

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

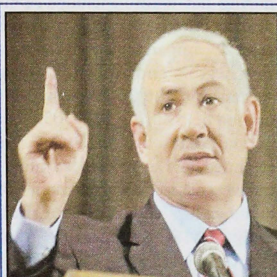
SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

## Tensions subside for Obama, Bibi

*Now the political problems begin*

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — That Israel problem President Obama had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu? Old news.

That Israel problem Obama has with Congress? And with his party?

That's just beginning.

In two successive speeches — one to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) on Monday, May 23 and another to a joint meeting of Congress the following day — Netanyahu had nothing but praise for the U.S. president.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

The friendly notes struck by the prime minister were all the more remarkable given how Republicans — and even some Democrats — were rushing to emphasize their differences with Obama on Israel policy.

"Congratulations, Mr. President: You got bin Laden," Netanyahu said at the outset of his speech to Congress, to thunderous applause. "Good riddance!"

FUTURE, Page 21



/Nancy Kirsch

ADVOCATES FOR THE HOMELESS and those who are homeless protest on Friday, May 21 in downtown Providence. Every yellow cardboard figure, each bearing a "homeless person's story," represents approximately 220 individuals who were homeless in Rhode Island in 2010.

## Homelessness can be solved, advocates insist

*Press conference highlights system's deficiencies, inequities*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

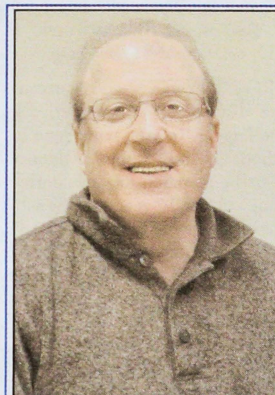
PROVIDENCE — "When winter ends, homelessness doesn't," said John Joyce, the co-founder of the Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project (RIHAP). "We were here last October and here we are in May with the same crisis."

He and others spoke during a Friday, May 21 press conference, which was sponsored by the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless and RIHAP, and held at the intersection of Westminster Street and Memorial Boulevard. During the conference, advocates for the homeless and those who are or have been homeless expressed anger and frustration, in part because of Chris Harrington's recent death. In his mid-40s and struggling with addiction issues, Harrington (a familiar presence to homeless advocates)

died on a street grate in Pawtucket on May 10.

With wintertime shelters shuttered for the season and permanent shelters full, "people will be forced to make life or death decisions. [Harrington's death] is unacceptable here and across the country," said Joyce. The press conference, "No Options Left for the Homeless," included calls for action for affordable housing, as a long-term solution, while also keeping people safe, as a short-term fix. The crowd, some 80 in

HOMELESSNESS, Page 20



/Nancy Kirsch

JAMIE PIOUS

## Alliance to disburse almost \$2.8M

*Flat campaign means fewer dollars for allocations*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island (the Alliance) will disburse \$1.146 million and \$1.404 million to overseas and local programs, respectively, for the next fiscal year (July 2011 – June 2012), from funds received from the Annual Community Campaign.

Although Annual Community Campaign funds are divided equally between overseas and domestic programs — after allocations for national dues, Birthright Israel, some local emergency relief programs, some local organizations and operating expenses for the Alliance — domestic programs often receive additional

DOLLARS, Page 28

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## Ruby is a Beth-El 'gem'

*Executive Director  
Shalansky reflects,  
remembers*

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceherald@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE — As executive director of Temple Beth-El, the largest Reform synagogue in Rhode Island, Ruby Shalansky must be prepared for any contingency. After 16 years on the job, the unflappable and perpetually cool, calm and collected Shalansky faces a new and different challenge: How to continue on without her beloved husband of 43 years, Len Shalansky, by her side?

On April 12, Len, 69, an ill-tutor, died of Amyloid, a rare condition. He left Shalansky, their two sons, a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters who are, she said, "my strength." Although officially retiring on Wednesday, June 1, Shalansky will continue to work part-time, focusing on installing a posthumous art show to commemorate Len and raise funds for the Amyloid Research and Treatment Center at Boston Medical Center.

Shalansky sat down with The Voice & Herald to reflect on her years at Beth-El. Jewish communal life has been part of her work-a-day world for years, first at the Jewish Community Center, where she worked as program director for about a dozen years and, since 1995, at Temple Beth-El,



RABBI LESLIE GUTTERMAN, Cantor Judy Seplowin, Rabbi Sarah Mack and Ruby Shalansky at Gutterman's 40th anniversary celebration on Oct. 8, 2010.

as executive director. Reminiscing about her career path — she studied elementary education and started out as a fourth-grade teacher — she said, "Sometimes a career finds you."

During her first five years at Beth-El, Shalansky "went to everything — every program, every committee meeting." This intensive involvement gave her a solid foothold and knowledge base. At monthly meetings of an organization based in Massachusetts of synagogue executive directors,

said Shalansky, "We learned a lot, we networked. We met in different synagogues in the Boston area — and shared our concerns and success stories. That helped me grow a lot."

She also credits Rabbi Leslie Gutterman as a wonderful teacher and source of support to herself and other new clergy, Rabbi Michael Cahana and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, who came to Beth-El when she did.

Under Shalansky's guidance, the synagogue launched two

new programs for different age groups — the K'Tantan program for very young children, and Beth-Elders, which offers social events for congregants 65 and

### "Sometimes a career finds you."

older. Beth-Elders "has become hugely successful," she said, "and you couldn't ask for a better group of volunteers."

Shalansky's ability to bring diverse individuals together to work for the greater good led both

Jill Tobak and Susan Dressler, vice presidents of the synagogue board, to describe her as "the glue" of the synagogue.

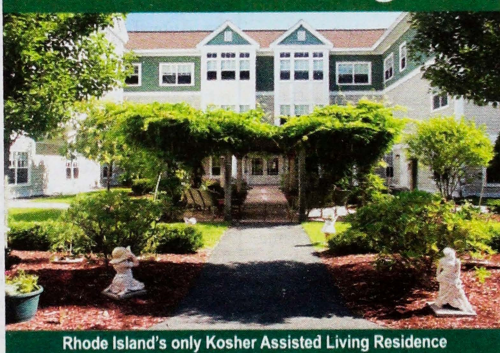
Other professional challenges during her tenure included renovating the sanctuary, a major capital campaign, a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system and the 150th year celebration held during 2004-05. Year in and year out, Shalansky has attended to the myriad administrative and logistical elements of membership and budgets, High Holy Day services and program events, weddings and funerals. When asked about the job's challenges, Shalansky quipped, "Challenges? The challenge is leaving; the job is crisis-management and dealing with the immediate."

Fred Franklin, the current board president, calls Shalansky a *mensch*. With her "footprint on every event," she simply gets things done, he said. As a good listener and communicator, she plays an important role with the synagogue's membership — about 940 families now — and executes her responsibilities with warmth and discretion, said Franklin.

Of his long-time colleague, Gutterman said, "Ruby's legacy will be remembered in her many quiet acts of kindness and consideration and compassion that have made our multi-generational congregation grow to greater strengths."

After the 7 p.m. Shabbat service on Friday, June 3, the synagogue will host an oneg to honor Shalansky. The event is free and open to the community. For more information, call 331-6070.

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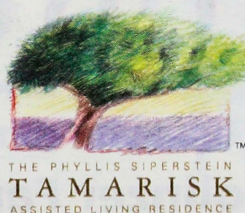
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*Summer Fun*



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# Jewish council members speak to the CRC

*Providence's problems exist beyond city's borders*

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceherald@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Sam Zurier, Providence City Councilman for the East Side (Ward 2), doesn't seem to have a problem with the Providence public schools staying open on the High Holy Days.

Zurier, a former member of the Providence School Board, who now has two children in the Providence public schools (his eldest, a Classical High School graduate, just completed her freshman year of college), was speaking to an informal group of some 20 individuals at a forum sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Community Relations Council (CRC) on Tuesday, May 17. His comment, "If you want the [public] schools closed [for the High Holy Days], get Jewish kids back in public schools," elicited applause from the small audience.

Closing the schools used to make sense, he explained, when the schools employed and educated large numbers of Jewish teachers and Jewish students, respectively. Now, not so much – but he believes that no tests or exams should be given on High Holy Days, nor does he want to see Jewish kids fall behind by being out on those days.

Seth Yuridin, the Council's majority leader and the other Jewish member of the Council, later joined Zurier at the forum, which was held in the Alliance board room.

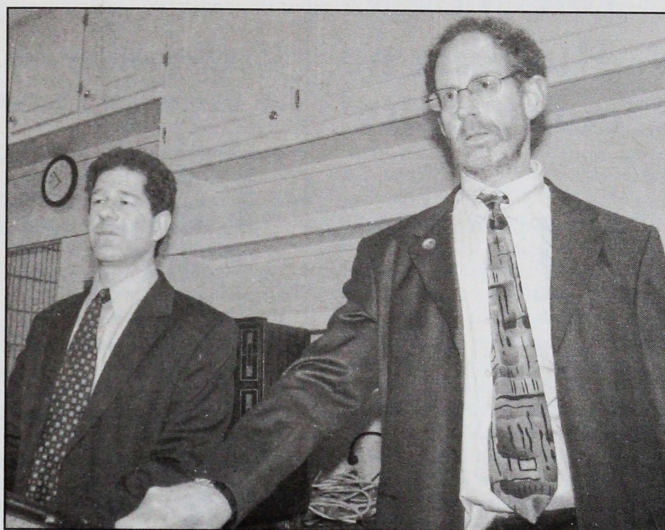
Audience questions ranged from "How did you get this job and why would you want it?" and "What is the City of Providence

doing to create jobs so that poverty can be reduced?" to "Are there people lobbying at the General Assembly to help restore social services to Providence's neediest citizens?" and "Why can't Providence seem to keep a school superintendent for longer than three or four years?"

In response to one question about what really caused Providence's deep deficit, Zurier, a Democrat, drew on the analogy here at the Alliance. Citing many reasons for the problem, including changing demographics, he noted that many individuals in positions of responsibility simply wanted to keep postponing the inevitable. But, "the Titanic came up to the iceberg; I'm pleased that the mayor is looking at everything."

**"If you want the [public] schools closed [for the High Holy Days], get Jewish kids back in public schools."**

Joking that his job as Majority Leader for the City Council is akin to "herding cats," Yuridin, a Democrat who represents Ward 1 (the Fox Point neighborhood of Providence) called the lack of continuity in leadership in the



Providence City Councilmen SETH YURIDIN and SAM ZURIER

Providence public schools a problem. "Even [when we have a] new superintendent, the programs have to continue. The School Board needs to move forward what has worked."

As for the issue of poverty, Yuridin said that the City Council simply can't make much of an impact; money flows – or doesn't – from the federal to the state government and the state government to local government. Although Providence disburses some \$2 million in Community Development Block Grants to various nonprofit agencies, that money doesn't go very far, said Yuridin. "We try to fund things that we can support – like the Providence After School Alliance."

The Providence-centric concerns of high taxes, reduced services, struggling schools and disgruntled homeowners were also those of residents in Cumberland, a much more bucolic and homogeneous community.

Mia Ackerman, a Jewish Cumberland councilwoman and an audience member, said that they too, struggle with many of these issues.

"Getting engaged at the state level is critical," said Yuridin. "We're playing defense... and [doing] much less planning."

Echoing the message that Taveras relates again and again – to universities and hospitals, as well as union leaders – Zurier said, "If you want Rhode Island to succeed, Providence must succeed. You have a stake in Providence's success."

Long after the official presentation ended, audience members peppered Zurier and Yuridin with additional questions and comments.

For more information about the CRC or its speaker series, contact Marty Cooper at 421-4111 or mcooper@shalomri.org.

## Candle Lighting Times for greater Rhode Island

May 27 ..... 7:49  
June 3 ..... 7:54

June 10 ..... 7:59  
June 17 ..... 8:02

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR Building a community

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

**M**ONEY CAN'T BUY me love," sang The Beatles. I learned that lesson fairly early. Back in the day, when I was a young teenager and The Beatles were together, I had a fabulously wealthy second cousin who, at age 18, committed suicide. I remember thinking, "Maybe money doesn't make people happy, after all."

I know that happiness arises not from fabulous wealth, but meaningful work, positive relationships with family and friends and being part of a vibrant, engaged community.

How do we build community? Perhaps I have an "insider's" viewpoint, but I believe that The Jewish Voice & Herald is a key asset in community building. Whether you're an observant member of an Orthodox *shul* or unaffiliated, the paper keeps you connected to your Jewish world, here at home and around the world. Whether you're a young parent of toddlers or a *bubbe* and *zayde* with grandchildren near and far, the paper keeps you connected to your Jewish world. Whether you're interested in the opinions of our columnists and writers of letters to the editor or want to know what *simchas* people have received, the paper keeps you informed.

If you value and appreciate any aspect of The Voice & Herald, please demonstrate your appreciation with a donation.

Our budget comprises advertising revenue, an annual allocation from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and patron donations. Please consider the value that the paper offers you and others — where else could you discover what's happened or about to happen in our community but from Rhode Island's only source of "all the news for all the Jews?"

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## Tackling poverty demands institutional changes

**T**HE MAY 13 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald includes a front-page article by Executive Editor Nancy Kirsch headlined "Time to organize, to protest, to act." Kirsch's article provides a comprehensive overview of the third annual One Voice to Reduce Poverty Conference held at the Roger Williams Park Casino this past May 3. The conference was sponsored by The Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition, whose motto is "Fighting Poverty with Faith."



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

As a participant in the conference, I felt bludgeoned by one depressing statistic after another. Thus, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, J.D., executive director of Rhode Island Kids Count, reported, "Sixteen percent (almost 38,000) of Rhode Island's 224,000 children under age 18 live below the federal poverty threshold (\$17,285 for a family of three in 2009)... In Rhode Island, nearly 18,000 children live in extreme poverty. In 2009, the extreme poverty level was \$8,643 for a family of three with two children and \$10,285 for a family of four with two children." Consider if you will, how a family of four living in Rhode Island could have survived this past winter on an annual income of \$11,000. How could they have kept warm? How could they have gotten enough to eat?

As sad and sobering as such statistics are, statistics alone rarely tell the whole story. It is the individual's story, the individual's face along with the impersonal statistics that goads me into action. What moved me most at the conference were the stories I heard, the faces I saw at the breakfast table I shared with six other participants. We numbered three men and four women; we were black, and we were white; we were clergy, and we were anti-poverty workers in the civil service system of the State of Rhode Island. My tablemates were Catholic and Protes-

tant; I was the Jew.

Over our light breakfast of bagels and muffins, the seven of us discussed the theme of prophetic leadership, having just seen a 10-minute video on Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel — a video which focused upon Heschel's prophetic leadership — "I felt my feet were praying" — during the March 21, 1965 Selma, Ala. civil rights march; he was walking in the front line with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The video also demonstrated how Heschel stood prophetically with King in their mutual opposition to the war in Vietnam.

## HOMELESS IN AMERICA



**"It is no accident that  
there are so few true  
prophets in our midst."**

Following the video, those gathered at each of the 12 or so tables were invited to address one of several possible topics. The seven individuals at our table chose to discuss Heschel's statement that the biblical prophets "combine very deep love and very powerful dissent, painful rebuke with unwavering hope." In particular, we tried to answer the following question: "How do you balance love and dissent, rebuke and

hope in your life?" It did not take long for us to agree that such a balancing act is excruciatingly difficult; the quirks of our own personalities as well as the responsibilities placed upon us by family and workplace make us necessarily cautious in expressing dissent, in giving voice to constructive rebuke. It is no accident that there are so few true prophets in our midst.

During the course of our conversation, our table talk began to take on an increasingly personal tone. It turns out that two of the women had themselves experienced homelessness. One of the women, who is both a mother and grandmother, was quietly philosophical about that difficult period in her life. She continued to maintain her conviction that every one of us is created in the image of God, that "we're all bits and pieces of God's DNA." She went on to suggest that the unity of purpose at the conference — fighting poverty through faith — was an expression of the unifying power of God.

The other woman was anything but soft-spoken. As she confessed, "I still scream and holler, but I've refined it a bit." What makes her still scream and holler is the unforgiving memory of "the look on my two kids' faces when the sheriff put our possessions on the sidewalk." The anger and the hurt on this mother's face — years after her episode of homelessness — told me more about poverty than the sum of all the statistics I have ever seen or heard about the subject.

Poverty is as old as humankind; and I suspect that poverty will remain with us no matter how many conferences we attend, no matter many checks we write, no matter how many soup kitchens we volunteer to staff. Nevertheless, even if we may never end poverty, we can and we must work to implement those changes in the structure of our government and our society at large that will mitigate poverty's ravages among the most vulnerable among us. As the first-century sage, Rabbi Tarfon, has put it: "It is not necessary for us to complete the task, but neither are we free to stop working at it." (Pirke Avot 2.21)

James B. Rosenberg is rabbi emeritus of Temple Habonim in Barrington. Contact him at [rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org](mailto:rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org).

## Reader gives gift of concert tickets to her parents

**T**HANK YOU SO MUCH for the Roslyn Kind tickets. My parents, Barbara and Bernie Levine, were so surprised and delighted... they loved the concert.

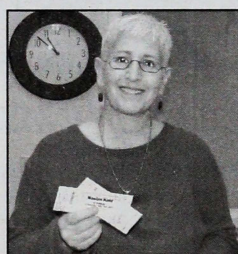
When I read about the raffle in The Jewish Voice & Herald, I thought it would be fun to test fate and enter. My parents enjoy Kind's music, but have never seen her in a live performance.

When Nancy Kirsch called and told me that I had won, I felt that it was *bashert* and I surprised them with the tickets.

My parents have been married for 55 years. They exemplify the spirit of loving, giving and sharing that combine to form a

remarkable partnership. Their love for each other extends to their friends and me. I am so fortunate... my parents have always encouraged me and expressed their support in every challenge I have encountered.

To all involved with the concert and the



SHARI LEVINE

contest, I am so grateful that I was able to provide my parents with this experience.

Shari Levine  
Cranston

Editor's note: Thanks to all who entered the raffle for the tickets; thank you to Dennis Byrnes, for donating two tickets to The Jewish Voice & Herald.

## Mission of The Jewish Voice & Herald

**T**HE MISSION of The Jewish Voice & Herald is to communicate Jewish news, ideas and ideals by connecting and giving voice to the diverse views of the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, while adhering to Jewish values and the professional standards of journalism.

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS....

The Voice & Herald welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (no more than 250 words, please) to [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org) or The Voice & Herald, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

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



# FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI What a week!

*Danny Danon and Mahmoud Abbas deserve one another*

**W**HAT A CRAZY WEEK! First there was the Rapture. Unless you have been living under the proverbial Rock of Ages, you know that according to indisputable biblical prophecy, that on May 21, all true Christians were scheduled to be wafted up to Heaven for all eternity. The rest of us, however, would be subject to agonizing torments of biblical proportions until Oct. 21, when the world itself would come to an end. I'm not sure if at that point we were supposed to go to Hell or simply cease to exist, but in either



Josh Stein

case we give up our chance of singing psalms and strumming harps and praising Jesus for the next 20 quadrillion years.

If you are reading this without suffering the torments of Hell on Earth, the prophecy proved false. But millions were taken in by the ruse and some of those millions, desirous of having their pets looked after, once they are in the hereafter, paid enterprising atheists to take care of their dogs and cats

while they were gone. I don't know how much cash changed hands, but the whole story proves to me that the spirit of Elmer Gantry is alive and well and living in the mouth of a false prophet somewhere beyond the New England/New York region.

Then there was the Dominique Strauss-Kahn affair. Maybe "affair" is the wrong word in this context. After all, when people have affairs, there's presumably a degree of mutual consent involved. But Strauss-Kahn, the Socialist head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), allegedly raped a cleaning lady. (How a "socialist," if the word still has any meaning, can head the IMF, that pillar of support of the capitalist system, is beyond me. It's the last place you'd expect to find a socialist. Or maybe that would be in a \$3,000-a-night hotel.) In any case, Strauss-Kahn allegedly committed this act with the impunity and insouciance you might expect from one of his international standing, and was already on a plane waiting to fly home to France when New York City police officers came aboard, cuffed him and escorted him on a "perp walk" to Rikers Island. After a couple of days he was granted bail, but during his time ensconced behind bars he must have been wondering how he of all people could end up in such a predicament. Not a Jewish role model.

American journalists have been congratulating the United States for not turning a blind eye as Europeans, especially French

or Italian Europeans, might. Of course European and American members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy have been turning a blind eye to the activities of pedophile priests for decades. I might mention, as part of this weird week, that after an exhaustive investigation, a commission has concluded that priests trained before the 1960s were not properly prepared for the social upheaval of the '60s and '70s, so they made passes at little boys who wore glasses, and those who didn't as well. Makes perfect sense.

**"The spirit of Elmer Gantry is alive and well and living somewhere beyond New England."**

Then Mahmoud Abbas published a statement in the New York Times justifying the Palestinian Authority's decision to approach the U.N. to ask for recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state. According to his view of history, "The last time the question of Palestinian statehood took center stage at the General Assembly, the question posed to the international community was whether our homeland should be partitioned into two states." By "our homeland" he means all

Palestine west of the Jordan River. (If he still thinks of all Palestine as west of the river, then Israel has troubles. So does JStreet.) Then, according to his distorted perspective, "Zionist forces expelled Palestinian Arabs to ensure a decisive Jewish majority in the future state of Israel, and Arab armies intervened." I guess it was a lucky coincidence that fully mobilized Arab soldiers were at the border ready to invade.

The week continued with a counter-blast from Danny Danon, deputy speaker of the Knesset. In his op-ed in the May 18 edition of the New York Times, he says if the West Bank/Gaza Palestinians declare themselves an independent nation, Israel will (or should) declare all Jewish settlements in the West Bank part of greater Israel, and deny Arabs living in those zones Israeli citizenship. While Danon concedes that there would be international uproar over this, he feels it would soon pass. I am not a believer in the two-state solution (for reasons enunciated from time to time on these pages). But this is crazy. Danon and Abbas deserve each other, the one with no sense of the past, the other with no sense of the future. But if they deserve each other, why should we suffer?

As I've said, it was a crazy week.

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

## REFLECTIONS OF/IN ISRAEL

### Israel's higher (?) education

*Israel's older students take many more classes, lack extra-curriculars*

**O**NE GOAL I have set for myself in this column is to occasionally present a slice of Israeli life — without "politics" intruding — especially when the subject manifests itself in a manner quite different from that found in America. Israel's higher education scene is one such "anomaly."



Sam Lehman-Wilzig

The U.S. academic year ended in early May; but in Israel, as you read this, it is still underway. The school year starts a week or so after Sukkot (in mid-to-late October, depending on the Jewish calendar) and classes end sometime in June. Unlike the American university exam period, which runs no more than a week or two, Israel's academic exams are administered through a two-month period divided into two segments: Mo'ed Aleph (Period A) and Mo'ed Bet (Period B), each four to five weeks long.

Why two exam periods? Several reasons: First, students are permitted to take a second exam if they fail, or get a low grade on the first (Jewish mercy?); and second, if on exam day students are ill, in army reserve duty or even on their mandatory, three-month post-birth leave, they have another opportunity. Finally, for many students, it is impossible to take all their exams in one period, as we shall see below.

Another major difference is campus life, or more accurately, the lack thereof. Israeli undergraduates are at least 20 (women) or 21 (men) when they enter university after completing their army service; by then, the vast majority are living on their own and supporting themselves by working at least part-time. It is also not unusual to find a 25-year-old freshman already married with

**"One student handed in his seminar paper 16 years late! I asked him what had happened."**

children. Thus, the only students who live on campus are those in a foreign study program, plus some socio-economically disadvantaged students whose homes are more than 50 miles away. The rest commute to campus, usually three days a week, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. or even 10 p.m.

All master's degree students work full time and come to campus only one-and-a-half days per week. Other than one official "student day" and a smattering of pre-holiday, evening activities (usually featuring a popular singer), not much extra-curricular activity takes place. Certainly no sports; there are no serious, inter-collegiate athletics in Israel! And by extension, no real alumni associations, serious alumni funding drives, etc.

The worst part, however, is the system itself. An undergraduate degree has three,

not four, years of study. Worse yet, most courses earn only two credits and meet only once a week for about 90 minutes. The result? Every Israeli B.A. student takes approximately 10 courses at once!

As one can imagine, this system doesn't really facilitate or encourage "deep learning" — not living on campus, working part-time, a huge course load packed into only three years (with much English bibliography that many find difficult to handle). How and when can they do the readings and write their papers? The answer: Readings are done one week before the exam. Hence the need for several exam weeks and two exam periods. A student who had attended every single class once told me, "I didn't realize how interesting your course was until I studied for the exam!"

Course papers? By university regulations, students have until the first day of the next academic year to submit them. In other words, the course ends in mid-June, but I may not get to grade their papers until mid-October.

But as we all know, "time" is a flexible concept in Israel; many students hand in their papers much later than that (paying the

university a symbolic penalty). My "record": One B.A. student handed in his seminar paper 16 years late! I asked him what had happened.

"I got married, had four kids, became an assistant bank manager..."

"So why now?" I queried.

"Because this is my last paper to get my B.A. — I need to study for the M.A. to continue moving up the corporate ladder..."

Israeli students are very smart; I have had many undergraduate students and several Ph.Ds who could easily have completed their studies successfully at Brown or Yale. However, the experience is quite frustrating for professors who want their students to get the most out of their college years. Indeed, what is remarkable is the success of Israeli higher education in producing pioneering thinkers and researchers. Another miracle from the Holy Land...

Prof. Sam Lehman-Wilzig teaches at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. In 2008-09 he was Schusterman Visiting Professor at Brown University. Visit his Web site: [www.profskw.com](http://www.profskw.com).

## Our editorial policy

**W**E WANT OUR opinion pages to represent our readers' vibrant diversity of ideas and opinions. Thus, our editorial policy is as follows: The Voice & Herald may publish thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds) and letters to the editor on issues of interest to our Jewish community. At our discretion, we may edit pieces for publication or refuse publication.

Letters and columns, whether from our regular contributors or from guest columnists, represent the views of the authors; they do

not represent the views of The Jewish Voice & Herald or the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Send letters (250 words, at most) and op-eds (700 words or shorter) to Nancy Kirsch at [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org) (Subject Line: OPINIONS) or Nancy Kirsch, The Voice & Herald, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Please include your name, city of residence and (not for publication) a contact phone number or email.



## PIRKEI ROF'IM, ETHICS OF THE DOCTORS

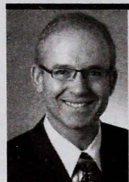
### Christianity infuses medical ethics

#### Jewish physician wonders why

*Editor's Note: We are delighted to welcome Dr. Bret Ancowitz to our opinion pages. He will write regularly from time to time on medical ethics from a Jewish perspective.*

**Q**UICK, CAN YOU describe the "religious" view of stem cell research? What about abortion or end-of-life care?

In my many years of experience in the medical world, most people's answers to these and similar questions often echo viewpoints that are overwhelmingly and surprisingly Christian.



**Dr. Bret Ancowitz**

The surprising element is that many of the people echoing these "religious" views are not Christian at all, but are often individuals of other faiths, including many Jews. On a different level, though, that this situation exists is not at all surprising, as politically conservative Christian activists have been very successful in advancing their phi-

losophy in the mainstream media. In fact, it could be claimed that they have essentially defined many of the medical ethical debates of our time. Thus, it's hardly shocking that most people's knowledge of contemporary medical ethics is, like their knowledge of Christmas or Easter, profoundly influenced by the near-ubiquity of such Christian viewpoints in popular culture.

The degree to which such philosophies have essentially become the default spiritual vocabulary in medical ethics became very clear to me during medical school. Like most physicians, I had classes in medical ethics and spirituality throughout my training. The lectures I attended on such topics as "The Role of Clergy in Healthcare" or "The Effectiveness of Prayer in Healing" were almost all delivered by priests or Christian philosophers prominent and active in the medical ethics field.

This, too, might not have been a surprising situation but for one detail—I attended the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in Manhattan. Jews founded Mount Sinai in 1852, both to serve the burgeoning Jewish immigrant community of the time and to give Jewish physicians a practice venue free of anti-Semitism. While now, more than

150 years later, the Mount Sinai Hospital and its medical school offer a non-sectarian environment, the institution still maintains a special mission to serve the Jewish community.

**"Most people's knowledge of contemporary medical ethics is influenced by Christian viewpoints in popular culture."**

Surrounded by a large number of Jewish classmates, in a medical school with many deeply knowledgeable Jews (including rabbis) on staff, and in a hospital with a public mission to serve the Jewish community, I often wondered why I was hearing Christian theologians give spirituality and ethics lectures? I wondered if the material taught by these individuals was essentially agnostic and thus universal, or was particularly Christian? "What's the Jewish

medical ethical viewpoint?" on a given issue, I would ask myself. In fact, I came to question, "Is there such a thing as a Jewish medical viewpoint at all?"

This launched my ongoing and inspirational journey through the thousands of years of accumulated Jewish medical thought. It's a philosophy of medicine that has helped shape who I am as a physician and how I practice medicine.

Now, after having studied and lectured on Jewish medical ethics for so many years, I look back on my initial youthful ignorance with mixed feelings. As with all such flashbacks, there's the embarrassment that underlying my ignorance was an authentic gap in my knowledge of Judaism, medicine and the history of both.

But there was also no doubt that Jewish medical thought seemed to be a fairly well kept spiritual and intellectual secret. This is certainly true in the larger medical field today, where even many expert ethicists have asked me with surprise, "There's a Jewish medical ethics?" That the same question, though, has almost as often been put to me by Jews is indicative of the profound degree of Jewish illiteracy in our community and is also an educational failure of the Jewish establishment (including those in

the field of Jewish medical ethics).

The more I learn about Jewish medical thought, the more I am humbled by its wisdom. Its principles, often developed over thousands of years, are actually often more internally consistent, more reasoned and (shockingly) more directly applicable to modern medicine than are many mainstream American medical ethical ideals.

As a physician who studies and lectures on Jewish medical ethics, I am excited to have the opportunity to introduce many of these ideas to our community in an occasional series of columns for *The Voice & Herald*. In the entries to come, I look forward to exploring the full range of Jewish medical thought as I aim to answer that core question I had as a medical student sitting in the lecture hall, "What exactly defines Jewish medical ethics?" The answers may be very different from what you expect.

*Dr. Bret Ancowitz, a gastroenterologist with Harbor Medical Associates in Braintree, Mass., lives with his family on the East Side of Providence and did his fellowship at Brown University. Contact him at [bancowitz@harbormedical.com](mailto:bancowitz@harbormedical.com).*

## Letters

### A Passover prayer for peace

**I**'VE BEEN ASKED many times, "What do you do on Passover and why is Passover so important to you and to the Jewish people?"

Our history is very tragic. We were slaves in Egypt centuries ago. We love, appreciate and value the soil of freedom, democracy and opportunities for a better life for all.

At the end of our service, the entire congregation recites the "Prayer for our country" led by our spiritual leader, Cantor Richard Wolberg, of Temple Beth El in Fall River, Mass.

"Our God and God of our ancestors: We ask Your blessings for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from Your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of

state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

"Creator of all flesh, bless all inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions, which are the pride and glory of our country.

"May this land, under Your Providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom—helping them to fulfill the vision of Your prophet: 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore.' And let us say: Amen."

**Dr. Irving Fradkin**  
Fall River, Mass.

### Passover recipe and story lead to full bellies at Pesach

**I**WANT TO tell *The Voice & Herald* that I received many emails from the story I wrote for the April 15 issue, "Mother's recipes survive, feed future Seder guests." Someone tried them and loved the recipe—she thanked me for sharing it as her family always dreaded her rolls. She told me that the rolls came out great

and were all eaten!

Another family friend from my past wrote and re-connected—it was great to hear from him. I plan on trying one of the mandel bread recipes soon. The entire issue was most enjoyable.

**Ida Bochner-Brown**  
Hopatcong, N.J.

### Lehman-Wilzig's column on gay life in Israel troubles reader

**S**AM LEHMAN-Wilzig's April 15 column "Homosexuality in Israeli society" starts out fine, accurately describing an Israel that, although not quite ready to embrace full equality for its gay citizens and couples, seems to be moving in that direction. But then Professor Lehman-Wilzig's piece takes a deeply offensive turn, describing as "creative" a bizarre and inhuman practice among some ultra-Orthodox to match lesbians with gay men in sham marriages.

To live our lives in the 21st century according to every dictate of ancient scripture would be to regard slavery as an acceptable institution, so long as your slave is treated with the "dignity" required by the Torah.

To actively seek, because of "biblical injunction," to discourage or deprive gay men and women of ever experiencing the joy that comes from an honest and loving relationship with the partner of their choice, is not "creative." It's cruel.

**Marc Paige**  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

### Don't ignore John Clarke's contributions

**J**OSH STEIN'S APRIL 29 column "Hope is a motto worth preserving" gives credit to Roger Williams with coming up with the plan for freedom of religion in this colony. Less well known is John Clarke, a physician and preacher who, with William Coddington and a group of religious liberals, founded Newport on May 16, 1639 "where no one was to be accounted a delinquent for doctrine."

He started a Baptist church in Newport around 1638, which some claim was earlier than Roger

Williams' First Baptist Church.

Most important of all, John Clarke, while in England, was credited with drafting Rhode Island's 1663 Charter, signed by King Charles. The charter guaranteed that no person in the Colony would be molested or punished for differences in religious opinion.

Considering the bigotry and intolerance of the time, Clarke's phrase, "hold forth a lively experiment," in the charter was very apt.

**Saul Ricklin**  
Bristol

## Corrections

**I**N THE MAY 13 issue the story by Nancy Abe-shaus, "A new generation of Jewish philanthropists," included several errors about Eddy Golden. The corrected information appears here; *The Voice & Herald* regrets the errors.

Eddy became a bat mitzvah at Temple Emanu-El. Her "Golden Team" began four years ago with a group of friends and family. She

started the walk due to her relationship with someone affected by MS; the walks were not part of her high school community project... it was unrelated. She began her volunteer work four years ago at the RI MS Society. Only this past summer, as part of her senior high school project did she volunteer at the Partners MS Center in Boston, during which she interviewed and dealt with patients.



# Overseas or close to home: The needs are huge

*Young leaders learn of opportunities to make a difference*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – On the evening of Tuesday, May 10, members of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's (Alliance) Young Leadership Development Program gathered at the home of Robbie Mann to learn more about the impact on the Annual Community Campaign on Jewish communities overseas.

Mann, chair of the Jewish Peoplehood Subcommittee of the Alliance's Community Development Committee (CDC), and Ronni Guttin, director of Camp JORI, spoke with these young leaders, who have already attended sessions on leadership, the Alliance's allocations process, fundraising and the Alliance's overseas partners.

Noting the frequent missions of lay leaders to overseas locales, Mann said, "It's an understatement to say we have a commitment."

Mann, a board member of the Joint Distribution Committee – "the Joint" or "the JDC" – said that the JDC ([www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org)) and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) ([www.jafi.org](http://www.jafi.org)) are the largest and most powerful charitable organizations serving Jews worldwide.

JAFI's mission is to ensure the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish people with a strong Israel at its center; Mann said that some people take issue with that Israel-centered focus.

The JDC rescues Jewish lives at risk, offers relief to needy Jews, renews lost bonds to Jewish identity and Jewish culture and helps Israel overcome the social challenges of its most vulnerable citizens, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The JDC also provides non-sectarian disaster relief worldwide, including to Haiti and areas affected by the tsunami in 2006.

About three years ago, the local Jewish community re-evaluated how to spend its Campaign dollars overseas: Should it allocate dollars to core programs such as feeding Soviet Jews, where its relatively small contributions would not make a significant impact? Or should it allocate its dollars to smaller, more personalized programs where funders could clearly see their impact? In a decision perhaps worthy of King Solomon the community agreed to support both.

## A POLISH-JEWISH RENEWAL

For the past two years, the Campaign has supported Limmud Keshet in Poland – a weekend version of Rhode Island's Evening of Jewish Renaissance – by contributing \$50,000 each year. Guttin, who first visited Eastern Europe

with the November 2010 mission to Poland, was stunned by the huge numbers of people, many of whom grew up without knowledge of their Jewish roots. These individuals who filled Limmud's meeting rooms "are so hungry to identify as Jews, and so grateful [for Limmud]," said Guttin.

Families come on busses and some people endure seven-hour car rides along back roads to attend the weekend, which sells out every year and fills two hotels, said Mann. "The renewal and rebirth of a [Jewish] community is so exciting. That vitality and energy we see there is remarkable, and could be a model for our own community." Mann encouraged those who might want to visit Poland's Limmud Keshet to let him know, as \$10,000 has been earmarked for lay leaders to participate in the program.

**"Get involved; our community needs your leadership."**

And Limmud Keshet, which also offers programming throughout the year, is not Poland's only success story: Krakow has a new Jewish Community Center – not a pool or a basketball court – said Mann, but classes and *ulpanim* filled with people... a rebirth is happening there, too.

## WHY SEND MONEY OVERSEAS?

"We're *k'lal Yisra'el* all Israel is responsible one for the other," said Guttin.

"They are us, we are one people," said Mann. About Limmud, he said, "It's an honor to fund programs. Ten years ago, none of them [the Jews in Poland] were practicing Jews. It's all run by 15 volunteers and overseen by two JDC staff members."

Mann, who openly admitted to "having a bias for overseas spending," cited examples of other programs that this community's dollars help support, including facilitating a partnership between The Miriam Hospital and HaEmek, a hospital in our partner area of Afula-Gilboa, Israel; funding a college scholarship for a former IDF soldier in Israel; helping Ethiopian Jews acclimate to Israel through after-school and mentoring programs; providing resources to the Haifa Rape Crisis Center; and rescuing two Jewish families from Yemen.

With our focus on people-to-people partnerships, we're now receiving more funding requests from organizations other than JAFI and the JDC, said Mann.

Camp JORI is another program that will benefit from the people-to-people partnerships: For the first time, JORI's counselors will include one or two young Jewish



RONNI GUTTIN and ROBBIE MANN talk to one another at Mann's home on Tuesday, May 10.

people from Poland; next year, Guttin hopes to send some American counselors to Poland and bring counselors from Poland to JORI.

## LOCAL NEEDS CONTINUE

While some believe we should re-evaluate the apportionment between overseas and domestic allocations (read "Alliance to disburse almost \$2.8M" on page 1), Mann said, "It's too easy to take money away from those [people]

you don't see."

Guttin, who has received calls from local Jews needing help to feed their families, calls our Jewish community "too small to be splintered. Volunteerism is the bedrock – do what speaks to you," said Guttin. "Find something that will motivate you – and do it."

To help these aspiring young leaders, the Alliance plans to pair them with more seasoned and experienced mentors.

"I implore you to get involved; our community needs your leadership," said Mann. "Pick one [cause or program] and go."

For more information about the Young Leadership Development series, co-chaired by Joelle and Andrew Kanter and Bethany and Rich Sutton, contact Minna Ellison at 421-4111 or [mellison@shalomri.org](mailto:mellison@shalomri.org).

## Over 40 and single?

## Mix & Mingle

Join other 40+ Jewish singles for an evening of conversation & cocktails.

Monday, June 6 @ 7:00PM  
India Restaurant 1060 Hope St.  
Free Apps | Cash Bar  
RSVP to Wendy by 6.3  
[wjoering@shalomri.org](mailto:wjoering@shalomri.org)  
401.421.4111 ext 169

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



## One Happy Camper program offers incentive grants

*Jewish camp experience may last a lifetime*

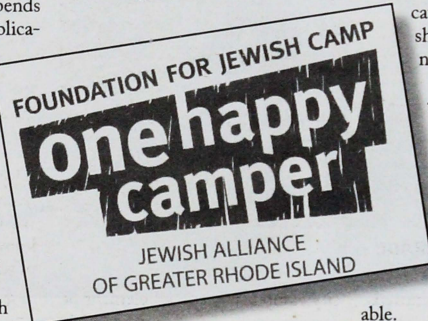
PROVIDENCE – First-time campers may be eligible for a \$1,000 incentive grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camp and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island (the Alliance) through the One Happy Camper program. Thirty-five stipends were funded, and as of publication date, a few are still available on a first-come, first-served basis; this is not a scholarship program, as the stipends are not based on financial need. Rather, children who have never attended a Jewish overnight camp for at least 19 days may be eligible for the grant.

The Foundation for Jewish Camp, from which this information comes, is a treasure trove of information about Jewish camps. Did you know, for example, that some camps and PJ Library may offer their own stipends to local campers?

Overnight camps are packed with activities – aquatics, arts and crafts, basketball and soccer, dance, music, cooking, archery, drama, outdoor adventure, hiking and much more! Campers are encouraged to discover

talents and interests they never knew they had.

Jewish camp weaves Jewish values, culture and traditions into the fabric of camp, and helps campers connect to their identity and the larger Jewish community. Whether they're telling stories in their bunks, learning about the environment or playing kickball, campers explore what Judaism means to them in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.



Jewish camp offers children an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in a vibrant culture of living Judaism. Each camp designs its own program to be accessible and enjoyable for all campers. With spirited and dynamic staff members, camp offers children experiential learning. Without even realizing it, campers learn and experience the values that make the Jewish religion and culture so special.

Jewish and Israeli culture is celebrated through song, food, art, and dance. Some camps use and teach Hebrew to make Judaism come alive.

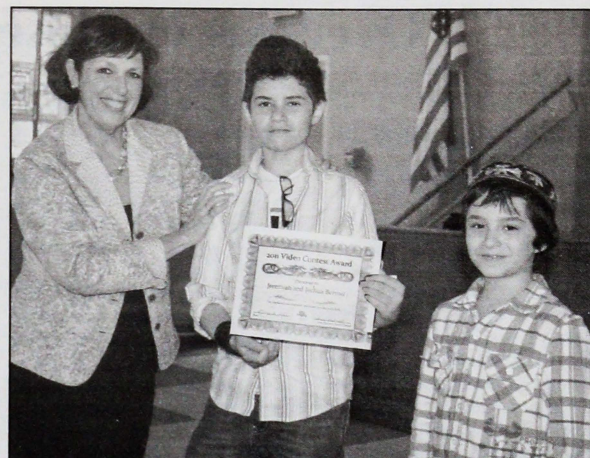
The impact of Jewish camp doesn't end on the last day of summer. The Foundation for Jewish Camp's research shows that children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely, as adults, to value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes and assume leadership roles in their communities.

A wide array of traditional and specialty overnight camps spanning different denominations of Judaism, accommodating special needs in myriad ways, offering unique programming and catering to each family's needs is available.

To apply for the stipend, visit [www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org).

For more information about the stipend or Jewish camps generally, contact Larry Katz at 331-0956 ext. 179 or [lkatz@shalomri.org](mailto:lkatz@shalomri.org).

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island thanks The Foundation for Jewish Camp ([www.jewishcamp.org](http://www.jewishcamp.org)) for permission to use this material.



HEAD OF JCDS RENEE RUDNICK, left, Jeremiah Bermel and Joshua Bermel at the JCDS on May 6

## Bermel brothers are video contest winners

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDS) recently announced that alumnus Jeremiah Bermel and Joshua Bermel, a JCDS fourth grader, won the school's 2011 video contest.

The goal of the contest was to showcase the school for both prospective families and community members, highlighting that which makes the school special. Videos, which were due on April 30, were required to be between 1.5 and 2.5 minutes long.

The Bermel video, entitled "The Best Day School," features a

song that the brothers wrote and performed. Visit the community section of [www.jcdsri.org](http://www.jcdsri.org) or the school's YouTube, at [www.youtube.com/jcdsri](http://www.youtube.com/jcdsri) to see the video.

As grand prizewinners, Jeremiah and Joshua received an \$299 Apple gift card that they will share.

For more information about JCDS, contact Lauri Lee, director of institutional advancement, at [lleee@jcdsri.org](mailto:lleee@jcdsri.org) or at 751-2470.

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

## CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE!



Give the gift of a lifetime—the gift of camp, and save up to \$1,000. Your Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the Foundation for Jewish Camp have partnered to make first-time camper incentive grants available for up to 35 area children.

If your child has never been to Jewish overnight summer camp, you may be eligible for a grant. With over 155 camps to choose from, including our local Camp JORI, there's bound to be a place that's ideal for your child. Camp registration for summer 2011 is already in full swing, so don't be left in the cold! Register for an amazing summer at camp now, and then go to [www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org) to apply for your grant!

Act quickly, only 8 spots left!

For more information, contact Larry Katz at 401.421.4111 x 179, or [lkatz@shalomri.org](mailto:lkatz@shalomri.org).



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Together, we are stronger.

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

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

## PHDS celebrates Yom Ha-Atzma'ut



CHANA DEVORAH PEROMSIK, left, Ronit Stukalov and Tehilla Bracha Yudkowsky, middle school students at Providence Hebrew Day School, learn about Israel on May 10, as part of the school's Yom Ha-Atzma'ut celebration. The large floor map of Israel was borrowed from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



# Brown RISD Hillel is 'blue and white' for Israel

*Supporters join Hillel for New York City parade*

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceherald@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – For the first time ever, a Brown RISD Hillel float will participate in New York City's Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday, June 5. Brown RISD Hillel will march with the 30,000 participants celebrating Israel's 63rd year.

"I am thrilled that we can share the energy and passion our students have for Israel with the broader community," said Brown RISD Hillel Executive Director Marshall Einhorn.

Dozens of Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) students, trustees, alumni, staff and supporters will travel to New York to watch the Celebrate Israel Parade, which features thousands of marchers representing Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and institutions.

The parade is the largest event in the world celebrating the anniversary of Israel's independence.



A CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

RISD students helped design a unique float that draws inspiration from the parade's theme: In Tune with Israel.

"Our participation in the parade is another example of our pride in catering to a full array of initiatives

– on and off campus for hundreds of students – that help invigorate students' Jewish identities," said Joey Resnick, Brown RISD Hillel student board president.

Brown RISD Hillel believes taking an active role on the univer-

sity campus is a crucial element of counteracting attempts to tarnish Israel's image through misinformation and boycott, divestment and sanction campaigns, said Rabbi Mordechai Rackover, of Brown RISD Hillel. "[We] pro-

"Our participation in the parade is another example of our pride in catering to a full array of initiatives – on and off campus."

vide comprehensive ongoing programming designed to project a positive and truthful understanding of Israel today."

"Fostering understanding is a key part of creating a lifelong commitment to Israel and to Judaism," said Joe Hollander, the president of the organization's board of trustees. "Our students and alumni know that Israel is an integral part of who we are as a people."

*Rain or shine, the parade begins at 57th and Fifth, and continues north to 74th Street; it runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Marshall Einhorn, at 863-9354 or marshall\_einhorn@brown.edu.*



/Al Weems

EDWARD D. FELDSTEIN, from left, chair of The Miriam Hospital Board of Trustees; Jeffrey Brier, chair of The Miriam Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees; Marianne and Alan Litwin, event co-chairs; Timothy J. Babineau, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital; and Arthur J. Sampson, executive director of The Miriam Hospital.

## Miriam gala generates more than \$400,000

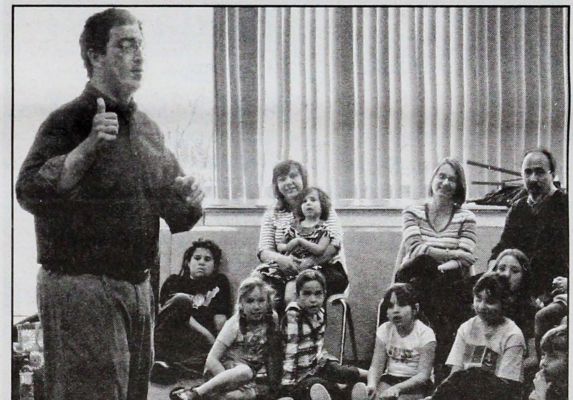
PROVIDENCE – Close to 500 hospital donors and friends attended The Miriam Hospital's 2011 Gala on Saturday, May 14, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Raising \$440,571 for the hospital, the gala featured Cirque-tastic acrobatic performers, who entertained the crowd with awe-inspiring aerial, balancing and contortion feats.

The evening's proceeds will help establish a new center of excellence for total joint replacement at

The Miriam Hospital, which will offer comprehensive evaluation and treatment for patients with permanent and progressive damage to knees, hips or shoulders.

In addition to dinner, live music and dancing, guests bid on 14 auction items, including tickets to see a taping of Iron Chef America in New York; a New England sports package, which includes an opportunity for a child to be a ball boy/girl at a Celtics game; and a private

dinner for 20, catered by Russell Morin Fine Catering. Event co-chairs were Marianne and Alan Litwin, and Sharon and Alan Gaines, M.D. served as vice chairs. Robert DiMuccio and Alan Litwin co-chaired the Corporate Sponsorship Committee and Peter Karczmars, M.D., and Valerie Thomas, M.D., chaired the Medical Sponsorship Committee.



MARK BINDER TELLS TALL TALES

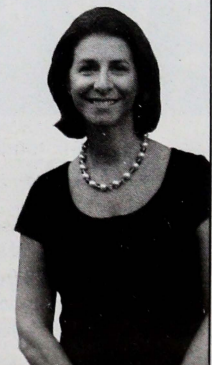
On Friday, May 6, local storyteller Mark Binder entertains the adults and children of The Friday Group with his tall tales.

*"Trying to care for aging parents shouldn't age their adult children as well."*

I'm Jenny Miller. I've devoted my life and career to assisting seniors and people with disabilities. My goal is to help them maintain their well-being, independence and dignity. If you or your family aren't sure where to turn, how to gather information or who can help—then get in touch with me today.

Senior Care Concepts Inc.  
Geriatric Care Management

www.seniorcareconceptsinc.com  
Phone: 401.398.7655





## Friday

May 27

### Yiddish Shmooz

The guest speaker is Cantor Remmie Brown.

Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

More info: Phyllis Solod at 738-8468

### Brown RISD Hillel Welcomes New Torah

Help Hillel welcome a new Torah to the community. Meet at the Van Wickle Gates. Reception follows at Hillel.

Van Wickle Gates, corner of College and Prospect streets, Providence

Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence

4 p.m.

More info: 863-2805

### Temple Sinai's Shabbat Evening and U.S. Memorial Day Service

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 942-8350 or [www.TempleSinaiRI.org](http://www.TempleSinaiRI.org)

## Saturday

May 28

### Havdalah and Water Fire

Join alumni and graduating seniors for *havdalah* at Hillel and then head down College Hill to view Water Fire from a Hillel tent.

Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence

9 p.m.

More info: 863-2805



## Tuesday

May 31

### Senior Café: Learn and Lunch

Note new location! Big money Bingo at the new location.

Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St. Warwick

11:15 a.m. – Program; Noon – Lunch

\$3 lunch donation for 60+ and under 60 disabled

More info: Neal or Steve at 781-1771

*This location hosts a meal site every weekday.*

## Wednesday

June 1

### JCDS Holds Annual Meeting

Dessert reception; annual meeting follows.

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

6 p.m.

More info: 751-2470

## Thursday

June 2

### Warwick/Cranston West Bay Kosher Lunch & Learn

Discussion, led by Cantor Rick Perlman, focuses on weekly Torah portion, and is followed by a kosher deli lunch.

Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

Noon – 1 p.m.

\$10

More info: 463-7944 or [cantorrick@cox.net](mailto:cantorrick@cox.net)

## Friday

June 3

### Senior Café: Lunch and Learn

Dance therapy with Bella Donna Chritafulli.

The Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

Noon – Lunch; 12:45 p.m. – Program

\$3 lunch donation for 60+ and under 60 disabled

More info: Neal Drobnis or Lucy Flam at 861-8800, ext. 107

7:30 p.m. – Youth service award honorees, installation

Dinner: \$20 per adult; \$10 per child 8 and under; \$70 family maximum

More info: 331-1616

### Temple Beth-El Hosts Special Oneg

Recognizing Ruby Shalansky, outgoing executive director of Temple Beth-El. Open to the community.

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

7 p.m. – Shabbat Service; special *oneg* follows

More info: 331-6070

*See story on page 2.*

### Temple Torat Yisrael's Shabbat Yachad

Meredith Karetny speaks about her work with the David Project.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich

6 p.m. – Services, 7 p.m. – Dinner

Dinner: \$10 per adult; \$5 per child 10 – 18; free for children under 10

More info: 785-1800

### Get S'More Shabbat

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

6 p.m.

More info: 942-8350 or [www.TempleSinaiRI.org](http://www.TempleSinaiRI.org)

## Sunday

June 5

### Temple Habonim Yard Sale

165 New Meadow Road, Barrington

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

More info: Leslie Lorber at 289-0331 or [leslielorber@cox.net](mailto:leslielorber@cox.net)

### Israel Parade

March with Brown RISD Hillel's first-ever float in NYC's Celebrate Israel Parade

Fifth Avenue from 57th Street to 74th Street

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More info: [info@brownrisdhillel.org](mailto:info@brownrisdhillel.org)

*See story on page 9.*

### Kosher Chili Cook-Off

Cook-Off competition with local teams, family and children's activities and entertainment.

The Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$10 per adult; \$5 per child under 12; \$30 family maximum

More info: Bethany Sutton at 726-3560 or [bl\\_sutton@yahoo.com](mailto:bl_sutton@yahoo.com) and Meredith Sinel at 263-3399 or [mererein@yahoo.com](mailto:mererein@yahoo.com) or [www.rikosherchilicookoff.com](http://www.rikosherchilicookoff.com)

## Tuesday

June 7

### Rosh Hodesh Women's Study Group

Join Leonore Sones for a Rosh Hodesh women's study group.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

10 a.m.

More info: 942-8350 or [www.TempleSinaiRI.org](http://www.TempleSinaiRI.org)



[TempleSinaiRI.org](http://TempleSinaiRI.org)

### Temple Torat Yisrael Shavu'ot Services

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

## Wednesday

June 8

### Experience Shavu'ot – The Giving of the Torah

Reading of the Ten Commandments; a buffet dairy dinner follows.

Chabad House Barrington, 311 Maple Ave., Barrington

5:30 p.m.

More info: [rabbibarrington@gmail.com](mailto:rabbibarrington@gmail.com)

### Celebrate Shavu'ot

Reading of the Ten Commandments; a dairy dinner follows.

Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick

5:45 – 7:30 p.m.

More info: 884-7888 or <http://www.RabbiWarwick.com>

## Thursday

June 9

### Temple Torat Yisrael Shavu'ot Services

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

9 a.m.

More info: 785-1800

### Shavu'ot Afternoon Yizkor Service

Service followed by dairy Kiddush.

Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick

7 – 8:15 p.m.

More info: 884-7888

## Friday

June 10

### Yiddish Shmooz

Dr. Stanley Aronson is the guest speaker.

The Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

More info: Phyllis Solod at 738-8468

### Temple Sinai's Shabbat Evening Service and Board Installation

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 942-8350 or [www.TempleSinaiRI.org](http://www.TempleSinaiRI.org)

## Sunday

June 12

### Temple Torat Yisrael Open House

Open house at both East Greenwich venues.

The Village Lower School, 2220 South County Trail, East Greenwich

Temple Torat Yisrael future site, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich

10 a.m. – Noon

More info: 785-1800

### 62nd Annual Allegro Glee Club Concert

Concert at Temple Beth El benefits synagogue's building fund; directed by Paul Allard and accompanied by Judith Conrad.

Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, Mass.

2:30 p.m.

\$5

More info: 508-674-3529

### Calendar Submissions

Please note: Our next issue of The Voice & Herald will be published on June 10. Please send calendar items for that issue by May 27. Calendar items for the June 24 issue are due June 13.

Send all calendar items to [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org) with the subject line of "CALENDAR."



# Honor thy father and mother, agency reminds us

*JSA celebrates  
its centennial  
anniversary*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

WARWICK – Honor thy father and mother: That was the Jewish Seniors Agency's (JSA) annual meeting theme. The meeting was held at The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence (Tamarisk) on the evening of Wednesday, May 11.

**"It's not what you take with you that is the true measure of your time on this earth, but rather what you leave behind."**

Some 60 members of the community heard reports from JSA's executive director, Paul Barrette, and other senior staff members, including Roberta Ragge, Tamarisk's executive director; Susan Adler, the director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island and To Life Center Adult Day Services; and Bonnie Sekeres, the executive director of Shalom and Shalom II Apartments. JFS President



JIM GALKIN and SUSAN LEACH DEBLASIO

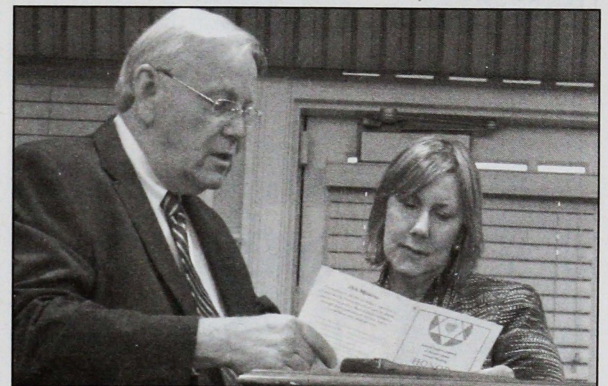
Susan Bazar chaired the meeting, at which Richard Licht offered greetings from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and spoke about health care in Rhode Island.

Calling Tamarisk the pride of the Jewish community and of Rhode Island, Licht called the evening a "homecoming." As for the health care challenges that we face, Licht said, "The cost of health care is growing at twice the rate of inflation; it's now 17 percent of our Gross National Product." If this continues, he warned, insurance won't matter, as health care costs will bankrupt the country.

While Rhode Island's health

care task force is focusing on how to ensure affordable health care, Licht said, Rhode Island is ahead of other states as a leader in electronic prescriptions and other initiatives.

"Fees for services can't last," said Licht. "We're going to have to change the way we pay for health care." Instead, he said, doctors and hospitals will be paid to keep patients healthy through a system he called "global payments." Brown Medical School's new campus will bring more dollars and more research to Rhode Island; with the nation's leading brain scientist at



JSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL BARRETTE and JSA President SUSAN BAZAR confer before the JSA annual meeting.

Brown, it's an exciting time to be in the medical field.

In keeping with the "honor thy father and mother" theme, Jim Galkin described Susan Leach DeBlasio's extraordinary contributions to the Jewish community and to JSA, in particular, and incorporated the lessons in *tikkun olam* she learned from her parents of blessed memory, Max and Muriel Leach, who counseled her and her siblings, "Watch and learn."

Leach DeBlasio, who received the Maurice Glicksman Leadership Award, said, "I stand on the shoulders of giants [award recipients who preceded her and her parents]. Each one was a mentor to me... and from each one of them I learned invaluable lessons."

Her most abiding lesson is this: "It's not what you take with you

that is the true measure of your time on this earth, but rather what you leave behind."

Herbie Brown wrote a poem about Barrette – describing him as a *mensh* – and Bazar presented JSA employee Irene Mello, in absentia, with a Presidential Award.

Officers and directors were installed; officers for the coming year are Bazar, president; Jeffrey Padwa, first vice president; Jack Nassau, second vice president; Drew Kaplan, treasurer; and Cantor Rick Perlman, secretary.

For more information about JSA, visit [www.jsa.org](http://www.jsa.org).

The Jewish Seniors Agency is a partner agency of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

## Touro Fraternal Association elects officers, directors

CRANSTON – Touro Fraternal Association (Touro), the largest independent Jewish fraternal order in New England, installed its new officers and directors on Wednesday, May 25. Robert D. Miller, chairman of Touro's board, served as installing officer, and Steven Dinerman, a past lodge president, administered the oaths of office as master of ceremonies.

Officers of the Association's Harmony Lodge are Norman Dinerman, immediate past vice president and now the president; Jeffrey Padwa, vice president; Andrew Liss, secretary; and Monochehr Norparvar, treasurer.

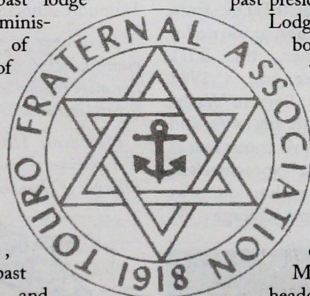
Ried Redlich, president, and Lester Nathan vice president, begin second terms in those offices at Friendship Lodge and Michael

Levin, secretary, and Richard Cohen, treasurer, are new to the line of lodge officers.

Milton Bronstein, Jeffrey Davis, Rodney Locke, Alan Lury and Michael Smith were re-elected to three-year terms on Touro's board; Adam Halpern, immediate past president of Harmony Lodge, moves to the board of directors and Edward Deluty was elected to serve the remaining two years of an unexpired term.

The annual election was held May 4 at Touro's headquarters at 45 Rolfe Square in Cranston. On June 15, Touro's board will hold its annual meeting to elect its officers for the coming year.

For more information about Touro, call 785-0066 or email [tourofrat@aol.com](mailto:tourofrat@aol.com).



## Insights to help put the next 10 years into perspective

The UBS Wealth Management Research team believes the following trends will take place in this decade:

1. The U.S. will be tested but remain the dominant power.
2. China will flex its economic and other muscles.
3. Look for geopolitical risk to increase.
4. Inflation will trump deflation.
5. As bond yields rise, sovereigns will struggle.
6. U.S. stocks to outperform bonds.
7. Emerging stronger: emerging markets.
8. Oil's share of energy consumption will slip.
9. Technological advances will boost productivity, but with increased risk.
10. Profound changes will take place in healthcare.

### Northeast Investment Group

Jeffrey Boudjouk, Vice President-Investments  
401-455-6754 [jeffrey.boudjouk@ubs.com](mailto:jeffrey.boudjouk@ubs.com)

Anthony Landi Jr., Vice President-Investments  
401-455-6781 [anthony.landi@ubs.com](mailto:anthony.landi@ubs.com)

Walter Cooper, Vice President-Investments  
401-455-6732 [walter.cooper@ubs.com](mailto:walter.cooper@ubs.com)

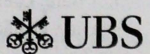
Deb Shuster, Financial Advisor  
401-455-6740 [deborah.shuster@ubs.com](mailto:deborah.shuster@ubs.com)

One Citizens Plaza, Suite 900  
Providence, RI 02903

[ubs.com/team/northeastinvestmentgroup](http://ubs.com/team/northeastinvestmentgroup)



To request an electronic or paper copy of this report, please call or email Deb Shuster or Kelly C. Sullivan, Registered Client Service Associate at (401) 455-6768 or [kelly.sullivan@ubs.com](mailto:kelly.sullivan@ubs.com)

We will not rest  UBS

As a firm providing wealth management services to clients, we offer both investment advisory and brokerage services. These services are separate and distinct, differ in material ways and are governed by different laws and separate contracts. For more information on the distinctions between our brokerage and investment advisory services, please speak with your Financial Advisor or visit our website at [ubs.com/workingwithus](http://ubs.com/workingwithus). Neither UBS Financial Services Inc. nor any of its employees provides legal or tax advice. You should consult with your personal legal or tax advisor regarding your personal circumstances. UBS Financial Services Inc. is a subsidiary of UBS AG. ©2011 UBS Financial Services Inc. All rights reserved. Member SIPC. 32-42-141-RW-3046-2H4002-0001





BONNIE SEKERES

/Peter Goldberg Photography

## Shalom Housing receives award

**T**HE Environmental Council of Rhode Island awarded its coveted "Senator John H. Chafee Conservation Leadership Award" to Shalom Housing in a ceremony on Thursday, May 12.

A program of Jewish Seniors Agency, Shalom, which opened in 1980, qualified for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant to renovate its building to meet current energy efficiency and water consumption requirements.

Appliances, heating equipment and water services were replaced, and a wind turbine was installed to generate power to light all of its numerous common areas.

Shalom was the only development in Rhode Island to receive this funding, and the only housing development in the country to be approved for a wind turbine.

Bonnie Sekeres, Shalom's executive director, accepted the award from Zechariah Chafee, a son of the late John Chafee.

## A New England Rabbinical College gathering



/E. Bresler

RABBI YOSEF LIPSON, Mashgia, New England Rabbinical College; from left; Rabbi Yehuda Oelbaum, Menahel of Machon Bais Yaakov, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Daniel Menchel, Parents of the Year Awardee; Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, Rosh HaYeshiva, New England Rabbinical College; Rabbi Naftali Karp, Executive Director, New England Rabbinical College; and Rabbi Noach Karp, who served as the master of ceremonies, gather at the New England Rabbinical College's 24th annual dinner on Sunday, May 15 in Providence.

## PHDS hosts Amudim Award dinner

PROVIDENCE – The Providence Hebrew Day School's (PHDS) annual dinner will be held on Sunday, June 12, at PHDS, at 5:15 p.m.

This year's Amudim award-ees are Marty and Elaine Saklad, residents of Providence since 1982. Their five children, Rivka, Shmuel, Esther, Yakov and Chava, have all attended Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS)/New England Academy of Torah; in fact, since 1990, the school has always had Saklad children enrolled. Marty Saklad has held many positions on the PHDS board, including treasurer, vice president of the budget and finance committee, and president. Elaine Saklad has served PHDS in various capacities – as a member of the fundraising, education and executive committees, with the Parent, Teacher, Friends Organization and as chair of the Amudim Dinner committee.

Herb and Gloria Spivack, who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, will receive this year's Dor L'Dor Generation to Generation Award. After Herb served in the army for two years, he and Gloria moved to the Providence area, where he worked as research director of the Aerovox Company. Shortly thereafter, he founded Metachem Resins Corporation, the Mereco Prod-



MARTY and ELAINE SAKLAD

/PHDS

ucts Division, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The Spivacks have served on a lengthy list of local and national organizations. For many years, the Spivack family has been most supportive of the PHDS, from which their children graduated.

Noam Neusner, the 2011 alumnus honoree and a 1983 PHDS graduate, lives in Washington D.C. with his wife and three daughters. A communications strategist, speechwriter, journalist and author, he was former President George W.

Bush's primary speechwriter on domestic policy matters. At the White House, Neusner also served as liaison to the Jewish community. He has co-authored four books with his father, the Talmudic scholar, Jacob Neusner.

The dinner is open to the community; tickets cost \$60 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call PHDS at 331-5327.

Providence Hebrew Day School is a partner agency of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

Learn to speak Hebrew  
like an Israeli!

Ulpan-style Hebrew language classes  
will be offered for 2 weeks in July

אולפן

with our Israeli friends & educators  
Simcha & Shimon Pe'er

**2011 Class information:**  
Beginners and Advanced  
Monday-Thursday 9:45AM-12:00PM

Two Different Intermediate Levels  
Monday-Thursday 2:00PM-4:15PM  
Classes run July 18-July 28

8 session class: \$50  
Teachers in Alliance-affiliated schools: \$25

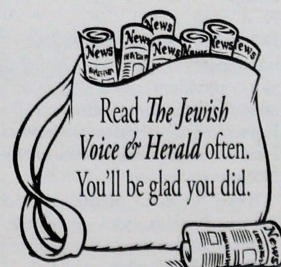
For more information or to register,  
please call 401.861.8800

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## Former Knesset Member Colette Avital will speak

*Will Israel be a pariah?*

BY DAVID LONDON  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**C**OLLETE AVITAL, who has held several high-ranking positions in the Israeli government, said, "Israel may be running out of time to negotiate seriously with the Palestinians, and risk becoming a pariah in the world."

In anticipation of her presentation on Tuesday, June 14 at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island (the Alliance), Avital par-

ticipated in a phone interview with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

"It will be very bad for Israel," she continued, "if 150 countries recognize the state of Palestine in a vote scheduled this September at the United Nations. Many people are very worried that Israel will become isolated."

Avital, the former deputy speaker of the Knesset and former consul for New England and former consul general for New York, will speak about her concerns for Israel's future at the Alliance on June 14 at 7:30 p.m.

The event, which is free and open to the community, is part of the

Alliance's Community Relations Council (CRC) speaker series. Avital's appearance in Providence is part of a New England tour coordinated by JStreet; the CRC is co-sponsoring the event, in accord with its commitment to promote healthy dialogues concerning Israel and the Middle East.

During the program, titled "Ensuring Israel's Security by Achieving Peace," Avital will discuss the "Arab Spring" and its impact on Israel, the September U.N. vote on Palestinian statehood and the impact of the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation.

In her interview with The Jewish



/Colette Avital

### COLLETE AVITAL

Voice & Herald, Avital revealed her concerns about a series of new laws that the Knesset is considering, which, she said, "limit freedom of speech and could be called racist." One such proposal would prohibit Arab schools from teaching the day of Israel's founding in 1948 as their "Nakba Day," or the "Day of the Catastrophe." "You can't tell people how to teach history," Avital said. She also voiced concerns about proposed legislation that would allow some communities in Israel to refuse to allow certain people (meaning Arabs) to live there and change the laws of Jewish conversion.

After making *aliyah* with her family in 1950, Avital began working as a secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finance her education. Before being appointed to ambassador to Portugal, she served in several foreign postings, including Montreal as chancellor, Brussels as press and cultural attaché, Paris as minister-counselor and

Boston as consul. In 1992, she was appointed consul general of Israel in New York – the highest position then attained by a woman in the Foreign Service. From 1997 – 1999, she was the deputy director in charge of Western Europe – the Foreign Ministry's third highest position.

Elected to the Knesset in 1999 as a Labor Party member, Avital served as chair of the Ethics Committee, and was a member of the Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Committee. She also headed the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee into the Location and Restitution of the Assets of Holocaust Victims. A candidate in the Israeli presidential election of 2007, she promptly withdrew after the first round of balloting and endorsed the winner, Shimon Peres.

Avital holds an undergraduate degree in political science and English literature from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a master's degree in English literature from the University of Montreal and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. A resident of Jerusalem, she regularly contributes opinion articles to prominent Israeli and foreign publications.

David London, a retired business executive, is a resident of Providence. Contact him at [londondavid@aol.com](mailto:londondavid@aol.com).

For more information about the CRC speaker series, contact Marty Cooper, CRC director, at [mcooper@shalomri.org](mailto:mcooper@shalomri.org), or 421-4111, ext. 171.



### Michael Oren speaks to JINSA board

**MICHAEL OREN**, Israel's ambassador to the United States, and Jay Strauss at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, May 3. Oren was speaking to the board, on which Strauss sits, of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA).

/JINSA

## AIPAC holds annual conference

*AIPAC 2011 is the largest ever*

BY RON KAMPEAS AND  
URIEL HEILMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The centerpiece of AIPAC's annual conference, the gala banquet, is a little like the Oscars: The room is full of celebrities, speeches are interspersed with emotional video montages, the highlight that everyone's waiting for comes at the end and the main event is followed by exclusive after-parties.

There are a few differences, too, of course.

### REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Instead of Hollywood's elite, it's the political elite that shows up. This year, 67 members of the U.S. Senate and 286 members of the House of Representatives came, along with a smattering of Obama administration officials, Knesset members and diplomats from around the world.

At the after-parties, instead of inebriated celebs showing off their evening gowns, Newt Gingrich, Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) hosted parties in conference

rooms with kosher brownies and chocolate chip cookies, and the buzz was about the next presidential election.

### SOMETHING ODD

There was something odd about the timing of this year's conference.

As usual, it precipitated a visit to Washington by the Israeli prime minister. With the Middle East in turmoil and the Israeli-Palestinian relationship on the brink, the United States was pressing for some kind of new momentum from Benjamin Netanyahu in the weeks leading up to his U.S. visit. President Obama couldn't very well not meet with the Israeli prime minister while he was in town, but the administration wanted something more than a photo op at the White House.

Then Netanyahu went to senior congressional leaders to ask to address a joint meeting of Congress, and it looked as if Netanyahu was going to outline his vision for peace – until, that is, the Palestinian Authority (PA) decided to sign a unity pact with Hamas.

Obama, not to be pre-empted, scheduled a major Middle East policy speech two days before the conference was to begin and a day before his scheduled White House meeting with Netanyahu.

The result was that neither leader offered much news at AIPAC

itself.

### AIPAC'S LARGEST CONFERENCE

A decade ago, AIPAC leaders noted, the conference fit into a single hotel ballroom. Today, Washington's largest convention center could barely fit them all. With more than 10,000 attendees, AIPAC put the college students in a separate banquet hall downstairs, but linked them to the main hall by video.

The larger-than-usual congressional delegation comprised more than the two-thirds of the Congress. Among those on hand were some surprises considering their past fraught relations with the lobbying group: Reps. Donna Edwards (D-Md.), Jim Moran (D-Va.), Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

On Tuesday, thousands of activists headed to Capitol Hill for lobbying, with meetings in all 100 Senate offices, and 426 out of 435 House offices.

### WHAT WAS MISSING?

What was missing from AIPAC?

Obama did not, as some had hoped, announce a planned visit to Israel.

Commentator Peter Beinart noted that with myriad sessions devoted to the so-called "Arab Spring," AIPAC neglected to invite any Arabs to discuss it.

## JFNA's Silverman visits Brown University



/alisa grace photography

**JOSH BLOCK**, a Brown University freshman, gives Jerry Silverman, the president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federations of North America, a Hillel t-shirt (the Hebrew letters spell "Brown") on Tuesday, May 10. Brown RISD Hillel's Jewish Leadership Seminar, which Block coordinates, invited Silverman to speak to Jewish leaders of a vast array of student groups at Brown.



## Shavu'ot allows us to indulge our dairy desires

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

**W**ITHSHAVU'OT coming soon – June 7-9 – it's the perfect time for The Jewish Voice & Herald to provide readers with some great dairy-rich recipes.

### Cheese bourekas

#### Ingredients for the cheese filling

1 pound, 2 ounces of low fat ricotta  
9 ounces Parmesan cheese, grated  
9 ounces feta cheese, crumbled  
2 egg yolks  
1 tablespoon corn starch  
freshly ground black pepper

#### Ingredients for the pastry

3 pounds, five ounces puff pastry dough  
1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon water, for brushing  
Sesame seeds for garnish

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 350.  
Beat all the ingredients for the filling until smooth.

Roll the dough into a 1/4-inch thick sheet. Cut into 5-inch squares. Put one tablespoon of the filling in the center of each square, fold diagonally to form a triangle and pinch the edges together. Arrange the bourekas with sufficient space between them on a tray lined with baking paper.

Brush the triangles with the beaten egg and sprinkle sesame seeds on top.

Bake for about 30 minutes until the bourekas are golden and plump and smell delicious.

This makes 20 large bourekas.  
From Janna Gur's "The Book of New Israeli Food, a culinary journey," published by Schocken Books, a division of Random House, in 2007.

### Shephardic cheese buns

The dough may be prepared in advance, wrapped, kept in the refrigerator and baked just before

serving.

#### Ingredients

2-and-1/2-cups self-rising flour  
9 ounces ricotta  
7 ounces hard cheese – Gruyere or Parmesan, grated  
5 ounces feta, crumbled  
1 egg  
7 ounces butter, melted  
2 ounces hard cheese, grated, for the coating

#### Method

Preheat oven to 400.

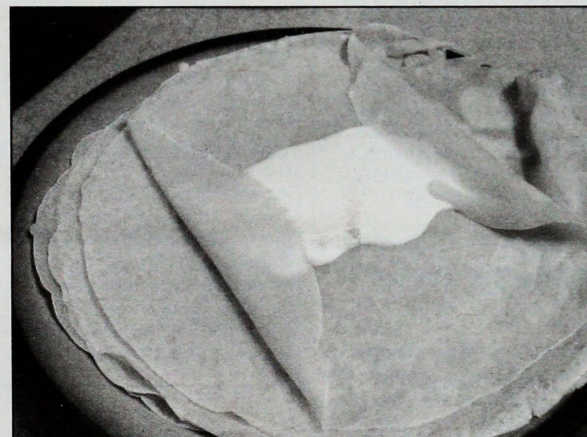
In a bowl, mix all the ingredients (except the cheese for the coating) into a very soft dough. Add some flour if it's too moist.

Divide into 30 balls the size of apricots. Dip the dome of each ball in the grated coating cheese and arrange on a tray lined with baking paper.

Bake for about 20 minutes until the buns are golden. Cool slightly on a rack and serve at once.

Makes 30 bite-size buns.

From Gur's "The Book of New Israeli Food..."



### Blintzes

In "The Jewish Kitchen," author Clarissa Hyman writes, "Although you can use other fillings, cheese blintzes are traditional among Ashkenazi Jews at the dairy festival of Shavu'ot, when

the white of the cheese is said to represent the purity of the Mosaic Law... As Leo Rosten pointed out in "The Joys of Yiddish," blintzes are never referred to in the singular, probably because you never hear of anybody eating only one."

#### Ingredients for blintzes

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon superfine granulated sugar  
3 egg yolks  
4 tablespoons butter, melted  
5/8 cup milk  
5/8 cup cold water  
vegetable oil for frying  
butter for frying

#### Ingredients for fillings

2 pounds, 4 ounces cream cheese  
4 tablespoons sour cream, plus extra to serve  
2 egg yolks  
3 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
pinch of salt

#### Method

Sift the flour and sugar into a bowl. Make a well in the center, add the egg yolks and butter and slowly fold into the flour. Gradually add the milk and water and beat until smooth. Strain, if necessary, to remove any lumps.

Better still, blend the ingredients for 1 minute at high speed in a blender. Cover and refrigerate for a couple of hours or overnight.

Mix all the filling ingredients and set aside.

Grease a frying pan with a little oil and place over a medium heat. When the oil is very hot, remove the pan from the heat and pour 4 tablespoonfuls of batter into the pan center. Tilt pan in all directions to thinly spread out the batter.

Put the pan back on the burner for 1 minute until the batter is just set. Shake to loosen the edge, then lift and turn the blintz with a palette knife or spatula.

Brown the reverse side of the blintz for about 30 seconds. Slide it onto an ovenproof plate and keep warm while making the rest of the blintzes.

Spread a generous amount of  
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filling over each pancake, fold in half, then fold in half again to make fan shapes. Brown the blintzes in butter just before serving them with more sour cream or jam and maybe a few berries, for healthy eating!

Makes 4 servings.

From "The Jewish Kitchen, Recipes and Stories from around the World," by Clarissa Hyman, published by Interlink Books in 2004.

Experienced cooks may wonder, "Why would The Jewish Voice & Herald include a classic cheesecake recipe? Doesn't everyone know how to make a cheesecake?" Sad to say, but no, they don't. As every generation needs a classic cheesecake recipe, consider including it in a nice gift bag with a new springform pan and new measuring cups or spoons for a ready-to-go gift for a kitchen-themed bridal shower or to welcome those new neighbors who are first-time homeowners.

### Classic cheesecake

Store covered in plastic in the refrigerator for up to five days or freeze up to three months.

#### Ingredients

8 tablespoons *parve* margarine, plus 1 tablespoon to grease pan  
2 cups *parve* graham cracker crumbs or 32 2- x 2-inch graham crackers crushed in a food processor  
1-and-1/4 cups plus 4 tablespoons sugar, divided  
2 pounds *parve* cream cheese, at room temperature (set out at least 1 hour)  
5 large eggs  
1 teaspoon lemon zest (grated outer peel) from 1 lemon  
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 325.

Take a 9-inch or 10-inch springform pan, trace the bottom onto a piece of parchment and cut out. Cover the top of the pan bottom with aluminum foil, and then wrap the excess foil under the bottom. Attach the pan sides to the bottom, lock in place and then unwrap the foil and wrap up around the exterior sides of the pan. Rub 1 tablespoon of marga-

rine around the bottom and sides of the pan. Place the parchment circle in the bottom of the pan and grease with some margarine.

Place the 8 tablespoons of the margarine in a large microwave-safe bowl and melt. Add the graham cracker crumbs and 4 tablespoons of the sugar and mix to combine. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pan. Use your fingers to press in the crumb mixture so that it covers the bottom and about 1/4-inch up the sides of the pan.

In the bowl of stand mixer or in a large mixing bowl – if using a hand-held mixer – beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add the eggs, one at a time, and scrape down the bowl after each egg is added to make sure all the cream cheese and eggs are combined and the mixture looks creamy. There should be no lumps in the batter. Add the remaining 1-and-1/4 cups of sugar, lemon zest and vanilla and beat on medium speed for 30 seconds, or until everything is combined.

Pour the batter on top of the graham cracker crust in the pan. Place the pan in a large roasting pan with sides higher than 2 inches. Place the roasting pan and cake on the middle rack of the oven. Bring over a kettle filled with boiling water and pour boiling water into the roasting pan, around the cheesecake pan, until the water reaches a third to half-way up the sides of the cheesecake pan.

Bake for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Turn off the oven and prop the oven door open with a wooden spoon. Leave the cake in the oven for another hour. Remove the cake pan from the roasting pan and set it on a rack until the cake is completely cooled. Place in the refrigerator for 8 hours or overnight. Remove the sides of the pan. Use a wide knife or long metal spatula to separate the parchment circle from the foil and slide the cheesecake onto a serving platter.

Serves 12-16.

From Paula Shoyer's "The Kosher Baker," published by Brandeis University Press, 2010.



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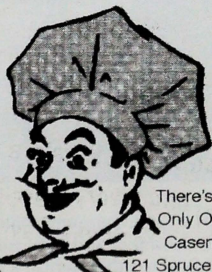
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## Israel is more about peace, less about war

*Lions of Judah  
accompany Yael  
Dayan on a  
'chronological  
journey'*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Approximately 30 women – all Lions of Judah – gathered at the East Side home of Mitzi Berkelhammer on Thursday, May 12, to hear Yael Dayan, the daughter of Ruth Dayan and the late Moshe Dayan, speak about Israel.

Bonnie Steinberg Jennis, the president of the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, said that Lions of Judah live generously, sustain local and international communities and ensure the strength and continuity of the Jewish people. Four women became Lions of Judah this year – Sharon Gaines, Jordana Jaffee, Marilyn Katz and Diana Lewinstein – when each gave \$5,000 to the Annual Community Campaign. "Because of you, people have a better life," said Steinberg Jennis.

Before introducing Dayan – an author, journalist, activist for women's rights and a three-time Labor Party Member of the Knesset and currently the chair of the Tel Aviv-Yafo City Council – Berkelhammer listed her "top 10 reasons" to endow a Lion of Judah gift.



MITZI BERKELHAMMER, left, BONNIE STEINBERG JENNIS and Yael DAYAN

In heavily-accented English, Dayan spoke about four generations of Israel, told through her family's story. Inviting her audience to come on a "chronological voyage" of Israel with her, Dayan showed a series of photomontages depicting her paternal and maternal ancestors' contributions to and involvement in Israel, as well as those of her generation.

Her paternal grandparents, Jewish immigrants from Southern Russia, settled in the early 1900s, first at Kibbutz Degania and later at Nahalal, respectively *eretz Yisrael's* first kibbutz and first *moshav*. Her better educated maternal grandparents (grandfather a lawyer and grandmother an educator) settled in Jerusalem. But, as Dayan, said,

"It's not just *shtetl*, village, it's not just *cheder*, school; we have to have a variety of skills."

People of her parents' generation were the fighters, said Dayan, who was born in 1939. In 1948, "we had to fight for the state [to protect] the infrastructure that was built by my grandparents' generation." Even as the young entity was struggling to achieve statehood, families, including Dayan's, welcomed and took in young Holocaust survivors. "It was the first time that we, as children, recognized the existence of a Jewish world away from us."

During the Six-Day War, Dayan met her husband-to-be, Dov, who had come to pre-state *eretz Yisrael* in 1939. His parents and brother, she said, perished in the Holocaust,

a loss that her children and grandchildren – as descendants of one of Israel's most famous heroes – continue to experience. "We are bound to our past by happy things, but also by tragedy," she said.

The big wars – the Six Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973 – were the last days of Israel fighting for existence, she said. "Against many odds, it's clear we're here to stay. No one can take our Jewish homeland away. We're fighting now against other groups – not other countries."

Responding to audience questions, Dayan dismissed concerns about the "Arab Spring" and the uprisings in Egypt. "The time of the Arab world won't be easy, but we're not going to be instruments

for them." About Egypt, she said, "It's not our game... [and] not our source of anxiety. We hope it will be successful and not a violent revolution."

She noted how proud her father was of his contributions towards bringing the 1977 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt to fruition. She quoted Henry Kissinger who said, of Moshe Dayan, "His profession is war, but his passion is peace."

Today, more than 30 years later, Israelis continue to "fill the halls and streets of Israel with demonstrations for peace," said Dayan. "We have differences of opinions, but all Israelis want peace."

Frustrated with politicians and other who capitalize on the "victims' mentality," Dayan reminded the group that Jews in pre-state *eretz Yisrael* were victims "post-World War II and [until] 1948. We were weak [then, but] we're strong now, with nuclear capability. We are strong because of help from the U.S., in part. Now that all this good was bestowed on us, we can help other countries."

With the strength to win any war, Israel should turn its attention to internal issues – immigration from the former Soviet Union, newcomers from Sudan and Darfur, poverty, welfare, political disagreements and the huge disparity between the salaries of the wealthiest and poorest citizens – the second highest in the world. And women still lack full equality,

See HISTORY, Page 18

### Community Relations Council Speaker Series

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Former Consul General to New York  
Former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset

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- How do the dynamics of the "Arab Spring" affect Israel's prospects for peace and security?
- What should leaders do in advance of a likely September vote at the UN on Palestinian statehood?
- Does reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas make a peace agreement more or less feasible?

Avital's appearance is part of a New England Tour Coordinated by J Street. The Community Relations Council is co-sponsoring this program consistent with our obligation to promote dialogue concerning Israel and the Middle East

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SHOSHANA ADLER, left, Susan Adler, Gayle Katzman and Kole Wilner; in the back, Gaye Gluck, gather at the Yom Ha-Atzma'ut celebration at the Alliance. /Nancy Kirsch



RABBI PETER STEIN and YISCA SHALEV /Marty Cooper

## Yom Ha-Atzma'ut is a crowd-pleaser

*Food fills bellies, music enlivens souls at Israel's birthday celebration*

BY LARRY KATZ  
lkatz@bjeri.org

PROVIDENCE – More than 200 people attended the celebration of Israel's 63rd anniversary at the JCC on Tuesday, May 10. The Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, the Israel Consulate General and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's (the Alliance) Israel Desk and Community Relations Council (CRC) sponsored the Yom Ha-Atzma'ut celebration. Performances from several congregations' musical groups added zest and verve to the evening.

Rabbi Peter Stein, president of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis and the rabbi at Temple Sinai in Cranston, served as the master of ceremonies, introducing Richard Licht, the chairman of the board of the Alliance, who offered greetings on behalf of the Alliance, and Colonel Dean Esserman, chief of the Providence police department. Esserman spoke of his grandfather's service in the founding of the State of Israel, his own recent visit there and his daughter's upcoming visit with Birthright.

Yisca Shalev, our community's Israeli *sh'libah*, emissary, was intimately involved in organizing the program, along with Stein and Marty Cooper of the CRC. She put together an original opening

film and prepared several activities for children. In addition to falafel, Israeli salads, macaroni and cheese, cookies and birthday cake, several varieties of hummus were available to sample.

Our community's remarkable musical talents were displayed throughout the evening, with both vocal and instrumental performances. Performers included children from the Jewish Community Day School and Temple Am David, a mixed child and adult group from Temple Beth-El and adult groups from Temple Habonim, Temple Sinai and Congregation Agudas Achim. Performances by Tal and Ehud, Israeli musicians studying at RISD and the Berklee College of Music, capped off the evening.

Larry Katz is the director of education at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Contact him at lkatz@bjeri.org.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ALL AGES ENJOY THE CELEBRATION /Marty Cooper



WHAT'S A BIRTHDAY WITHOUT CAKE? /Nancy Kirsch



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD... FROM DIVINE PROVIDENCE /Marty Cooper



## URI Hillel holds annual meeting



/Amy Olson

DAYNA RIGNANESE, '11; left, Jamie Brosco, '12; Jacob Harris, '13; and Lily Nieto, '14 each received the Lawrence Hopfenberg Award, given to a first year student who has demonstrated outstanding participation and leadership at Hillel.

KINGSTON – On May 18, the Hillel Foundation at the University of Rhode Island held its annual meeting and elected its board of directors for the 2011-2012 academic year. Newly elected officers are Susan Leach DeBlasio, president; Sam Shamoan, vice president; Ron Freeman, treasurer; Ruth Jarrett, secretary; and Barbara Sokoloff, immediate past president. The new president of the URI Hillel student board is Rebecca Kraut of Hauppague, N.Y. Leach DeBlasio awarded Sokoloff the Joseph Block Award, for the most supportive board member. Sokoloff was recognized and thanked for outstanding

leadership during her five years of service as URI Hillel president, especially for her work in the creation of the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, Hillel's first permanent home, which began construction and opened during her tenure.

Dr. Thomas Dougan, URI vice president of student affairs, received the Rabbi Benjamin Marcus Award, for the most supportive faculty or staff. Dougan was recognized for his strong support of Hillel students and staff, his advocacy for Hillel as a URI student organization and his presence throughout the year at significant Hillel events.

Lily Nieto of Needham, Mass. received the Lawrence Hopfenberg Award for a first-year student who has demonstrated outstanding participation and leadership at Hillel. Nieto will serve as the First Year Students of Hillel chair on Hillel's 2011-2012 student board.

The B'nai B'rith Plantation Unit 5339 Award, for an outstanding student leader, was awarded to Kraut; in 2010-2011, she served as vice president for Shabbat and holiday programming.

The Bertram and Phyllis Brown Award, for the most active graduating senior, was awarded to Dayna Rignanese of Cranston. She served as Hillel student board president in 2011 and is a *magna cum laude* graduate.

URI Hillel is partner agency of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



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## HISTORY through Dayan's family

From Page 16

said Dayan. Her mother, Ruth, age 94, continues to work toward fulfilling that which she fought for; today, she teaches handicrafts to Bedouin women.

Describing a Tel Aviv hospital treating pediatric cardiology patients from Gaza, which also offers training for physicians, Dayan said, "There's life beyond and in spite of the headlines."

As pictures of her children and grandchildren flashed on the screen, Dayan noted her excitement to see the "next generation out of uniform... living in and enriching the state in so many ways." Reflecting the diversity of Israel's population – both in its pre-state era and today – Dayan's relatives include a senior IDF officer and a poet, a farmer and an actor, an author and a sculptor.

She expressed confidence that this generation will continue in the footsteps of their predecessors in social justice, democracy and humanitarian work.

For more information about establishing a Lion of Judah endowment, contact Carol Breault at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, at 421-4111, ext. 166.





ISRAELIS COMMEMORATE YOM HA-ZIKKARON

## JERUSALEM JOURNAL

## The siren summons all to silence

## Honoring Israel's fallen heroes

**A**NOTHER YOM Ha-Zikkaron, Israel's Memorial Day, has come and gone. It is the day that Israelis honor and mourn all the soldiers who have fallen



Daniel Stieglitz

while protecting our freedom, and all who were victims of terror. Many people spent the day visiting the graves or memorials for the fallen. Others attended special ceremonies and lectures. They attended these events whether or not they personally lost a loved one.

There are two moments on this day of remembrance when everyone in the country mourns as one, at the same time and in the same way. Once in the evening, and then again the following morning, a siren sounds throughout the entire country. During the 60 seconds that the siren sounds, everyone in the country stops whatever they are doing and observes a moment of silence.

This was my fourth Yom Ha-Zikkaron in Israel since making *aliyah*. During that time I've been in many different places during the wailing of the siren – from cemeteries and memorial ceremonies to my office and the comfort of my apartment. This year, however, I observed the sanctity of the siren from a place I never have before – standing in the middle of the street.

It shouldn't be hard to find a

YouTube video of life in Israel during the siren's sounding. Some of the more awe-inspiring videos show the traffic on a busy highway in Israel coming to a complete stop, as drivers and passengers exit their cars so that they can properly observe the moment of silence while the siren is sounding. Can you imagine this happening on

**"I will still take that moment to honor those who fell defending my freedom, and anyone else whose life was cut too short."**

I-95 in downtown Providence during the height of rush hour? Pedestrians stop in the middle of busy crosswalks, and remain there undisturbed until long after they've lost their right of way.

As I walked the streets of Jerusalem this year, I knew the siren was about to start and kept wondering where I'd find myself at the moment it went off. I didn't know if I'd be in the middle of the street, on the sidewalk or at my destination before it began. There is a split second when the siren first begins, when you can hear the sound rising in the distance, and then you become certain the time has come.

With my head slightly bowed, I noticed the drivers and passengers of the cars around me get out. Each of them folded their hands

and also bowed their heads. It seemed so well-coordinated, as if long before the siren had gone off, they had planned to be standing on those exact spots in the middle of the street, in a straight line, with each person a few feet behind the other.

Other than the clear sound of the siren itself, the moment of silence truly was a moment of silence. There I was, standing in the middle of busy Jerusalem, and I did not only see, but also heard, the city come to a complete stop. One moment the sound of horns honking and people talking permeated the streets of the bustling city, and in an instant there was nothing but the siren. Had I been able to hear beyond the siren and a pin had dropped anywhere in the city, I probably would have been able to hear that, too.

I feel fortunate that I never personally knew anyone who fell in battle or was a victim of terror. However, as I watched these strangers standing by their cars in the middle of the street, each of them taking the moment of silence as seriously as the next, I wondered if any of them had lost a parent, sibling, cousin, friend or other loved one.

I don't know where I'll be standing when the siren sounds again next year, but I know I will still take that moment to honor those who fell defending my freedom, and anyone else whose life was cut too short.

*Dani Stieglitz, a native of Providence, made aliyah to Israel in 2007. He currently lives in Efrat, and works as the alumni relations coordinator and fundraising associate at Darché Noam Institutions in Jerusalem. Contact him at dstieglitz@gmail.com.*

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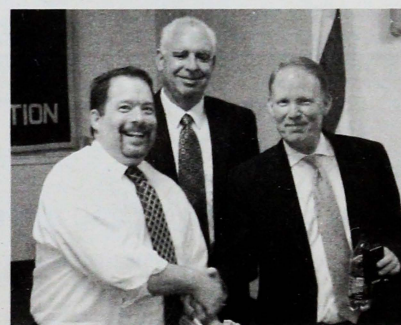
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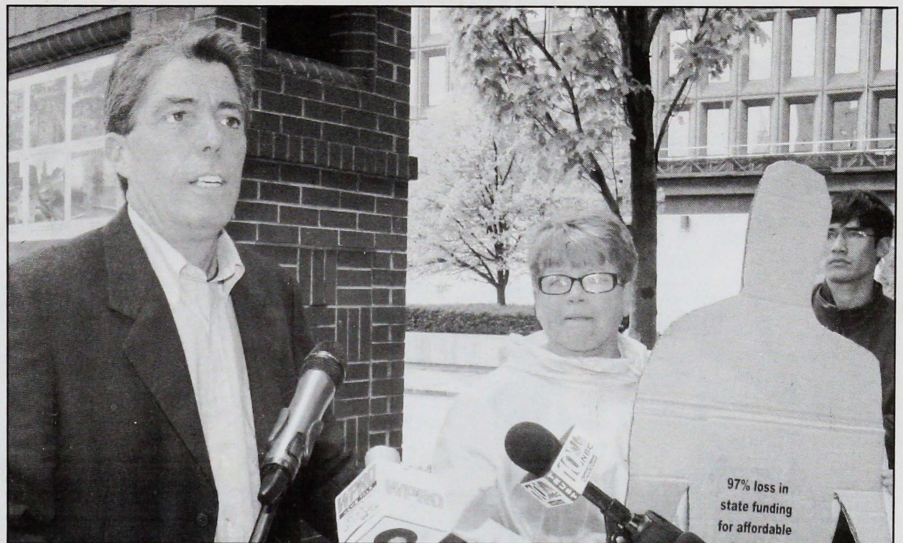
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JOHN JOYCE, with the Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project, speaks at the press conference.

## HOMELESSNESS is a growing problem in Rhode Island

From Page 1

number, generally responded enthusiastically to the speakers, although one picketer insisted, "Calls to state legislators fall on deaf ears." Many individuals carried neon yellow life-size cardboard figures (each bearing a legend describing a homeless person); each of the 20 neon figures represented approximately 220 individuals who were homeless in Rhode Island this year — a total of 4,398 individuals.

Carmen, who has eight children and 10 grandchildren, spoke appreciatively of the support she received at Emmanuel House, a local winter-time shelter that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence opened. Formerly homeless and now in transitional housing, she said, "They helped me maintain my sobriety."

"We don't know where to send people," said Sheryl Marshall, program director at ACCESS-RI, a statewide program of the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island serving certain individuals facing chronic homelessness.

"The woods in Pawtucket have been cleared for the I-95 renovation and there's a two- to three-year wait for subsidized housing." Remembering Harrington, Marshall said, "The system failed this man; let's not let his death be another statistic."

And Jim Ryzek, executive director of Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, energized the crowd with his call and response: "I am outraged. Are you outraged?" Unless Rhode Island acts swiftly to restore funding, 97 percent of the state's investment in affordable housing — approximately \$14 million — will disappear in July, he said.

"The faith community has done its job, the private sector and the nonprofit organizations have done their job," he said. "The state government has not done its job."

Permanent housing works; it is effective and efficient, said Reverend Don Anderson, the executive minister of the Rhode Island Council of Churches. "We must

move beyond stopgap measures and... acts of charity to tear down the walls of oppression. We must speak out against systems that perpetuate poverty."

Echoing other speakers' statements, Anderson exhorted Governor Lincoln Chafee and the General Assembly to restore funding to the Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP) and other affordable housing initiatives. "The true test of morality [reflects] the choices we make when things are difficult."

The Jewish community, in concert with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island (the Alliance) and the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, raised several thousand dollars to help keep shelters open last December, said Marty Cooper, the Alliance's Community Relations Council director, after the conference. With a shortage of more than 250 beds for individuals who were homeless, members of the Jewish community contributed to the shelter donations boxes, which were placed in nearly every synagogue and Jewish agency in Rhode Island. "Homelessness is a disease of the state, not the individual," he said.

Following the press conference's formal comments, Ryzek explained that community agencies such as the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation work to purchase foreclosed properties, correct any code deficiencies and then rent the properties to low-income residents. The problem, he said, is that the federal government is drawing back funding for various low-income housing programs, including those for the elderly and the disabled. As a result, state investments are even more important.

Describing Rhode Island and Citizens banks as "great" and Rhode Island Foundation and the United Way as "very supportive," he expressed cautious optimism that the state will both restore funding for affordable housing and establish a dedicated funding source. "We

can't keep making the case year after year," he said, noting that Rhode Island is one of only a few states without such dedicated funding source. At the federal level, having Barbara Fields (the former executive director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation, an organization that helps nonprofit community development organizations transform distressed neighborhoods) as the new Region I administrator at Housing and Urban Development is a huge boon, he said.

## Facts and figures round out the story

### Homelessness by the numbers:

In 2010, of those who experienced homelessness:

- Fifty-one percent experienced homelessness for the first time.
- Thirty-nine percent were families; 13 percent were children 5 and younger.
- Forty-one percent of the homelessness were female.
- Twelve percent were employed.

**Rhode Island is one of nation's least affordable places to live:**

- To afford a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island, a minimum wage earner must work 102 hours each week, 52 weeks a year.
- In 2008, nearly 25 percent of Rhode Island's renters spent more than half their income on rent.

**Rhode Island's investment is declining:**

- In fiscal years 2008 – 2010, the state annual investment was approximately \$15.5 million; in fiscal year 2011, it dropped to about \$14.5 million.
- The proposed fiscal year 2012 budget, if passed, would eliminate \$14 million, leaving only a small portion of funding for the growing homeless population.

Data from local housing advocacy groups.

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## FUTURE holds uncertainty for Middle East peace process

From Page 1

It was just one of the many times over the last two days that Netanyahu was effusive in his praise for Obama.

In his speech to AIPAC's annual policy conference, the Israeli leader referenced the unprecedentedly close security relationship under Obama between his country and the United States.

"President Obama has spoken about his ironclad commitment to Israel's security," Netanyahu told AIPAC. "He rightly said that our security cooperation is unprecedented. He spoke of that commitment not just in front of AIPAC but in two speeches heard throughout the Arab world. And President Obama has backed those words with deeds."

In his speech to Congress, Netanyahu made it sound as if the difference between the two leaders that erupted last week over 1967 lines was behind them.

"As President Obama said, the border will be different from the one that existed on June 4, 1967," Netanyahu said, outlining his proposal for talks with the Palestinians.

Although the two leaders are back to speaking generously about one another, substantive differences remain.

In his speech to AIPAC – in which he elaborated on his May 19 Middle East policy speech that

drew a rebuke from Netanyahu – Obama said that the 1967 lines would form a basis for negotiations, but ultimately the border between Israel and a state of Palestine would be different. Obama also said there would be swaps, implying that the Palestinians would end up with the same amount of territory.



MATT BROOKS, the Republican Jewish Coalition chairman

Netanyahu was determined to get across that Israel would determine the border.

"Israel will be generous on the size of a Palestinian state, but will be very firm on where we put the border with it," he told Congress, suggesting that Israel ultimately would decide the border. "This is an important principle [that] shouldn't be lost."

Netanyahu also said the issue

of Palestinian refugees would be resolved by allowing them to return to a state of Palestine, and said Jerusalem would remain the united capital of Israel and under Israeli rule. Obama wanted to defer negotiation of both issues until after determining the borders.

Republicans have made clear that they are ready to exploit those differences in targeting Jewish voters and donors – and that they expected a clear run given the rapturous reception Netanyahu earned from both parties in his congressional appearance. Netanyahu received more than two-dozen standing ovations – reportedly more than Obama did for his most recent State of the Union.

Reince Priebus, the Republican National Committee chairman, told JTA that Obama had created an opportunity by staking out Middle East policy that so clearly differentiated from Netanyahu's.

"It's in our strategic interest as Americans to support Israel, and deviations from that position do not square with voters in our country," Priebus said. "That's what we're going to be singing from the mountaintops for the next 17 months. We're going to be making a strong play for Jewish voters in 2012, I can tell you that. We just did an eight-city tour in Florida, and we're going to go back to Florida – we're not going to let any stone unturned."

Democrats pushed back. In a joint meeting Netanyahu had with the National Jewish Democratic Council and the Republican Jewish Coalition, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), the Democratic National Committee chairwoman, asked Republicans not to make Israel a campaign issue.

Matt Brooks, the Republican Jewish Coalition chairman, countered in an open letter to Wasserman Schultz that her call was tantamount to "stifling debate."

"No one – in either party – whether it's the president of the

turing Netanyahu and Jewish lawmakers after the Israeli's speech to Congress, said that making Israel a partisan issue would only damage the Jewish state in the end. He credited Netanyahu for "dialing back" the tension in his speeches, noting his praise in his speech to Congress for bipartisan support of Israel.

"He tried to bring it back and get this thing off the table as a football," Ackerman told JTA. "This should not be a wedge issue; there are huge consequences."

Other Democrats seemed to think the better tack toward deflecting the issue was to isolate themselves from Obama when it came to Israel.

Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the Senate majority leader, did not mince words in rejecting Obama's prescription for negotiations based on the 1967 lines with swaps.

"No one should set premature parameters about the borders, about building, about anything else," he said in his speech to AIPAC.

The line won a standing ovation.



SENATOR HARRY REID (D-Nev.),

United States, a candidate for president or a rank-and-file member – should be shielded from criticism if their positions are harmful to Israel's well-being," Brooks said.

Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), who participated in a meeting fea-

## The Center for Jewish History is free of debt

## Organization's founding chairman steps down

By DAN KLEIN

NEW YORK (JTA) – One night back in 1985, businessman Bruce Slovin was walking home from a corporate board meeting with a lawyer named Joe Greenberger when Greenberger asked him about his involvement in the Jewish world.

Slovin responded that he wasn't at all active, so Greenberger invited him to attend the next board meeting of YIVO, the research institute in New York on East European Jewry and Yiddish.

Slovin, who had recently lost his grandfather and father, attended the meeting and found himself spellbound.

"There were sitting my grandfather and father, who had just died – another Shlomo and a Yaakov," he said, invoking his father and grandfather's names.

The flash of nostalgia set Slovin, a Brooklyn native, on a course that led to his joining the board of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and ultimately becoming the founding chairman of the Center for Jewish History in New York.

The center is a partnership of five historical organizations: the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Sephardi Federation, the Leo Baeck Institute, the Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO. It features the largest repository of Jewish historical artifacts in the diaspora, with an impressive building near New York's Union Square that contains 100 million artifacts and documents, and a library with half a million volumes.

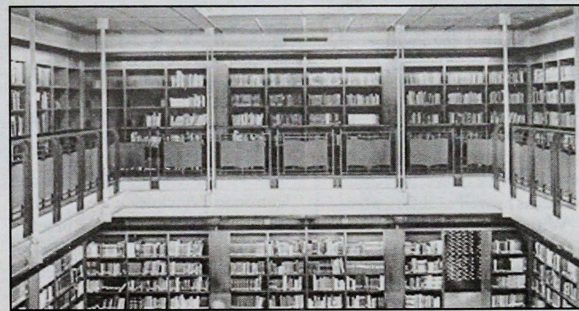
More than 250 people gathered May 10 at a dinner to honor Slovin, 75, as he steps down as the center's chairman.

The gala, held on the occasion of the center's 10th anniversary, served as an opportunity to recognize the New Yorker's lead role in the long, bumpy road to creating the center and putting it on sound financial footing.

"There would be no Center for Jewish History without Bruce Slovin," Michael Glickman, the center's chief operating officer, told JTA.

After attending that first board meeting in 1985, Slovin was shocked to discover that the documents in the YIVO archives were not preserved well.

"I saw these records degrading. There was no proper humidification, the warehouses were a mess," he said. "We were broke all the time; that's all we could afford."



THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY'S READING ROOM

Slovin was soon installed as YIVO chairman. He began to push the often-resistant board to sell the building and move to a lower-priced area.

Greenberger, however, was thinking bigger: He suggested bringing in other Jewish organizations.

The idea for the Center for Jewish History was born.

Between 1994 and 2000, when the center opened to the public, Slovin had raised \$67 million using strategies that many at the gala joked were "unique."

"He came to my office and asked me for money," Simon Ziff, whose name now adorns the center's Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogical Institute, told JTA at the gala. "I'm not a big giver, but Bruce is tireless."

Slovin, who received a bachelor's

degree in economics from Cornell University and a law degree from Harvard, had honed his ability to raise money as a child. He was so adept that eventually he was banned from a fundraising competition for planting trees in British Mandate Palestine because he won so often.

Despite his prowess, the center faced consistent financial difficulties. In 2007 there was controversy over a proposed takeover by New York University of the financially troubled center.

More recently, the Forward reported that Slovin was asked to step down from the YIVO board amid a string of painful layoffs. Slovin described the story as untrue.

The center also faced accusations of mismanagement and detractors who questioned its very *raison d'être*.

Among the critics was Jonathan

Sarna, the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and a prominent historian of American Judaism. Sarna repeatedly called for the center to be dissolved into its constituent parts.

But Sarna, among others, reconsidered his position with the announcement in January that the center had raised more than \$30 million in 15 months from 22 donors – allowing it to wipe out its debts for the first time.

In February, Sarna called the center one of the most important Jewish archives in the world.

"Now that it's financially viable," he said, "it's perfectly clear that it has found a place."

While he will remain on the center's board and as YIVO's chairman, Slovin plans to focus on his business, the real estate and financial holdings company 1 Eleven Associates, as well as bringing in more scholars to the center and writing its history.

"Bruce doesn't claim to be a scholar," Mirvis said, "but he understands the needs of scholars."

"I'm just smart enough to understand the need to have a history," Slovin said. "It seemed dead wrong not to have as much of history as we can save – and we have tons more work to do."



## THIS I BELIEVE

## An unorthodox Kaddish

## Requiem for my Muslim African chief

BY BILL MILES

Special to The Voice &amp; Herald

**T**HIS MORNING I learned that my chief — an African chief of a Muslim people — died. And while some of my co-religionists may frown upon the idea, tonight I shall say Kaddish — the Jewish prayer for the dead — in his honor. For he was not only my chief — he was the very embodiment of peace and tolerance to which every religious person should strive.

Precisely half my life ago — 27 years before, to be exact — I first appeared before Alhaji Harou Sarkin Fulani Mai-Gari da Mai-Guduma na Yardaje Zangon-Daura. At the time I had no idea what all those titles meant, only that he was the one who presided over the Nigerian village in which I was hoping to live.

Together, I eventually learned, those honorifics conveyed that he had already undertaken the prescribed pilgrimage to Mecca; that he was the chief not only of my desired village, but over the surrounding territory, and that he was a royal of the nomadic tribe credited with leading a jihad in the region two centuries ago.

By agreeing to host me in his community Alhaji Harou became my chief. I have lost track of the number of times I returned to the village in Nigeria's far Muslim north since that first year I spent there. When I happened to be back three months after Sept. 11, he extended condolences over what had happened to "my brothers" — that is, the people of America. Just one small example of how faith and compassion beat out tribalism and fanaticism.

*Ikon Allah* — "Power of God" and *Haka Fa* — "That's how it is" — were my chief's trademark expressions in the local language Hausa. So was his irrepress-

ible chuckle. "Practice patience!" was another common phrase he used, especially when administering justice or reconciling quarreling couples. And he would rarely go three sentences without invoking *lafiya* — peace, well-being.

One would be hard-pressed to describe my chief, an Orthodox Muslim as a progressive. He had four wives — simultaneously — and more children than even he could in the end keep track of. But not only did he approve my mother's and aunt's funding of a shelter for blind women in his village, it was he who provided the precious plot of land right in the middle of it.



THE CHIEF'S SON IBRAHIM, left, and his son Hassan, right; Bill Miles is in the middle. Chief Harou is seated in the front.

I grew up less than 20 miles from the World Trade Center. I believe that if more people, when they heard the word "Muslim," could evoke my chief's gentle face, infectious laugh and sooth-

ing words — rather than the sinister mug and murderous threats of a Bin Laden — then fewer people would automatically recoil at the idea of an Islamic center on sacred ground in a city we all share.

And, as they say in Hausaland, "Amin."

Bill Miles, a resident of Seekonk and member of Temple Emanu-El, is a professor of political science at Northeastern University. His two most recent books are "Zion in the Desert" and "My African Horse Problem." Contact him at b.miles@neu.edu.

Miles' *This I Believe* essay aired on Oct. 27, 2010. The Voice & Herald thanks Frederic Reamer and Joseph O'Connor, the *This I Believe* producer and WRNI general manager, respectively, for allowing us to reproduce these essays.

If you would like to submit your published "This I Believe" essay to The Voice & Herald, email Nancy Kirsch at nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: *This I Believe*.

## Rabbis and imams share bagels in North Smithfield

BY RABBI AMY LEVIN

Special to The Voice &amp; Herald

**NORTH SMITHFIELD** — Rabbis and imams from our area met for a second time — on Wednesday, May 11 — to learn from one another and build bridges of understanding and mutual respect between the Jewish and Muslim communities of greater Rhode Island.

The first meeting, reported on in these pages by Rabbi Jim Rosenberg, took place in February at Tamarisk. The group's May

meeting took place at the Masjid Al-Islam in North Smithfield, a facility that serves as a Muslim religious, community and educational center, in a model similar to a synagogue.

The focus of this meeting was to explore our respective sacred texts. Mufti Ikram Haq, leader of the Masjid Al-Islam of North Smithfield, chanted a passage from the Qu'ran and this reporter, of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston and East Greenwich, chanted a passage from the Torah. Comparing and contrasting these chants revealed some interesting common elements as well as differences.

With a short course on *kasbrut*, our Muslim hosts were able to graciously provide a kosher breakfast that we all enjoyed. After break-



Rabbis and imams meet in North Smithfield.

fast and study, we toured the facility. Once again, interesting common principles were revealed; for example, the Jewish practice of facing Jerusalem during prayer parallels the Muslim practice of facing Mecca during prayer.

The meeting ended with a consensus that the rabbis and imams of our area should continue to meet and to explore ways of extending this engaging dialogue beyond clergy to our greater communities.

Rabbi Amy Levin, the rabbi at Temple Torat Yisrael, a Conservative synagogue in Cranston and East Greenwich, is also a member of The Jewish Voice & Herald's editorial board. Contact her at ravlevin@gmail.com.

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## D'VAR TORAH They did, so did they do

NUMBERS 1:1 – 4:20

Parashat B'midbar

BY CANTOR RICHARD WOLBERG  
Special to The Voice & Herald

ACCORDING TO our sages, not a single letter in the Torah is superfluous. Anything that is repeated is repeated for a definite reason and with additional meaning. We may not always comprehend the reason or the meaning, but that doesn't detract from its significance. Also, commentators may offer various interpretations and reasons, but those diverse offerings are what make the Torah so profound.

This Shabbat we begin reading the fourth Book of the Torah, Numbers



**"The initial motivation for performing a mitzvah is the mere fact that God has commanded it; but thereafter, one does it voluntarily."**

(whose Hebrew name, Bamidbar, is an abbreviation of B'midbar-Sinai, "In the wilderness of Sinai"). In most years (though not this year), the opening portion is read on the Shabbat before Shavu'ot – reflecting a connection between the subject matter of this Torah portion and the theme of Shavu'ot, as we shall see.

One verse in Parashat B'midbar contains a seeming redundancy. After grappled with it for a while, I came up with an interesting *bidush*, new interpretation. The verse (Numbers 1:54) states as follows: "The Children of Israel did everything that God commanded Moses, so did they do." (*Va-yasu b'nei Yisrael k'khol asher tsivvah Adonai et Mosheh; ken asu.*) Since the beginning of the verse already says "they did" everything, etc., why does it repeat at the end of the verse: "so did they do" (*ken asu*)?

Here is what I came up with. At first, the Children of Israel did "everything that God commanded Moses" simply because God had commanded it – i.e., they obeyed the divine commandments out of a sense of obligation, as it was a commandment from God.

But the repetitious phrase *ken asu*, "so did they do" implies that performing *mitzvot* has become part of them.

In other words, the initial motivation for performing a mitzvah is the mere fact that God has commanded it; but thereafter, one does it voluntarily, out of love and joy and not

because it is mandatory. It becomes part of the individual ("so did they do").

In the same way, we remember when the Israelites accepted the Torah at Sinai, they said, *na'aseh v'nishma*, "we will (first) DO and (then) we will understand" (Exodus 24:7). At first, we shall act out of an obligation to accept the commandments of the Almighty; but there-

after we will DO (i.e., observe the *mitzvot*) out of love and joy.

Cantor Richard Wolberg, the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in Fall River, Mass., is the chairman of the National Ethics Committee of the Cantors Assembly, an international Conservative movement organization. Contact him at [cantorwolberg@cox.net](mailto:cantorwolberg@cox.net).



From left, standing, Mira Dinaburskaya, Fanya Shpieller and Boris Zitserman; seated, Khana Zaslavsky and Raisa Kerdman

### A commemoration of Victory Day

PROVIDENCE – On Monday, May 9, participants at the To Life Center Adult Day Services, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, celebrated Victory Day. Victory Day or May 9 marks the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the Soviet Union in World War II. Victory Day was first inaugurated in the 15 republics of the Soviet Union, following the signing of

the surrender document late in the evening on May 8, 1945 (after midnight, thus on May 9, by Moscow time).

For more information about the To Life Center, contact Susan Adler at 351-2440.

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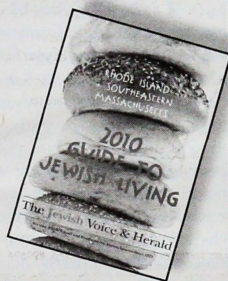
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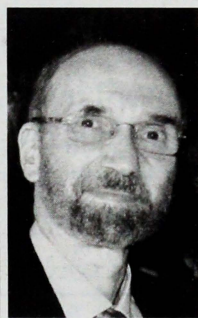
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- Sam Lehman-Wilzig

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Adam Goldberg

STEPHEN MUSEN, POST ADJUTANT; left, Morton Kessler, Post Junior Vice-Commander; Philip Greenberg, Post Senior Vice-Commander and Herman Wallock, Post Commander, are newly elected officers of Post 23 of the Department of Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans.

## New officers for Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans

ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, newly elected officers of Post 23 of the Department of Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans of the USA were installed and Department Commander Sanford Gorodetsky administered the oath. The Department of Rhode Island of Jewish War

Veterans consists of six posts.

Post 23, the oldest, was organized in 1928 by Rhode Island Jewish veterans of World War I.

For more information about the Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans, contact Sanford Gorodetsky, department commander, at 942-5656 or sanodets@aol.com.

## Trying and failing to define Jewishness

DURING THE stressful early decades of the 20th century, forms employed by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service routinely asked applicants to place themselves in one of many ethnic categories, including "Jewish." There seemed little ambi-

guity about groups such as "Bulgarian" or "Egyptian," but social scientists such as Max Weinreich posed the plaintive question: "Please define the category, 'Jewish.'" The official response was "Any person of the



Dr. Stanley Aronson

Hebrew race or whose religion is Judaism."

Louis Wirth countered by declaring: "The elementary question as to whether the Jews are a race, a nationality or a cultural group remains unsettled." And so, a compelling question, rarely asked before the 19th century, now arises: Do Jews, collectively, possess racial peculiarities that serve to distinguish the majority, anthropometrically, from their non-Jewish neighbors?

Asking such a question in, say, the 12th century, would have been pointless, even bizarre. But during the succeeding seven centuries — through successive migrations, retreats, expulsions, exiles, diasporas, persistent endogamy (and the accompanying increase in recessively transmitted diseases), intervals of assimilation, mortal pogroms and genocides — any anthropometric Jewish stereotype representing the biological characteristic(s) of an aboriginal Mesopotamian Israelite

## SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

# A fruitless search for a biological marker

tribe must have been diluted, if not obliterated.

Some define the Jews as "a social anomaly," "a chimerical people," or even "a peculiar people."

Anthropologists, however, typically assign Jews to three overarching categories:

- Jews by birth and by accepted religion (Ashkenazim, Sephardim and Oriental or Samaritan Jews).

- Jews by religion, but not by birth (Falashas of Ethiopia, Karaites from Crimea and Cochins Jews of India).

**"No word means more things to more people than does the word, 'Jew.'"**

- Jews by birth, but not by religion (e.g., the Anussim of the Balearic Islands, the G'did-al-Islam of Khorasan).

Anthropologists in the 19th century used the ratio of a person's cranial width and cranial length (the cephalic index) as a possible marker of genetic traits. Before the advent of identifiable fingerprints, European police departments used the cephalic index as a crude means of criminal identification. It turns out to be at best a physical parameter of highly dubious value (reminiscent of the story of the policeman, on late night foot patrol, finding a man on his knees searching around the base of a lamppost. "What are you looking for?"

The response: "I lost my wallet back in the alley over there."

"So why are you searching around the lamppost?"

And the response: "The light is better over here."

And so 19th-century anthropolo-

gists, with no better trait to serve as an indicator of inheritance, used the flawed cephalic index. Extensive measurement demonstrated only that Sephardic Jews had cephalic indexes similar to Mediterranean non-Jews, while the cephalic indexes of Ashkenazic Jews were indistinguishable from their central and northern non-Jewish neighbors.

The discovery of inherited blood types (A, B, O and AB) provided yet another laboratory means for seeking some objective measurement to demonstrate the heritable singularity of the Jews. But endless studies again failed to find any biological trait that would declare: "This individual is incontrovertibly Jewish."

Even the aquiline nose, claimed by many Victorian authors as sure proof of Jewishness, was present in only 14 percent of Jews (and a higher percent of Arabs and Scots). The discovery in 1942 of the nucleic acids (DNA, RNA) as hereditary carriers of genetic information was seized upon as the Holy Grail for identifying Jews, whether they be hidden, converted, reverent or indifferent. Some interesting information, indeed, has emerged concerning the persistence of certain nucleic-acid patterns in maternal mitochondria; but this laboratory characteristic seems limited to those of Kohen (priestly) descent.

All of these many searches for an objective laboratory criterion of Jewishness have thus far proven fruitless. The great Franz Boas, a leading investigative anthropologist, once took a class of newly registered students at Columbia University and asked each student to stand in silence before the rest of the class; the students then wrote down their perceptions of each one's racial background. And 40 percent of the Italian students were taken for Jews.

No one will deny that Jews represent an historical continuum manifesting some intangible uniqueness as yet unidentified. But, as declared by M. Herskovits, "A word can mean many things to many people; and no word means more things to more people than does the word, 'Jew.'"

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

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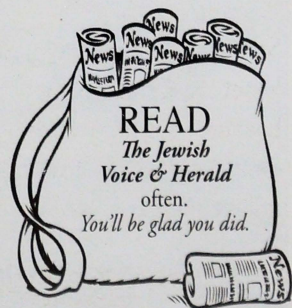
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## AS WE GROW OLDER Warsaw revisited

*Nearly 60 years later, experiences still evoke emotions*

**L**AST WEEK I watched a very interesting documentary on television — on PBS, of course. It was a collection of films taken by a German photographer under the jurisdiction of the Nazi government in the early 1940s.



**Tema Gouse**

Although Poland had already been invaded, the Germans did not at first imprison the Polish Jews. Instead, they herded them into Warsaw's already overcrowded ghetto, where life was very difficult.

All of that was depicted, but the film gave no explanation of why the photographer created a pictorial record of the events of that time. The photographer hid all the films (or perhaps had multiple copies of them) and only recently decided to share them.

The grand plan for the Holocaust and the annihilation of all Jews was already under way when Germany invaded Poland. Most of the large Polish-Jewish population was evicted from their homes and their property confiscated. And the Nazis' "final solution" (plan for the

destruction of all European Jews) ensued. The ghetto provided no protection against the mass assembling of families to be shipped off to concentration camps. Only the hardy survived — and not all of those.

This film, made nearly two generations ago, can still upset any feeling person. For me, it has great relevance. Not that I personally experienced any of the atrocities portrayed. No one in my family was directly affected by Nazi terrorism. But I have other ties to the victims of the Warsaw Ghetto.

In the mid-1940s, I was a young social worker employed by a Jewish social agency in Chicago. When World War II ended, Jewish agencies across the United States made a commitment to rehabilitate and

**"Holocaust survivors represented a disproportionate part of my caseload."**

give new lives and new homes to Holocaust survivors. And my agency participated in this enterprise.

I was the youngest social worker on the staff — and the most fluent in Yiddish. Because of this, Holocaust



**A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP**

survivors represented a disproportionate part of my caseload. As a young and impressionable person, I was so emotionally moved by their trials that I felt obliged to help in every possible way. Their needs were endless: housing, medical care, clothing, English classes, and a sympathetic ear.

The refugees — a term widely used in those days — included individuals whose last residence before their removal to concentration camps had been in Warsaw. More precisely, they were Polish Jews who had been rounded up and moved to the Warsaw Ghetto. The deprivations were endless and demeaning. Food was scarce and any observance of Jewish traditions or prayer was banned. The Nazis picked up parents and children without expla-

nation and the children were often separated from their parents. Personal possessions were confiscated. Many people died of malnutrition or lack of medical care. Attempted escapes were rare, and few survived such desperate attempts.

But despite their minimal communication with outside sources, we knew about the concentration camps and the inmates' likely inability to survive there.

My clients were alternately hostile or over-dependent. But with time, they became somewhat less guarded and more trusting. They began telling me stories about their last days in the Warsaw Ghetto and the almost universal despair. It was only when their stories became less ghoulish and they began to reminisce about their happier child-

hoods that I knew they were finally making a positive adjustment to life in the United States.

It was unpleasant to watch the German portrayal of life in the Warsaw Ghetto, as I attempted to reconcile it with the versions given by the victims. How does one forgive those who separated children from parents, and husbands from wives, even while planning the deaths of all? Did that German photographer understand the evil planned by his employers? Was he at all ambivalent about the fate of those he was filming?

Although it would have been considered unprofessional, I developed an attachment to one woman who had been born and raised in Warsaw. She shared her miserable experiences, but also liked to talk about some of her childhood joys. I particularly remember her description of the Passovers of her childhood. She told of her mother's hard work preparing the Seder meal. She described waiting for the moment when her mother would tell her it was time for her to gather flowers from the fields for the Seder table. I think of her every year on Passover.

The evils of the Nazi regime will forever be part of history; but later generations will not experience the same range of emotions that we who lived through World War II carry with us.

*Tema Gouse is a retired social worker. Contact her at [rbgtpg@cox.net](mailto:rbgtpg@cox.net).*

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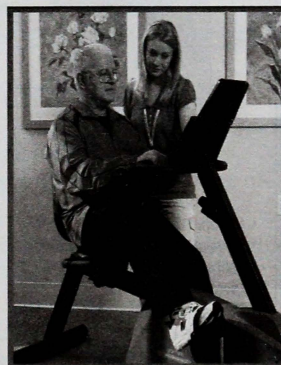
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## DOLLARS go further by leveraging relationships

From Page 1

funds from the Alliance's unrestricted endowment. The overseas allocation for this fiscal year was \$17,612 less than last year; the local allocation was \$107,187 less than last year.

In a conference call vote on the morning of Monday, May 23, the Alliance board of directors unanimously approved these allocations, as recommended by the Community Development Committee (CDC), which Jamie Pious chairs.

This, said Pious, is the third and final year of the transition from core agency allocations to funding targeted programs and services that meet communal needs and priorities consistent with the community's June 2008 strategic plan.

"The allocations process is the other side of the fundraising campaign. We're two sides of the same coin. When we ask people to donate to the Annual Community Campaign, they may ask, 'Where does my money go? How do I know my money is being used effectively?'" said Pious. "As the CDC chair, I understand that; the community has a right to know. The allocations decisions are made in a thoughtful way to address the needs of Jews in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world. There are a lot of reasons why our community should give money to the Annual Community Campaign."

## CDC GIVEN NEW MANDATE

The strategic plan that was approved in June 2008 by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island included four key objectives to



Limmud Keshet in Poland in November 2010

/Piotr Kulisiewicz

guide the CDC's work:

- Build a stronger, more engaging and more welcoming community with broader involvement and participation;
- Inspire and develop multi-generational leadership;
- Align resources, systems and structures so as to respond to community and client needs to create integrated Jewish programs and services in a consolidated communal structure; and
- Focus on raising funds to build a sustainable Jewish community.

How is the CDC achieving these goals? Pious cited a few quick examples:

- By partnering with the Foundation for Jewish Camping, for

example, the Alliance was able to leverage its limited resources to benefit more people in the community. The Alliance received funds for an additional 15 fully funded incentive grants (non needs-based) – given to first-time Jewish overnight campers – from the Foundation. More than half of the campers receiving incentives will go to Camp JORI this summer. (See "One Happy Camper program offers incentive grants," on page 8.)

- By establishing a Young Leadership Development Program (see story on page 7, "Overseas or close...") and offering more program opportunities for those in their 20s and 30s through the Alef List and The Network, the Alliance is working on developing the next generation of leaders.

- By modifying the Israeli emissary program to bring a young, post-army service Israeli to work

with young people (rather than the community's earlier model of bringing two pre-army service young people to the community), Jewish college students through-

## "There are a lot of reasons why our community should give money to the Annual Community Campaign."

out Rhode Island gain a deeper understanding of and stronger appreciation for Israel.

- By expanding the Keshet program to a third synagogue, Temple Habonim, the Alliance is aligning resources and responding to community needs. Through Keshet, Nicole Jellinek, a social worker at Jewish Family Service, offers JFS services onsite in smaller synagogues to congregants. It began at Congregation Agudas Achim and expanded to Temple Torat Yisrael.

- By holding program providers accountable – through semi-annual outcome reports – the Alliance can be more confident that it is effectively addressing the community's needs. The Alliance is working more closely with partner agencies to make sure their proposals are aligned to meet community needs, as well as on the allocations process.

"The challenge, of course, is a flat campaign; with less money to allocate – due to rising costs – it's very difficult. The community needs to know that we can't allocate dollars without a strong campaign; the campaign fundraisers need to know where the money [they raise] goes," said Pious.

Jennifer Oelbaum, co-chair of the Jewish Life and Learning Subcommittee, noted that, with the change in the allocations process, the subcommittee can "see what

each organization is doing and prioritize needs. It is difficult not to fully fund every program, but that is impossible, especially with the flat campaign." They have, she said, "the impossible task of stretching that money to reach all the community needs."

CDC subcommittee chairs and co-chairs did tremendous work, said Pious, as did Minna Ellison, the Alliance's interim chief executive officer, and Manny daRosa, the Alliance's chief financial officer.

Programs that fall under the purview of the Jewish Peoplehood Subcommittee of the CDC, chaired by Robbie Mann, with Faye Wisen as vice chair, include many, though not all, of the overseas programs for Jews in Israel, Poland and elsewhere. (See the page 7 story, "Overseas or close to home: The needs are huge," discussing some programs in Poland and Israel that our community dollars support.) Some \$1.146 million will be distributed to 17 overseas programs. Wisen said that by controlling "how our community dollars are allocated overseas, we have more ownership and... we are able to assess whether programs are a good fit for our priorities."

Jewish Life and Learning Subcommittee, chaired by Michael Schaffer, distributes funds locally for all manner of cradle-to-grave educational programs. This fiscal year it will disburse nearly \$1.042 million to 30 different programs. Last, but not least, Caring and Social Responsibility, chaired and co-chaired by Vince Mor (who was on sabbatical for part of the year) and Harold Foster respectively, distributes funds locally to seniors and families in need. The allocation of \$362,053 will be disbursed to 10 programs.

"The safety net for those most vulnerable in our community is very strong," said Foster, "and there are very dedicated people at the agencies." Commending the hard-working members of the Subcommittee, he added, "They did a lot of hard work in a very difficult [financial environment]."

## ISSUES FOR FUTURE YEARS

The current 50-50 split in allocations between overseas and domestic needs will be revisited, said Pious. "The question [about the allocations split] gets re-asked and re-answered and we need to revisit it every few years. We hope to have an ad hoc committee make its recommendations to the Alliance board by September."

The CDC plans, as well, to ramp up its program evaluations; work more closely with agency partners for improved planning and securing outside funds such as additional grants and modified fee schedules, for example; and identify and promote opportunities for collaboration to improve impact and efficiency.



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## Beverly Adler, 86

ELSEWHERE — Beverly Adler of Lake Hill, N.Y., died on May 12 at Benedictine Hospital, Kingston, N.Y. She was the wife of the late Benjamin "Bunny" Adler. They were married for 56 years.

Born in Brockton, Mass., a daughter of the late Benjamin and Rose (Schwartz) Richman, she had lived in Lake Hill, N.Y. for five years, previously living in Cranston and Providence. She worked with her husband in his accounting firm. A member of Woodstock Jewish Congregation, she was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael. She enjoyed the Yiddish Club and was a member of Hadassah.

She was the mother of Arlene Weissman and her husband, William, in Lake Hill, N.Y. and the late Barry Adler; and the grandmother of Anna and Jake.

Contributions may be made to Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock, N.Y. 12498.

## Dorothy D. Ehrich, 82

MOUNTAINSIDE, N.J. — Dorothy Ehrich, daughter of Anne and Morris Diamond, mother of Beverly Ehrich of Pawtucket (Carl Freedman), and grandmother of Jesse, Adam and Ben Freedman, died in Mountainside, N.J. on May 5, surrounded by her family.

Her greatest joys were her husband of 62 years, Herb, and her four children and 12 grandchildren. She was a graduate of Hunter College '49, where she was class president and a loyal sister of Phi Sigma Sigma. Before moving to Westfield, N.J., she taught kindergarten in the New York City public schools. In Westfield, she was active in numerous organizations including ORT, Hadassah, PTA and the Westfield High School Library. She was the librarian at Temple Emanu-el in Westfield for 33 years.

Donations may be made to the Temple Emanu-el Library, 756 East Broad St., Westfield, New Jersey 07090 or the MSK Cancer Center (Ephraim Casper Research Fund), P.O. Box 27106, New York City,

N.Y. 10087.

## Max Kolodoff

WARWICK — Max Kolodoff, a resident of Warwick, died May 6. He was the husband of Gloria (Kosofsky) Kolodoff. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Jacob and Sarah (Uditsky) Kolodoff.

He was a former president and treasurer of Maxwell Realty. During World War II, he served as a Petty Officer in the US Merchant Marines and also attended Northeastern University. A life member of Knights of Pythias, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, South Providence Hebrew Free Loan, and Providence Hebrew Free Loan, he was also a member of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association, Common Cause, Touro Fraternal Association, Temple Shalom and Congregation B'nai Israel. An associate member of Temple Am David, he was also a former member and board member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his stepchildren, Debra L. Ackerman of Potomac, Md., and Barry Ackerman of Cumberland; and his grandchildren, Emily Forster of Potomac, Md., and Samuel and Elicia Ackerman of Cumberland. He was the brother of the late Joseph H., David, and Bernard M. Kolodoff.

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

## Abraham Saltzman, M.D., 91

PROVIDENCE — Abraham Saltzman, M.D. died May 14 in Providence. He was the husband of Ruth Saltzman for 63-and-1/2 years. Abraham was born March 7, 1920 in New York City to the late Samuel and Anna Lieberman Saltzman. His early life was strongly influenced by his industrious

uncle, Dr. Frank Lieberman, who nurtured his interest in science and medicine and his highly principled, progressive (and vegetarian) parents who encouraged his natural generosity, tolerance and fairness. He matriculated from New York University in 1940 with Phi Beta Kappa honors. After receiving his M.D. degree from SUNY Downstate in 1944, he completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. He met his wife and life-long partner, Ruth (Robinson) in the reading room of the hospital library in 1947; they married seven months later.

His long career included research, teaching, and caring for patients, his true passion. His medical interests were varied, ranging from studying the comparative shoulder anatomy of mammals to continuous extracorporeal dialysis. After moving to Rhode Island to practice in 1950, he received the first NIH research grant in the state for developing clinically meaningful biochemical assays. Always intellectually curious and motivated by the highest ethical standards, he worked at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals in Providence throughout his 50 years in private practice, retiring at 80 while still vigorous. His favorite pastimes included playing the violin (he played a multitude of instruments and played the bass violin in many local orchestras), listening to the music made by his wife Ruth, a professional harpist, reading, photography, investing and being with his family, especially during the annual family vacation in Cape Cod.

He was the father of four children, Beth Saltzman Aaronson and her husband Dr. Michael Aaronson of Lynnfield, Mass.; Dr. Charles Saltzman and his wife Dr. Ingrid Nygaard of Salt Lake City, Utah; David Saltzman and his wife Beth Barovick of Wayland, Mass; and Dr. John Saltzman and his wife Deborah Lang Saltzman of Westborough, Mass. He was the grandfather to eleven grandchildren: Daniel, Benjamin,

and Jonathan Aaronson, and Steven, Ilanna, Andrew, Hanna, Rachel, Erik, Julia and Jeffrey Saltzman; grandfather-in-law to Rachel and Heidi Aaronson; and great-grandfather to Abigail Aaronson who was named in his honor.

Contributions may be made to Temple Beth-El Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or Home & Hospice of Rhode Island, 1085 N. Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

## Rebecca Twersky, 91

PROVIDENCE — Rebecca (Herson) Twersky died May 19. Born in Lithuania, she was the daughter of the late Rabbi Chaim Zvi and Sarah (Rosenstein) Herson. A graduate of Telshe Yeshiva in Lithuania, she received her master's degree in biblical studies at Providence College. She then taught biblical Hebrew and Jewish studies at Providence College for 31 years, teaching until she was 90.

She taught at Providence Hebrew Day School, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Adult Institute at Temple Emanu-El. She was loved by all her students and admired by her colleagues in academia and in our Jewish community for her rigorous expression of classical Hebrew, both verbally and in writing. She is survived by her son, Moses Mordecai Twersky of Providence; and her brothers Daniel Herson of Israel and Benjamin Herson of California. She was the mother of the late Rickel Twersky.

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

## Charlotte B. Weiner, 87



GREENACRES, Fla. — Charlotte B. Weiner of Greenacres, Fla. died May 6. She was the daughter of Samuel and Sara

(Spevak) Lieberman of Roxbury, Mass. She was born on Dec. 23, 1923, attended the Leland Powers Finishing School in Boston, and began studies at Boston University to become a teacher. After World War II, she was introduced through mutual family members to Howard Weiner of Providence. In 1946, they married, lived in Providence and eventually had four children.

She was involved with the Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El in Providence. For many years, she added great flair and enthusiasm to the programs she presented there. She was also active with Boy Scouts, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Drum & Bugle Corps that her sons were in.

She moved to Florida in the 1960s and enjoyed a busy and productive life. She worked at the Galleria of Sculpture in Palm Beach for many years. She enjoyed art, music, and theatre events in the area. She had a deep spiritual connection with Temple Beth Tikvah in Greenacres. In her 80s, she became a certified home health aide, helping care for senior citizens.

She is survived by her four children, Rachel Purple Daigle and her husband Kevin of Maine; Jordan M. Weiner and his wife Leslie of Florida; Leonard Anthony Weiner of Florida; and Bruce M. Weiner of California. She is also survived by her nephew Robert Weiner of Florida, his wife Cheryl, and their two sons, Chandler and Braemen; Jordan and Leslie's son Jeremy and his wife Lauren, and their two children, Skye and Zachary; her ex-husband Howard Weiner of Providence, her sister-in-law Lucille (Weiner) Irving of Providence, her nephew Robert Lieberman and his wife Peri of Providence, and her niece Judith Phillips and her husband Brian of North Wakefield, and their children, Mark and Allison.

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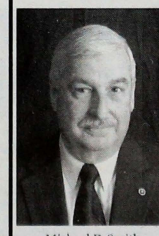
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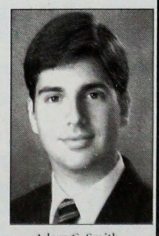


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SECOND ANNUAL  
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**KOSHER  
CHILI  
COOK-OFF**  
JUNE 5, 2011  
3 SIVAN 5771

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**Kosher Chili Cook-Off Competition  
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\$5 for children 12 and under | \$10 for adults | \$30 maximum for families**

**For more information, visit  
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## Wedding



BONNIE LYNN LURY and NIKOLAS RONALD KOPP

**B**ONNIE LYNN LURY, the daughter of Dr. Frederick and Lois Lury of East Greenwich and Nikolas Ronald Kopp, son of Berhard and Carol-Ann Kopp of Pottsdam, Germany, were married on July 4, 2010 at Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum in Bristol. The bride graduated in 2005 from Tufts University with a bachelor's degree in drama and a double minor in music and American politics. She is currently employed as a facilities coordinator for 20th Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles, Calif.

The groom graduated from Pepperdine University in California in 1998. After receiving his professional degree in film from UCLA in 2003, he became a manager for MGM Studios. He is now director of programming and contract administration for MGM Studios in Los Angeles.

The couple makes their home in Los Angeles.

## Engagement



URI CHANAN MANDELKORN and MAYTAL NAKAR

**A**NNE SCHWARTZ of Providence proudly announces the engagement of her grandson, Uri Chanan Mandelkorn, of Naveh Daniel, Israel to Maytal Nakar of Jerusalem, Israel. Uri is the son of Chia (nee Vicki Schwartz) and Yacov Mandelkorn, and the brother of Shira Mandelkorn, all of Naveh Daniel. He is the grandson of the late Charles Schwartz, of Providence, and Tehila and Joseph Mandelkorn of Jerusalem. Maytal is the daughter of Chia and Shlomo Nakar of Jerusalem.

A Hebrew University graduate, Uri is pursuing a master's degree in psychology from Tel Aviv-Yafo College. Maytal, a graduate of Beit Verel College with a degree in art history, teaches at a Jerusalem high school.

Both the bride and groom are IDF veterans. The couple will wed in the village of Shores in Israel on July 10, 2011.

## Rabbi Leslie Gutterman receives honorary doctorate

**B**RYANT UNIVERSITY awarded Rabbi Leslie Gutterman an honorary Doctor of Letters degree on Saturday, May 21. Since 1970, he has served Temple Beth-El in Providence after being ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he currently serves on the board of governors. A board member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Gutterman is also a past president of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis and the national Rabbinic Alumni Association of Reform Judaism.

For 20 years, he wrote a column for the "Face of Religion" page of the Providence Journal. He has been a special lecturer at Providence College and served on the Brown University Board of Religious Overseers. He is past president of the Rhode Island Committee for



RABBI LESLIE GUTTERMAN

the Humanities and the Rhode Island Jewish Family Service. He is currently a trustee of Butler Hospital and has served on the boards of Bryant University, The Miriam Hospital, the Providence Athenaeum, Hospice Care, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, Trinity Repertory Company and the Rhode Island Telecommunication Authority. He received the Public Service Award from the City of Providence on its 350th anniversary. He holds a Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College.

## Fields wins Profile in Change Award



BARBARA FIELDS

**B**ARBARA FIELDS, currently the New England Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, received a Profile In Change Award from The Fund for Community Progress. Fields received the award, which was also granted to Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, on Monday, May 9, at the Mosaic Restaurant in Providence. The award was given for significant contributions to positive change in Rhode Island.

## David Wax to lead The Gamm board



DAVID M. WAX

**D**AVID M. WAX has been named president of the board of The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre. Wax, who recently moved to Pawtucket, has had a distinguished career of more than 35 years in nonprofit performing arts management; he most recently served as the executive director of the RI Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School, overseeing the integration of the orchestra and school, and the acquisition of and move into the organization's new facility, the Carter Center for Music Education and Performance.

**Please, don't forget to share your simcha with The Voice & Herald**



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**"...being active in the... help shape the future... to come. It's a family... on. My name is Robin Engle. I am the Alliance."**



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**"I was honored to work with a strong team of dedicated and creative volunteers and professionals to make this new vision for our community a reality. My name is Sharon Gaines. I am the Alliance."**



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**"I enjoy coming to the Senior Café. I get out of the house for the day, I have good food and great conversation. My name is Miriam Snell. I am the Alliance."**



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**Thank you Rhode Island!**

Because we work together as a community, we accomplish what no individual could do alone.

Through your help and generosity our Annual Community Campaign will raise \$3.3million. Because of you, more than 300 programs and services here in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world will get much needed funds to carry on their work—helping those in need, and enriching Jewish life for all.

**"URI Hillel is family, friendship, connections and a Jewish home away from home. It's the only place we can really relax. My name is Rebecca Kraut. I am the Alliance."**



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**"I have been teaching people how to swim at the JCC pool for more than 30 years. Chances are, if I taught your child how to swim, I probably taught you, too! My name is Patty Gold. I am the Alliance."**



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**"As an Israeli emissary, it's my job to teach people about Israel. I hope to give Rhode Islanders a stronger connection to their Jewish heritage. My name is Yisca Shalev. I am the Alliance."**



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**"At the JCC Early Childhood Center we seek to be more than a day care program or school. We strive to be a family, a community. My name is Helen West. I am the Alliance."**



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