaks of their strengths as individuals to survive such a horrific time and then transform it into something positive that can help others learn from this," said Durham.

After the movie, Ina and Jack fielded questions from the audience. What sustained them? "We had something to live for," said

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'Feminist-foot soldier' speaks at NCJW annual meeting

Moshenberg outlines judicial, economic equality campaigns

By MARY KORR
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE — On her Twitter page, Sammie Moshenberg, director of Washington operations for the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), describes herself as a "feminist foot-soldier (sometimes leader) in the battle for equality and justice."

On May 12, she joined the progressive Jewish foot-soldiers and leaders of NCJW's Rhode Island section at the group's annual meeting keynote speaker.

Temple Beth-El's Rabbi Sarah Mack said in her *d'var Torah*, "We raise our voices to protect the vulnerable in our community," the Rhode Island section has been engaged in that initiative for more than a century.

Moshenberg told an anecdote that demonstrated how far the organization has come since it was founded in 1893 by Hannah Solomon.

Two days before coming to Rhode Island, Moshenberg received

nomination announcement.

"It is no surprise NCJW was at the White House, not because a Jewish woman was being nominated, but because we've been advocating for judicial reform since 2007," she said.

announced, there have been swipes at her sexual identity and lack of judicial experience.

"NCJW endorses Kagan. She was chosen on merit and understands the impact of law and court decisions on everyday lives. She has opposed discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. Law students and advocated for limits to corporate power in elections."

She didn't need to remind those present that the work of social change does not rest solely in the halls of Congress. She described a strategy of education, advocacy, service and philanthropy to be effective. It takes hard work and years of advocacy to see results, she noted.

Maxine Richman, state public affairs chair of NCJW RI, distributed fact sheets on poverty in Rhode Island — the data appalled Moshenberg — and on Higher Ground, a newly-launched campaign that focuses on economic equality for victims of domestic violence.

Deborah Chorney, incoming state section president, said, "Without strong voices for rights of women and children, there will be silence."

Ellie Elbaum, past president of the state section of NCJW, chaired the meeting. Gloria Feibish chaired the nominating committee and Carol Brooklin, past state section president and past NCJW national board member, installed the officers.

In addition to Chorney, they are: Anne German, vice president membership/programming; Elaine Roberts, advocacy, communication, development; Sue Sulk, treasurer; Gail Kriz, recording secretary; and Bryna Bettigole, corresponding secretary.

For more information about the Rhode Island section of the National Council of Jewish Women, visit: www.ncjwri.org. The national NCJW Web site is: www.ncjw.org.

Mary Korr can be reached at mkorr@verizon.net.

We know how the courts impact lives, from the air we breathe to reproductive freedom."

Sammie Moshenberg

an urgent summons from the White House while she was taking a shower. Her husband ran in with her cell phone: "You'll want to take this call now."

The White House was inviting her to attend the announcement of President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, Elena Kagan, in the East Room that morning.

It was her second time representing NCJW for a Supreme Court

"We know how the courts impact lives, from the air we breathe to reproductive freedom."

Moshenberg urged those present to contact United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"He must hear from us — from people who agree with him, to thank him. He will hear from the other side," she said. "From the moment Kagan's nomination was



NCJW NATIONAL LEADER Sammie Moshenberg addresses the annual meeting of the R.I. section on May 12 at the Providence Marriott.

—Mary Korr

Candle Lighting Times for greater Rhode Island

May 28 7:50

June 11 8:00

June 4, 7:55

June 18 8:03

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Too many choices for this 'Baby Boomer'

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

BORN IN 1954, I am – like it or not – smack dab in the middle of the “Baby Boomer” cohort. The good news, I think, is that I don't feel my age – in my head, I still think I'm in my mid-30s, with years and years left to explore new cities, read new novels and re-read favorite memoirs or biographies, host or attend more dinner parties and kayak more rivers.

The bad news, of course, is that my life expectancy, more likely than not, is far shorter than if I truly was only 30-something. When I look in the mirror, I think I look good for “a woman of my age,” though gravity, the harsh lights of many dressing rooms, and my teenagers' honest, though painful, assessments all bring me down to Earth.

I describe myself as someone who loves change, embraces change – and I've had enough different jobs in enough different career sectors to prove it. I've cooked in restaurant kitchens, taught English in Barcelona, lobbied Members of Congress and federal agency officials, practiced law in the Washington, D.C. suburbs and in Cranston, interviewed firefighters, physicians and rabbis (among others) as a writer and editor.

I've lived in Israel, Spain, and half-a-dozen states. Moving – no problem – I can throw away the detritus of my life without blinking an eye.

So, change is good, yes? Yes, except when it's not. There are times, I confess, to resisting and rebelling against change. One change – that many may embrace and relish – is one that I have been railing against, unsuccessfully, for years. I want to “stop the options” – in merchandising.

There are just too many versions of the same product – I don't want to go to the grocery store to buy a simple round oat cereal (its brand name contains a word that rhymes with “hear” and ends in “o”), for example, and have to repeatedly scan the shelves for what I came for – the box of cereal. These days, you can buy it in more than half-a-dozen versions: In addition to the original flavor, they are also available in honey nut, multigrain, banana nut, chocolate, berry, frosted, apple cinnamon, fruit and yogurt flavors. And, there's every reason to expect that even more new and improved versions will be in your favorite grocery store soon.

Now, I'm not targeting that cereal for my ranting and raving – it's just one well-known example of a consumer product that offers us choices – too many choices, in my mind. I don't envision returning to the days of just three television channels or landline phones (one model, one color), but these choice overloads cause me to react, on occasion, by walking away from them all.

See MARKETERS, Page 6

Cartoonist reflects the opinion of many Israelis

JUST A COUPLE OF hours after the May 14 issue of *The Jewish Voice & Herald* arrived in her mail box, a concerned member of my synagogue, Temple Habonim, phoned me: “Rabbi, have you seen the Dry Bones cartoon on page 6?”

I explained that my copy of the paper hadn't arrived yet. “It shows Obama dressed in a robe like an Arab chieftain, holding a long curved knife, preparing to slay a tied-up Israeli boy...I can't understand why *The Voice & Herald* would choose to print anything so vile.”

Although I had not yet seen it, I had no reason to question the accuracy of my caller's description. Just last February, *The Voice & Herald* carried a Dry Bones cartoon that many in our community found to be extremely offensive. In its four panels it put forth the argument that the J in J Street – the newly formed pro-Israel, pro-peace organization – stands for Judas.

I told my caller that I fully supported the decision of Nancy Kirsch, executive editor of *The Voice & Herald*, to publish this particular cartoon. I said, “After all, like it or not, the viewpoint expressed in Dry Bones does represent the opinion of a substantial number of Israelis. Certainly we need to know what our fellow Jews are thinking.”

Born in Brooklyn in 1938, Yaakov (Jerry)



Rabbi Jim
Rosenberg

IT SEEMS TO ME

Can these Dry Bones live on?

Kirsch made *aliyah* in 1971, and has been drawing Dry Bones since 1973. He has titled the piece under discussion “The Sacrifice, Part Two,” – clearly an allusion to the *Akedab*, the story of Abraham's near sacrifice of his son Isaac found in Genesis, chapter 22. In this cartoon Obama, the new Abraham – given monkey-like features echoing those racist caricatures found in our nation's rightwing rags – is about to sacrifice the new Isaac, the State of Israel. Kirsch, quoting from the biblical text, has God say to

and manifestly uncivil, I would insist that all of us who care about the health of world Jewry need to be made aware of such sentiments. If we shut our ears to the voices of those with whom we disagree, if we listen only to those who support our positions, we cannot even hope for a semblance of constructive dialogue.

From my perspective, then, *The Jewish Voice & Herald* serves us well by living up to its name, the “Jewish Voice,” for in reality our Jewish voice is not a single unified voice, but rather the many voices of our diverse community both here and abroad. By publishing a cartoon that many of us find objectionable, our paper is fulfilling its obligation to report what we, at our own peril, would rather not hear.

Yaakov Kirsch's long-running series of cartoons, Dry Bones, takes its name from the biblical book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, in which the prophet speaks of his vision of a valley of dry bones. In this vision, God breathes new life into the dry bones of the Jewish people who, after almost 50 years of exile in Babylonia, are given the opportunity to return home to the land of Israel. Kirsch is by no means the first person to see the connection between Ezekiel's vision in the sixth century B.C.E. and the rebirth of the modern State of Israel in 1948.

I would suggest that Kirsch's vision would be more compelling were he to root out his deep prejudice against our American president, Barack Obama.

James B. Rosenberg is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim, Barrington. Contact him at rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org.

“By publishing a cartoon that many of us find objectionable, our paper is fulfilling its obligation to report what we, at our own peril, would rather not hear.”

Obama: “Stop! Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him!” To which Kirsch has Obama reply: “Butt out!”

Kirsch's political message – a message altogether consistent with that of the *Jerusalem Post*, where Dry Bones appears on a regular basis – is that Obama is willing to sacrifice Israel's national interests in order to curry favor with the Muslim world. While I consider Kirsch to be misguided, unfair,

Letters to The Editor

Abeshaus captures Beth David's history

On behalf of all the members of Congregation Beth David, I want to thank Nancy Abeshaus for the wonderful story she wrote about our 50th anniversary gala celebration (“Congregation Beth David celebrates half a century,” in the May 14 issue). She was able to accurately capture the growing spirit that has fueled the embracing qualities of the South County Jewish community, for the past half-century and even longer. The “Little Shul by the Sea” only describes its physical boundaries, and she so well articulated its continued growth as a congregation that serves its members in so many ways.

Her gentle style and easy, flowing narra-

tive did great justice to the ‘gentleness and ease’ of South County itself. When she quotes me as declaring, “Come and visit us any time,” she is, in fact, inviting everyone to our full calendar of events. She was able to capture 50 years of history into a concise four columns of print – quite a remarkable feat! And, she nicely reflected the very optimistic mood that was so evident during the Congregation's birthday party at the Village Inn.

For all this, and more, *yasher koach* to Nancy for such a job well done.

Rec. Ethan Adler

Adler is the spiritual leader at Congregation Beth David, Narragansett

Memories of the past

Injoyed reading the April 30 letter to the editor, “Willard Avenue filled with Jewish merchants.”

I did notice that it never mentioned my aunt, uncle and cousin who had a store next door to Snell's Bakery. Tillie and Nathan

Wasserman had a fruit store there, which later become Shirley and Harry Freehof's store for many years.

Thanks for the walk down memory lane.

Mary Weisman Franklin
Dartmouth, Mass.

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

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

Vibrant memories of Willard Avenue

There are so few who even remember when Willard Avenue was the central business area and, to a great extent, the social center for the thousands of Jews living in not only South Providence, but all over the state.

I vaguely remember a large social hall on the second floor near Korn's coal company, where some pretty hot and heavy meetings were held. There was also an elderly, gray-bearded gentleman, known as “the Rebbi,” who dealt in chickens. On the corner of Willard Avenue and Hilton Street, there was a store run by a widowed lady who sold yard goods (cloth for sewing). On the corner of Prairie Avenue, there was the Corner Spa, run by Ruby Woolfe. Opposite the Corner Spa, on the other corner was Meltzers Market, which later became Meltzers liquor store.

In addition to the other butchers mentioned (in previous letters to the editor, published in *The Voice & Herald*), there was also Frank Lury's butcher shop. If you crossed Prairie Avenue, there was a market operated by Morris and Ida Lury that was on Willard Avenue. A block further west, on the corner of Willard Avenue and Taylor Street, a man named Mr. Nesbit operated a grocery store. Maybe someone can remember the three shuls on Willard Avenue as well as the shul around the corner on Robinson Street.

Nate Lury
Warwick

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

Lebanese-American professor: An 'angry Arab'

Is compromise a betrayal?

THERE ARE THOSE Jews, of which I am not one, who see in President Obama a crypto-Muslim or at least a crypto-enemy of Israel driving it to make suicidal concessions, and who feel those Jews who support him are dupes (or maybe dopes).



Josh Stein

There are other Jews, of which I am not one, who are urging the president to force Israel, for its own good, to conciliate its policies towards the Palestinians so that a two-state solution

can happen in our time.

Then there's As'ad AbuKhalil. He's an articulate Lebanese-American professor of political science at California State University, Stanislaus, who describes himself in his blog (<http://angryarab.blogspot.com/>) as an "Angry Arab."

I first ran across him in an *Al Jazeera* posting (<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2010/05/201051664435120219.html>).

The central thesis of AbuKhalil's piece is that President Obama is a tool of the Zionists and that Arabs have betrayed Palestinians by urging compromise, not war. (This seems to fly in the face of those Jews who see Obama as a tool of the Arabs as well as those who see Palestinians as desirous of peace.) How typical is he? It's hard to tell but his blog is filled with complimentary posts.

He begins with: "Every year, Arabs around the world commemorate *al-Nakba*... But poems and speeches are now too embarrassing to recite and Arab governments barely seem interested in remembering - so busy are they trying to win Israel's approval for direct or indirect negotiations. While in the past, Arab governments spent money combating Zionist propaganda, last year, the Arab League - with Saudi funding - purchased advertisements in Western newspapers with the aim of convincing Israel that Arab governments are, in fact, eager to make peace and normalize relations."

I remember those ads and wonder why AbuKhalil thinks they reflect reality, not subterfuge, but it's his piece. I don't write for *Al Jazeera*.

As to the Palestinians themselves, AbuKhalil sees evidence of betrayal: As far as the Palestinian Authority is concerned, revolutionaries belong in museums and [traditional Palestinian foods] are celebrated as the only elements of the rich tapestry of



AS'AD ABUKHALIL

"AbuKhalil cannot be ignored by the proponents of a two-state solution."

Palestinian national identity."

Palestinian politicians are excoriated as though they were Zionists: Salam Fayyad, the Palestinian prime minister, has become the new darling of the West. The Western press has,

accordingly, produced an unending supply of laudatory and fawning pieces about the leadership of the man who did not receive more than two per cent of the support of the Palestinian people in the last legislative elections."

He sums up with, "The reality is that Arab regimes washed their hands of the Palestinian struggle long ago."

The alternative to this cowardly behavior? Armed struggle.

He writes, "Armed struggle was responsible for bringing the Palestinian cause to the attention of the world...It delivered the Palestinian people from a time when their very status and identity was denied to a time when the UN had to recognize the fruits of Palestinian self-determination.

Armed struggle also unified the Palestinian people under one umbrella and generated Arab support; PLO military operations inside Israel often featured Arabs from across the region. It also instilled a sense of pride among Palestinians and put an end to the sense of despair that prevailed in the wake of *al-Nakba*."

I believe he's right. Nobody was paying attention to Palestinians until they started hijacking airplanes in the 1960s, but oddly enough, Yasser Arafat, the man who authorized the hijacking

of planes, the leader of the Intifada, was as bad as the rest. He is responsible for the weak Palestinian government in Ramallah that, AbuKhalil writes, "operates at the discretion of Israel and its Western allies, protecting Israel from legitimate Palestinian armed struggle." (I'm reminded when I read this of attacks made by some J Streeters who excoriate Elie Wiesel, Abe Foxman and Alan Dershowitz. Nobody, it turns out, is a prophet in his own homeland.)

In a televised debate that aired on *Al Jazeera* TV on Feb. 23, 2010, AbuKhalil stated that President Obama has given free rein to the Zionist lobby to do whatever it likes, both in terms of foreign policy and domestic policy.

Domestic policy, too? I'm a Zionist, but I wait in vain to see Republicans proven right - that Obama will bring about a European-style social democracy.

As I asked, earlier, is AbuKhalil typical? He's certainly articulate, if somewhat inconsistent. He cannot be ignored by the proponents of a two-state solution.

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

NOT ALONE

Free speech and communal funds

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement demonizes Israel

A HALF-PAGE AD in a recent issue of the *Forward* presented an "Open letter to all Jewish communities." The signers were protesting a policy adopted in February by the Jewish Community Federation (JCF) of San Francisco and the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma counties.



Alan Krinsky

The new policy includes the following restrictions: The JCF does not fund organizations that through their mission, activities or partnerships endorse or promote anti-Semitism, other forms of bigotry, violence or other extremist views; actively seek to proselytize Jews away from Judaism; or advocate for,

or endorse, undermining the legitimacy of Israel as a secure independent, democratic Jewish state, including through participation in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, in whole or in part.

The petitioners claimed that this new policy will "curtail freedom of speech and artistic expression by declaring certain opinions and organizations out of bounds" and that it "does grave damage to the vibrancy of the American Jewish community."

Is this really the case? Will the measure inhibit free speech? Is it unfair?

What seems clear is that no one is preventing anyone from saying what he or she wishes to say. This policy is therefore not a limitation on free speech.

The real issue, then, is not free speech, but rather how we define legitimate claims on communal resources.

In this case, we have people and organizations claiming to be part of a community and thus entitled to benefit from communal funds. However, others, including the leaders of the communal organization, the JCF, argue that some groups and

events promote values and goals at odds with the established values and goals of the institution - and that such groups and events have no legitimate claim on the funds of an organization whose values they oppose.

I agree with the latter view: no one, no group has the right to claim communal or institutional funds to say whatever they want. Institutions, including communal ones like Jewish federations, have missions, and people donate money to further these missions.

If it is indeed the case that a group - even a group comprised of members of that community - in some serious way opposes the mission of the institution, by what right do they have a claim on any of the institution's funds? They are free to seek funding elsewhere.

Support for this argument can be found in the fact that almost no one, including, I suspect, the signers of the open letter, would object to prohibiting the funding of groups and events in the first two categories above, where racism, anti-Semitism, violence, or Jews for Jesus are promoted. Few would insist that such a policy restricts free speech.

The question is this: Ought the third group be included with the first two?

I, for one, would argue yes. Although Israel has a strong army, I would argue that the BDS movement demonizes Israel by singling it out among the nations for criticism and attack. Even a person who thinks Israel guilty of wrongdoing cannot reasonably identify Israel as the supreme villain in our world. The human rights abuses throughout the world and throughout history dwarf anything done in Israel's name, even if one cannot justify all of Israel's actions. To single out Israel, as Jews and non-Jews in the BDS movement do, does contribute to undermining Israel's legitimacy - and this is far from trivial in today's world, where the assault on Israel's right to exist is already widespread, and Israel is already the object of so many UN resolutions.

I do acknowledge that much care needs to be taken in exercising this policy, not to draw too narrow a circle for what is acceptable, but I think it is clear that the BDS movement, in singling out Israel as a pariah, con-

travenes the missions of Jewish federations everywhere, and that supporters of BDS have no legitimate claim on communal resources.

As an afterthought, I want to suggest that to claim this policy is a restriction on free speech is to equate free speech with money, something evident in the recent and very conservative Supreme Court ruling that recognized corporations as persons with free speech rights to spend money in political campaigns. We ought to get away from a system where spending money is considered free speech, because if anything, such a system inhibits genuine free speech by minimizing the voices of those without enough money to express themselves in the political arena.

Paradoxically, then, the petitioners in the San Francisco case, though generally well left of center on Israel, are adopting a view of money and free speech more characteristic of the right.

Alan Krinsky works in health-care quality improvement and lives in Providence. Contact him at adkrinsky@netzero.net.

A READER'S PERSPECTIVE

Giving the gift of Hebrew to your children

Conversational Hebrew enriches one's Jewish identity

BY BRET ANCOWITZ, M.D.
Special to The Voice & Herald

I'M JEWISH, BUT I don't speak conversational Hebrew. If all goes well, however, my infant daughter one day will. Like many Jews who are new to parenthood, my wife and I worry about how to raise a child who is knowledgeable about, observant in, and comfortable with her Judaism in an all-pervasive, individualistic and deeply attractive American popular culture. A child who will one day crave to mix the tensions of traditional Jewish and mainstream American living in a fashion from which she'll derive knowledge and strength. We, like an increasing number of parents, have decided that a strong grounding in conversational Hebrew, in addition to the Jewish lives we model at home, is a critical piece in shaping her Jewish identity.

This gets back to my lack of Hebrew knowledge. In deciding that our child will be fluent in Hebrew, I have a critical advantage that few other parents enjoy. My wife, Shirah, studied Hebrew in college and then reinforced her fluency in four years of living in Jerusalem and teaching in the Israeli public schools. We have currently made the decision that during the day when I am at work, she will speak to our

"Mastery of Hebrew will allow for a deeply intimate and intuitive immersion in Jewish culture and will unlock the existential nature of Jewish texts."

daughter in Hebrew. When I return home, our household language will revert exclusively to English.

Having a spouse fluent in Hebrew is a luxury in making this lifestyle decision to be sure. It's increasingly, however, not a necessity. The proliferation in some urban areas of Hebrew language charter schools has been well documented here in these pages, as has the renewed emphasis on conversational Hebrew fluency in day schools and in the often-misnamed congregational "Hebrew schools."

A welcome, and more casual, addition to these offerings has been the growth in Hebrew language childhood playgroups. One of these, Hebrew Play, was launched in the Boston area and is spreading to surrounding suburbs and to Providence. The goal of Hebrew Play is to use a combination of online videos, social networking tools, books, and real-life Hebrew-speaking playgroups to teach conversational Hebrew



THESE ARE A FEW of the participants at the first meeting of the Hebrew Play group on Sunday, May 16.

fluency to young children. While many of the early playgroups have involved parents who are expatriate Israelis or Hebrew-fluent Americans, the programs are perfectly accessible and effective for families with no Hebrew-speakers at all.

Our enormously successful American Jewish community is perhaps one of the only such groups in Jewish history that has undertaken vast efforts to transmit Jewish culture and values across generations without the benefit of a dedicated "Jewish language" that is understood

and spoken by the majority of its members. Spanish Jews had Ladino, European Jews had Yiddish, but the vast majority of American Jews, myself included, have nothing.

My wife and I believe that in our future, the language of serious American Jewry will be modern Israeli Hebrew. Practicing American Jews, many of who will have traveled at least once to Israel, will become increasingly more knowledgeable about and will take increasing ownership of their Judaism. We believe that Israeli secular

and religious life will exert increasing influence on our and all diaspora communities and become the Jewish "glue" that binds American Jews to each other, to Israelis and to Judaism as a whole.

Mastery of Hebrew will allow for a deeply intimate and intuitive immersion in Jewish culture and will unlock the existential nature of traditional Jewish texts. It will give them their best chance to be fully American yet fully Jewish without barriers, dissonance, or disingenuousness.

Hebrew is the Jewish past and the Jewish future. It's now up to our community institutions to recognize these trends and support the groups promoting Hebrew fluency for our children. This includes not only new groups like Hebrew Play, but also our financially-strapped day schools and supplementary schools as well. It can be frightening for communal decision-makers to commit resources and funding to individuals aiming to foster fluency in a language that they themselves may not understand, often to their own embarrassment. But take it from me, my lack of fluency, and our own efforts at home that the occasional twinge of linguistic discomfort and displacement is worth the chance to fully open young Jewish souls to the entirety of their own identity.

Dr. Bret Ancowitz and his wife, Shirah Rubin, are the parents of a six-month old daughter. Contact them at bretandshirah@gmail.com.

See page 18, for "Little ones learn Hebrew" about the Hebrew Play group.

Hugging and wrestling with Israel

Jewish Agency has launched new initiative for young American Jews

BY SID SCHWARZ

WASHINGTON (JTA) - I have long straddled two worlds with regard to diaspora engagement with Zionism and the State of Israel. As the founder-president of PANIM, an organization that has trained thousands of American Jewish teens to pursue social and

political activism, I built a strong relationship with AIPAC so as to expose our students to the pre-eminent pro-Israel lobby in the United States.

However, as an educational organization, PANIM always was deeply committed to looking at every issue from multiple perspectives and a rigorous pursuit of the Jewish value of "emet," or truth. As such, PANIM students were exposed to a wide range of organizations that have challenged Israel on specific policy positions, be it in relationship to the peace process, treat-

ment of its non-Jewish citizens or its lack of full recognition of non-Orthodox branches of Judaism.

Personally, in addition to being a strong advocate and donor to my local Jewish federation and a host of other mainstream Jewish organizations, I have been an enthusiastic supporter of groups like the New Israel Fund, the Israel Religious Action Center and Rabbis for Human Rights.

Mainstream organizations support a range of programs and services domestically and across the globe that make the idea of a socially responsible "Jewish

people" a reality. I love being part of a Jewish people whose relationships cross the globe and have deep roots in Jewish history. My personal identity is deeply tied to Israel and to the concept of Jewish peoplehood. For me it is not just a slogan. The organized Jewish community gives substance to that concept.

The latter group of organizations is committed to the kind of Israel that I understand to be the Zionist ideal - a state that is both Jewish and democratic. A Jewish state that embodies the noblest aspirations of prophetic Judaism, as articulated in Israel's Declaration of Independence, is the fulfillment of the aspirations of spiritual Zionism. The principles of spiritual Zionism are the same principles that are at the core of Torah: loving the stranger in our midst because we were strangers in the land of Egypt, treating every person as if he or she was a child of God, and the belief that only through justice will Zion achieve any form of ultimate redemption.

It has not always been easy to straddle these two worlds, and it is getting harder. My friends on the progressive left cannot fathom

why I have had a close working relationship with AIPAC. And I have taken my share of lumps from "defenders of Israel" who have accused me of traitorous behavior for my activism with organizations that have challenged one or another policy of the State of Israel when I feel that it violates core principles of Jewish ethics and morality.

When Israel feels besieged - be it from anti-Zionist propaganda, Islamic-inspired terrorism or a possible unilateral peace initiative from the U.S. (all precipitating frenetic defense efforts from pro-Israel quarters) - the rhetoric heats up, accusations about "Jewish loyalty" are made and polarization between camps in the Jewish community deepens.

Reasonable people will disagree over whether diaspora Jewish activity can have an impact on Israeli society. On every trip to Israel (about once a year), I become more humbled by how much I don't know. Politics and society in Israel are complex; I believe that more times than not, Israel has taken the moral high ground. Nevertheless, I persist in my activism because I

MARKETERS: We don't need more new products

From Page 4

Ever offer to buy toothpaste or anti-acid for an elderly, housebound relative? When my mother asked my sister and me to run into a big box store to pick up some anti-acid over-the-counter medication for her, our "quick visit" required several phone calls to her. "Mint or cherry flavored?" "Gel capsules or liquid?" "Generic or name brand product?" My sister and I enjoyed

a brief and giggle-filled bonding moment about the absurdity of it all.

More recently, I had a few minutes to run a quick errand - I wanted to buy more facial moisturizer with SPF. In the store, labels promised "skin tightening," "facial rejuvenation," "wrinkle erasing" and more, but no SPF. Having had pre-cancerous spots removed and knowing that my wrinkles really aren't going to "disappear," I knew what I

wanted, but couldn't find it. In the end, I was so frustrated that I didn't buy anything - precisely what that retailer and the cosmetic companies competing for my dollars don't want.

Intellectually, I know that creating a new variation of an existing successful product is simply smart and savvy marketing. But, from a time-management and attention span perspective, it may be precisely the opposite.

The Full Plate: A new name and the same mission

Dr. Samuel Chester honors his late parents with named gift

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – The Full Plate, Rhode Island's first kosher food pantry, is now known as The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate, said Susan Adler, the director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island.

Dr. Samuel Chester, of Cranston, had been so moved by the stories of the people that the pantry serves, as well as the vast need within the Jewish community, that he decided to aid this effort and simultaneously honor his late parents. "His generous donation will enable us to continue our efforts to help feed our community for as long as the need exists. We are grateful for incredible act of kindness," said Adler.

Now entering its second year, The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate, at Jewish Seniors Agency, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence, feeds more than 100 local households each month, said Jerry Kritz, the chair of the food pantry's advisory committee. "When we opened our doors, we had no idea how vast the need for help was. Last May, we helped feed three households. Today, unfortunately, the need for a

kosher food pantry is strong." To date, it has distributed more than 16 tons of food.

The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate is a program of Age Well Rhode Island, itself a collaborative program of Jewish Family Service (JFS), Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSA) and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI).

Just who uses the kosher food pantry? "They are the elderly, living below the poverty level, many of whom need food delivered to them because they are infirm. They are families with parents who have lost their jobs during this recession. They are individuals with mental health issues for whom each day is a challenge," said Kritz. "We have been guided by the Torah's directive to 'help feed the hungry.' The challenges of poverty, combined with the infirmities of old age, or the ravages of mental illness, make this population among our community's neediest."

"The community support this past year has been awe-inspiring," said Adler. "We have been touched by those whom we have helped, and we are thankful for the opportunity to help them," she said.

Community members who wish to support the kosher food bank may visit www.jsari.org for more information. Or, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org for more information.

Première of Rhode Island's Kosher Chili Cookoff: 20 teams to compete

Whatever the weather, June 13 will be hot, hot, hot

By CHRIS PARKER
cparker@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – Twenty teams have signed up to compete in Rhode Island's first Kosher Chili Cookoff on Sunday, June 13 on the grounds of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI).

At an orientation meeting on May 16, team captains from all around the state came to hear the details of the event. "Our goal is to honor *kasbrut* laws so that no matter how observant you are, you will be able to eat the chili and vote for your favorite team," said Sara Pimental, team organizing co-chair with Jackie Salett. A tremendous amount of time and energy has been put into making everything Kosher. All equipment that is being used by the teams to cook at the event will have been to the *mikveh* to be kasher. Rabbi Raphie Schochet, Anshel Strauss and Deb Blazer are closely supervising the process, said Pimental.

To date, these teams have registered with these names:

- Chabad Lubavitch: A Chili Chai

- Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island: Hot Dogs
- Providence Kollel, Center for Jewish Studies: Judaism on Chili
- Hasbro Pediatrics: Kids Love Messy Chili
- Brown-RISD Hillel and URI Hillel: Give 'Em Hill'el
- Temple Beth-El Brotherhood: Red Hot Chili Schleppers
- Temple Sinai: Sinai Sizzlers

teams. Meredith Sinel, event co-chair, said, "This is absolutely a family-friendly event. We welcome the entire community to come out and support their favorite teams and spend the day at what we hope will become an annual fundraising event. We will have live music and a field set up with bounce houses and activities for children – even Sparky the FireDog will be here. For the grownups, there will be chili (and other types of food) and a beer garden."

Admission for the event will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children with a per family cap of \$30. In addition to chili (included in the entry price), beer, soda, hotdogs and hamburgers will be for sale. All entrants will be given tickets to vote for their favorite chili. First, second and third place prizes and a prize for "crowd favorite" will be awarded. As of publication date, Claude Goldstein of United BBQ; Mark Feinstein, former JFRI board president; and Amy McCoy, food blogger and author of "Poor Girl Gourmet" are contest judges.

For more information, visit www.rikosherchilicookoff.com.



- Touro Fraternal Association: Touro Brotherhood of Chili
- Touro Synagogue: The Newport Tournator

Additionally, Accounting for Taste LLC, Congregation Beth Shalom, the New England Rabbinical College, Tamarisk, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Chazak at Temple Emanu-El, Century 21, The Pizza Gourmet, Brier & Brier, JCCRI Fitness and JFRI - The Network also have

POLITICS: Call for a new approach

From Page 6

believe that my mandate as a rabbi is to speak the truth as I see it with as much courage as I can muster.

I can speak with far more confidence about the future of the American Jewish community. I spend time with high school, college and young adult Jews. A great number of them are highly idealistic and care about making a difference in the world. Some aspire to play leadership roles in the Jewish community, including as rabbis.

During the past decade, I note that fewer and fewer identify as Zionists, the State of Israel plays a much less significant role in their identity formation than was the case for my generation, and an astounding number hold the organized Jewish community in contempt. I believe the way our community has chosen to "defend Israel" has profoundly alienated the next generation of American

Jews. Substantial survey data back up my observations.

A recently launched Israel education initiative coming out of the Jewish Agency is called Makom; its tag line is "hugging and wrestling with Israel." It comes not a moment too soon. For we are a people whose patriarch Jacob earned the right to that mantle when he wrestled with a heavenly being. He was thus renamed Yisrael/Israel, the one who wrestled with God. We, his descendants, also must be allowed to engage in the kind of wrestling which is the meaning of our people's name.

A generation of Jews who see themselves as global citizens will not identify with a community that offers them anything less.

Rabbi Sid Schwarz is the founder of the PANIM Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. He is a senior fellow at CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.



Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

JEWISH FEDERATION OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Upcoming Workshop



INFORMATION
Claire Roche
(401) 331-0956 x185
croche@bjeri.org

LEADING FOR TRANSFORMATION

Date: June 15th, 7:00 pm
Location: Jewish Community Center
401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

Special Guest: Dr. Erica Brown, Scholar-in-Residence for The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and its Managing Director for Education and Leadership. Erica is the author of the book *Inspired Jewish Leadership*, a National Jewish Book Award finalist, and *Spiritual Boredom*, and co-author of *The Case for Jewish Peoplehood* (all through Jewish Lights).

MISSION
The mission of the Board Leadership Institute is to strengthen the greater Rhode Island Jewish community with motivated individuals who possess the essential skills and knowledge for effective communal leadership.

130 Sessions Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906 (401) 421-4111 www.JFRI.org

COMMUNITY

JCCRI 85th annual meeting celebrates generations

By CHRIS PARKER
cparker@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) celebrated its 85th annual meeting on the evening of Wednesday, May 12. Hosts Jacob and Dani Brier welcomed more than 60 guests, and Temple Emanu-El's Rabbi Joel Seltzer gave the *d'var Torah*. Stephen Silberfarb, the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), applauded JCCRI's officers, board members and staff for their hard work and contributions to JCCRI's improvements.

Daniella Levine received this year's I.S. Low Award, given to a teen for service. Shannon Boucher, the agency's art teacher and director of children's services, received the Sue Suls Staff Award for meritorious service to the JCCRI and the Jewish community. Patty Gold, JCCRI director of aquatics with 30 years' service, and teacher Judy Nagle and facilities supervisor Jorge Brito, each with 20 years' service, were recognized for their years of service. Volunteers who run the very successful annual Kidstuff Sale fundraiser, including co-chairs Amanda Isenberg, Susan Gertsacov and Mindy Stone, were also honored.

Interim Executive Director Leslie Sax offered words of pride, encouragement and thanks to the many members of the JCCRI staff and board, the JFRI and community who made the JCCRI's financial



SUE SULS, LEFT, presents Shannon Boucher with the Sul Suls Staff Award at the May 12 JCCRI annual meeting.

stabilization possible. The JCCRI, she said, is a powerful and meaningful avenue for individuals to fully discover and embrace their Jewish identities.

Hosts Jacob and Dani Brier spoke of the strength of the JCCRI – its people – and celebrated the fact that JCCRI membership is often shared by many generations within the same family. Audience members who shared that distinction – multiple generations of the same family growing up in the JCCRI preschool, learning to swim in the pool, meeting friends in classes or on the basketball court, working out in the fitness center and participating in the many programs and events

offered – were asked to stand and be recognized.

Sharon Gaines, the Bureau of Jewish Education's board president and chair of the Integration Committee, installed the JCCRI board and officers, including three new members: Laura Schaffer, Harold Foster and Robin Engle.

In closing, Doug Emanuel, JCCRI's board president, delivered a heartfelt and often hilarious overview of the pain, growth and perseverance needed by all to navigate this challenging year. In the end, the strength of generations triumphed, and the JCCRI and new board look forward to a better year ahead.



MEMBERS OF TEMPLE Am David put to rest with dignity Jewish books and other religious objects in a ceremonial burial on May 16.

Am David community participates in ceremonial burial

Sacred writings preserved

By CANTOR RICK PERLMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

WARWICK – On Sunday, May 16, Temple Am David Religious School students, parents and other synagogue members participated in a moving experience. The Talmud (Shabbat 115a) stipulates that all sacred writings (scrolls of Torah, prophets, and writings) should be preserved in a place where they cannot be destroyed

Though this idea originally was closely tied to a prohibition against ever erasing God's name, Maimonides ruled that holy books, such as the Talmud and *Midrash*, should be retired to the *genizah*, a sacred burial ground, as well, although they do not contain God's name (*Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Yesodei HaTorah* 6:8).

As Religious School students filled a casket with books, Alice Goldstein spoke. She compared the experience of seeing these books being lovingly and thoughtfully buried with a far more frightening and disturbing one – that of seeing the Nazis burn books on the streets, when she was a young girl.

Shalom Memorial Chapel donated the casket and the hearse for the service. A special *todah rabbah* to Jerry and Joan Tebrow, who arranged for a grave to be dug in Temple Am David's *genizah* burial site – next to the synagogue – and to Michael French and Lincoln Park Cemetery for handling graveside details.

Kristallnacht, literally “Crys-

tal Night” or “The Night of Broken Glass” was an anti-Jewish pogrom. On Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, in a coordinated attack on Jewish people and their property, 91 Jews were murdered and 25,000 to 30,000 were arrested and placed in concentration camps. Two hundred and sixty-seven synagogues were destroyed, and thousands of homes and businesses were ransacked. Tombstones were uprooted and graves violated. Fires were lit, and prayer books, scrolls, artwork and philosophy texts were thrown upon them, and precious buildings were either

“We respectfully put to rest our Jewish books and religious objects with the dignity that we show our fellow human beings.”

burned or smashed until unrecognizable.

Today, we wholeheartedly reject this disrespect for humanity; today, we respectfully put to rest our Jewish books and religious objects with the dignity that we show our fellow human beings. This is what we are taught – to respect all of God's creations.

Cantor Rick Perlman is the spiritual leader at Temple Am David in Warwick. Contact him at cantorrick@cox.net.

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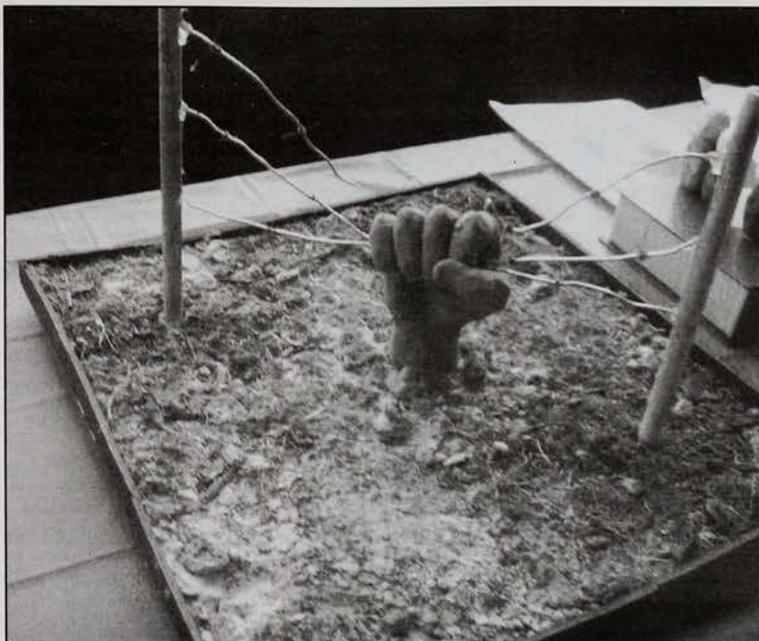


www.campjori.com

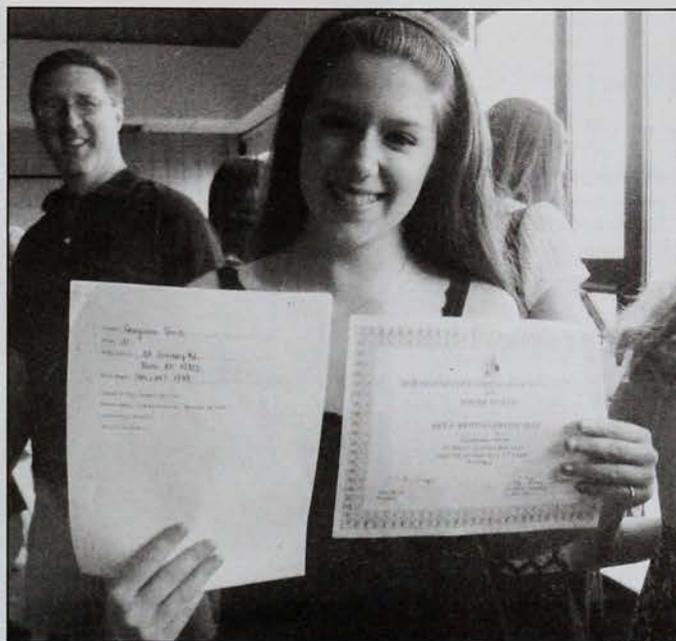
- New features for Day camp
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- Programs provided by our Israeli staff
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LOCATED IN WAKEFIELD, RHODE ISLAND



THE SCULPTURE THAT won the Singer Art Award.



GEORGIANNA GOUIN holds her third place short story and award certificate.

Holocaust Education & Resource Center honors student winners

Teens share knowledge of Holocaust

By BRIANA BLUM
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – On the evening of May 16, an awards ceremony was held to honor the winners of the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island's (HERC) Annual Art and Writing Contest.

Middle school and high school students throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts were offered the opportunity to submit their original entries – art, poetry, short stories, essays and other forms of media – that pertained to this theme for the 2010 contest: “The Courage to Resist.”

Stanley Abrams, chair of the program committee and member of the HERC board of directors, was the chief presenter at the awards ceremony. HERC received more than 300 contest entries, making this a record-breaking year. “We’re very proud, because it is part of our mission to get to the schools and the students,” said Abrams. “We want to make sure they’re aware of what happened almost 65 years ago, and what is still happening [today].”

One by one, prize-winning students were awarded a certificate and a copy of Alice Goldstein’s book, *Ordinary People, Turbulent Times*. Although encouraged to hold their applause until the end, enthusiastic parents and families

couldn’t hold back from proudly cheering on individual recipients.

In addition to the award certificates and the copy of Goldstein’s book, certain students received other awards. Deborah Gastfreund Schuss presented the Morris Gastfreund Writing Award to Olivia Burke, a 6th-grader from the Ricci Middle School for her original poem about the Holocaust. Schuss presented the award in honor of her father, a Holocaust survivor and creator of the writing award, who died just last month. “It’s up to you, future leaders. Do not enable what my father called ‘selective memory,’” said Schuss, who quoted many of her father’s inspirational words to the young audience. “Arm yourself with the facts.”

“It’s up to you, future leaders. Do not enable what my father called ‘selective memory.’”

Deborah Gastfreund Schuss

After hearing Burke’s winning poem read aloud, the audience was clearly moved.

“It is our task to educate, in order for the world not to forget about the Holocaust,”

Schuss said.

Abrams presented the second special category to David Lucente and Gian Calise, who won the Singer Art Award. The eighth grad students at LaSalle Academy created an award-winning sculpture.

Finally, Thomas Chen, a teacher at Paul Cuffee Middle School, received Joyce and Bob Starr’s Teacher Award, for his outstanding efforts in educating students about the Holocaust.

The contest wasn’t just about winning awards or certificates, but a powerful learning experience for many students, including Georgianna Gouin, a 10th grader at

Ponaganset High School.

Gouin won third place in the short story category for her piece on the horrifying medical experiments that occurred in the concentration camps. “When I read about the horrible things they did [in the Holocaust], it opened my eyes to what people really went

through and I felt such deep emotions, especially knowing it didn’t happen that long ago,” said Gouin. Bob Starr said, “I was speechless that 300 people, almost all of them students, came to this event.”

The evening concluded on a festive note, with everyone enjoying

an ice cream social.

Briana Blum is a student at the University of Rhode Island. Contact her at briana_blum@mail.uri.edu.

The Holocaust Education & Resource Center is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of R.I.

Save the Date: June 8, 2010

Please join us
for
A Farewell Celebration
honoring:



Nadav Tamir

Consul General of Israel
to New England



Rony Yedidia

Deputy Consul General of Israel
to New England

Tuesday, June 8, 2010
1:00-3:00 pm
Rhode Island State House
State Room & Lobby

Please RSVP by June 1, 2010
to Marty Cooper at
mcooper@jfri.org
or
401.421.4111 x171
or register online at
www.jfri.org



www.jvhri.org



Jewish Community Calendar

Friday

May 28

Yiddish Shmoozers

Jewish Community Center, 401
Elmgrove Ave., Providence

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

More info: 861-8800

Wednesday

June 2

Cranston Senior Guild Luncheon

West Valley Inn, 4 Blossom St.,
West Warwick

Noon

\$18.50

More info: Mal Ross at 723-
8580

JCDS Annual Meeting

Jewish Community Day School
of RI, 85 Taft Ave., Providence

7 p.m.

More info: 751-2470

Endocrinologist at Sinai Sisterhood

Sandra Carson, M.D., director
of the Center for Reproduction
and Infertility at Women & In-
fants Hospital, discusses "Take
Down the Heat of Hot Flashes."Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave.,
Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 942-8350

Thursday

June 3

Art Exhibition Opens

The Art & Design of Ruth
Abraams Spencer, RISD 1930-
34Brown/RISD Hillel Gallery, 80
Brown St., Providence9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through
Friday, through August 18More info: www.brownhillel.
org

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Rick Perlman

Discuss weekly Torah portion
and enjoy a kosher deli lunch.Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner
St., Warwick

Noon – 1 p.m.

\$10

More info: 463-7944

Moishe House Information Session and Dinner

Moishe House is an interna-
tional network of houses where
young Jewish adults get paid
to live in their home and host
events for their local com-

MATTHEW VERGUN stars as Eugene Jerome and Barbara Schapiro as his mother, Kate in Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs." See Friday, June 11 entry for more information.

munity. The current hosts are
moving on, and want to pass
the baton to new Moisheniks.Moishe House Providence, 61
Parade St. (3rd floor), Provi-
dence

7 – 8:30 p.m.

More info: Stephanie Gerson at
415-871-5683

Hadassah Election and Installation of Officers

Home of Wendy Spellun, War-
wick

7 p.m.

More info: 463-3636 or Rhode-
islandchapter@hadassah.org

See brief story on page 8

Hug N'hamah: Circle of Consolation

Bereavement discussion group
facilitated by Dr. Judith Lubiner,
a licensed psychologist, and
Rabbi Amy Levin.Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park
Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

Friday

June 4

Temple Beth-El Installation Shabbat

Installation of officers and
trustees of Congregation Sons
of Israel and David, Temple
Beth-El.Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard
Ave., Providence

7 p.m.

More info: Rob Massi at 331-
6070 or rmassi@temple-beth-el.
org

Saturday

June 5

Music on the Hill

Gala features works by Bach,
Bartok and Mozart, as well as
food, wine, and desserts.Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard
Ave., Providence

7 p.m.

\$35 at the door, \$30 advanced
saleMore info: Craig at 738-5632,
Carol at 884-8172 or musician-
thehillri.com

Sunday

June 6

JFRI's Event for Women

Jill Zarin, of "Real Housewives
of New York," her sister, radio
personality Lisa Wexler, and
their mother, Gloria Kamen, will
discuss their new book, *Secrets
of a Jewish Mother*.The Hilton Hotel, 21 Atwells
Ave., Providence

4 p.m.

\$36

More info: Bradley Laye at 421-
4111 or blaye@jfri.org

"Mustard's Retreat" Concert

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park

Ave., Cranston

5 p.m.

\$15 – adults; \$5 – children 12
and under

More info: 785-1800

Monday

June 7

Jewish Business Ethics Course

Learn how the Torah balances
capitalism with compassion,
and infuses financial life with
awareness and meaning.Chabad of West Bay Chai Cen-
ter, 3871 Post Road, Warwick

7 – 8:30 p.m.

\$100 for entire course

More info: rabbilaufer@
netzero.net

Thursday

June 10

Cranston/Warwick Lunch & Learn

Topic: "Is Vegetarian the Real
Kosher?" Each participant or-
ders from the menu, and Rabbi
Amy Levin leads the discussion.The Cozy Grill Restaurant, 440
Warwick Ave., Warwick

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

PJ Library Spa Party

Facial and makeup demon-
strations, relaxation massage, nail
polish changes, food & wine,raffle and a complimentary
goodie bag.J. Marcel Shoes, 808 Hope St.,
Providence

7 – 9 p.m.

More info: Nicole Katzman at
331-0956, ext. 180 or nkatzman@
bjeri.org.

Friday

June 11

"At Home in R.I." at Yiddish Shmoozers

Client Services Coordinator
Heather Hughes Robenhymmer
describes resources that help
Rhode Islanders 65+, including
transportation, grocery shop-
ping, prescription delivery, pet
grooming and lawn care.JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave.,
Providence

10 – 11:30 a.m.

More info: 861-8800

Temple Emanu-El Annual Meeting

99 Taft Ave., Providence

5 p.m. – Business meeting;
5:45 – Shabbat service; 6:45– Dinner; 7:15 – Volunteer rec-
ognition, youth service award
honorees, and installation of
officers and trustees.

More info: 331-1616

"Brighton Beach Memoirs"

The Community Players perform
Neil Simon's semiautobiograph-
ical dramatic comedy.Jenks Auditorium, 350 Division
St., Pawtucket8 p.m. June 11, 12, 18 and 19; 2
p.m. June 13 and 20

\$15 – adults; \$12 – students

More info: 726-6860 or www.
thecommunityplayers.org

Sunday

June 13

Family Fishing Festival

Instructors from the Mas-
sachusetts Wildlife Angler
Education Department will talk
about water/fishing safety,
fishing equipment and how to
reel in fish. Bait and equipment
available in limited quantities or
bring your own.JCC Grossman Camp, Powisset
Pond, off Dover Road, West-
wood, Mass.

10 a.m. – Noon

\$12 per family.

More info: www.jccgb.org,
families@jccgb.org or 617-558-
6414.

See CALENDAR, Page 11

From Page 10

1st Annual Rhode Island Kosher Chili Cook-Off

Cheer for your favorite team, activities for the whole family.

JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$10 - adults; \$5 - children under 12; \$30 - family maximum

More info: www.rikosherchili-cookoff.com

Leisure Club Brunch & Annual Meeting

Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

1 p.m.

More info: 331-1616

PHDS Amudim Dinner

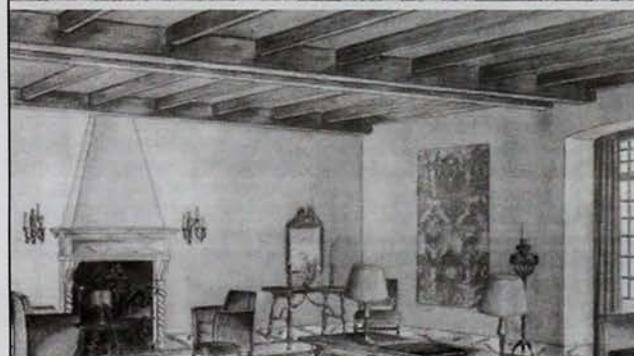
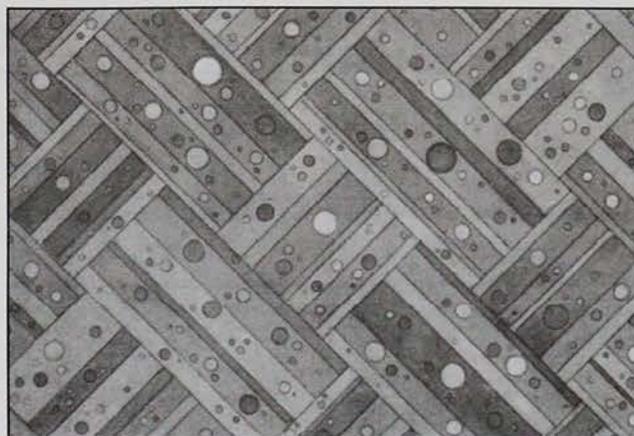
Providence Hebrew Day School evening honors Arthur Robbins, Helene Felder and Greg Zuckerman.

Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

5 p.m.

More info: 331-5327

See story on page 15



ART EXHIBITION - The Art & Design of Ruth Abraams Spencer. See Thursday, June 3.

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The Art and Design of Ruth Abraams Spencer

RISD 1930-34

June 3-August 18, 2010

Opening Reception

June 17 4-7 PM

with remarks by

Andrew Martinez, Archivist, RISD at 6 PM

Gallery Hours

Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-4 PM

Monday

June 14

JERI Satellite Office Hours

Topic: "The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry - One Year Later."

JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant JERI Director Ethan Adler counsel and advise seniors and their families. Ethan is also available for pastoral counseling.

Brightview Commons, 57 Grandville Court, Wakefield

1 - 2:30 p.m.

More info: Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

Holocaust Education & Resource Center Annual Meeting

The Beacon Charter School for the Arts' students present

excerpts from the *Diary of Anne*

Frank.

JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

7 p.m.

More info: 453-7860 or mzeidman@hercri.org

New England Academy of Torah Graduation

Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

7 p.m.

More info: 331-5327

Nadav Tamir looks back, looks ahead

The CRC hosts a farewell reception

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@JFRI.org

BOSTON - Nadav Tamir, the Consul General for Israel to New England, is wrapping up his duties in New England, as he nears the end of his four-year tour of duty as the Consul General. Though unsure of his next assignment, he said, "I don't know yet [about his next assignment], except that I'm going back home. I'll be part of the Foreign Ministry in one way or another." Here since September 2006, Tamir has no knowledge of who will succeed him, after he and his family return to Israel in late July or early August.

"We're happy to go back home to family and friends, but we will miss New England," said Tamir in a phone interview on Monday, May 24. "The situation is bittersweet, as we've made many good friends here."

Calling the quality of people he's met in New Eng-



NADAV TAMIR



RONY YEDIDIA

land "amazing," Tamir said, "Whether they are in academia, politics, business or the Jewish community [generally], I felt that I had a great partnership with the Rhode Island community. It took some time to develop, but after two years, it became very strong."

The "partners on the ground" that Tamir credits with building those collaborative relationships include, especially, the Commu-

nity Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), Avi Nevel (chair of the CRC Israel Committee) and Marty Cooper (director of the CRC). Too, Richard Licht (a JFRI officer) "made the connections with the politicians that were crucially important. We also had some very good partners at Brown University with [Brown-RISD] Hillel and Brown Students for Israel."

On a more personal - or per-

"I had a great partnership with the Rhode Island community. It took some time to develop, but after two years, it became very strong."

Nadav Tamir

haps, parochial New England - basis, Tamir said, "We just had a great time. Especially for my son and me - we are sports fanatics - and we were lucky we could enjoy the sports teams of New England."

Asked what advice he might offer his successor, Tamir said, "It's about relationships and coalitions. We have to create partnerships."

"In the past, relationships with the Jewish communities

were kind of a one-way street. Now, rather than have [Israel] expect Jews to help us, we have a responsibility to our partners." And, Israel can't just focus on politics and crises, it must stress the achievements and contributions it offers to America and the world, Tamir added. In the arena of conflict, "we send the message that we desire peace, we love peace. It's not a zero sum game," he said, soberly. "You don't have to be anti-Palestinian to be pro-Israel. You can be a Zionist and still achieve a two-state solution."

Members of the greater Rhode Island Jewish community who have gotten to know and work with Tamir will be able to bid him and Rony Yedidia, the deputy consul general to New England, farewell, at a reception at the Rhode Island Statehouse on Tuesday, June 8, from 1 - 3 p.m.

For more information about the reception, contact Marty Cooper at 421-4111, ext. 171 or mcooper@JFRI.org.

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JCCRI names new ECC director

*West brings expertise
and enthusiasm*

By BRIAN SULLIVAN
sullivan@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE - The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) has named Helen West as the director of the Early Childhood Center, effective June 1.

West comes to the JCCRI from Striar Hebrew Academy in Sharon, Mass., where she served as preschool director for the past nine years. She has more than 20 years' experience in early childhood education and is certified in Massachusetts as a director, head preschool teacher and lead teacher for infants and toddlers. West, who has experience with state licensing requirements and the national accreditation process, holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and child psychology from Worcester State College.

"I know the Providence community well; it's like my backyard" said West. "I was looking for a new, challenging position and I'm excited to be here!"

West lives in the child-



HELEN WEST

centered Reggio philosophy, an approach that encourages young children and their teachers to explore, question, and discover in a stimulating environment. This philosophy, used at the JCCRI preschool, also encourages children to learn based on their interests, and uses teachers the opportunity to use their knowledge and creativity as a means of making the children shine.

"From a psychological point of view, 80-90 percent of our personality is formed by age 7, which is why it is so important to start working with children at an early age, especially if they aren't able to

be at home with their parents," said West. "I believe strongly that preschool age children need a stronger focus on social, emotional, and physical development than they do on academic learning." That will help them, she said, with academics later in life.

"The JCCRI is fortunate to have found someone with Helen's credentials, experience and warm, welcoming personality. She is the consummate professional for whom we have been waiting," said Leslie Sax, interim executive director of the JCCRI. "I also want to acknowledge and thank the interim management team of Brigitte Kennedy, Esta Yavner and Shirley Moskalko for their dedication, expertise and patience as we conducted this search. It is because of their talents and hard work that the school has run so smoothly and the JCCRI children have had such a wonderful year."

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

Brian Sullivan is a marketing associate at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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



a message from Nancy Kirach, Executive Editor

Nancy Kirach



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Providence Hebrew Day School annual dinner honors leaders

An evening of recognition and celebration

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@JFRI.org

The Providence Hebrew Day School's (PHDS) annual dinner, on Sunday, June 13, will honor a number of community leaders.

PHDS will honor the memory of Miriam Pearlman with a special Amudim Memorial Tribute. A resident of Providence for more than 50 years, she and her husband, Thomas Pearlman, supported PHDS and the New England Academy of Torah. She opened her home to students and her heart to Jewish education and community life in Providence.

Arthur S. Robbins, a well-known businessman, will receive the Community Service Award for his many years of leadership and commitment to the Jewish community. His resume testifies to tireless service to Rhode Island, Providence and a long list of Jewish organizations. He has been a staunch PHDS advocate and supporter for years, ever since his children, Alisa, Carolyn and Mark, were students at the school.

The Alumni Award will be presented to Gregory Zuckerman, a journalist and best-selling author. The son of the late Dr. Alan Zuckerman and Roberta Zuckerman, who attended

PHDS from pre-K through high school, said, "My teachers and rabbis inspired me and my parents served as role models for me ... My father, of blessed memory, was involved with his students at Brown University, Congregation Beth Shalom, PHDS and he was a columnist for The Jewish Voice & Herald. ... a Jewish day school such as Providence Hebrew Day School and New England Academy of Torah truly provides our youth with the key for Jewish survival."

Helene Felder, the proud grandmother of Sophie, Jacob, Sonia, Ezra, and Raphael Felder, will receive the Dor L'Dor Grandparent Award. She said, "The school provides my grandchildren with such a well rounded education. It gives them opportunities to shine in art, music, mock trial, and provides a program that is steeped in religious values, Torah, and mitzvot. I learn Torah with my grandchildren on the phone each weekend. This is a tribute to the school!"

Her son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Michael and Elissa Felder, known for their commitment to the Providence Jewish community, are a tribute to Helene Felder, who successfully transmitted her dedication to community service from "Dor L'Dor" - generation to generation.

The dinner is open to the community. For more information, contact PHDS at 331-5327.



FROM LEFT, SYBIL SHEPARD, Carlos Vizcarrondo, Amelia Rossi, Michele Keir (JERI staff), Mary Huntley, and Rachel Rollins (JERI staff), prepare Shavu'ot gift bags for Jewish residents in nursing homes.

Mitzvot from Jewish Eldercare of R.I.

PROVIDENCE - It's a very special mitzvah when volunteers work together to make a difference. This year, for Shavu'ot, Jewish residents in nursing homes received a framed work of art from Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI) a program of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSA), and the JSA Women's Association.

Blanche Read, a participant with To Life Center Adult Day Services (TLC), a JSA program, donated her art; prints were made from one of her colorful still life pieces. Other TLC participants volunteered to frame the finished art and pack the gifts in beautiful floral bags that were delivered by yet other community volunteers.

For more information about JERI and the Women's Association of JSA, contact JERI Director Susan Adler at 621-5374.

For more information about TLC, contact TLC Director Jennifer Minuto at 351-2440.

Visit the JSA Web site at www.jsa.org.

New officers for Hadassah's R.I. Chapter

WARWICK - On Thursday, June 3, the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah will elect its officers for the 2010-11 year. On the slate are the following individuals: Deborah Gerstenblatt and Sally Rotenberg, as co-presidents; Cory Fink and Barbara Portney, as co-vice presidents for education and program; Audrey Hirsch, Evy Mittleman

and Wendy Spellun, as co-vice presidents for fundraising; Dr. Barbara Jablow, as vice president for membership; Phyllis Lichaa as treasurer; and Roberta Chernov as recording secretary.

Following the election, Dr. Meredith Drench, the vice president of the Western New England Region of Hadassah, the Women's

Zionist Organization of America, and a chapter member, will install the officers.

The meeting will be held at the Warwick home of Wendy Spellun at 7 p.m. The location and driving directions are available from the R.I. Chapter office, 463-3636, or ChapterRhodeIsland@Hadassah.org.

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*With B.A., M.A.,
under her belt,
Donna (Kaplan)
Figuroa earns
nursing degree*

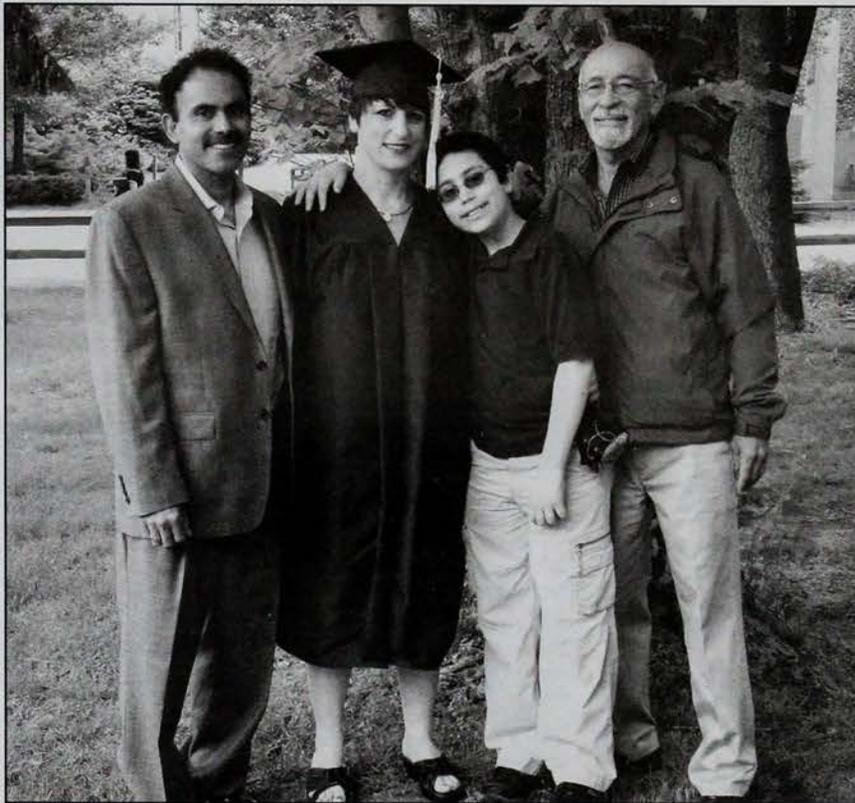
By TORI HITCHNER
Special to The Voice & Herald

KINGSTON – It takes the right kind of attitude to balance so much and succeed. Donna Figuroa's positive attitude helped her achieve a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Rhode Island (URI) on Sunday, May 23, despite many obstacles. Though some undergraduates struggle to complete just the course curriculum with no other obligations, Figuroa (Donna Kaplan, before she married), 46, managed a full academic schedule, her duties as a mother, wife, and doting daughter and those of the full-time job she holds at URI.

It wasn't easy for Figuroa to stay focused on her nursing studies. "I had a lot of challenges at home... illnesses with my parents, my mother passed away, my son was diagnosed with diabetes," she said. While these issues may have prolonged her time in the URI nursing program, they did not deter her. "Everything else became peripheral. If it's not school or family or work, I don't have time for it. [I] cut everything out."

Figuroa is familiar with the demands of higher education, having previously received a B.A. in international studies from American University in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree for international administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vt.

Her passion for other cultures and helping those in need has taken her all over the



AT HER GRADUATION, Donna Figuroa poses with her husband, Hector Figuroa; their son, Gianni Figuroa; and her father, Richard Kaplan.

world, including the Dominican Republic, Central and South America, and South Korea. Figuroa's time in the Peace Corps in the late 1980s demonstrates her desire to offer aid, a quality that is essential to nursing.

However rich her experiences around the world were, it was her pregnancy and the birth of her son Gianni, now age 11, which fixed her choice to become involved in

the health care field. Figuroa explains that her experience was a very positive and natural one,

"Jewish values are very simple. It's all about caring for others and giving of yourself."

Donna Figuroa

which she feels many women do not hear enough about. "One of the things I love about maternity and childbirth is that it's a natural process," she said. "Nothing about it has to be corrected or cured or stopped. It develops pretty much on its own and you support it."

Throughout her pregnancy, giving birth with a doctor's assistance never crossed her mind. "I knew instinctively that childbirth was a very natural process and not a medical process, and I didn't even consider a

doctor," said Figuroa. "It wasn't even a 'this or that' decision, it was 'which midwife am I going to use?'"

Having had a supportive and encouraging midwife inspired Figuroa to consider becoming one. Her job at URI as the assistant director of the National Student Exchange Program put her in contact with the then-assistant dean of nursing, Ruth Waldman. Waldman felt her colleague was up to the challenge, and told her to go for it, assisting her in all the necessary arrangements.

URI then offered a midwifery master's program, but has since done away with it. Despite that change, Figuroa pursued her degree, a nine-year vigil of hard work. "I have such regard for the nursing students," Figuroa says. "They are younger than me and less experienced than me. It's a really tough program."

Along the way, she has had endless support from her friends, family, and colleagues. She was allowed to reduce her hours at her fulltime job, so she could study and still see her family. Figuroa cites her grandmother, father, husband, sister and son as sources of help and support. Without her husband, in particular, she doubts she could have completed the program. "If I didn't have his support, it would have been insurmountable," she says.

Family and education go hand-in-hand for Figuroa, who was born into a Reform Jewish family and raised in Cranston. "It wasn't a question of 'Are you going to college?' but 'Which college are you going to?'" she explains with a smile. "Even when I [was studying for my] master's degree and my sister had a law degree, it was, 'OK, what's next?' My parents always said they'd pay for education."

Even now, as a married mother with a fulltime job, Figuroa says her father offers to help pay her college expenses.

Her Jewish heritage is also related to her desire to be a midwife, and work in the healthcare field. "Jewish values are very simple," she says. "It's all about caring for others and giving of yourself."

Her next step is taking her board certification in the summer, and eventually finding a midwifery program. In the meantime, she says she will continue at her current job until she finds her "number one" choice for work – preferably wellness and maternity, not hospital work.

She wants to educate women on their own bodies and childbirth, with the hope of making it less intimidating. Figuroa said, "We hand our bodies to a doctor and say 'take care of us, tell us what to do.' As women, we're not really proactive in our health care. We need to understand our bodies better and work with them, not against them."

She is living proof of one of her favorite quotes, by Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can or think you can't, either way you're right."

As Figuroa quietly reflects in her office on the URI campus, she says the best advice for anyone looking to further their education, or take on any large task, is to just begin. "To think about it doesn't get you anywhere...just do it and the pieces will fall into place. If you wait for everything to be perfect, it might not happen."

Her philosophy on taking on difficult challenges? "If you never start you'll never finish."

Tori Hitchner is a journalism major at the University of Rhode Island. Contact her at tori.hitchner@gmail.com

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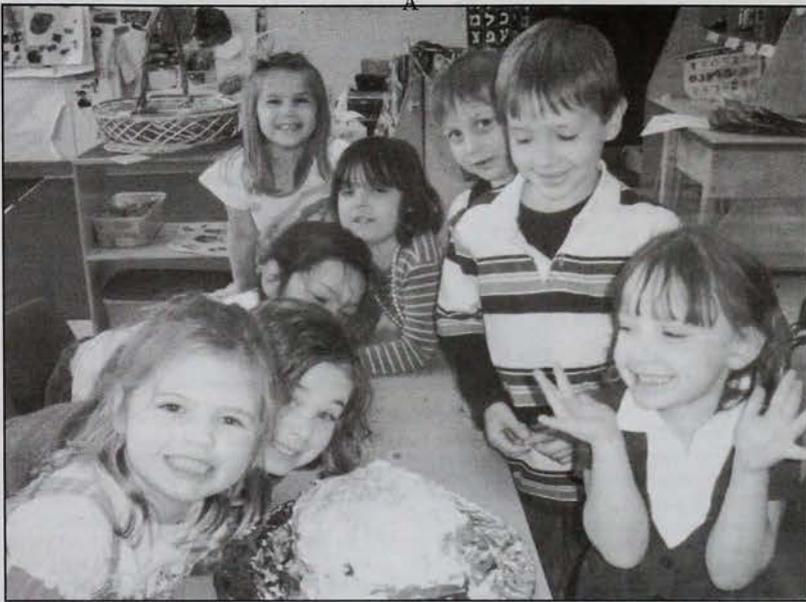
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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER of Rhode Island's preschool students pose with a cake for the Nechama volunteers. The students baked and frosted the cake.

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Rueschemeyer named new CRC chair

PROVIDENCE — Marilyn Rueschemeyer was confirmed as the new Community Relations Council (CRC) chair at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) on May 3. "Through the years, Marilyn has been a leader and an activist in the Jewish community," said Marty Cooper, director of the CRC.

Demonstrating strong leadership skills, Rueschemeyer has committed herself to promote interfaith dialogue. To that end, she has overseen several CRC programs that engaged the Muslim, Lebanese and Christian communities. More recently, she served as the chair of the Interfaith Committee of the CRC.

As the CRC chair, she hopes to expand interfaith programming. Her interests within the CRC are varied, from interfaith and social action issues to Israel advocacy and government affairs.

In 2009, Rueschemeyer, an adjunct professor of sociology at Brown University's Watson Institute, received the Norman D. & Flo Tillis Community Relations Council Award at the JFRI annual meeting.



/Lauri Lee, JCDS

A serious discussion at a festive event

HERB KAPLAN AND DAVID HIRSCH on the evening of April 29, at the reception hosted by Hirsch and his wife Hope, for the Jewish Community Day School's

major donors. Rabbi Joel Seltzer offered the *d'var Torah* and the guest speaker was Renée Finn, founder of MetroWest Jewish Day School in Framingham, Mass.

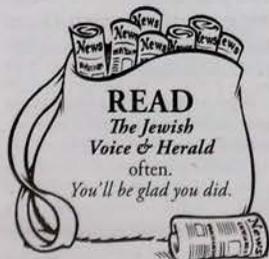
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Kosher meat goes out to pasture

Local kosher slaughterer has a different perspective

BY STEPHEN A. SHERMAN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

NAFTALI HANAU IS not your average kosher slaughterer. After completing the Adamah Jewish environmental fellowship

in Falls Village, Conn., Hanau felt uncomfortable consuming conventional kosher meat. "It became very clear to me that the kind of meat I wanted to eat was meat produced on a relatively small scale... raised in a way that's healthy for the animal and healthy for the planet," Hanau said.

After an unsuccessful search for pasture-raised kosher products, Hanau took matters into his own hands. He went to New York City and trained as a poultry *shohet*, or

ritual slaughterer. Between meeting his own needs and teaching ritual slaughter, or *shehitah*, to the curious, Hanau has joined a growing number who would like Jews to eat pastured kosher meat.

Since the first allegations of animal welfare and labor abuses at the Agriprocessors kosher meat-packing plant in 2004, many of the estimated 1.3 million kosher-observant Jews in the U.S. have begun to reevaluate the source of their meats and poultry.

Proponents of pastured meat claim that conventional animal husbandry undermines Jewish teachings on environmentalism and can violate the biblical injunction against pain to living creatures, or *tza'ar ba'alei hayyim*.

Conventional production is troubling for Marion Menzin of Newton, Mass. In 2007, she cofounded a nonprofit organization called LoKo (for Local Kosher). The purpose of the group is to give Boston-area Jews an alternative to the perceived cruelty of industrial poultry farming.

LoKo does not merely sell pasture-raised poultry. Customers participate in the rituals of kosher law. On periodic processing days, Jews from the greater Boston area drive to Caledonia Farms in Barre, Mass. There, Hanau slaughters about 100 chickens raised on pasture at the farm. Participants then pluck, eviscerate, soak, and salt the birds according to tradition.

For many participants, the physical engagement with *kasbrut* makes the act of consuming meat more meaningful.

Menzin says this personal connection to meat is an often-over-



THESE CHICKENS ARE from a breed called Cornish Rock Cross, a popular, fast-growing, meat bird. Caledonia Farms raises this breed for LoKo.

looked function of kosher law, one that LoKo is hoping to facilitate. "I think it's rewarding for people to do the physical work... [Then] there is also the knowledge that you're doing it the right way. You are doing what's best for the animal and the farmer," she said.

For some, the question is not how meat should be raised or slaughtered, but whether it should be consumed at all. Dr. Richard Schwartz, president of the Jewish Vegetarians of North America,

According to renowned Torah scholar Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, it was only as a concession to human weakness that God permitted the consumption of animals after the Flood.

Schwartz is in respected company; Kook himself was famous for practicing and promoting vegetarianism. Rabbi David Rosen, former chief rabbi of Ireland, was also a vegetarian.

When asked about LoKo-style pastured meat production,

Schwartz responded in an email message, "I think veganism is the ideal... [but] if all meat was produced that way, we would have a far better, healthier, environmentally-sustainable world."

In Rhode Island, there is a growing interest in alternatives to conventional kosher meat. Rose Forrest of Daniel Gour-

met Kosher Catering in Providence has had some requests for pasture-raised chicken at different functions, but the economic recession has decreased demand. Many of the company's clients who request local or organic products are vegetarians.

Rabbi Joel Seltzer of Temple Emanu-El in Providence reports the issue has generated intense discussion in his congregation. "People are longing for their *kasbrut* to catch up to their ethics," he said.

The biggest deterrent for many is cost. Kosher meats already command a premium over non-kosher products. Jews facing a limited budget may be forced to choose between kosher or pasture-raised.

This conflict has not escaped the notice of *shohet* Hanau. "This meat is expensive, but it's worth it, and maybe we should be eating less of it anyway."

LoKo will hold its next workday on June 27. Visit its Web site: <http://loko-meat.com/> for more information.

Stephen Sherman is a senior in the agro-environmental sciences program at McGill University in Montreal. He is a resident of Barrington.

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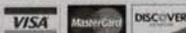
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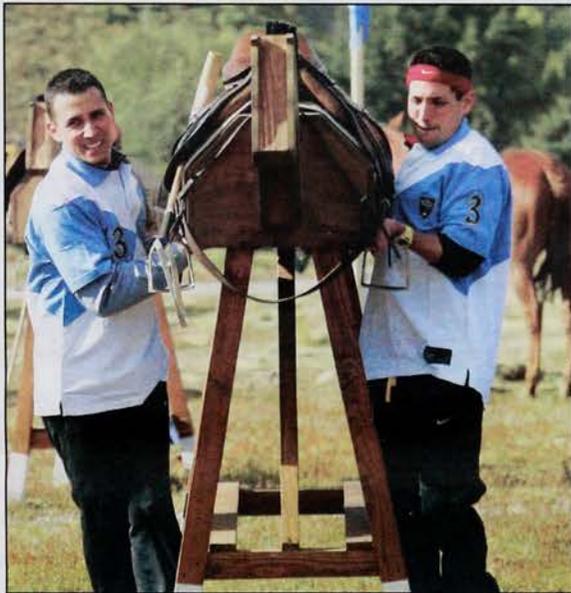


www.jvhri.org



/Pious Family

IN THEIR YOUNGER DAYS, Dan (in red) and Jordan indulge in pizza.



Monty Brinton/CBS

BROTHERS DAN (LEFT) AND JORDAN perform Detour B in which teams carry a wooden horse through a Polo Training Field and hit a ball inside the goal.

BROTHERS: Look out for one another

From Page 1

shut about something I'm excited about was the hardest part of the competition," said Jordan.

"It's a very tough secret to keep, especially with family and friends asking [about it]," said Dan. "We couldn't tell people we were in the race for the longest time."

Although both boys are no longer minors, Lezli and Jamie laughed about their sons' ability to be so secretive while fulfilling their legal obligations: "This can't be the only secret they're keeping from us." Thanksgiving, when the boys weren't with them, was difficult, they said, as they couldn't reveal what was going on.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING

It's clear that family relationships are strong in this family of four; in fact, Jamie and Lezli, who met through her mother and his uncle, will soon celebrate their 28th anniversary. They had three goals

for the boys, the couple said. "We didn't want them to kill each other, we wanted Daniel to have positive travel experiences [for those of you who don't remember, "Pious brothers on 'The Amazing Race,' in the Feb. 5 issue of *The Voice & Herald*, Daniel is the brother who's less enamored of travel], and we wanted them to have an experience they would share for a lifetime."

"It seemed like a pipe dream – two little Jewish boys from Barrington."

Jordan Pious

The third goal was the clear winner, said Jamie. "They have something they can share. We saw [during episodes of "The Amazing Race"] that when the going got tough, they had each other's backs. They could handle stress; together, there's nothing they can't do."

STRESS WAS INEVITABLE

Stressful situations were the norm, given that the Pious brothers, as the winning team, visited five continents and logged some 40,000 miles in a period of, give or take, 30



Monty Brinton/CBS

DAN PERFORMS A ROAD BLOCK in which one team member must Jumar (use ascending climbing ropes) 120 feet up to the top of Coit Tower.



Monty Brinton/CBS

JORDAN PERFORMS DETOUR A in which teams must climb 153 steps of a Buddhist temple while carrying incense bundles and candles, set them up and light them.

days, according to a CBS network spokesman. Teams don't know where they're going or what kinds of clothes are suitable, he said.

"I'd watched the show for 15 sea-

sons, but I wasn't prepared for how much time you are supposed to be sleeping on planes," said Jordan. "Sleeping on planes, trains and automobiles was [a surprise]."

The race is both physically and mentally grueling, they said. "It was difficult to have 'fun' when it's so

See RACE, Page 30

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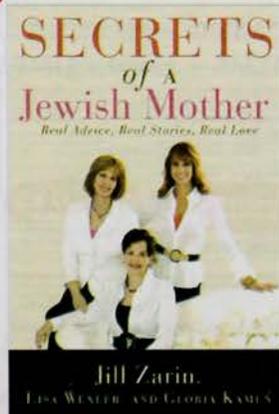
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/Shirah Rubin

Little ones learn Hebrew

ON SUNDAY, MAY 16, 14 families participated in the first Hebrew Play group, facilitated by Eliana Seltzer and Shirah Rubin, at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI). The group is geared to families with children from 6 months to 3-years-old. The goal of Hebrew Play is to inspire families and their young children to play in Hebrew, through playgroups and web tools. Hebrew Play connects families and provides them with fun, accessible, and educational

resources. Hebrew Play will rotate meeting in parks and people's homes.

Hebrew Play is a Boston-based organization locally run by volunteers from our community and it has partnered with Shalom Baby, a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the JCCRI.

Sign-up at www.hebrewplayri.org for further information and a list of resources. To contact Hebrew Play Rhode Island with questions, email hebrewplayri@gmail.com.



/Lifespan

FRONT ROW, LEFT, Miriam Garron, Susan Kaplan, and Sunny Anderson; back row, left, Saul Kaplan, John Elkhay, Robert Irvine and Casey Riley at The Miriam Wine & Dine.

Wine & Dine brings in \$443,000

PROVIDENCE - Nearly 600 hospital donors and friends attended The Miriam Hospital's Wine & Dine culinary fundraising event on Saturday, May 15, which featured a trio of Food Network celebrity chefs, local food writers and an exciting local chef's challenge.

The event raised \$443,000 for the expansion of The Adele R. Decof Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Miriam Hospital.

The local chefs' challenge, with the Food Network's Sunny Anderson and Miriam Garron serving as two of the celebrity judges, pitted Casey Riley of the Newport Restaurant Group against John Elkhay of the Chow Fun Food Group in a friendly competition. The Food Network's Robert Irvine served as the chefs' challenge master of ceremonies.

The evening included a live auction.

Susan and Saul Kaplan co-chaired the event. Medical co-chairs included Richard Gold, M.D., Anthony Mega, M.D., and Fred Schiffman, M.D. Robert DiMuccio and Alan Litwin co-chaired the Corporate Sponsorship Committee.

The Adele R. Decof Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Miriam Hospital treats patients with breast, prostate, blood, lung, colon or pancreatic cancer. When it opened in April 2002, approximately 60 to 70 patients were treated each day there; now some 105 patients receive treatment each day. Expanding the center will help reduce patients' waiting time, maximize treatment time and offer an improved environment for cancer patients and their families.



DEBORAH JOHNSON

From Christmas carols to sacred songs

Already a full professor, Johnson studies for another degree

By DEBORAH JOHNSON
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

I LOVE MY job and my students. Since 1988, I have been a professor of modern art history and women's studies at Providence College (PC). I knew in college that I wanted to be a historian and a professor, but I also knew that I loved to sing.

My first solo was at the age of 5 (when I forgot the words to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer") and throughout college, I helped support myself by singing wherever and whenever, from ear-splitting (literally - read on) blues bands on nights and weekends to summer gigs as a costumed singer of 16th century madrigals and a bit player at the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, Conn.

Since our marriage in 1974, my husband and I had been living Jewishly, but it wasn't until 1991 that I decided to convert. Ironically, PC played a large part in this decision. Every day on campus, I saw how meaningful a spiritually-lived life could be. And, as members of Temple Beth-El, our entire family was profoundly inspired by Michael and Ida Rae Cahana, our assistant rabbi and cantor, respectively.

I became a bat mitzvah in 1996, and from that point on, occasionally substituted as *hazzan* at Saturday morning services. I continued to sing outside the temple, in klezmer bands and the great Zamir chorale of Boston. By 2003, I had developed a significant case of tinnitus that would (sadly) put an end to my choral singing and over-amped band work.

Throughout, I felt incredibly privileged when I could *daven* for my congregation and tried to communicate the profound miracle and joy of

prayer through song.

The problem was that I didn't really know enough about that. It occurred to me that I could learn much of what I wanted to know, and combine my deep love for music and Judaism, by going to cantorial school.

I could study part-time in Boston at Hebrew College and earn a certificate in Jewish sacred music. Since I am not particularly adept with change, there was real fear embedded in this idea. I easily assuaged it by assuring myself that I could apply, but I wouldn't be accepted: I'm too old, I love my "day job," I was doing this "selfishly" for myself, I'd blow the audition (memories of "Rudolph..."), etc.

I was wrong. With the active guidance of Cantor Judy Seplowin, and the encouragement of Cantor Brian Mayer and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, I am about to enter my second year at Hebrew College. I will soon finish Hebrew level 4 with a brilliant biblical Hebrew linguist, Sigalit Davis; my voice has been lovingly tended to by Cantors Charles Osborne and Lynn Torgove; and I have grown religiously, spiritually, theologically and personally in huge leaps through the example and the training of my teachers and colleagues.

Cantor Judy continues to let me fill in for her from time to time, and I have had the entirely awesome experience of joining loving couples in marriage. What gifts! Although I feel as if I'm 20, I work twice as hard as my Hebrew College "peers" (compensation for an old brain!). I will never be finished, but I hope one day to be ready. Ready, that is, to pray through song with meaning, power, beauty, and knowledge.

Now, does anyone need a High Holiday cantor?

Deborah Johnson lives with her husband, Dr. Robert Serinsky, on the East Side of Providence.

A reciprocal love affair

Animals and art are a winning combination

By BERNIE ARONSON
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

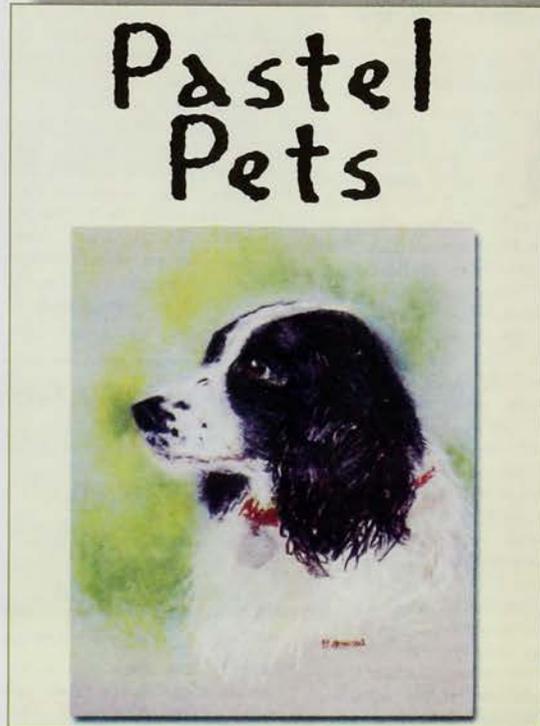
RIVERSIDE - With all the news about infidelity, I must confess to an affair that I had at the age of 5. Yes, that's when I first fell in love with art and animals. That love affair continued on and off over the years.

I went to Boston University to further my love affair with art, but lost contact with my other love, animals. After graduating from college, I spent two years in the army and found that my first love, art, followed me to Alaska, where we spent many joyous hours together.

It was not until years later - after I married - that I promised my son a puppy for his bar mitzvah. Of course, it was supposed to be my son's dog, but you know how that goes.

I was working in Boston as an art director, though I managed to share the responsibilities that went with having a pet. The love affair was rekindled. I walked her, fed her, bathed her, played with her and took her on her final ride to the veterinarian when it was time to say goodbye.

But the love affair didn't end there. It only blossomed. In



"I dedicated my art talent to painting pet portraits."

memory of that beautiful relationship, I dedicated my art talent to painting pet portraits. So, once again, I must confess, at the tender age of 77, I am once again involved in a beautiful love affair.



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Bernat: A 'dancing fool'

A new outlook on life

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@JFRI.org

I WAS waiting for the perfect guy, so I didn't get married until I was 40," said Karen F. Bernat, who grew up on Providence's East Side, and now lives in Barrington with "the perfect guy" – her husband, Fred. He was the one who showed her the condo that she bought when she was house-hunting; after their first date, "we've never been apart," she said. "We're still honeymooning."

Bernat, a member of the late Lea Eliash's first bat mitzvah class, remains an active member of Temple Emanu-El; she's involved with the Lea's Letters initiative at the synagogue.

Age 65, Bernat looks decades younger; when I professed disbelief, she pulled out her driver's license to prove her age.

Since she turned 30, she's set out to accomplish some firsts – or near firsts. The state's second woman to earn a private pilot's license, she began flying at age 30. A friend offered to pay for her

flying lessons and she's been hooked ever since. "I won't ever give up my license – I still take weekend flights to Block Island," she said. "I rent a Cessna 150."

Flying, though, has taken a back seat in recent years – as she and, to a lesser degree, her husband, has discovered ballroom dancing. Something as simple as seeing the film with Richard Gere, "Shall We Dance," inspired them to take classes, remembered Bernat. "We loved it. We found a

was my passion."

Since 2008, when she began dancing seriously and working out, she's lost 55 pounds. "The death of a family member freed me to become and do what I am today," she said soberly.

Bernat's commitment to fitness is such that Fitness Training included her in its media advertising, when it named her a client of the month. "She is perhaps the hardest working woman I have ever seen at her age of 65...the improvements have been truly amazing," notes Fitness Together's marketing materials that describe Bernat.

Bernat's gains have been many: Reduced body weight and lost body fat, a smaller dress size and lower cholesterol levels! She's also improved her posture and balance, thanks to her fitness regime, all of which makes her a more graceful and skilled ballroom dancer.

And, improved health and appearance aren't Bernat's only gains, she said. She goes out dancing two or three times a week, and

has developed some wonderful new

relationships.

As Bernat prepares for her first dance competition – the U.S. Danceport Competition in Orlando in September 2010 – she says, "I have never felt so free. I feel like, I act like I'm 20 years old. It's a whole new me."



"The death of a family member freed me to become and do what I am today."

Karen Bernat

dancing instructor and took lessons together for two or three years," she said. "It was very expensive for us to both take lessons, so I found a coach – I wanted to better myself [in my dancing skills]."

Bernat, who found a coach in Norwood, Mass., said, "The day I started with Peter [her coach], I knew dancing



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Internet and Skype bridge cross-country miles

New 'career' gratifies grandfather

By ARTHUR RICHTER
Special to The Voice & Herald

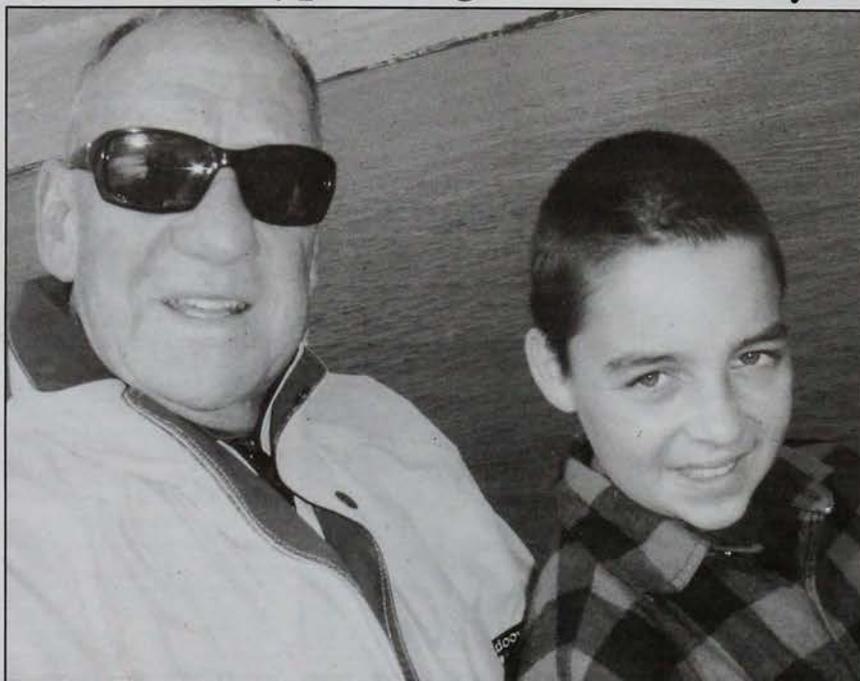
IN MY 40-YEAR career, I designed and sold products and concepts. Since then, I realized that I have a second career that is even more satisfying than the work I did for most of my life.

We see my grandchildren, who live in California, twice each year – we visit them in San Diego for Thanksgiving, and they spend part of the summer with us in Provincetown, Mass. Our once-weekly phone calls and emails have been upgraded, thanks to the Internet and Skype.

My oldest grandson, Max, 13, and I chat on the Internet. Last fall, I asked him about school and what he was looking forward to doing that semester. With English as one of his favorite subjects, Max anticipated doing quite a number of book reports.

When he described one book, *All Shook Up*, by Shelley Pearsall, I decided to read it with him. It turned into a fun experience for us both; we'd compare notes a few times each week and discuss the book. When he wrote his book report, he sent it to me to review. Both of us were quite pleased when it earned a grade of 96!

After that we started to Skype more regularly. In my opinion, Skype is the greatest tool for family



ARTHUR RICHTER and his grandson, Max, are together in New York.

and friends who are separated by the miles. With our two computers hooked up to Skype (a free program), we can see each other and talk to each other, free of charge.

With Skype, we have "show and tell" and it allows us to work on homework projects together. We Skype now almost every day – we work on math problems together and we're studying Span-

ish. I drill Max on vocabulary, and I am learning more Spanish than I have since high school.

A high school teacher in California heard from Max about our study sessions and she is now trying to establish a program where grandparents help their grandchildren with their studies. It's difficult, she said, for parents to help their kids, and it's often easier

for grandparents to help.

We recently read *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, by John Boyne. I was thrilled that Max wanted to read it, especially as he didn't know very much about the Holocaust. For his 13th birthday, he visited New York, and went to the Jewish Heritage Museum.

I lost my father when I was only 13, and my grandfather stepped up

"We might be the only team made up of a 71-year-old and a 13-year-old. Max trains in San Diego and I train at the Barrington YMCA."

to the plate and filled in for him. He was my mentor and, now, I have taken this role on with Max. I cherish it, remembering how important my grandfather was to me. Helping Max with schoolwork has inspired us to work toward another common goal – that of participating in the Provincetown Swim for Life, a fund-raising swim across the harbor, in September. We might be the only team made up of a 71-year-old and a 13-year-old. Max trains in San Diego and I train at the Barrington YMCA.

I look forward to my new "career" each day with excitement. I am grateful that the Internet and Skype have helped bring us together.

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A RESIDENT OF ALBION COURT gets physical and cognitive exercise. He is asked to identify a man's name, a woman's name, a place and an item that begins with a letter of the alphabet, and then he tosses it to another resident to begin again, with a different letter of the alphabet.

SENIORS: Still enjoy vibrant, vigorous lives

From Page 1

Twice-daily exercise regimes keep Florence Katz, 88, vibrant. "The machines [at Tamarisk] are wonderful - I use them every day - 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon," she said. "I exercise now more than I did when I worked - I have more time, now." A former department store buyer and high school teacher, Katz swims and does water aerobics three times a week at an off-site fitness facility.

At age 89, Al Feinstein still drives to a meaningful destination - the Bridge Club of Rhode Island. The president of the residents' council at Tamarisk, Feinstein plays bridge five or six days a week, but not at Tamarisk - there aren't enough bridge players there, he said. Asked about physical exercise, he replied swiftly, "I don't jump to conclusions."

Sema Ullian, 81, and Frimette Roberts, 87, are sisters who enjoy the camaraderie of being able to see one another - or not - at Tamarisk. Ullian's husband, who used to be

"I feel younger than my age. I feel too young to be at Tamarisk."

Frimette Roberts, 87

in excellent physical health, now has MS, and needs a wheelchair to get around. He plays the piano one-handed and uses an exercise machine called the NuStep.

Roberts, who used to walk two miles a day, is fairly new to Tamarisk

and learning the ropes. One of her post-retirement joys, she said, was working as a model - something she did for 13 years, for television and newspaper advertisements. "I feel younger than my age," she said. "I feel too young to be at Tamarisk."

When asked, none of these senior citizens believed their synagogue participation or spiritual involvement contributed to their healthy, active lifestyles. Some did, though, cite their synagogue membership as meaningful.

According to Beverly Levitt-Narciso, Tamarisk's community outreach director, meal choices for Tamarisk residents include low-fat, low-salt and sugar-free options. "This setting can enhance a healthy lifestyle," she said. "Communicating, socializing, wellness programs, etc. And, our residents have access

to area doctors and dentists, through our transportation."

EPOCH ON BLACKSTONE

Regular fitness classes and a physical therapy clinic are part and parcel of what's available for residents of Epoch on Blackstone. Chrissy McAndrews, the fitness director, says the NuStep machine offers a "very user-friendly workout - lungs, legs and cardio." McAndrews said that older people know their bodies. "This group is wonderful - they're wise. If something bothers them, they speak up. Their form is good, the motivation is strong."

Epoch's exercise offerings include a pool, walking groups and fitness classes. The classes, said McAndrews, include stretching, yoga, tai chi, building leg strength for balance and upper body strength building. "Almost all the people in class are in their 90s, and they are very health conscious. While some need to be coaxed, most realize the importance of exercise," she said.

Ninety-one-year-old Virginia Delano arrived at Epoch in November 2009. Living independently before she came to Epoch, she was prone to falling. Now, she says, "I

haven't fallen once since I've come - and exercise is the reason. I wish I could get thinner, but the food is too good. And, I feel better emotionally."

ALBION COURT

Albion Court in Lincoln focuses on helping residents who have Alzheimer's or other memory losses to help themselves. Toward that end, Albion Court encourages residents to actively participate in all of the well-being programs tailored to meet their needs so that they may maintain the best physical and cognitive health possible. "Our residents enjoy indoor floor hockey, balloon volleyball, bocce, horseshoes and big pin bowling," said Joann Cardullo, a registered nurse who is the administrator at Albion Court. "These programs are offered each day and they help residents maintain and improve their mobility, strength and physical health."

Other programs, said Jodi Simone, Albion's life enrichment director, "include brain fitness, life skills, cooking and baking, and expressive creative arts and crafts programs."

Answers to FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and some less popular questions

Q: Who are the "Baby Boomers?"

A: Anyone born in the United States between 1946 and 1964. Estimates range from 77 million (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services) to 79 million (U.S. Census Bureau).

Q: How large is the "Baby Boomer" population?

A: One in four Americans is a "Baby Boomer." It's the largest population group in U.S. history.

Q: What's the 65-and-older population in the U.S.?

A: In 2004, 36.3 million seniors - 65 and older - repre-

sented 12 percent of the population. Predictions for 2050 are that the U.S. will have 86.7 million seniors, representing 21 percent of the population.

Q: What about the oldest population - individuals 100 years or older?

A: On Nov. 1, 2005, the U.S. had an estimated 67,473 centenarians (those 100 years or older). In 2040, the projected number of centenarians is 580,605.

Facts and figures come from <http://seniorliving.about.com/od>.

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Changes in open-heart surgery, orthopedics

No merger of two hospitals... yet

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRL.org

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital, both founding members of Lifespan, are implementing some changes in their open-heart surgery and orthopedics programs that are designed, Lifespan officials say, to more effectively align healthcare resources, improve quality and strategically deploy resources to patients.

FEWER OPEN-HEART SURGERIES

Rhode Island Hospital will be the site for open-heart surgeries, and both hospitals will continue to perform other, less invasive cardiac procedures. Many hospitals are adopting this kind of model – that of a few hospitals' interventional cardiology programs supported by one hospital's open-heart surgery program, said Dr. Timothy Babineau, president of Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals. Asked whether cardiac patients might be reluctant to undergo cardiac care at The Miriam, as open-heart surgery, if needed, would be performed at Rhode Island Hospital, Babineau said, "It's a very rare exception when a cardiac patient [undergoing cardiac catheterization] would require urgent transport for open-heart surgery. It happened less than one or two times a year in Lifespan."

How many cardiac catheterizations are the hospitals performing? Data provided from Lifespan for its fiscal year 2009 (Oct. 1, 2008 – Sept. 30, 2009), reveal that The Miriam performed 1,233 percutaneous coronary interventions (PCIs) – which encompass a variety of procedures to treat patients with diseased arteries of the heart – and Rhode Island Hospital performed 854. During the same time frame, 830 diagnostic catheterizations in total were performed – 420 at The Miriam, 410 at Rhode Island.

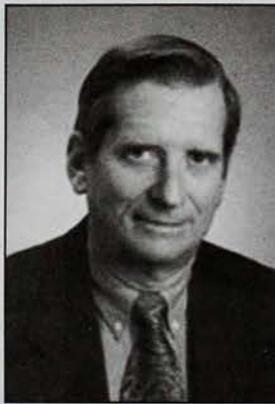
"When you look at national and local data," said Babineau, "open-heart surgery is declining. We believe the number of open-heart surgery cases will continue to decline."

While open-heart surgeries are declining, in number, in part because of the growing use of statins (which lower cholesterol), the joint replacement market is increasing, Babineau said.

Efforts to get comments on the record from two cardiologists at The Miriam Hospital were unsuccessful. One failed to return phone calls, while another declined comment, citing ongoing negotiations.

MORE JOINT REPLACEMENTS

To address the growth in elective joint replacement surgeries



EDWARD D. FELDSTEIN
Chairman of The Miriam
Hospital board of trustees



DR. TIMOTHY BABINEAU,
President of Rhode Island and
The Miriam hospitals

(primarily hip and knee replacements), a new Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital Bone and Joint Center of Excellence will be sited at The Miriam campus. However, with trauma and pediatric orthopedic surgeries based at Rhode Island Hospital, both hospitals will maintain active orthopedic programs.

Although some physicians may adhere to a Rhode Island mentality of "I can't drive across town to practice at 'the other hospital,'" Babineau said, "We have very strong support for the Center of Excellence for Joint Reconstruction. While doctors don't like to be inconvenienced [by having to perform surgery across town from where their offices are], at the end of the day, it's about serving our patients and improving quality. Doctors will always put the best interest of the patients ahead of their own self-interest."

And, said Edward D. Feldstein, chairman of The Miriam Hospital board of trustees, University Orthopedics, historically associated with Rhode Island Hospital, now have offices on Blackstone Boulevard (on the campus with Butler Hospital, Epoch and Lau-

relemed), closer to The Miriam Hospital campus.

In establishing the Center of Excellence for Joint Reconstruction, Lifespan doesn't anticipate major construction, although some room renovations are planned.

Howard Hirsch, M.D., an orthopedist with Orthopedic Partners, envisioning evolutionary, rather than revolutionary, changes, anticipates that each hospital will continue with some orthopedic work and some cardiac surgery, even into the future. "They are not going to be coercive," said Hirsch. "There are several very established and busy surgeons at Rhode Island Hospital. If they said, 'I'm not going to The Miriam Hospital,' [Lifespan] is not going to make them do it. They could move their practices to a competing institution. There's no way that a corporation can coerce an established practitioner."

Patients will go, said Hirsch, who has been practicing for 17 years, where doctors tell them to go. "People come to me not because I practice at The Miriam, but because of my reputation."

"Doctors will always put the best interest of the patients ahead of their own self-interest."

Dr. Timothy Babineau
President of Rhode
Island and The Miriam
hospitals

Asked about the timing of the Center's opening, Dr. Michael Ehrlich, the chairman of the orthopedics department for both hospitals, said, "They want the rooms on 3 North [a wing of The Miriam] to be suitable for orthopedics patients – that will require some room rehabbing. That way, the cadre of nurses will be all focused on orthopedics – they will know more than the doctors will."

Now recruiting some orthopedic surgeons from Rhode Island Hospital to work at the new center at The Miriam, Ehrlich said, "Build it and they will come. No one should be forced to move, but if they can deliver better care in better surroundings, then that's a big incentive."

Dr. John Froehlich, an orthopedist with University Orthopedics, has practiced his craft here for 21 years. It's not about turf issues, he said, but about "creating a center to increase patient satisfaction, staff interest and surgeon satisfaction. A comprehensive center

where you can care for the patients from pre-op, through surgery and post-op effectively and efficiently [will] meet the needs of all the different constituencies."

Froehlich, who performs about 250 joint replacement operations a year, confirms a growing trend for these services. The population of older individuals who want to maintain their active lifestyles is growing, he said.

STATUS OF MERGER

Although the boards of the two hospitals continue to meet together, said Feldstein, who explained that the hospitals won't merge with one single license to operate...yet. As The Miriam Hospital is a Magnet hospital, a designation given by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, it would lose that status if it combined with Rhode Island Hospital without Rhode Island receiving the same credentials. As such, explained Babineau and Feldstein, Lifespan is evaluating whether it's possible to expedite the time-consuming and very lengthy process for Magnet credentialing. Rhode Island Hospital is aggressively pursuing Magnet status, said Babineau.

In the meantime, Rhode Island Hospital's adult cardiothoracic critical care unit recently received the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence, the only such adult unit in Rhode Island and the Boston area to be so honored.

According to a recent statement from Rhode Island Hospital, the award was created in 2003 by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses to challenge acute and critical care nurses to improve the care provided to their patients.

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The Notes tell our Jewish community's story

George Goodwin is a dedicated historian and editor

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Jewish community has a long and rich history, memorialized, in part, by the *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes* (the “Notes”). Shortly after the most recent issue came out, *The Voice & Herald* sat down with George Goodwin, the current editor of the *Notes*, which began publication in 1954, to learn more.

Q: Can you describe the kind of material that appears in the *Notes*?

A: Before I became editor – the *Notes*' eighth editor, by the way – most of my predecessors believed it was necessary to study topics that were at least 50 years old. I changed that, as writers weren't telling their own stories. I believe that the great strength of the *Notes* is that people write from their perspective. And, I'm convinced that readers enjoy the personal stories.

The subjects we have covered include the Depression, World War II, the Holocaust, Israel, continuing waves of immigration, the growth of suburban life and its Jewish institutions, and more.

Q: How do you find writers? Who writes for the *Notes*?

A: I welcome articles from

scholars, college and graduate students, history enthusiasts, genealogists and members of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association (“Association”), the publisher of the *Notes*. One great challenge is to find new volunteer readers, writers, supporters and donors, though it's a privilege to be published in the *Notes*. Many of our authors write frequently for the *Notes*, though one need not be an accomplished writer to submit something. If someone has something to say, I will gladly work with the author. The range of authors includes distinguished professors and students – undergraduate and post-graduate – history buffs and Charlie Bakst, formerly of *The Providence Journal*.

“Memory is vital to Jewish ideas and values.”

Q: What are some of the changes you've implemented as editor?

A: Three issues ago, I introduced a new feature of a photo essay on a specific subject. We've done essays on “Visitors to Rhode Island,” “Hats” and “Flags – American and Israeli and Rhode Island flags.”

Before I became editor, while I served as president of the Association, I created the idea of celebrating the journal's 50th anniversary

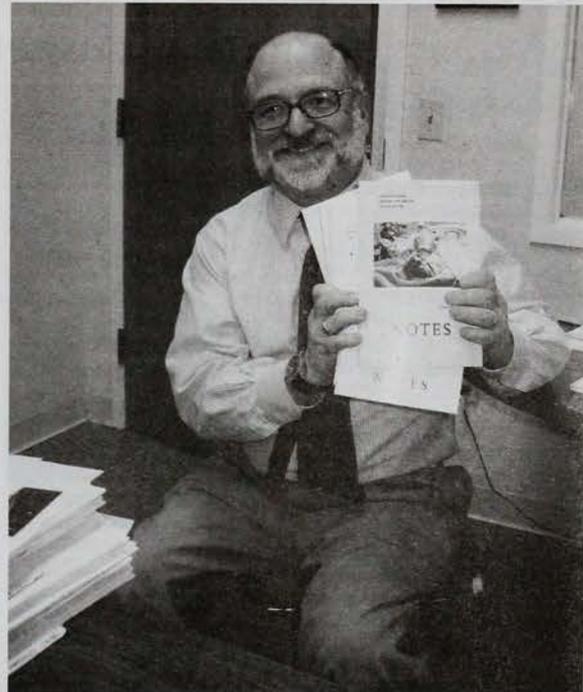
by producing an anthology of articles. In 2004, Brandeis University Press and University Press of New England published *The Jews of Rhode Island*, the 35th volume in the Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life under the general editorship of Brandeis Professor Jonathan D. Sarna. Copies were presented to every synagogue and high school library in Rhode Island, including public, private, and parochial schools, and are available at the Association.

One of the hallmarks of my editorship has been an elegant graphic design, which incorporates photos, maps, drawings, letters, and ephemera and represents a marriage of text and imagery. The Association's graphic designer and creative collaborator is Bobbie Friedman – together, we custom design every page. I also work with the Association's publications committee, which has been chaired since 1998 by Stanley Abrams.

The full contents of the *Notes* have been indexed and are available on the Association's Web site, www.rjha.org.

Q: Why is this work so important to you? What does it represent?

A: Our archives and the *Notes* represent the Jewish community's memory. If the Association were to disappear, then it would have to be reinvented. Memory is vital to Jewish ideas and values; it is a con-



GEORGE GOODWIN DISPLAYS a recent issue of the *Notes*, a publication of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

tinuing source of strength, inspiration and wonder.

George Goodwin, who holds a Ph.D. in art and education from Stanford University, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on May 17. The honorary doctorate recognizes many of Goodwin's endeavors as an independent cultural historian. In addition to

organizing several exhibitions on Jewish topics and lecturing in many synagogues, Goodwin has written for such journals as American Jewish Archives, American Jewish History, Modern Judaism, Western States Jewish History and Rhode Island History.

For more information about the Association or the Notes, contact Anne Sherman, office manager, at 331-1360. Visit the Web site at www.rjha.org

INSURANCE INSIGHT

‘Living with Herbie’ is eye-opening

Essential to plan for long-term care

BY JEFFREY G. BRIER
Special to The Voice & Herald

LIVING WITH “Herbie” is a “must watch” for anyone considering providing long-term care for a family member.

This short documentary was written and directed by photographer, Julie Winokur, who uprooted her family from San Francisco to move to New Jersey to provide care for her father who had dementia.

The documentary provides a balanced view of both the strain providing care imposed on Julie's family members and the personal gratification she felt in caring for her father. Julie made the decision to provide long-term care for her father, thinking it would be a sprint. She soon realized, though, that she had committed herself and her family to a marathon.

CONSIDER POTENTIAL COSTS

When planning for your retirement, you must consider the poten-

tial costs associated with requiring long-term care. Nearly two-thirds of people older than 65 will need long-term care, whether at home, an adult day care facility, an assisted living facility and/or a nursing home.

For most unprepared families the costs associated with long-term care can deplete years of savings. According to a recent survey, the median daily rate for a stay in a semi-private room at a Rhode Island nursing home is \$264, or nearly \$100,000 per year. For a licensed in-home health aide, the median cost was \$25 per hour. The costs for these types of care have been increasing by 4 to 7 percent each year.

Medicare is not a solution for paying for long-term care. Medicare is designed to provide hospital and medical insurance and has limited home-care benefits. It will provide 100 percent benefits for care in a skilled nursing facility for the first 20 days; then, for days 21-100, a co-payment is required. Medicare does not cover custodial care, the care most often needed for long-term care.

CONSIDER INSURANCE OPTIONS

There are options to protect against these costs. One option for high net worth individuals is to self-insure. This approach should include carefully analyzing one's financial liquidity and, if there has been any family history of dementia, then particular attention needs to be paid to a potentially long period, perhaps 10+ years, of needing care.

Medicaid may provide coverage for care at home as well as in a nursing home; however, it is limited to individuals with low incomes and limited resources. Medicaid has limits on the amount of assets one can own and there are strict restrictions on transferring assets to others.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE INSURANCE

During the 1990s, the federal government examined the feasibility of implementing a government-funded long-term care program, but found it to be cost prohibitive. Instead, tax incentives were developed to encourage the public, particularly business owners, to obtain private long-term care insurance.

Many states, including Rhode Island, participate in the Long Term Care Insurance Partnership Program that is designed to encourage individuals to plan for their long-term care needs by allowing them to protect more assets than would otherwise be allowed under state Medicaid programs. Individuals can participate by purchasing a policy that meets a specific set of requirements.

The most recent government venture into the long-term care area is the recent passage of the healthcare reform legislation. Contained in it is the Community Living Assistance and Supports Act, more commonly called CLASS Act. The details of CLASS Act have yet to be developed, though its main focus appears to be providing coverage for disabled workers. It will be a voluntary program into which workers would contribute. In return, if workers should qualify for benefits, they would receive a modest daily benefit to help pay for long-term care services, costs. Individuals must participate in the program for five years before becoming eligible for benefits and the program won't begin for several years.

For the vast majority of non-Medicaid eligible individuals, private long-term care insurance is the best protection against the high costs associated with long-term care. We encourage individuals in their 50s, who have determined that private insurance is their best option, to apply for coverage. Long-term care insurance requires medical underwriting; and the approval rate for people in their 50s is 87 percent, compared to as low as 66 percent for people in their 60s.

Coverage may be denied to people with certain pre-existing medical conditions, regardless of their age. Although the cost of a policy depends on the benefits design, which can widely vary, premiums are noticeably less expensive for clients in their 50s than at older ages.

View “Living with Herbie” at http://assets.aarp.org/external_sites/caregiving/multimedia/LifeWithHerbie.html

Jeffrey G. Brier, CLU, ChFC, CASL, is a partner in the insurance and employee benefits agency of Brier & Brier. Contact him at jbrier@aol.com.

AS WE GROW OLDER

Only in (Jewish) Rhode Island

We're not like other Jews — or other Rhode Islanders

WHEN THE new president of the University of Rhode Island expressed his reaction to the term, "Only in Rhode Island," I found it amusing. And then, Mark Patinkin, a columnist for *The Providence Journal*, elaborated on the subject by enumerating the unusual things and experiences he found here. At the risk of being accused of literary theft, I would like to add to Patinkin's list my thoughts on those Jewish dimensions unique to Rhode Island.



Tema Gouse

As some of you know, I lived in Chicago until I married and moved to Providence. When I left Chicago (more than six decades ago), Chicago had a vibrant, involved community of approximately 270,000 Jews. There were multiple Hadasah chapters in different parts of the city and its suburbs. Like Rhode

Island, it had Jewish neighborhoods for people who were wealthy, people who were not, and those of us who fit somewhere in between. Many Jewish customs were identical to those observed in Rhode Island.

So what are the "Only in Rhode Island" Jewish distinctions? Well, my first introduction to differences was when I learned that *kasbrut* was normal; not keeping kosher was not to be mentioned. (This has, of course, reversed itself; but change, or attitude, was slow in evolving.) I learned that your wealth could be determined by whether you bought your Saturday lox, corned beef or sour cream at Davis's (on North Main Street) or Miller's Delicatessen (on Hope Street).

Your synagogue affiliation was indicative of your parents' background, your financial status, and your social aspirations and, to some degree, the intensity (or lack of it) of your religious attachments.

I learned that Jewish men affiliated in Rhode Island joined lodges and highly valued their membership. (To elaborate on their motivations is too controversial.) Which Zionist

affiliation you made also had social derivatives.

I had further education when I attended my first Hadassah meeting. After I was seated, a woman tapped on my shoulder, and said, "Welcome to Rhode Island. Now the state has two mavericks." I soon realized that she and I were the only women present who were not wearing hats! (The lady was the late *rebbe*tzin Pearl Braude, truly a one-of-a-kind maverick.) Although Chicago is about as big, area-wise, as the entire state of

inevitably someone in the group could not only identify the person, but also could give that person's family background, educational level and work history!

I have been negative enough. Let me now elaborate on some of the unique details. Jewish Rhode Islanders have many unusual qualities.

They have clothing codes. Until I arrived here, I never questioned my hostess or my companion about what was suitable dress for specific occasions. The mother of the bar mitzvah must wear a hat to the ceremony, but there is no such mandate for guests.

One is considered rude if the guest does not bring a gift to a host or hostess. You could argue that this is not uniquely Jewish, but my point

of view is supported by the behaviors of my Gentile guests versus the behavior of my Jewish friends. (And yes, it is not universal — I know because I lived in another very strong Jewish community for a long time).

Another Rhode Island Jewish tradition is that one visits their departed at the cemetery before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I have inquired in Chicago, and in

other places if this custom was observed. The response was almost always, "Only in Rhode Island."

I have also inquired about ritual hand-washings after arriving home from a funeral and have only received weird glances from non-Rhode Islanders. And yet, I have noted the diminishing of some of the old death-related traditions like covered mirrors and sitting on wood boxes.

The average Jewish Rhode Islander can be identified easily if you are tracing family histories. The Jewish newcomer is always astounded when native Jews can tell you which clans combined in marriage and then tell you ages, educational levels, and monetary successes of each member of the uniting families.

If the newcomer finds a local Jewish maven (as I did), integration into the greater Jewish community is a snap. I can just see the grin on the face of my maven, who shall remain nameless, as she reads this.

I am sure there are many more Jewish "only in Rhode Island" idiosyncrasies. Some of them are maddening; others are delightful. Check them out with any new resident.

Tema Gouse is a retired social worker. Contact her at nbgtg@cox.net.

"If the newcomer finds a local Jewish maven, integration into the greater Jewish community is a snap."

It's more than just putting oars in the water

A hobby that respects a 'Boomer's' body

By BRIAN SULLIVAN
bsullivan@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE — "What have I done?" Ruth Berenson asked herself, at age 61, after she had qualified to compete in the Head Of The Charles Regatta, the world's largest two-day rowing event.

When she was 60 and looking for a way to stay active with people in her age group, Berenson stumbled upon rowing. In the past, she had been a runner, but she wanted something that would be kind to her knees and still provide enough activity to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

"I wanted to make sure this new hobby would respect my body at this stage in my life," said Berenson.

Berenson signed up for an "Erg class" at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (the JCCRI), twice a week at 6 a.m. The erg machine, or ergometer, simulates the action of watercraft rowing. While taking Erg classes at the JCCRI in the off-season, Berenson took advantage of the JCCRI's partnership with the Narragansett Boat Club (NBC) and soon got out on the open water. "The relationship between the JCCRI and the NBC has been brilliant for me," said Berenson.

What began as a way to stay active soon turned into an undeni-

able passion. "The water is heaven to me," said Berenson. "Rowing is more than just putting oars in the water; it's like making art or dancing."

Berenson soon found herself signing up for the C.R.A.S.H.-B., also known as the Charles River All Star Has-Beens, an international indoor Erg race with competitors from around the world. Berenson was competing against people in her own weight and age bracket. Her personal goal was to break the 10-minute mark in the 2000 meters, which she did, in 2008, at 8 minutes, 56 seconds, a personal best and her first time rowing competitively.

Berenson stresses how important it is not to be wedded to the expectations of age. "You don't have to sit still; you can do anything if you have the right teachers. I have been so blessed to have some of the most amazing coaches and instructors, including Tom Marchand, a JCCRI trainer." He

encouraged Berenson because, she said, "He understands the limitations of an older body." Under Marchand's coaching, Berenson was able to cut her time down at last year's C.R.A.S.H.-B. to 8:36, earning her a bronze medal. In 2010, her time for 2000 meters was 8:34.

"I really believe I would never be enjoying this time of my life so much without all the people who believe in the ability of us 'older mature' persons to learn something new and work hard to perfect it," said Berenson. On a cold, snowy day last October, Berenson competed in the Head Of The Charles Regatta and met all of her personal goals, which she said, laughing, included, "not hitting the bridge abutment, not hitting another boat and not falling in!"

Brian Sullivan is a marketing associate at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



RUTH BERENSON, right, at the Charles River All Star Has-Beens (C.R.A.S.H.-B), the international indoor Erg race, with her coach, Tom Marchand, of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

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Messages from the executive editor

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In the May 14 issue of *The Voice & Herald*, "Poverty conference draws diverse crowd" included a statement that Patrick Lynch had successfully sued for monetary damages to compensate children affected by lead exposure. In fact, although Lynch, as the state's Attorney General, had sued paint companies, the suits were overturned by the Rhode Island Supreme Court. The error was *The Voice & Herald's*, not Lynch's.

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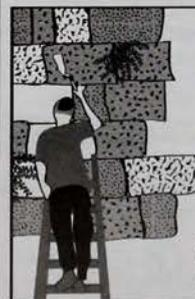
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SENIORS/BOOMERS

Passion, purpose and perseverance

Pet therapy provides tranquility

By CARYL FREEDMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

SOMETIMES...LIFE steps in and provides serendipitous moments. I have re-invented myself numerous times over the last five-plus decades: Worker, wife, stay-at-home mom, entrepreneur, volunteer, student, artist of many disciplines, care-giver and grandmother. Within each of these roles are a dozen complexities and intricate sub-categories. Some doors never truly close; others slam shut, while a wretched few stubbornly refuse to budge. The common denominator, for me, has been the three "P's" – passion, purpose and perseverance.

Seven years ago we were presented with a shocking medical diagnosis. It was imperative that daily life continue as normally as possible, yet the apprehension and fright, of "what if," was overwhelming. To begin and end every conversation with "the story" was not something I wanted to do. There was no escaping reality, and there was an increasing need to vent mounting anger and frustration.

"Please call me if there is anything I can do," asked with true

intent, is an overused phrase; frequently voiced whenever there was an awkward lull in the conversation. Surprisingly, our rambunctious Siberian Husky, Sasha, instinctively filled the emptiness. She was uncharacteristically patient, and listened with no expectations. Running, digging and chewing are part of the Siberian Husky's usual mantra. This animal-person connection might be part of something larger, I theorized. We triumphantly got through that medical crisis and moved on. Sadly, our blue-eyed Husky died after her own grave illness.

Brady, the goofy but elegant Labradoodle, joined our family in December 2008. There was something exceptional about this puppy. Brady would gently offer a cuddle, intuitively sensing when someone was in despair. His "job" became very clear. I was in the process of contemplating a master's in social work – intending to work with older adults in the next phase of my older adult life. As an active University of Rhode Island Master Gardener, I thought about horticultural therapy. There is no such program locally, but it still didn't feel right. Thinking back to Sasha, I started to explore the possibility of studying professional pet assisted therapy and discovered the DJ. PAT certificate program at the Community College of Rhode

Island. Brady and I enrolled in the three-course series. The ethics-based curriculum includes instruction in developing life goals, empathy, and compassion for all creatures.

We learned how pets help people reduce depression and loneliness by providing unconditional love and a feeling of being needed; these dynamic programs have legitimate therapeutic value. Sometimes, the intent is to make someone just smile! In most cases, the goal is to simply boost the quality of life.

It is touching for Brady and me to witness a smile, where there had been none. It is heartwarming to listen to the spilling of memories, where there had been silence. These experiences are all because of a large black dog with a gentle temperament and a very cold nose. A fabulously perceptive dog, who knows a nudge from that cold, wet nose is just the right thing. I realized early in our year-long internship at The Elmhurst Extended Care Facility that we bring tranquility to the people we visit every week. Most of the residents that we see are older adults with serious illnesses, dementia, cancer, and a host of debilitating conditions. Others are in good health, weakened by the frailty of aging.

Brady and I are now fully credentialed through the Wind-walker Humane Coalition for



Professional Pet Assisted Therapy (PPAT). "Paws Four a Hug" is the official name of our program. We work as part of an interdisciplinary team that might include a social worker or physical therapist. Our program outlines specific goals, and we choose to concentrate our practice to older adults. We are at The Elmhurst Extended Care Facility and the Jewish Seniors Agency's To Life Center Adult Day Services.

It makes me absolutely wild when a fellow "boomer" says, 'I'm

too old for that," or even worse, "At my age..." Yikes! Why the self-sabotage? You can do anything you want, no matter your age. For me, PPAT is exactly the right thing and this is the right time – I am looking to develop my expertise, a practice, a body of knowledge, do a little good to benefit others – and perhaps selfishly, myself – into the next 50 years.

Caryl Freedman is a resident of Warwick. Contact her at pawsfourahug@gmail.com.

Ledgemont Country Club hosts 40+ group

SEEKONK, Mass. – Thanks to the generosity of Ledgemont Country Club, in Seekonk, Mass., and club president, Lawrence B. Sadwin, the May event for "40+ Singles" was held at the club on May 22, a beautiful, sunny Saturday.

With a membership of more than 200 and growing, the group enjoyed delicious appetizers and gourmet desserts (gourmet cupcakes from Sweet Indulgence in Warwick) and coffee, while gathered around the informal dining room to enjoy the music of Ron Sanfilippo on piano. The patio doors were open to the spacious deck that overlooks the golf course, dotted with golfers finishing up their rounds.

Attendees came from all parts of Rhode Island, including Newport and Wakefield, and new guests came from Boston and Taunton, as well. Each person had an opportunity to briefly introduce himself or herself to the group.

Nancy Thomas Slack, coordinator of 40+ Singles, announced that the group's May event would support Paint4Peace, a program of Peace-Love Studios, in Pawtucket, and its founder, Jeff Sparr. Each event of the 40+ Singles group supports a charitable organization.

Contact nancy@ntgrouptalent.com, visit www.ntgrouptalent.com or the Facebook page, "40+ Singles" for more information.



/Nancy Thomas Slack

DR. IRWIN KAPLAN, of Wakefield; Jay Burzon, of Narragansett; Paul Campion, of Boston; and Patricia Raskin and MaryAnne Harmsen, both of East Greenwich, attended the May 22 event at Ledgemont Country Club.

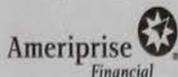
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SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Some contingent thoughts on aging

The genetic disorder, progeria, remains rare

Aging people should know that their lives are not mounting and unfolding but that an inexorable inner process forces the contraction of life. For a young person it is almost a sin to be too much occupied with himself; but for the aging person it is a duty and a necessity to give attention to himself." And thus did a pompous, middle-aged Carl Jung tell the elderly how to conduct their lives.



Dr. Stanley Aronson

It is truly strange to observe how many younger writers consider themselves authorities on the inner mechanics and experiences of advanced aging. They write with an eloquence unhampered by any intimacy with the inner feelings of being old. So often they declare that beyond age

60 the elderly may coast gently downhill – winners in life's struggle – all the while being applauded by the younger ones. The elderly, of course, know that there are no winners in life, only survivors; and what the large print giveth, the small print taketh away.

All agree, too: There is a notable difference between growing older and being old. The former is a continuing biological process experienced by both the newborn and the octogenarian.

The latter, however, is an irreversible pathobiological state combining unequal portions of wishful thinking and organic decrepitude. There is further agreement that each species has both a lifespan and a life expectancy: the former represents the realistic limits of life under the best of circumstances; and the latter, the realistic limits determined by an individual's nature and nurture.

Apart from some undocumented ancestors in the Book of Genesis, we humans seem to have only 120 years as our upper limit of survival, the quantity allotted to us.

It is unnecessary, if not impertinent, to list the physiological spec-

ics of advanced aging, the tangible factors that diminish the quality of life in the senior decades. Elaborating on the essence of aging would unduly sadden the elderly and certainly frighten the young.

The emergence of these landmarks

"It is better to retire too soon than too late."

of aging are certainly accelerated by one's lifestyle: Imprudent diet, stressful existence, poverty, even excessive alcohol, each component hastening the aging process. Conversely, eating nutritiously, managing one's stress and maintaining a manageable exercise routine may delay the negative affects of aging.

But beyond these factors, there is that ill-defined force of nature called heredity. In medical experience, is there anything to reinforce the view that one may inherit one's aging pattern, and specifically one's life expectancy, from one's parents?

The year, 1886: A British physician, Jonathan Hutchinson, took on a 6-year-old male patient. The

mother's pregnancy was said to have been unremarkable and the child's birth was allegedly normal. But at 1-year-old, the infant deteriorated rapidly, showing physical signs of advanced aging. His skin became wrinkled and lost its youthful elasticity; he lost scalp hair; his eyes developed cataracts and, within another year, he exhibited all of the objective signs of advanced senescence including demonstrable atherosclerosis of his major systemic arteries.

Following Hutchinson's description of the phenomenon of premature aging, now called progeria, other physicians published cases of a similar nature. Fortunately, the phenomenon remains rare.

The existence of a possible gene that accelerates aging prompted many contemporary geneticists to seek it out (leading to the naive prayer that all aging might some day be abolished or at least deferred by genetic manipulation.) By 2003, a team of scientists had identified a human gene variant held to be responsible for premature, progeric, aging.

Could there be an alternative gene

that slows the process of physiological decline? Such a hypothetical gene has not as yet been isolated.

So, until such time as the genetic engineers have provided us with something more tangible than Jung's platitudes, we elders must content ourselves with six precautionary axioms to sustain our longings for youth.

Foremost amongst these pragmatic principles is that we should never confuse intense activity with advancement or progress. Second, the laws of nature include neither pity nor compassion. Third, it is better to retire too soon than too late. Fourth, we should never allow our highly structured religious principles to deter us from doing the right thing in life. Fifth, when wandering through rattlesnake-infested territory, always wear our hearing aids. And finally, because of the misplacement of a special platinum-plated trumpet, the end of the world has been indefinitely postponed.

Stanley Aronson, M.D. is dean of medicine emeritus at Brown University Medical School. Contact him at smamd@cox.net.

Long overdue career change is just the ticket

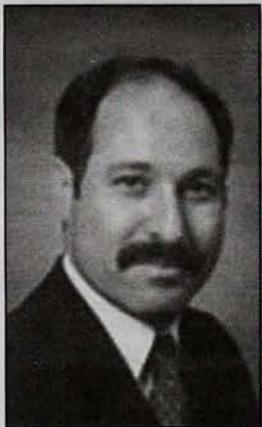
By BENNETT BERGMAN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

AT 57 YEARS of age, having practiced law successfully for more than 30 years, I changed the focus of my livelihood to acting as an investment advisor representative for Cornerstone Investment Services.

My college major was economics. I have loved following the worldwide global economic trends and the movements of the stock market for as long as I can remember.

Even after I began the practice of law in 1977 with a highly regarded personal injury firm in Manhattan, my interest in the financial world persisted. Multiple times, I interviewed with stock brokerage firms and was always told that I would suffer financially if I made the change.

I loved the practice of law and always felt fulfilled helping the victims of neglect obtain the money that helps them cope with the disabilities they suffer. I still enjoy it and still practice law, but to a lesser extent. In analyzing the aspects of the practice that I enjoy, I came to realize that it is learning the complex ideas within medical malpractice and product liability cases, and then explaining them in lay terms to those who are not familiar with



Bennett Bergman

them.

With my children grown (one is about to be married and the other entering her third year of college) and my wife's encouragement to follow my dream, I looked for a company that meshed with my personality and did its own research and made logical conclusions.

Cornerstone Investment Services fits me perfectly.

Its research is proprietary, thorough and smart. I review the concepts of our portfolio manager. The long-term cycles of the markets are often complex and reflect changes in the global and domestic economies. Intermediate and shorter-term changes can reflect different types of economic and market activity.

I have observed our invest-

"These economic developments create significant dangers and significant opportunities for today's investors."

ment philosophy proving itself correct, and I have a high degree of confidence that our ideas are

authentic, accurate and have a sound basis in fact and well-grounded research.

The world is changing rapidly. As measured by debt levels, balance of trade, Gross Domestic Product growth and potential growth, the center of the world is shifting away from the United States and Western Europe and toward Asia and the developing world. Fiat currency (money without intrinsic value) is being questioned all around the world as governments create ever more currency to deal with multiple crises.

The likely effects of these and

other economic developments create significant dangers and significant opportunities for today's investors. These changes are scary, but we are prepared for them and so are our investors. No one can eliminate risk, but we manage risk first. I love feeling that every one of our investors will thank me in the long run.

I LOVE my career change!

Bennett Bergman is a resident of Providence. Contact him at bbergman@cornerstoner.com.

Limmud: Jewish seniors become b'not mitzvah

Five women make aliyah, present d'var Torah

By NANCY ABESHAUS
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE – In Hebrew, "limmud" means "learning," and on Saturday, May 22, at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, four seniors and one middle-aged woman from our Jewish community achieved another milestone along their path of lifelong Jewish learning.

Mazal Tov to Cecilia Katz, Celia Krieger and Judith Lynn Stillman of Providence; Carol Rotkin of West Warwick; and Sydelle Rozbruch of Cranston on becoming *b'not mitzvah*! During Shabbat services in the main sanctuary at the Conservative synagogue, each graduate made an *aliyah* (read from the Torah) and presented a *d'var Torah* from the *bimah*.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

How do they feel about this achievement? Each woman shared her thoughts with *The Voice & Herald*. Cecilia Katz said, "I did study a lot for it. It was a challenge," said Katz. "I had a bat mitzvah in Berlin, Germany 75 years ago, but women were not allowed to read from the Torah then, so this is the first time I read from the Torah."

Krieger said, "I achieved one of my goals – to learn the musical notes of the Torah."

"It was just fantastic to reach that goal! I feel exhilarated," said Rozbruch. "I don't drive and my friend drove me to class every week."

Rotkin said, "It was a little difficult for me: I am very emotional. I didn't think I'd ever do it, but I made it!"

"I feel deeply grateful to the Temple Emanu-El community and EPOCH for the blessing of enabling

us to reach this milestone," said Stillman. "I have a sense of having just embarked upon the journey on a quest to explore the intersection of study and spirituality. *Mazal Tov* to my new *b'not mitzvah* "sisters!"

On the warm spring morning, family and friends filled the sanctuary to participate in the services. All five women began preparing for this "coming-of-age" experience back in January at the first-in-Rhode Island "express bat mitzvah" program.

The program was sponsored by EPOCH Assisted Living on the Eastside and Temple Emanu-El, and was offered free-of-charge to all EPOCH residents, their guests and our community. The celebration continues on June 13 when EPOCH hosts a bat mitzvah brunch for all participants and their families.

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

FAITH: Gave us hope for a fantastic life together

Jack. "The thought that if we lived, we would have a fantastic life together, gave us hope."

Jack's faith never faltered. Both Ina and Jack were raised in Orthodox Jewish homes in The Netherlands. In his letters to Ina, Jack often wrote about his belief that, "God was with us and I hope He remains with us while we are here."

Jack's unwavering love gave Ina the strength to face unspeakable conditions of life in the camps. And, always, there was the constant fear of being transferred to another camp and killed. At that time, the Germans used Westerbork as a transit, or deportation, center for all Jews in The Netherlands. Every Tuesday, Jews would be transferred from Westerbork to extermination camps, most often

to Auschwitz.

AUDIENCE RIVETED

Sybil Miller of Providence called it one of the best movies she has seen in a long time. "It was extraordinary to contemplate their relationship and love in such a terrible place," said Sybil. "It is a very important movie; it has so many layers. The indomitable spirit of humanity and the triumph of love over hate. That is the truth of this film."

Sybil's husband, Michael said, "Their simple and deep communication through letters was so beautiful; it was better than all of our computerized ways of communicating today."

"With all his [Jack's] talent and positive attitude, he still says that it was sheer luck that he survived,"

said Judy Dill of Providence.

Today, the Polaks live in Eastchester, N.Y., and will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in January. They have three children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Their daughter, Margrit, translated their love letters for the book that was published in 2000. The movie, released in 2007 and based on the book, was produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Michele Ohayon, who was born in Morocco and raised and educated in Israel.

For more information about "Steal a Pencil for Me," visit www.stealapencil.com.

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



Lessons from the Holocaust

BY NANCY ABESHAUS

Special to The Voice & Herald

In his formal remarks to the audience attending the film and discussion event at the JCCRI on Monday night, May 16, survivor Jaap "Jack" Polak offered his six lessons from the Holocaust.

JACK POLAK'S SIX LESSONS

1. Don't discriminate.
2. Do not generalize.
3. Don't be a bystander.
4. Work for peace.
5. Enjoy the simple things in life.
6. We are living in a wonderful country and we all need to work together to make this a better world. But this can only be

achieved if people learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

Regarding lesson number five, Ina, Jack and 25 members of their extended family enjoyed celebrating the first birthday of their great-grandson, Owen, at the home of their granddaughter, Ann and grandson-in-law, Jordan, in Providence, earlier that same Sunday. *Mazal Tov!*

RACE: Was no pipe dream

From Page 17

grueling mentally – to stay focused and avoid crucial errors," said Dan. "[Like Jordan], I had a tough time sleeping on 13-hour plane or 12-hour bus rides. The tasks are demanding, especially with little or no sleep." Dan, for one, relied on a steady supply of Snickers to keep his energy levels high!

"The Amazing Race" adventure, of course, forced the brothers to sacrifice their normal daily lives. Whenever possible, Dan would ask anyone he ran into who held a cell phone or other hand-held device for updates on the Boston teams' win-loss records. Jordan, who calls himself "very schedule oriented," missed his routine, as the entire race was one big question mark.

JEWISH VALUES IMPORTANT

Did they have to set aside their values and ethics to win the race? "My brother and I live our lives with the upbringing and moral values that our parents taught us," said Jordan. "I don't think we compromised those values at any point during the race." Even so, he said, "you're in it as a player and, at times, you have to do what it takes to win." Thanks to their close relationship and strong bonds, they trusted one another all the way. It was a huge asset for them

in their competition, they said.

How did Jamie and Lezli encourage such closeness between the boys? "It's just growing up in a houseful of love," said Lezli. "They saw our relationship and our relationships with our families."

"We always had dinner together," said Jamie, "and we'd talk about the day. We encouraged them to communicate and share their feelings."

When Jordan, the consummate traveler, unsuccessfully applied for a spot on "The Amazing Race" with a friend, he then turned to Dan and convinced him to sign up. Jordan said, "It seemed like a pipe dream – two little Jewish boys from Barrington."

"I went on 'The Amazing Race' for Jordan to help him achieve his dream, but I am a competitive person," said Dan. "Once we were on [the show], my first priority was to get as far on the race to allow Jordan to achieve his dream, and a close second was to win. I hate losing at anything and a race around the world for \$1 million – that's no different."

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES?

Each of the Pious brothers received a check for \$500,000 (before taxes) on the day they were interviewed by *The Voice & Herald*, yet they seemed remarkably san-

guine about their fattened bank accounts.

At age 23, Dan is re-evaluating his career options and is exploring whether his love for sports – especially the Boston-based teams – could earn him a living. They both plan to save their money, though.

Jordan, 25, is a financial planner in Atlanta. "If anything, I will use some of the money in the future to do more travelling," said Jordan, who said the experience simply fueled his hunger for more new cultural experiences.

"We had wonderful experiences – it opened my eyes that a lot of the world loves Americans," said Dan, explaining that he'd heard stereotypes about people in France disliking Americans.

LOCAL SUPPORT GRATIFYING

"A reality [television] show is not the litmus test of how we are as parents, but it showed the boys, warts and all," said Jamie. "We were touched by the people who said wonderful things about the boys during the race, and the compliments that we received as parents."

"The experience brought a lot of people together," Lezli said. "One of our neighbors said that watching the show would never again be the same for him, after he got to root for a specific team."

Accolades for teaching tolerance

BY NANCY ABESHAUS
Special to The Voice & Herald

INA AND JAAP "Jack" Polak I have traveled the United States and the world to disseminate information about the Holocaust and raise awareness of the experiences of survivors, particularly those who were Dutch Jews. Jack has been affiliated with the Anne Frank Center, USA, in New York as a director, then president and now chairman emeritus of the organization, since the nonprofit organization promoting the universal message of tolerance was founded. In December 1992, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands

knighted Jack, on his 80th birthday, for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Anne Frank Center, USA.

On Jan. 26, 2006, the first annual United Nations' International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust, Ina and Jack were honored in a candlelight ceremony at the UN General Assembly.

The couple continues to work tirelessly to educate the public on matters pertaining to the Holocaust and human rights.

For more information about the Anne Frank Center, USA, visit www.annefrank.com.



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OFFICERS: Want to make a positive impact

From Page 1

Chen has enough seniority to have his choice of both shift (3 to 11 p.m.) and district (the West End, between Cranston and Westminster streets, bordered by the highway). He and his wife are among the four or five couples who both work for PPD. "We work the same shift, so we can spend time together with our children," he said. "When I'm home, I try to leave work at work."

In certain parts of the West End, stolen cars, gangs and drugs, especially crack cocaine, are problems, said Chen. And, prostitution occurs around Cranston Street and Elmwood Avenue.

The West Broadway Neighborhood Association, representing many homeowners on Broadway or its quiet, intersecting side streets, does a great job, said Chen, of keeping the PPD apprised of situations and problems.

AN ARREST

Later in the evening, he speeds up as he sees a car, with lights off and driving fast, on a street parallel to ours - just across a wide swath of green space. He catches up to the car, sirens and lights on, and the driver pulls to the curb.

Chen searches the car, runs the license plates and examines the man's identification. It's counterfeit; the man has no driver's license, no proof of insurance and was driving someone else's car.

He is handcuffed and frisked - for weapons or drugs - and put into the back of the police car. Chen fills out paperwork - all in triplicate - and calls a tow truck, and his sergeant to report the arrest.

Chen talks - in English and elementary Spanish - to the arrestee, who appears remarkably passive, almost nonchalant. Back at the station, Chen locks his weapon into a lock box, and escorts the arrestee into a locked, caged area of the elevator and then to the men's cellblock.

It's the real deal - when you're arrested, you get one call. No one home? Leave a message, advises the female employee who instructs him to remove his shoes, belt and everything in his pockets. The cell phone and the \$188 in cash are carefully signed for, bagged and locked in a safe. The fake I.D. - which Chen says has a street price of \$20 or \$30, though the arrestee paid \$150 for it - will not be returned to him.

The phone call seems, to me, a formality. Arrested on a weekend night, he has to wait for bail until the bail commissioner reviews his case, sometime the next day.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As I'm waiting for Chen to finish the paperwork, I notice a poster identifying sexual predators, wanted by the PPD. Having earlier told Chen where I lived, I paid particular attention when he pointed to one fresh-faced, clean-cut man on the list - the fresh-faced, clean cut man's last known address was in

the 900 block of Hope Street on the East Side! In the lobby of the PPD's Public Safety Complex, across from the information window, a poster identifies 113 registered sex offenders.

Before he finishes his shift, Chen explains the appeal of police work. "I can't make a difference for everyone, but sometimes I can turn someone around," he said. "A girl [who had been using drugs] came up to me and said, 'You don't remember me, do you? You kept after me and gave me a hard time. Now I'm going to school at CCRI and I'm clean. That's a good feeling.'"

Earlier in the evening, I ride briefly with Michele Rudolph, a patrol officer since 2002. Assigned to the Federal Hill area, she responds to a call about an aggressive pit bull running loose and scaring children and adults. When we arrive on the scene, there's no pit bull, only a slightly embarrassed, yet appreciative, woman who explains,

"Anything can happen [on the job] in Providence. I wanted to be where the action is."

Michele Rudolph

"I think the dog belongs to my neighbors. It ran into their house, so it's OK. I'm sorry to bother you."

Rudolph, who wanted to join the PPD for 10 years before she was hired, didn't want a small police department. "Anything can happen [on the job in Providence]," she said. "I wanted to be where the action is," calling the PPD the elite police department in Rhode Island.

As she patrols the streets of Federal Hill, she looks for "people who don't belong up here - people who are coming to break into cars or commit other petty theft." What does she like about police work? "It's never routine, and the patrol officers I work with are great."

WORK CHALLENGES NOT UNIQUE

With 500 police officers and some additional number of civilian employees (such as the dispatchers whose work is so stressful and challenging, said Chen, that they switch off and take a break every hour), "there are 500 different personalities at work - not everyone is going to like everyone. You need to do your job."

Earlier this spring, three PPD officers were arrested for drug trafficking and another PPD officer was recently convicted of rape. Asked what the reaction was in the PPD, officers expressed frustration, anger and disappointment. "It's embarrassing and we were hit hard by it," said Chen. "We wondered,

'What were they thinking?'"

Andy Groot, a three-year PPD veteran, responded grimly, "They don't represent me. They don't represent us."

Groot, who works third shift in downtown Providence, and I head to Providence Place Mall to transport a juvenile to the North Providence police station, though we never learn whether she's a runaway or, perhaps, the victim of some family violence.

Traffic accidents (at Memorial Boulevard and Francis Street), shoplifting, GPSs stolen from cars and late night noise complaints from hotel occupants are Groot's most frequent issues, except on weekend nights, which bring the 2 a.m. bar closings.

PREPARING FOR ANYTHING

There's been controversy about whether bars should institute staggered closing times, though which bar would willingly sacrifice and close earlier? And, some officers say, with some bars open, patrons exiting the closed bar would have additional opportunities to drink and get into trouble.

Around midnight, I climb into a 42-foot long Mobile Command Unit, with high tech communication equipment, manned by Joe Migliaccio, a civilian employee, who works for the Providence communications department.

Clad in sweatshirt and shorts, Migliaccio sets up the unit at 10 p.m. at the intersection of Friendship and Richmond streets on weekend nights, as a deterrent to trouble. After 9/11, he said, Providence was one of 10 cities to get the unit (with capabilities beyond this story's description).

The same officers and same sergeants are regularly assigned here, he said, so they know each other and the bars' patrons. "The officers are very professional, very patient - they give people time to leave," he explains. "Even on quiet nights, people can get rowdy - and the women are more belligerent than the men." (Based on my one evening's observations, I'd have to concur - it's not a sexist statement.)

As 1:30 a.m. approaches, two officers on horseback are in position, as are nearly a dozen additional police. Police stand outside their cars, positioned so traffic can only flow in one direction. A fire truck and then an ambulance arrive in the intersection - to transport an apparently drunk patron to Rhode Island Hospital.



MICHELE RUDOLPH

/Nancy Kirsch



EUGENE CHEN

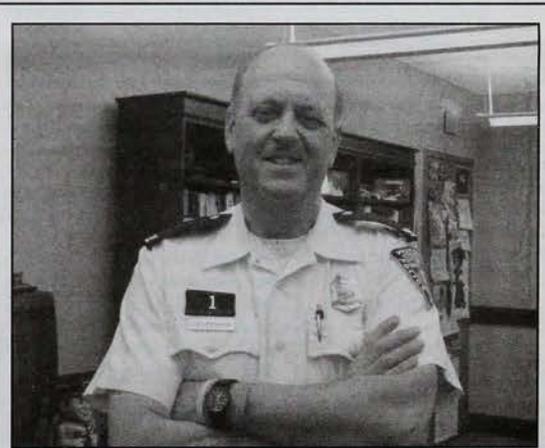
/Nancy Kirsch

Around 1:30 a.m., Migliaccio points out customers leaving: "The people who are smart leave before the 2 p.m. closing time, they get away before things get crazy."

It takes about 30 minutes for the hundreds of bar patrons to disperse, but before they do, at least one patron is put in the police van, and half-a-dozen officers run up Richmond Street in hot pursuit. There's a call about a disturbance in a Dor-

rance Street parking lot.

Migliaccio maneuvers the vehicle around narrow city streets to drop me at my car, parked in a PPD parking garage. On my short drive home, I'm startled when a police car, sirens on and lights flashing, approaches. I pull over, knowing that I'd been speeding - a bit - and ever so grateful to realize he is after someone else.



COLONEL DEAN ESSERMAN is in his office.

/Nancy Kirsch

Jewish lawyer is Providence's 'top cop'

Esserman ignored advice to leave police work

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

COLONEL DEAN Esserman, the chief of the Providence Police Department (PPD), has seen crime through diverse perspectives. He's been a victim (he was mugged when he was 12), as an attorney - with the Brooklyn, N.Y.'s district attorney

office, the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of N.Y., as general counsel to N.Y.'s transit police department (with some 4,000 officers, it is the country's sixth largest police department, said Esserman), and as a police chief - first in New Haven, Conn., and, for the past several years, in Providence.

In a mid-April interview with him, Esserman quoted one of his early mentors who welcomed him to a police job with these words, "Welcome to the most misunderstood profession in the world. Now get out of here and don't come

See ESSERMAN, Page 32

ESSERMAN: Stands on the shoulders of those who came before

From Page 31

back." For better or worse, Esserman ignored that advice; in fact, many of his most memorable mentors came from police ranks.

After his father – his most memorable inspiration – Esserman speaks solemnly, almost reverentially, of Hillel Valentine, New York City's highest-ranking black transit police officer (Valentine, an inspector, was also Jewish – a rare combination, indeed); Lee Brown, who served as police chief in Atlanta and Houston; David Dinkins, the former mayor of New York City and a childhood classmate of Esserman's; and Bill Bratton, who had headed police departments in New York City, Boston and Los Angeles.

EARLIER YEARS

Initially wanting to follow in his beloved father's footsteps and become a doctor, Esserman had a high school internship with the transit police that changed his life. "My father loved me enough to allow me not to follow his path," said Esserman.

After several other positions, Esserman was recruited in 1991 to serve as New Haven's chief of police. He describes the experience, thusly: "I had to go to the police academy as a new recruit; the academy ran for one week shy of six months. I did every push-up, every sit-up and I was the oldest recruit. You have to walk the walk... If I'm going to be a chief, I shouldn't be treated any better."

ANTI-TERRORISM EXPERIENCE

At 34, Esserman was the youngest chief of New York's MTA Metro North system that some 500,000

"My father loved me enough to allow me not to follow his path."

people used each day. He worked there in the mid-1990s, and became involved then in anti-terrorism. Those responsible for the first World Trade Center bombing had considered Grand Central Station, under Esserman's jurisdiction, an alternate site to attack.

He also played a lead role, he said, on transportation security issues at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, where he was paired up with Israeli security experts.

ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION

In 2002, Esserman was recruited to help David Cicilline (after his primary and before he won the mayoral race) find a police chief for Providence. After a meeting or two, Cicilline called to offer Esserman the position... not once but twice. "No thanks," was the reply, not once but twice.

Eventually, of course, Esserman did take the position, knowing he was walking into a department being investigated for civil rights abuses and misappropriation of funds.

Esserman said, of his boss, Mayor David Cicilline, "He gave the police

department back to [the people of Providence]. He is a man of his word, and a remarkably honest person."

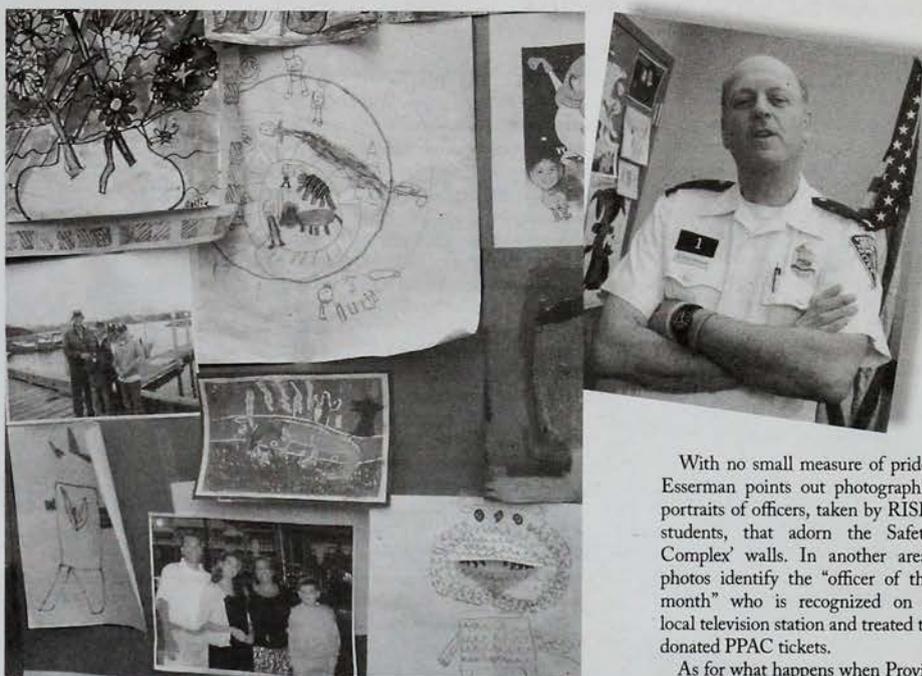
MEDICAL, WORK CHALLENGES

A few years after his treatments for cancer ended, Esserman said, "[Dr. Fred] Schiffman and [Dr. William] Sikov saved my life and saved my soul."

Despite some of the challenges he faces here (see story, "An outsider's view into police work" on pages 1 and 31), Esserman said, "We have

a great police department. That's why they're known as 'Providence's finest.'" Esserman noted that my police ride-along demonstrates the transparency of the PPD, a department that focuses on results.

Sergeant David Tejada, a 14-year veteran, said, "I come in happy and do my job... I've heard that he [Esserman] is arrogant, but I don't think he is. He's a down-to-earth guy, and he always asks about my son. His job isn't to make people happy – he's like a 'big parent.'"



FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWINGS by his children adorn a wall in Chief Esserman's office.

With no small measure of pride, Esserman points out photographic portraits of officers, taken by RISD students, that adorn the Safety Complex' walls. In another area, photos identify the "officer of the month" who is recognized on a local television station and treated to donated PPAC tickets.

As for what happens when Providence elects a new mayor, he said, "I won't spend a minute trying to hold my job, and I won't cut and run [either]. I will fight to the end for the next mayor's right to pick the police chief – that's how it's supposed to be."

Esserman, whose grandfather fought with Moshe Dayan, says, "I am a father and a husband. I love being a police chief [in a country in] a land of laws, not of men."

Esserman's parting words to me were, "We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us."

Grant pushes historic partnership of seminaries**\$33 million to train Jewish educators**

BY JACOB BERKMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) – Spurred by a major grant from one of the largest Jewish foundations, the rabbinical seminaries of three major synagogue movements are forging a groundbreaking partnership to train Jewish educators.

The Jim Joseph Foundation announced on May 24 that it was giving a combined \$33 million to the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion (HUC), the Modern Orthodox Yeshiva University and the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS).

The grant is aimed at helping the three seminaries attract more teachers to the field of Jewish education.

Each school will be required to use \$1 million of the roughly \$11 million it receives during the next four years to work with the other schools on figuring out how to market the field of Jewish education to prospective teachers and incorporating modern technology into Jewish pedagogy.

"The presidents of the three institutions, have spent more time

together in the past two years than our predecessors did in the previous decade," said JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen. "It is historic that you have these three institutions and their leaders working together in this fashion."

Partnerships have become a driver for JTS, which announced in early May that part of its new strategic vision included finding new allies in the education sector.

HUC has become a natural ally for the Conservative movement's seminary. The schools are in the third year of offering a combined fellowship funded by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation that brings together rabbinical students from both seminaries for a joint seminar, and they also now offer some joint classes as part of their respective cantorial programs.

But Yeshiva University historically has been a tougher match for both HUC and JTS because of intense theological differences between the Orthodox institution and its non-Orthodox counterparts.

Under the new initiative, each school will continue to teach its own brand of Judaism, but will cooper-

ate on elements of the educational process that impact all of the institutions.

It's a message that YU's president, Richard Joel, is very careful to make: The schools are working together on practice and not content.

In recent years, before the Jim Joseph grant, the leaders of the three schools – Eisen, Joel and HUC's Rabbi David Ellenson – had begun

"The presidents of the three institutions have spent more time together in the past two years than our predecessors did in the previous decade."

JTS Chancellor
Arnold Eisen

to appear on panel discussions together – something that would have been unheard of for much of the last century.

Sources at the schools said, even though collegiality among Eisen, Ellenson and Joel has helped the partnership evolve, the institu-

tions probably would not have come together without the recession and the significant financial carrot offered.

When the economy hit a low last year, Jim Joseph stepped up with \$12 million to help the struggling schools provide scholarships to students and launch their working relationship. YU will use about \$700,000 per year to help defray the cost of education for students at its Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration and the education program at Stern College, its women's college. JTS will use approximately \$1 million per year to provide scholarships to its nondenominational William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education. And HUC will use about one-third of its grant on financial aid for students seeking master's degrees at its New York and Los Angeles campuses, according to Ellenson.

Outside of the interschool partnerships, each institution will use the bulk of its grant money on training better teachers. YU is working on creating a certificate in informal Jewish education and a job placement program for the students it churns out over the next

four years.

JTS will try to set up informal Jewish education programs at congregational and day schools modeled after successful efforts at the Conservative movement's Ramah Camp system. And JTS will create an Israel immersion program for students at the Davidson School.

HUC is planning on starting an executive master's program and three new certificate programs in Judaica for early childhood educators, Jewish childhood education, and adolescence and emerging adulthood.

Jim Joseph hopes the schools will graduate 700 to 1,000 teachers during the duration of the grant.

In recent weeks, Jim Joseph has announced some \$45 million in grants to produce more Jewish teachers, including the \$33 million gift to the three seminaries and a recently announced \$12 million investment to revive and ramp up a dormant doctoral program in Jewish education at Stanford University. All this is on top of the \$12 million that Jim Joseph gave the three seminaries last year primarily for scholarships for advance degree programs in Jewish education and other significant gifts it has made to a doctoral program in Jewish education at New York University.

OBITUARIES

David D. Berson 92

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — David D. Berson, formerly of Providence, died on May 16 in Charlotte, N.C. A 1935 graduate of Hope High School, he attended George



Washington University, and was a major in the U.S. Air Force.

He co-founded a textile business in Providence that was later expanded and moved to Charlotte, N.C., where the business has been since 1951.

He was the son of Samuel and Minnie Berson, and is survived by his wife Mildred, and his daughters Melane Nakayama and Barbara Long and two grandchildren, Rachel and Cory. He is also survived by his brother Jordon and his wife Alicia. Funeral services were held on May 18, and he was laid to rest at Hebrew Cemetery, Charlotte, N.C.

Jack Feldman, 85

CRANSTON — Jack Feldman died on May 17. He was the husband of the late Bertha (Salk) Feldman. Born in Providence, a son of the late Charles and Gertrude (Becker) Feldman, he had lived in Cranston since 1954.

He was a machine operator for Northeast Cable Company in South Attleboro, Mass. for 37 years, retiring 18 years ago.



He was a World War II Army veteran serving in Europe. He was a member of Rhode Island Jewish Fraternal

Association, South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, Jewish Bowling Congress and a former member of Congregation Shaare Zedek.

An avid dancer who loved music, especially classical music, he won several trophies for his bowling skills.

He was the father of Elyse Gagnon and her late husband, Reginald, of Swansea, Mass., and Jacquelyne Lozowski and her husband, Anthony, of Cranston. He was the brother of Alfred Feldman, of Cranston,

and the late Marvin D. and Frank Feldman; and the grandfather of Gregory Gagnon and Brandon Lozowski.

Contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

Edwin Greenfield, 81

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — Edwin Greenfield died on May 12. He was the husband of the late Harriet (Rogin) Greenfield and the companion for more than 10 years of Sydele Hoffman. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Abraham and Pauline (Sass) Greenfield.

He worked for more than 50 years as a shoe salesman in Lake Worth, Fla., as well as in Providence, Pawtucket and Cranston. His greatest joy in life was spending time with his family and friends, yet he always found time for a friendly game of gin rummy.

He leaves a son, Marc A. Greenfield and a daughter, Susan Koerner; a sister, Anita Foss; two brothers, Joseph Greenfield and Marvin Greenfield; and five grandchildren, Joshua, Benjamin and Samuel Greenfield, Christopher and Sara Koerner. He was the brother of the late David, Alberta, Beatrice and Fay Greenfield.

Contributions may be made to Volunteers in Providence Schools (VIPS), 905 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903, or a charity of your choice.

Everett Kagan, 78

PROVIDENCE — Everett Kagan died on May 11. He was the husband of Helen (Cohen) Kagan for 53 years. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Morris and Bessie (Beck) Kagan.

A graduate of Hope High School and Bryant College, he was the treasurer of his high school class reunion and of the World Affairs Council. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, and a volunteer at The Miriam Hospital.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his children, Beverly

Berstein, of South Kingstown, and Michael Kagan and his wife Karen, of Shrewsbury, Mass.; and his granddaughters, Lindsay and Alison Berstein. He was the brother of the late Laura Buckler.

Contributions may be made to The Miriam Hospital.

Jacob Levine, 87

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. —



Jacob Sherman ("Jack") Levine died on May 23. The son of Israel Louis Levine and Libby Rose (Epstein) Levine, he attended New

Bedford schools and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

He served in the U.S. Army from March 1943 until the fall of 1945, seeing action in France and Germany. He graduated from Wharton School in 1947.

He managed the family's Olympia Jewelry Company in New Bedford, Mass., until 1957 when he entered Boston University Law School, graduating in 1960. He then established a private practice in New Bedford, Mass.

A dedicated member of the Masonic Order, he served as Master of the Wamsutta Lodge in 1954, 1979 and 1999, and as District Deputy Grand Master of Fall River District in 1961 and 1962. For this distinguished service, he was awarded an honorary 33rd degree. He enjoyed the friendships and the camaraderie and took special satisfaction in encouraging more interracial cooperation among the lodges.

Active in the Kiwanis Club, he served a number of times as organizer of the club's charitable rivalry with the Rotary Club during the annual "battle of the kettles" during the Christmas season. He also served on the boards of directors of the New Bedford Salvation Army and the

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, and he was a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

He is survived by his sister Lillian Schwartz, of Dartmouth, Mass.; his brother Melvin Levine and sister-in-law Katherine, of New Bedford, Mass.; four nephews, Steven and Kenneth Schwartz, Tyrrell and Brian Levine; two nieces, Janna Renzi and Kara Leibel; three grandnieces, Rebecca, Alyssa, and Carly Schwartz and two grandnephews, Benjamin and Brady Schwartz.

Donations may be made to The Shriners' Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114; The Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford, MA 02740; or the Jewish Federation of New Bedford, 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford, MA 02740.

Rita R. Schraer, 93

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Rita R. Schraer died on May 24 in Fall River, Mass. Born in Fall River, Mass., she was a daughter of the late Israel and Mary Schraer.

A 1934 graduate of B.M.C. Durfee High School in 1934, she attended Herrick's Business Institute. She worked for Joseph Chromow, Inc., Gerber's Jewelry Store, Linjay Mfg. Co., and Louise's Dress Shop. She enjoyed gardening, baking, sewing, crossword puzzles, and collecting coins and stamps. She loved to watch golf and tennis.

A member of Congregation Adas Israel and its Sisterhood, Temple Beth El, Hadassah, the Fall River Jewish Home and other organizations, she was a member of the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary and served as its president, treasurer, and historian. Her leadership service continued for more than 35 years.

She is survived by her brother

Paul Schraer and his wife Lottie, and their sons, George, Robert, and Bruce, all of San Diego; her nephew Lance E. Hodosh and his wife Gayle and their children Joshua and Rachel, all of Swansea, Mass.; and nine grandnephews, five grandnieces and two great-grandnieces. She was predeceased by two brothers, Hyman and George Schraer; and two sisters, Lillian Schraer and Mae Hodosh. She was the aunt of the late Arnold Schraer.

Donations may be made to the Fall River Jewish Home or the Fall River Historical Society

Anna Stairman, 82

WARWICK — Anna Stairman died on May 13. She was the wife of Nathan Stairman and the late Peter Feinstein.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late William and Rebecca (Pfeffer) Greenfield, she had lived in Warwick for many years. She was a secretary for the Providence School Department for 29 years, retiring in 1991.

She was a life member of Hadassah, a member of Temple Am David and its Sisterhood, and the Cranston Senior Guild.

She was the mother of Marc Feinstein and his wife Lisa, of Narragansett; and the stepmother of Joan Gershman and her husband Sidney, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Arlene Fleagle and her husband Michael, of Bolingbrook, Ill. She was the grandmother of Joel, Derek, Richard and Perri, and the great-grandmother of Delaney.

Contributions may be made to Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, RI 02888.

Ruth Weinberg, 85

AUSTIN, Texas — Ruth Weinberg died on May 24 in Austin, Texas. The daughter of George B. and Ida C. Perlstein, she was born on Dec. 24, 1924 in Chicago, Ill., where she

See OBITUARIES, Page 34

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Moses as a nursing father

Numbers
8:1-12:16

Parashat
Beha'alotekha casts a
different view
of Moses

By Rabbi Jacqueline
Romm Satlow
Special to The Voice & Herald

HOW DO YOU get to be a leader of the Jewish people? You could get elected to the Knesset, serve as a general in the Israeli army, speak directly with God, give a very large donation, be chosen by a search committee; these are among the ways one might become such a leader.

What personality characteristics do we need in our leaders? Should leaders of the Jewish People be learned in Torah, live an observant Jewish life, be ethical and honest? Max Weber, in his famous work, *Theories on Charismatic Authority*, writes of the biblical Moses'

authority as related to an intangible charisma. What exactly is it about Moses that gives him the authority to lead the Israelites from slavery to freedom? This *d'var Torah* is about one of Moses' least known personality traits: He was a loving, nurturing parent to the Jewish people.

Moses is complex. This week's Torah portion, "*Beha'alotekha*," (Numbers 8:1-12:16) contains one of his most distinctive images. The Israelites are wandering in the desert on their way to *eretz Yisrael*. They do not yet know that they will wander for 40 years. At times, Moses finds leading the Israelites to be burdensome. His own description of the difficulties of leadership includes the image I find so fascinating. The Jewish Publication Society's (JPS) English translation of Numbers 11:12 says, "Did I conceive this entire people, did I bear them, that You (God) should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a nurse carries an infant?'"

Take a moment to read that verse again, for it is rather shocking. Moses uses the root *heh-resb-beh* which means to "become

pregnant." This is quite a feminine image.

Moses speaks of becoming pregnant with the people of Israel. Israel is the fetus. There is no doubt that Moses is masculine in the Bible. When he is born, we know he is a boy. Masculine verbs are used to describe Moses through-

"Moses speaks of becoming pregnant with the people of Israel."

out his life.

How can he conceive? Elsewhere, in the Bible as well as in life, conceiving is what the mother does, not the father. Then Moses says he gave birth. He uses the root *yud-lamed-dalet*. This is one of the roots in which the beauty of the Hebrew verb forms (*binyanim*) becomes clear. As an active verb, the form Moses uses in this verse, it means to give birth, another very female metaphor.

Moses not only becomes pregnant with the Israelites (later the Jewish people) he gives birth to them/us. This root, *yud-lamed-dalet* exists in Hebrew in many other forms. As a noun, it is a child. In its causative form, it means to sire or beget. But this verse uses the active form. Moses does not sire or beget the people; he gives birth to them/us.

Then Moses says he carries the child (the Israelites) in his lap. One might argue that this image is feminine as well, but of course it is not exclusively, so. Not only mothers have laps, fathers have laps, too.

Verse 12 continues, "...as a nurse carries an infant..." according to JPS. Everett Fox, in his translation, says, "like a nursing parent carries a suckling-child." In fact, the Hebrew word *alef-mem-nun* as an active verb, means "to support or nourish." As a noun, it is more common in the feminine. We see it in 2 Samuel and in the Book of Ruth in the feminine. In the verse we are discussing in Numbers, it is in the masculine. The root (*yud-nun-kof*) means suck, as an infant does at its mother's breast.

So the metaphor is quite strong. Moses not only conceived and gave birth, he also holds the people in his lap as a nurturer holds a nursing child.

The Bible is full of masculine images. Moses is physically powerful, sometimes angry, a strong advocate. Yet Moses has another leadership style as well. In this week's *parashah*, he is nurturing; he conceives, gives birth and nurses the Jewish people. These images are very feminine and very loving. In this verse, Moses personifies the mother of the Jewish people. If we are reading the Bible in search of personality traits to emulate, here we have a surprising example of female, nurturing traits in one of the Bible's key role models. Moses as a nursing father is a surprising description. Perhaps this image, describing the love Moses feels for the Israelites, can be seen as a source of his surprising charisma.

Rabbi Jacqueline Romm Satlow, a member of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, is the director of the Center for Jewish Culture, at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Contact her at jsatlow@umassd.edu

JTA WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Olmert questioned in real estate scandal

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was questioned in connection with a massive real estate scandal.

Police from the National Unit for Aggravated and International Crime in Lod questioned Olmert for about eight hours on Tuesday as part of the investigation into the Holyland project, which is being described as one of the worst corruption scandals in Israeli history. The Holyland project started while Olmert served as mayor of Jerusalem from 1993 to 2003, and continued with his successor, Lupolianski, who served until 2008.

Israel says it will turn away Gaza flotilla

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israel says it will block a fleet of nine ships carrying international activists and supplies from reaching the Gaza Strip.

The Freedom Flotilla, organized by the Free Gaza group, left from ports in Ireland, Greece and Turkey last week and is scheduled to arrive Thursday off the coast of Gaza.

Israel has offered to transfer the humanitarian aid, including food, clothing and construction materials, to Gaza through an approved Israeli port.

Some 15,000 tons of supplies enter Gaza each week, according to the Foreign Ministry. Five Free Gaza vessels have been allowed to dock in Gaza port in recent years. A ship was turned away last year by Israel's navy.

Jewish groups urge repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

(JTA) - A coalition of 10 major Jewish organizations is urging Congress to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy.

The coalition, led by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, sent a letter Tuesday to Congress. We believe this policy is unjust and become an anomaly among Western nations," the letter said. "Advanced militaries throughout the world, including many of our NATO allies and Israel, allow gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel to serve openly.

It is time for the United States to repeal the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' and we encourage you and colleagues to act swiftly."

Italian chains boycotting Israeli company's produce

ROME (JTA) - Two leading Italian supermarket chains will stop importing and selling produce from an Israeli company located in the West Bank.

The decision by Coop and Nordiconad to stop importing fruits and vegetables from the Agrexco company, Israel's main exporter of produce, follows months of pressure from pro-Palestinian groups.

Coop, which has branches throughout Italy, issued a statement saying that it was not boycotting Israeli products in general, but that it had made the decision to boycott Agrexco products because the origin of each item of produce exported by the company was not clearly marked. This made it more difficult for customers who wanted to boycott produce from West Bank settlements.

Obituaries

Oscar Zarchen, 92

CRANSTON - Oscar Zarchen died on May 14. He was the husband of Harriette (Krasner) Zarchen for 64 years.

Born in Pawtucket, a son of the late Louis and Anna (Zarchen) Zarchen, he had lived in Cranston for more than 30 years.

A public accountant and auditor, he was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran, serving in Italy. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, the RI Masonic Redwood Lodge No. 35 AF & AM, Touro Fraternal Association and the William Gates Cutler Olympic Club of the JCC. Avid dancers, he and his wife were known as the "Dancing Duo."

He was the father of Stuart I. Zarchen, of Lexington, Ky., and Cliff S. Zarchen, of Copper Mountain, Colo.; the brother of Maurice Zarchen, of Kingston and the late Rose Glantz.

Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El Minyan Fund, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Eleanor M. Zimmerman, 90

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. - Eleanor M. Zimmerman died on March 25. Born in Hartford, Conn. on April 1, 1919, she was the daughter of the late Harry C. and Rebecca (Goldstein) Elovich. She married Judge Irving I. Zimmerman in 1941.

They lived in Woonsocket until 1997, and then moved to Singer Island, Fla., and later, to Deerfield Beach, Fla. Her husband preceded her in death one year ago.



A graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, she attended the Columbia School of Dental Hygiene. She worked as a dental hygienist in her early years. She and her husband were deeply committed to the Woonsocket Jewish community. She was active in the Sisterhood of Congregation B'Nai Israel and was a life member of Hadassah. She and her husband later joined Temple Emanu-El in Palm Beach, Fla.

She is survived by her daughter Felice (Dr. Neil) Kantor, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and her son Steven (Barbara) Zimmerman, of Denver, Colo. She leaves seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, two step-great-grandchildren, and a step-great-great grandson; and her brother Marshal Elovich, of Guilford, Conn.

Contributions may be made to Congregation B'Nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, RI.

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grew up. She attended Colorado College for Women and received an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. She worked briefly as an occupational therapist.

Before moving to Austin, she had lived in the suburbs of Los Angeles, Calif.; Seattle and Indianapolis, Ind.

She leaves her children: Larry Weinberg and his wife Lucy, of Seattle; Ellen Walbert and her husband David, of Aspen, Colo.; Nancy Kirsch and her husband, Ken, of Providence; and Peggy Bartenstein and her husband, Bill, of Austin, Texas and California. She also leaves her grandchildren: Kelsey and Max Weinberg, Danny Walbert, Mimi and Sam Kirsch and Julie Bartenstein; her sister Phyllis Einstandig of Scottsdale, Ariz., and her brother, George Perlstein and his wife Mary, of Champaign, Ill; her sister-in-law Ruth Tavel, of Indianapolis, Ind. and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her former husband, Morris Weinberg, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on June 4, at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Mourners are invited to a reception at the synagogue after the service.

Contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice or *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.



SANDY AND SHELLY GOLDBERG

50 years of marriage

In May, Shelly and Sandy Goldberg celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary aboard a cruise to Bermuda hosted by their children.

Shelly and the former Sandy Berman are high school sweethearts who married on May 15, 1960 at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

The couple, both raised in Provi-

dence, began their married life in Cranston. In 2007, they moved to Cumming, Ga. They have two daughters, Susan and her partner Michelle Minor, and their children Oliver and Charlotte, of Los Angeles, Calif; and Alison and her husband David Rubenstein, and their children Max and Eli, of Alpharetta, Ga.



CAROL GOLDEN
Award

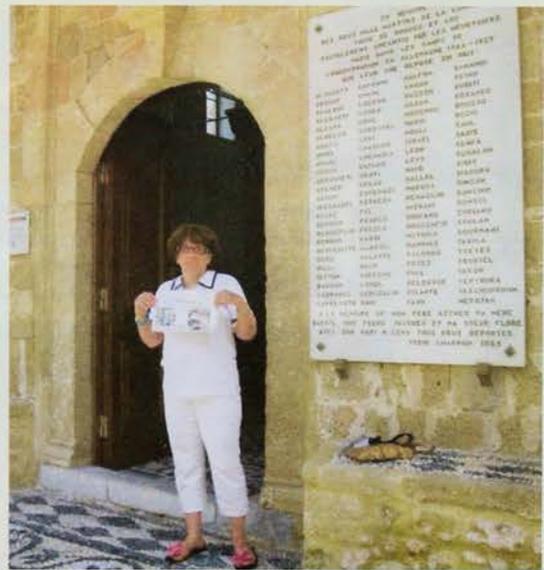
CAROL GOLDEN, a resident of Providence, was named the Outstanding Fundraising Professional of the Year by the Rhode Island Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals on Wednesday, May 19.

Golden is the executive vice president & chief development officer at The Rhode Island Foundation, the state's largest community foundation.

She was recognized, the award noted, for "her lifelong dedication to philanthropy and to supporting the efforts of Rhode Island's nonprofit sector through her effective leadership throughout her career and at the Foundation in particular."

We Are Read

Where in the world will we go next?



A visit to Greece and an ancient synagogue

ADELINA AZEVEDO ALEXROD, who works at Brown University's John Carter Brown Library, poses with a copy of *The Voice & Herald*.

She wrote, "In my recent trip to Greece, I was lucky enough to find the oldest synagogue in Greece. The Kahal Kadosh Shalom is the oldest synagogue in Greece and the sole remaining synagogue on the Island of Rhodes used for services. The synagogue was built in 1577."

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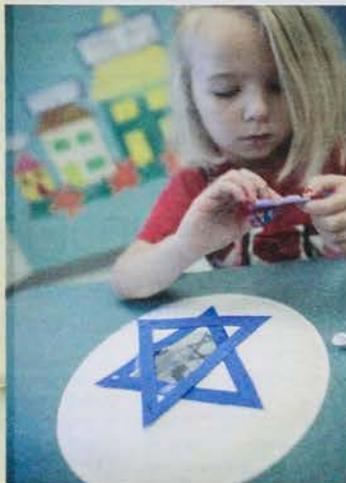
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