

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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**BIRTHRIGHT AND BROWN/RISD HILLEL:** These students participated in the Jan. 12 – 23, 2011 Birthright trip.



**SABRINA BROTONS, SYDNEY KEMPLER and MAX IRLANDER** at Hillel's booth at URI First Night, Sept. 4, 2011.

## Hillels fulfill vital roles on college campuses

*URI, Brown RISD Hillels offer leadership opportunities and dynamic programs*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

**O**NE SIZE FITS all? Not at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Hillel in Kingston or Brown RISD Hillel in Providence; both Hillels welcome students "as they find them."

For Joey Resnick, a 20-year-old junior from Teaneck, N.J., weekly Shabbat dinners and services are among his most meaningful Hillel experiences. The outgoing president of Brown RISD Hillel's Student Board said that Hillel provides opportunities for Jews to be together and connect to their Judaism in ways that reinforce Hillel's values – whether connecting politically, through the *tzedeck* of social action, or spiritually at the popular "Jewish yoga" on Shabbat afternoons or Shabbat dinners, which draw between 50 and 200 people.

Brown RISD Hillel lives by the motto "Follow up first," said Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz, director of engagement. Making connections – through pre-event orientations or study sessions and post event-gatherings –

builds bonds among students, deepens their connections to one another and reinforces the experiential learning of Birthright or an alternative winter break service opportunity, she said.

### WHERE THE ALLIANCE MONEY GOES

Last year, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island allocated \$25,000 to Brown RISD Hillel in Providence for cultural arts programming, and this year, \$20,000 (which funds stipends to four engagement interns and micro-grants) for a Jewish engagement project, though the Alliance also co-sponsors and promotes other Brown RISD Hillel initiatives from time to time. The organization's annual budget is \$900,000, said Marshall Einhorn, Brown RISD Hillel's executive director.

Manya-Jean Gitter, a 21-year-old junior from New Orleans, one of the engagement interns, said, "There is so much potential for students to be involved; a large part of Hillel's mission – and Brown's mission – is doing social justice work. I wanted to reach out to students to bridge those [goals]."

The engagement initiative, said Einhorn, connects students – who aren't significantly involved in Jewish programming – to Jewish life on campus. Interns work collaboratively on outreach to such students.

After living in what she called the "third-world country of post-Katrina New Orleans," Gitter, a political science major, realized that

she wanted to a career that might allow her to make systemic changes for the better.

URI Hillel, some 30 miles due south of Brown RISD Hillel, has an equally engaged,

albeit smaller, cohort of staff and students, at a very different campus.

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**RONNI GUTTIN**, second from left, talks with Polish youth.

## Vibrant lives for Polish Jews

*Cooper discovers a 'different version' of Poland*

By MARTY COOPER  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**M**Y PERCEPTION OF Poland was one where Communist rule meant apartments made of con-

crete slabs; and retail centers, institutionalized buildings and government offices looked cheap and lacked personality. As the people of Poland have been through so much during the past century, I expected them to be a cold, unfriendly and beleaguered people. I also believed anti-Semitism would be rampant.

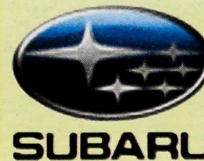
In early November, Scott Libman and I traveled to Poland as emissaries

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brighter world for all  
humankind.



חג אורים שמח

Happy Hanukkah from the  
Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



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PAT BLAKE, MORT GRAY and MEL BLAKE



MAXINE GOLDIN and ARTHUR FIXLER

## 'The People v. Leo Frank' depicts a travesty of justice

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceherald@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Some 130 or so individuals attended a screening of "The People v. Leo Frank," at the JCC Social Hall on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 30. Comments ranged from "Gripping" to "Why didn't we ever know about this [tragedy] before?"

The evening's program, which included pre-show and post-show receptions and a question-and-answer session with Ben Loe-terman, the film's creator, was sponsored by BNY Mellon Wealth Management and hosted by the Alliance.

At nearly 90 minutes, the well-crafted film, whose actors speak words taken from court transcripts and historical records, packs an emotional wallop. Leo Frank, a Northern Jewish man was a supervisor at an Atlanta-based pencil company, when an employee, Mary Phagan, 13, was found murdered. Nervous and dispassionate when he views her ravaged body, Frank is quickly named a suspect.

The film takes viewers back

to 1913, a time when African-Americans were called "nigras," and children routinely worked in factories.

Jim Conley, the factory's black janitor. Conley was also the prosecution's star witness, albeit

"If Frank hadn't been a Jew, he wouldn't have been prosecuted," one lawyer said.

While Frank languished in prison, his case was reviewed 13 times before the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, declined to hear the case.

While Frank awaited the death sentence, information was brought to Georgia's governor who, realizing that Frank may well be innocent, "didn't want to send an innocent man to the gallows." After commuting Frank's sentence, the outgoing governor was hanged in effigy and called "the King of the Jews." Mobs roamed the streets in protest; eventually, some 25 men drove to Frank's state prison cell, kidnapped and lynched him. His lifeless body hung from a tree that faced Phagan's childhood home. Hundreds of people gathered to view Frank's body, perhaps to ensure that he was actually dead; ultimately, some 15,000 people passed by Frank's body.

"Emotions overcome reason,"



to the all-white, all-male jury who heard the case, Frank, in fact, was more of an outsider to the jury than

one who gave false testimony. Did Conley's testimony or Atlanta's anti-Semitism lead to Frank's conviction?

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## Candle Lighting Times for greater Rhode Island

December 9 .....	3:55
December 16 .....	3:56

December 23 .....	3:59
December 30 .....	4:04

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## Volunteers raise nearly \$70K in pledges

*Super Sunday: A day for doing well by helping others*

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceherald@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Sharon Gaines, 2012 Annual Community Campaign chair, reported that the Alliance raised nearly \$70,000 on Super Sunday, Dec. 4, and Monday, Dec. 5. In all, 27 volunteers made calls and received pledges from 150 donors. Another calling session, on the evening of Dec. 7, occurs after The Jewish Voice & Herald's press deadline. As of press time, the 2012 Campaign has raised \$2.3 million.

"As the Campaign Chair and chair of the Integration committee [that brought the JFRI, BJE and JCC into one entity], I understand the importance of the success of our first Alliance Annual Campaign," said Gaines. "I am delighted that so many people from all parts of our greater Rhode Island Jewish community stepped up to make calls. We are grateful to both callers and donors, many of whom increased their pledges from prior years."

As Larry Hershoff, Alliance treasurer, said, "No one can do it all but everybody should do something within their means."

The Voice & Herald queried several volunteers who made fundraising calls. Each was asked, "Why are you volunteering? Why is it important to you?"

Read their replies, at right.



CHERYL GREENFELD TEVEROW



I'm so lucky to be able to participate in programs funded from your dollars. Can you find me on another page in this issue?

"THE ALLIANCE DOES a lot for our community. We appreciate its support for Providence Hebrew Day School and [other] services and programs here and in Israel. Today gives people the opportunity to participate in some of those wonderful projects."

Jonathan Beck,  
Providence Kollel volunteer

"GIVING THE SAME amount, unfortunately, results in a down campaign because the expenses to fund programs cost more. Also, there are so many proposals that come in; we always want to fund more because the needs are so much greater."

Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow  
Providence  
Member, Community Development Committee



JONATHAN BECK



MICHAEL PIMENTAL

"ONE OF THE troubles I used to have was seeing funds allocated to non-Rhode Island resources. When my wife Sara and I had the opportunity to go on a Chazan Mission to Israel in the summer of 2010, we saw the true impact of those overseas funds, breaking down barriers for me about the overseas allocations."

Michael Pimental  
Middletown

"Supporting the Alliance gives funds to agencies to provide the services that are so essential." Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island is seeing more and more individuals and families in need.

Erin Minor  
CEO  
Jewish Family Service



ERIN MINIOR

## Chanukah Events in West Bay



### CHANUKAH AT WARWICK MALL

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30pm

Jewish music by Stan Freedman & Sounds of Simcha

Art and Crafts: Design your own Chanukah pillow case

Chanukah supplies: Sale and gift shop

6:15pm

Lighting of giant menorah

Greetings from dignitaries

Donuts and Chanukah gelt

### CHANUKAH AT PAWTUXET PARK

Wednesday, December 21, 7:30pm

Menorah lighting, Chanukah songs, hot latkes & gelt

### CHANUKAH AT CRANSTON CITY HALL

Thursday, December 22, 4:30pm

Menorah lighting, arts and crafts, hot latkes and more

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR Are common courtesies uncommonly rare?

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

**A**RE COMMON COURTESY and common sense uncommonly rare? Have they gone the way of typewriters and blackboards, white gloves and tea parties?

Across the country, thousands of frantic, frenzied holiday shoppers exhibited an appalling lack of courtesy on Black Friday. The only commercial venue I visited that Friday was Savers, which was no different that day than on other days. If you're willing to look hard, and you aren't bothered by buying – and wearing – secondhand clothes, it offers bargain basement buys. It's good for my budget, good for the environment... I've found great designer items there that were almost like new. But fighting for the last Xbox game in stock or grabbing a Barbie doll from someone doesn't elicit the holiday spirit in me... what about you?

On the positive side, in contrast to the 2008 Black Friday death of a Wal-Mart employee and hospitalization of a pregnant woman (in the same stampede), no Black Friday serious injuries or deaths were reported this year.

On the common sense front, I'm more appalled than amused by the wasted energy, media time and attention devoted to Governor Lincoln Chafee's use of the term "holiday tree." Chafee is not the first governor to grace a Christmas tree with the "holiday tree" moniker, but why the reluctance to utter the "C word?" Is anyone suggesting that menorahs adorning public or private venues be called "holiday candleabras?"

Nevertheless, we have far more substantive issues to resolve, don't you think? It's ludicrous; the verbal scuffling has made national news – yet another silly sound bite or two or three for the endless 24-hours-news cycle! It's a divisive diversion from deeply serious challenges: unemployment, unfunded pension liabilities (still a problem, despite pension reform), inadequate schools, hunger and homelessness...

After that rant, I'll close with one more note on courtesy. I recently met a blond, blue-eyed charmer – a 3-year-old girl – who wanted me to do something for her.

I said, "What's the magic word?"

She looked at me with her beautiful blue eyes and, with all sincerity, asked, "Magic?"

Suppressing a smile, I said, "No, Emma. 'Magic' isn't the magic word, it's 'please.'"

"Please," "thank you," and "you're welcome" may not work magic, but they certainly do make life more pleasant.

I hope to become as gracious at receiving criticism as is one lay leader. I had called him with some concerns about a less-than-fully-professional encounter I'd had with someone in his organization. Not only did he thank me for my call, he was neither defensive nor dismissive. "Textbook perfect" in hearing my constructive criticism, he set a goal for me.

And another goal; too often, I forget the magic of "please," "thank you" and "you're welcome." Our staff and editorial board, our readers and our advertisers all deserve to hear those magic words from me more often.

## Judaism, Christianity and Islam share fundamental similarities

**A**S EXECUTIVE EDITOR Nancy Kirsch reported on page 19 ("To be Muslim in America") of the Nov. 25 issue of this paper, Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston hosted a traveling exhibit of the American Islamic



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

Heritage Museum from Nov 15-17. The exhibit, which carries the title "The Genesis of Islam in America: An exploration of the lives and times of Muslims in the United States," was curated by author Amir Muhammad, and sponsored and supported by an interfaith coalition of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, the Muslim American Dawah Center of Rhode Island (M.A.D.C.) and Temple Torat Yisrael. The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities provided generous funding, and the Community Relations Council of the Alliance endorsed the program.

On the exhibit's closing night, I went to Torat Yisrael to view the traveling museum, which consists of a number of large poster boards with photographs and accompanying text. Within minutes I realized how little I know of the history of Islamic life in America, and I found that I could absorb only a small amount of the information provided. To be sure, such prominent figures as Elijah Muhammad (1897-1975), leader of the Nation of Islam, were given pride of place. However, what I found most fascinating were obscure items like the photograph of Muslim graves in – of all places! – Biddeford, Maine. I was equally intrigued to learn that decades ago one of my jazz idols, McCoy Tyner, who played piano for the incomparable saxophonist John Coltrane, converted to the Ahmadiyya movement in Islam and took the name Suleiman Saud.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

# Putting a face on 'the other'

I chose to view the Islamic heritage exhibit on Thursday evening, Nov. 17, because I wanted to attend the scheduled roundtable discussion among Imam Farid Ansari of the M.A.D.C., Rev. Dr. Donald C. Anderson of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches and Rabbi Amy Levin of Torat Yisrael. All three of these Rhode Island religious leaders emphasized the fundamental commonality of the different traditions they represent: Islam, Christianity and Judaism are all "Abrahamic faiths" in that they all trace their origins to Abraham as envisioned in both the Bible and the Koran.

All three religions affirm some form

## "Within minutes I realized how little I know of the history of Islamic life in America."

of monotheism; all three affirm the unity of God as expressed in our basic Jewish prayer, the *Shema*: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one." All three speakers noted that each of the Abrahamic faiths holds a wide range of views and that we must be careful not to judge a richly complex culture by its most intolerant and fanatical members. As Rabbi Levin put it, there is a need today for "theological humility"; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have "parallel covenants" with God. No one religious tradition should have the "chutzpah" to claim exclusive knowledge of who God is and what God requires of us.

Following the panelists' comments, I was privileged to ask the first question: "This evening you are preaching to the choir. What can we possibly say to the 'anti-choir,' to those who dismiss interfaith dialogue as a feel-good fraud?"

Though I lay no claim to prophetic powers, within a couple of days of posing this question, I received in the inbox of my email four 'anti-choir' attacks upon the Torat Yisrael exhibit and program. The first email: "Do we have any brains left?" The

second: "If this is a b--- s--- joke, then it's a good one. If this is not a b--- s--- joke, then the greater Providence Jewish community should have a long talk with that temple. If they don't cancel that conference, then we should boycott them and run them out of town... Jews are the smartest stupid people." The third: "The [Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's] Community Relations Council (CRC) [endorsed] the event. Did CRC spend any community resources to promote Islam, a religion that calls Jews 'sons of monkeys and pigs?'" Finally, the last email was most succinct, with its one-word message: "SUICIDAL."

Though these emails arrived in my email inbox after the Nov. 17 panel discussion, I was well aware of such profoundly disturbing sentiments in our own Jewish community when I posed my question about reaching the "anti-choir" elements. I suspect that the three panelists and the 60 or so audience members have had experience with similar displays of intense hostility towards "the other."

In response to my question, Rabbi Levin asked people in the audience to state their religious identities and to add brief comments if they felt so inclined. As it turns out, the audience was more or less evenly apportioned among Muslims, Christians and Jews but was united in its desire to break down the walls of fear and prejudice by putting a human face on "the other" and by listening intently to the voice of "the other." These 60 separate faces and 60 separate voices offered eloquent testimony to the power of the individual face, the individual voice.

Perhaps the four individuals who composed the "anti-choir" comments which wound up in my inbox will forever refuse to see the face of "the other," to hear the voice of "the other." What might move such individuals to accept and affirm the humanity of "the other"? Perhaps, just perhaps, they will one day find room within themselves to heed the radical prescription of the biblical prophet Jeremiah 4:4: "to remove the foreskins of their hearts!"

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

## Letter

### Jewish community is not monolithic

**R**ON RUSSO posed a provocative question (in the Sept. 2 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald) regarding Jewish voting preferences. He may have sensed that even as Jewish voters remain loyal to the Democrats, the Democratic Party is becoming less hospitable to Jewish interests in general and to Israel in particular.

If he is puzzled by Jewish voting patterns, he must be baffled when he reads about J

Street in The Voice & Herald. J Street is dedicated to forcing Israel to make more concessions to a "peace partner" that exists only in utopian fantasy and blindly ignores 18 years of history since Oslo.

Barry Schiller (in the Oct. 28 issue) calls for American financial aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which has reconciled with Hamas, a terrorist organization, and has opted for unilateral independence contrary to prior Israeli-Palestinian agreements. According to the Palestinian Anti-Terror Act of 2006 – legislation aimed at denying U.S. financial aid to the PA unless and until it could be certified that terror groups were not among its recipients – the

United States cannot provide such aid. Incidentally, 41 of the 46 members of the House of Representatives who opposed this bill were Democrats.

It is indeed troubling that many American Jews vote in ways that could be termed contrary to our best interests. Fortunately, the Jewish community is not monolithic. Many reasonable, compelling Jewish voices are not reflexively liberal. It is unfortunate that these views are not expressed often enough in our local Jewish newspaper.

Jeffrey F. Baron, M.D.  
Providence

## 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. Please include a daytime phone number.

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

### 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.



## FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI Games Republicans play

### To fund Israel or not to fund Israel?

**I**DON'T NORMALLY think of myself as being particularly sadistic; I'm not the sort of guy who rues missing the opportunity to cheer on gladiators going at each other to the death, but



Josh Stein

let's face it – who doesn't love the way the Republicans are behaving in the pre-caucus, pre-primary phase of their blood sport? They all want to unseat President Obama, and none is willing to raise a penny in taxes to help resolve the debt brought about by the Bush tax cuts and unfunded wars. All believe in cutting off their noses to spite their faces. For example, when asked at a recent debate if they would be willing to increase taxes by a dollar in return for spending cuts of \$10, there was a universal response – none would. But after those areas of agreement, it's strop the razor, hone the machete, sharpen the tongue and praise Jesus. (Mitt Romney is a bit behind on the praise Jesus part, though as a Mormon he does believe in three gods, one of whom is the aforementioned gentleman from Nazareth.)

Romney has always been the pacesetter, the one the others are trying to dethrone.

One by one they rise up against him and one by one they fall by the wayside. I write this on Dec. 2 so don't know how things will be on Dec. 9, but I can report with certitude that today Newt Gingrich is the current first-tier challenger, having

### "Off-camera, Perry later waffled."

replaced Herman Cain who previously had edged aside Rick Perry who'd steam-rollered over Michele Bachmann. At this pace, poor Rick Santorum, who is universally ignored, might just emerge as the next "great white hope" to defeat Romney. Tim Pawlenty may have dropped out too soon. And Sarah Palin, too. Even she might have had a decent run at Romney before going down in flames against Obama. It's all too wondrous to behold. Like watching gladiators. As is said about fox hunting, enjoying this is indefensible, but irresistible.

And what does all this mean to the Jews? Well, on the one hand, nothing more than to gentiles, but there is the Israel question now. Yes, all are passionate about the survival of the Jewish State but Ron Paul, who is opposed to spending any money unless it can be justified by the standards of the 18th

century, opposes foreign aid altogether and Rick Perry, in what seems by comparison to be a more moderate view, has come out with the idea that in any decision on foreign aid he would start at zero dollars and "then we'll have a conversation in this country about whether or not a penny of our taxpayer dollar needs to go into those countries."

Gingrich immediately signed on. The former House speaker who looks fondly back on his suicidal shutting down of the federal government in '95-'96 said the idea "made absolutely perfect sense."

Off-camera, Perry later waffled, a technique he learned from Romney. "Obviously," he said, "Israel is a special ally. And my bet is that we would be funding them at some substantial level. But it makes sense for everyone to come in at zero and make your case." With all that waffling, it's time to bring out the maple syrup and save some for Romney whose spokesmen announced immediately after the debate that he would exempt Israel from the policy.

What Perry seems to have forgotten (or never knew about) is a 10-year memorandum of understanding that governs domestic funding levels for Israel. Signed in 2007, it provides long-term assurances guaranteeing Israel both financial assurances and political support. So, while renegeing on international promises is not unheard of, no Republican, whether Perry or any other

GOP candidates in unison with him, would start with zero dollars for Israel; and if not for Israel, then probably not for other countries in the Middle East,



all of which would look askance at America supporting the Jewish State to the exclusion of their own. Well, it sounds fiscally conservative anyway, if undoable (like much fiscal conservatism).

So, as Republicans vie with each other uttering "*morituri te salutant*" ("We who are about to die, salute you.") their razors stropped, their machetes honed, their tongues sharpened, their minds numbed (Oops, I shouldn't have said that) how will evangelical Republicans or Orthodox Jews feel when Gingrich is brought low and they are ultimately forced to choose between voting for Obama or Romney? Who can say? We can only sit back and enjoy the spectacle. Let the games continue!

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

### Problems may be Democratic, not demographic

#### Arab-Israelis identify as Palestinians

**F**OR YEARS, ISRAELIS have been hearing about the "Demographic Threat" – or as the more strident extremists like to put it, the "Arab Womb Bomb." There are two aspects to this claim: what's going on inside Israel, and what's happening in the administered territories. Here I will focus on the former. Regarding the latter, suffice it to say for now that whatever numbers you read about or hear coming from the Palestinians should be taken with bucketsful (not grains) of salt, given that there is a constant exodus of Palestinians overseas, mostly for economic reasons.



Sam Lehman-Wilzig

At the beginning, the demographic problem looked dire: When Israel declared independence in May 1948, the number of Arabs and Jews in Israel proper was roughly equal, 600,000 for each side. By the time the War of Independence ended, there were only about 150,000 Arabs left and the mass immigration of Jews would soon commence – doubling the Jewish population in the ensuing four years alone!

Yet even those 150,000 Arab-Israelis were viewed as a threat, both military – as a potential Fifth Column – and demographic, since they averaged about eight children per family. You didn't have to be a mathematician to figure out the extremely rapid

growth in their numbers, were that birthrate to persist; ergo, the "Demographic Threat."

However, what happened then surprised everyone – except sociologists, who understand the correlation between education and birthrate. With the rapid expansion of

### "Israel must do a better job... there is no real Arab 'demographic threat' to worry about."

education among the Israeli-Arabs – especially the women, many of whom previously had very little education, if any at all – their birthrate started to fall, and fall, and fall....

The latest official Israeli statistics paint an amazing picture: The average number of births per Muslim mother has dropped from more than 8 in 1948 to just 3.75 in 2010, and among Arab Christians to a mere 2.14! This compares to the average number of children per Jewish mother: 2.97. And when one adds to these demographic statistics an annual average influx of 15,000 – 16,000 Jewish *olim* (immigrants), we reach a point of almost complete equality in demographic growth between Jewish and non-Jewish citizens in Israel.

The present situation is thus: There are 5,874,000 Jews, 1,600,000 Arabs and 323,000 "others" (mostly quasi-Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union who are not *halakically* Jewish, and many of whom walk around these days wearing a crucifix). Hardly a demographic "time-

bomb" today – or even tomorrow.

So where's the problem? It lies in the increasing self-identification of Arab-Israelis as "Palestinians." This does not mean that they want to join the State of Palestine, if and when that is established over the border. In fact, close to half of East Jerusalem Arabs have indicated that they wish to remain Israeli citizens if and when their neighborhoods become the Palestinian capital!

But the "Palestinization" of Israel's Arab citizenry means that they have become emotionally disconnected from their state's democratic system, for two reasons. First, they do not believe Israel is really trying to achieve a peace treaty that would establish a Palestinian State for their brethren. Second (and probably far more important, given that all Israeli governments from 1948 through today have discriminated heavily against Arab citizens in the distribution of government resources) is the land issue. While dozens of new Jewish towns and cities have been established by the government since 1948, with massive help for them to expand

and flourish, the number of new Arab towns established during the past 60 years has been (want to guess?): 0! And that's despite a 10-fold increase in their population since Israel achieved statehood in 1948.

Thus, as this column's title suggests, the problem is not demography but the distorted religio-ethnic nature of Israeli democracy. Personally, I do not favor a "multi-cultural, post-Zionist" society. Israel was established as the homeland of the Jewish people and as their Jewish State – and that is entirely legitimate, especially given what we have endured in the course of our history. However – as Israel's Declaration of Independence so clearly proclaims – the State is meant to be Jewish and democratic. It is here that Israel must do a better job for its minority citizens – precisely because there is no real Arab "demographic threat" to worry about.

Prof. Sam Lehman-Wilzig teaches at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. In 2008-09 he was Schusterman Visiting Professor at Brown University. Visit his website: [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@shalom.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalom.org) (Subject Line: OPINIONS) or Nancy Kirsch, The Voice & Herald, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Please include your name, city of residence and (not for publication) a contact phone number or email.



# A TEEN'S PERSPECTIVE Reflecting on 'One for All'

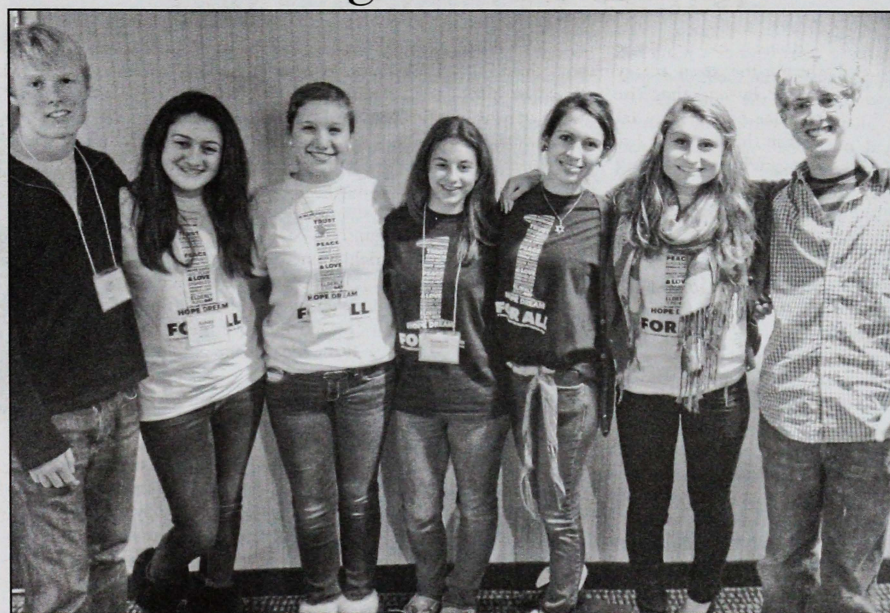
*Healing, not hurting,  
through collective action*

By REBECCA SILVERMAN  
Special to The Voice & Herald

TIME AND TIME again, we are told to be nice to people, to say "please," "thank you" and "I'm sorry." In reality, can we say with certainty that we have always been mindful of others and thankful for what we have in life? The answer – for me – is "no." I know that I – as well as everyone I know – have missed the mark one time or another. When we do not say "thank you," it may not be such a big deal. But when we start acting in a cruel way – such as bullying and hurting someone without sincerely apologizing – that's a bigger problem.

I recently participated in the BBYO Panim Institute's "One For All: A Jewish Teen Summit on Equality" to learn how I might be a part of the solution, not the problem. The summit was held Nov. 13-15 in Boston.

On the summit's first day, Robert Lewis, Jr., vice president for program at The Boston Foundation, talked to us. He said we could all make a change in the world if we really want to; all we must do is understand how to make equality a reality and push ourselves to become leaders. His



TYLER SIMMONS, left, Ashley Addressi, Rachel Fried, Rebecca Silverman, Gabby Rojas, Talya Fishbach and Alex Molohan, all of Rhode Island, attended the One for All Summit.

energy inspired me; he made me realize that although I am sometimes shy, I still have the power to make positive change.

I particularly related to a program during One for All that dealt with disabilities. We experienced what it was like to be visually impaired by being blindfolded and to be hearing impaired by covering our ears. These exercises led me to

reflect on some of my high school peers who have different disabilities. I realized that I didn't really understand what they go through; and teens who bully or tease them probably don't understand, either. The program gave me a glimpse into their day-to-day lives, and also inspired me to introduce more teens to what I learned at the summit. I want to create greater

understanding and support for all teens, regardless of their abilities.

As a high school student, I know that the issues of equality aren't always a top priority. We can justify, if only to ourselves, making fun of other people to gain popularity, right? No, we can't. When we do, we lose sight of who we are as individuals. All people, especially teens who are just figuring

out who they are and what their values are, must learn that equality is a top priority. We have to treat others with respect, especially if we want some for ourselves.

One For All opened my eyes to just how big the issue of equality really is, and the speakers, educators and my fellow participants inspired me. As soon as I came home from One for All, I started looking for how I could help my community. I Google-searched "inspirational quotes" so that I can stay motivated on this journey.

Because of what I have learned, I know that I cannot give up on trying to improve or teaching others to do the same. Small actions can both hurt and heal, and I want to show my peers how we can heal through respect, tolerance, awareness and kindness. Even though I am just one person, I know that I am not alone. My peers from Rhode Island are with me, and the nearly 85 teens who participated in One for All are too. We will form a movement that heals and doesn't hurt. The movement will become One for All.

*Rebecca Silverman, a sophomore at East Greenwich High School, lives in East Greenwich with her parents, Angela and David Silverman. She is a member of BBYO's Chapter Mazkirah. Contact her at dancin-grebel13@gmail.com.*

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

*Physicians are  
frustrated and  
exhausted*

By JEFFREY BARKEN  
JointMedia News Service

WE WERE naïve. We thought they would reach a settlement soon,"

Dr. Moshe Katz said, reflecting on the dispiriting doctors' strike that drags on in Israel.

Katz is the recent recipient of Sheba Medical Center's Intern of the Year Award, prestigious recognition of his talent and leadership that grants him invitation to an international medical conference of his choosing. Unfortunately, his opportunity to confer with distinguished colleagues is tainted by the medical profession's turmoil at home that has frustrated Israeli health care providers and caused a serious disruption in health care delivery.

Israeli doctors protest their government's management of their careers and hospital facilities. Physicians' salaries and working conditions have not been reviewed since 2000. The Israel Medical Association (IMA), the labor organization for health care professionals, nego-

tiated a 10-year agreement that promised a 25 percent pay increase for all doctors by 2008, and an additional 600 doctors trained by 2010. The 4 percent annual inflation in Israel over the past 10 years renders the pay increase meaningless. The plight of Katz and others reveals that physicians in Israel are in serious financial straits.

"Considering that traditional training for an Israeli doctor

**"An additional  
1,000 doctors are  
needed immediately  
to accommodate  
Israel's population."**

requires six years studying basic medicine at a university, a one-year internship, and then a 4-to-6-year residency, my 10,000 NIS/month, (roughly \$2,700/month), hardly reflects the time-earned expertise and commitment doctors pay to their profession," Katz said, of his personal situation.

At the end of the day, however, Katz recognizes that the conflict is less about money than about manpower and working conditions. The government has failed to supply the



DR. MOSHE KATZ

promised additional doctors.

When their contract came up for renewal in July 2010, doctors pragmatically reassessed conditions in Israeli hospitals, hoping to negotiate a new deal with the government. Currently the system is 650 doctors short and by 2016 the number is projected to grow exponentially to 7,000. Perceiving a crisis, IMA estimates that an additional 1,000 doctors are needed immediately to accommodate Israel's growing population. This request meets strong resistance from the Ministry of Finance, and is countered with policy changes that undermine

doctors' professional role and their value to Israeli society.

"Starting in January we now have to keep time cards, but we are allowed to spend an extra 2 minutes with each patient in the clinic," Katz says, explaining the de-professionalization by government micromanagement of doctors. It's an approach that likens doctors to unskilled workers and forgets that Israeli physicians provide the public a critically essential service, 24/7. Consequently, Israeli doctors have gone on strike.

In addition, Prime Minister Netanyahu recently told the Health

Ministry that the government would bring in physicians from India if the doctors do not agree to work on his terms. "In other words," said Katz, "the government prefers cheaper doctors to employing better skilled, Israeli-trained doctors. As a result, they are driving many physicians to look for work abroad."

The doctors' strike is already the longest sustained labor movement in Israel's history. It has left the country with a frustrated and exhausted medical workforce and has broken a tradition of dedicated professional service. There is growing disillusionment amongst the ranks of doctors. "We don't abandon the patients, but we have to protest somehow," said Katz, who participated in a recent strike.

Despite his awards, Katz feels as though he is being held back from pursuing his passion and from achieving his ambition: properly caring for his patients.

*Jeffrey Barken, a 2008 Cornell University graduate, and University of Baltimore MFA student, is currently writing a collection of stories, "This Year in Jerusalem, Next Time in America," based on his experiences living on a kibbutz in southern Israel. Contact Jeffrey at [jfbarken@gmail.com](mailto:jfbarken@gmail.com).*



## AN OVERSEAS PERSPECTIVE

## Attack on human rights community

## Threatening the very best of Israel

BY MORIEL ROTHMAN

JERUSALEM – Recently, two frightening bills were approved for a first reading in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament. The first, sponsored by members of Prime Minister Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, proposes limiting donations from foreign governments to "political" Israeli non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to 20,000 shekels (approximately \$5,000). The second, sponsored by Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's far right-wing Yisrael Beitenu Party, suggests a 45 percent tax on all donations from foreign governments to Israeli NGOs.

These bills, without question, specifically target left-wing organizations, as right-wing NGOs in Israel are funded either by private donors or the Israeli government itself. They are an example of worrying developments in Israel as right-wing extremists gain confidence and power.

These bills also threaten to weaken some of the most inspiring and praiseworthy aspects of Israel. Indeed, there are incredible things happening here that are infrequently reported on in the media. This year, I have had the privilege of joining the Israeli human rights community. It is not a large community, but the amount of love that flows from its midst and its desperate pursuit of justice is truly breathtaking.

The groups that lead the Israeli human rights community do so against all odds. They work within a public that remains traumatized by a history of suffering and by a

recent past of exploding buses and burning cafes, and as a result has largely curled into shells of despair and mistrust of the "other side."

They face threats of violence and occasionally physical attacks by extremists. The army and police force often seek to hinder their work. Despite all this, the Israeli human rights community – made up of groups like Rabbis for Human Rights (with which I am active), Physicians for Human Rights, the legal organization Yesh Din, the human rights monitoring organization B'Tselem, and more – continues to work and win victories for justice and human rights on a nearly daily basis, even if those victories are as small as helping a Palestinian farmer harvest his olive trees on the other side of the separation barrier, or providing free healthcare to refugees from Darfur.

These organizations are enacting, in my mind, the best of Israeli values. Despite a history of suffering, of conflict and tension, there has always been a clear and powerful Israeli tradition of dissent. Among the earliest Zionists were important thinkers like Martin Buber and Judah Magnes, articulate proponents of a creative, humanistic Zionism.

And they are also enacting the best of Jewish values. It is clear that there are many different ways to read Jewish texts. If you are looking for ways to justify Jewish privilege, you can certainly find lines and passages to support that. But you can just as easily find passages that demand that we seek justice, that we love the stranger in our midst and that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

The circumstances in which the Israeli human rights community

has pursued its work have long been difficult, but there has always been a space for them at the table. However, the two laws recently proposed in the Knesset take the threats to the community to a new level.

For my organization, that means that endeavors like the Olive Harvest Project, in which Rabbis for Human Rights sends groups of Israeli and international volunteers to help farmers harvest their olives throughout the occupied

### "We must speak up, not 'against' Israel, but against dangerous trends."

territories, could be affected. The same could be true for thousands of other human rights projects coordinated by dozens of different organizations.

As I was writing these words, I read a positive headline in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. Netanyahu had decided to freeze the two bills "indefinitely." According to the article, Netanyahu's decision came at the heels of "foreign



pressure." I was extremely relieved to read this, but I also realize that this is not a "happy ending." These specific bills were stalled, but the trends to silence the human rights community are still strong.

I am writing this because I am afraid of the measures that seek to silence the human rights community. And I am afraid of what will become of Israel – a place that I love deeply – if these efforts succeed.

We must speak up. Foreign pressure – as exemplified by the case of Netanyahu stalling the bills – works. For the sake of Israelis, Pal-

estinians and a more stable world, we must speak up, not "against" Israel as a whole, but rather against dangerous trends within the country that seek to undermine the values that characterize the parts of Israel that I love.

Moriel Rothman, an American-Israeli activist and writer, currently resides in Jerusalem as a New Israel Fund/Shatil Social Justice Fellow. This column was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews), which grants reproduction rights. Visit [www.commongroundnews.org](http://www.commongroundnews.org) for more information.

## Letters

## Time is running out for Iran

RECENTLY THE United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency, which thoroughly investigated the Iranian nuclear development program, concluded Iran is developing nuclear weapons. The evidence, including satellite images, overwhelmingly points to the manufacture of nuclear weapons within the short term, probably on the order of a number of months to a year. U.S. intelligence information corroborates this assessment.

The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran, along with the capability to deliver the nuclear weapons via missile systems, poses a threat to the Middle East and Europe. Iran will be able to strike other Arab countries, Israel and parts of Europe.

Other totalitarian countries

with nuclear weapons, like North Korea, China, Russia and Pakistan, have respect for the capabilities of opposing forces armed with nuclear weapons. They know retaliation against a nuclear attack will be swift and comprehensive.

Unfortunately, Iran is governed by irrational leaders who live in a closed society cut off from reality, and who believe in the use of military force to achieve their aims.

Sanctions and diplomacy have not worked to deter belligerent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The countdown to prevent Iran from possibly launching nuclear attacks is approaching action time by threatened powers in the Middle East.

Donald A. Moskowitz  
Londonderry, N.H.

## Grateful for a job well done

I READ THE account of Dick Gregory's heart attack ["Lifeguard is just doing her job," by Nancy Kirsch in the Nov. 25 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald] with interest.

Kirsch's article was extremely well done, as was our response

to this crisis – I am thankful for both.

Larry Hershoff  
Greenville

Hershoff, treasurer of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, has been friends with Gregory for more than 20 years.

## Pollard deserves a pardon

SHOULD JONATHAN Pollard be set free?

Yes. The article by Jacob Kamaras (of JointMedia News Service, "Pollard in prison; 27 years and counting," in the Nov. 25 issue of The Voice & Herald) is correct.

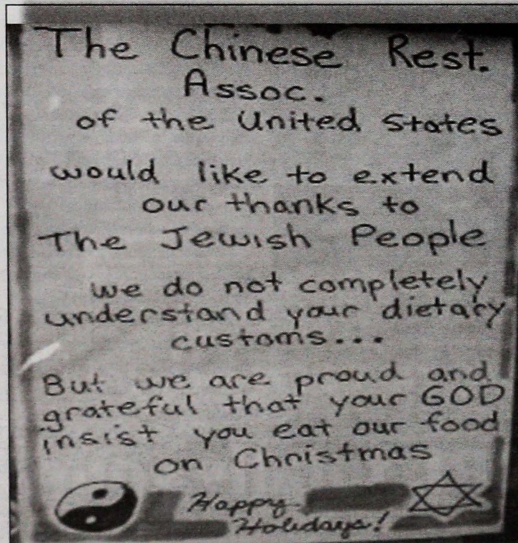
Individuals who have spied against the United States have received lesser sentences. Pollard's crime was sharing information with America's closest ally. But there is another wrinkle to the story. At the time of his trial, a plea bargain agreement was reached with the government. At the time of sentencing, then-Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger handed the judge, who disregarded the government's plea agreement, a note.

To this day, not a soul knows what was in that note. Now, a pardon is in the hands of the fifth president to lead the U.S. since Pollard's imprisonment. A pardon is deserved, but all bets are off.

Clifford Lander  
Fall River, Mass.

## Errata

The phone number for REI ("REI offers wintertime classes" in the Nov. 11 issue) was incorrectly listed. The correct number is 275-5250.



## A little Internet humor

FOR MORE ON this picture, which has been circling the Internet globe, visit [www.fortunecookiechronicles.com/blog/2010/12/22/david-mamet-on-jews-and-chinese-food-on-christmas/](http://www.fortunecookiechronicles.com/blog/2010/12/22/david-mamet-on-jews-and-chinese-food-on-christmas/)

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## Getting 'chai' with a little help from their friends

*New England's FIDF shows increasing force*

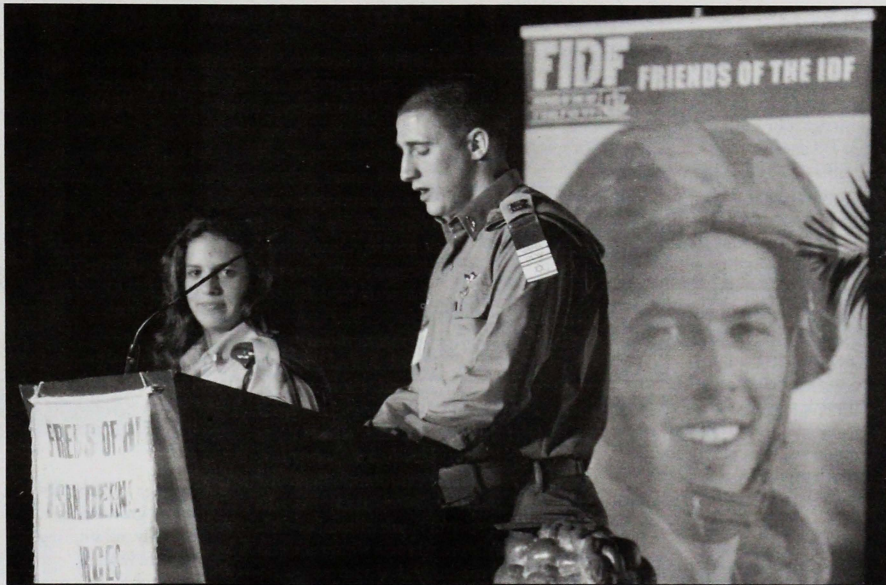
BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM RAUB  
Special to The Voice & Herald

BOSTON — In an economy known for decimating, not growing, non-profits, the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) has done something miraculous: It is multiplying at the speed of light.

And nowhere more so than in the New England region: Two years ago, the annual dinner brought in 180 supporters; a year ago, the number had climbed to 500 and, at the gathering at the Boston Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday, Nov. 16, nearly 700 people from across New England came together to support Israel's soldiers.

The FIDF funds programs that the army can't afford, but that vastly improve the quality of life for Israeli's hard-working soldiers — both during and after their years of army service.

Current programs New England donors are sponsoring include building a well-being center at the Yoav Base in Golan Heights and



IDF SOLDIERS SPEAK at the FIDF Gala in Boston.

/Ori Porat

"Bridging Social Gaps Through Education," which provides soldiers from poor families opportunities to earn their high school diploma. Still other FIDF programs fund college tuition for

young people after they complete their years of service. More than 6,000 of them have graduated

human shields. Yatom warned of the impending danger of a nuclear Iran not only to Israel, but to the entire free world.

But the two young IDF soldiers — who shared how much the FIDF programs mean to them every day — represented the heart of the program. That message resonated especially with the dozens of college students who attended the program.

Boston University student Addie Katz was on hand from the BU Students for Israel group. Describing the atmosphere for Israel supporters on her campus as "difficult," with new and highly vocal pro-Palestinian groups on campus, Katz said her group works hard to keep a positive attitude alive there "and get others rallied and involved." With a cousin entering the IDF this year, Katz is keenly aware of the sacrifice and courage required of Israeli teens as they step up to defend the Jewish homeland.

"These college students are our double-A clubs," said Joseph Sieber, co-chair of the New England FIDF Region and a member of its national board. "They're our future; when they heard from these two young soldiers who are their peers, that's a very powerful

moment."

The young generation is also well represented in FIDF leadership, with "next-gen-ers" Matthew Sidman and Daniel Farb acting as this year's dinner co-chairs. "I see them stepping up to make this happen," Sieber said. "They bring their young friends who also care deeply about Eretz Yisrael."

Among those representing Rhode Island that evening was Alyse Teitelbaum, a mother who knows well the value of FIDF. Thanks to a program that flies lone soldiers (those with no family in Israel) home to spend time with their family before returning to active duty, she was able to see her son Jason for the first time in two years. "I can't say enough about the FIDF," she said. "I will never forget how amazing it was to see him and for him to be able to rest at home for a few weeks." Another little-known FIDF program: The group makes it a point to arrange home hospitality for the lone soldiers for the holidays. "So he never felt alone," said Teitelbaum. Now in the United States, Jason is currently a pre-med student, and his younger brother attends college in Israel.

Asked to explain the outstanding turnout and enthusiastic response, gauged by both jump-to-the-feet ovations and envelopes stuffed with pledges and donations, CAMERA's Andrea Levin summed it up: "This night gives testament to the deep and loving bond between the Jews of the Diaspora and Israel."

"People 100 years from now won't ask how many Jewish communal agencies we founded, how many *minyanim* or synagogues we built," Rabbi Bill Hamilton of Congregation Kehillath Israel in Brookline, said. "But they will want to know what our generation did to defend and support the State of Israel."

Deborah Fineblum Raub is a freelance writer who lives in Sharon, Mass. Contact her at [deb.raub@verizon.net](mailto:deb.raub@verizon.net).

For more information or to donate to FIDF, visit [fidf.org](http://fidf.org) or call 617-559-3603.

### Ariel Torah Institutes staffer comes home, albeit temporarily

*Rabbi Elan Adler will visit in December*

JERUSALEM — Rabbi Elan Adler, formerly of Providence and a son of Edward and Gertrude Adler, will be in Providence from Dec. 11 – 18 with a special mission: To strengthen support for Ariel Torah Institutes (the Institute), an entity Rabbi Adler calls the "jewel in Jerusalem."

Headed by the renowned Rabbi Shear-Yashuv Cohen, emeritus rabbi of Haifa and Israel's Chief Rabbinate's official liaison to the Vatican and the pope, the Institute "became the continuation of the Harry Fischel Institute, which was founded in 1932 as the first *beit midrash* (house of study) in Eretz Yisrael," Rabbi Adler said in a statement.

Since then, the Institute has become a center of Jewish study, where the entire spectrum of observant Jewish men study together. The Institute has graduated chief rabbis in Israel and around the world, and rabbis in the Israel Defense Forces; more than 40 percent of Israel's judges have graduated from the Institute. It has published more than 50 books of Jewish scholarship; its team of scholars and researchers respond to inquiries from around the world.

"It doesn't stop at study," Rabbi Adler said in his statement. "We have a vision of repairing the world. We have trained more than 1,300 men in specific Jewish skills — kosher supervision, writing Torah scrolls and sacred parchments, arbitration, antique appraisal, kosher butchering and other fields. Many of these individuals are now in the workforce and are able to support their families. The Institute helps respond to Israel's national challenge of unemployment and fulfill Maimonides' highest level of providing for others, by enabling them to work."

The Institute sponsors a free soup kitchen that provides healthy nourishing meals for 100 individuals in Haifa each day, and a home for elderly immigrants to Israel, which offers support and encouragement in new surroundings. These crucial lifelines are a natural extension of the Institute's Torah teachings and values.

Twice a year, the Institute conducts rabbinic gatherings in Israel where hundreds of rabbis, including current and former chief rabbis of Israel, gather to discuss and resolve issues of rabbinic concern in Israel.

For more information about the Institute, contact Rabbi Elan Adler, director of public relations for the Institute, at 443-449-9774 or [rabbiadlerinIsrael@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiadlerinIsrael@gmail.com).

### "People will want to know what our generation did to support Israel."

from college, thanks to FIDF scholarships.

Consul General of Israel to New England Shai Bazak welcomed the group and reminded them, "At this very hour our young people are standing on our borders, defending us — our country, our children, our future... and here you are coming together across the world to support our soldiers."

Both keynote speakers, Col. Richard Kemp, former commander of the British Forces in Afghanistan, and IDF Major General (Ret.) Danny Yatom, former head of the Mossad, inspired the audience with stories of behind-the-scenes danger and courage. Kemp spoke of the inordinate measures Israeli soldiers take to spare the lives of civilians, even when the enemy uses them as

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## Clinton, Panetta turn up the heat on Israel

### Israel urged to lean toward peace

JOINTMEDIA NEWS

U.S. SECRETARY of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta both slammed Israel over the weekend, with Clinton accusing the country of being undemocratic, and Panetta blaming its isolation in the region.

Clinton made the comments during a closed-door session over the weekend at an annual seminar, sponsored by the Brookings Institute, examining the U.S.-Israel relationship, Israel Hayom reported.

A senior U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because Clinton's remarks were considered off the record, confirmed that the secretary of state had expressed concerns about developments in Israel, including a recent law limiting funding from foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and recent comments from conservative politicians.

She was also reported to have criticized what she sees as the increasing exclusion of women from the Israeli public sphere, specifically referencing an incident in which religious male IDF soldiers walked out of a ceremony where females were singing, and the gender-segregated buses that serve some of the country's most ultra-

Orthodox communities. Clinton told the audience that the incidents reminded her of Iran and the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1960s, respectively.

Israeli press reported that Clinton criticized a recent wave of legislation in Israel that critics say are aimed at stifling dissent. Israeli media did not provide quotes or a detailed summary and the State Department has said it will not release a transcript of Clinton's remarks.

Recent controversial legislation includes a bill that restricts foreign funding for left-wing NGOs and a draft bill that would make it easier for journalists to be sued.

Israeli critics of the legislation say the bills are an attempt to stifle dissent among dovish groups in the country and muzzle the left wing against the hawkish government. Supporters say the bills would stop foreign interference and demand accountability in the media.

While the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry did not issue reactions, several members of the Knesset expressed criticism over Clinton's remarks.

Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz said Clinton's comments were "absolutely exaggerated."

"The issue of the separation of women and attempts to prevent



SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON and U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta participate in a discussion at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., in August 2011.

them from participating is unacceptable and must be stopped," Steinitz said after the weekly cabinet meeting Sunday, but, he added, there is a large gap between this

and the claim that it threatens Israeli democracy. "Israeli democracy is alive, breathing, kicking and liberal," he stressed.

**"The issue of the separation of women is unacceptable."**

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Friday strongly encouraged Israel to restart peace negotiations with the Pales-

tinians, saying he is troubled by the Jewish state's growing isolation in the increasingly volatile region, according to Israel Hayom. "This isolation is due to a number of factors," Panetta said. He said there is an international campaign underway to isolate Israel, and that U.S. President Barack Obama has "stood steadfastly in the way of that effort, especially in the United Nations." Panetta said he had been working with Defense Minister Ehud Barak and others "to find ways to help Israel take steps which are profoundly in its interests."

Panetta urged Israeli leaders to "reach out and mend fences with those who share an interest in regional stability" – countries such as Turkey, Egypt and Jordan. "This

is not impossible," he said. "If the gestures are rebuked, the world will see those rebukes for what they are. And that is exactly why Israel should pursue them."

Panetta also addressed the stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, and pressed Israeli leaders to do more to restart negotiations, imploring them to "just get to the damn table." Direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority broke down in late September 2010 when Israel's 10-month moratorium on settlement construction in the West Bank expired.

Panetta encouraged Israel to "lean forward" to achieve peace with the Palestinians. "Rather than undermining the Palestinian Authority, it is in Israel's interests to strengthen it by... continuing to transfer Palestinian tax revenues and pursuing other avenues of cooperation," he said.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday responded to Panetta's assertion that Israel is not doing enough to return to negotiations by blaming the Palestinian leadership for the deadlock in peace talks.

The Palestinians are "playing diplomatic games to try to cover their position, which is to boycott Israel and to refuse to enter negotiations," spokesman Mark Regev said. He added that Israel remains prepared to resume peace talks without preconditions.

## Our Israeli emissary travels the East Coast

Noa Prawer visits the 'Big Apple,' Boston and Cape Cod in October

### Provincetown, Cape Cod

Cape Cod was amazing (top left) – I went to the shore and saw seals, toured the beautiful town and rode my bike on a route that goes through the forest into a lake.

### 'Near Hahvahd Yahd'

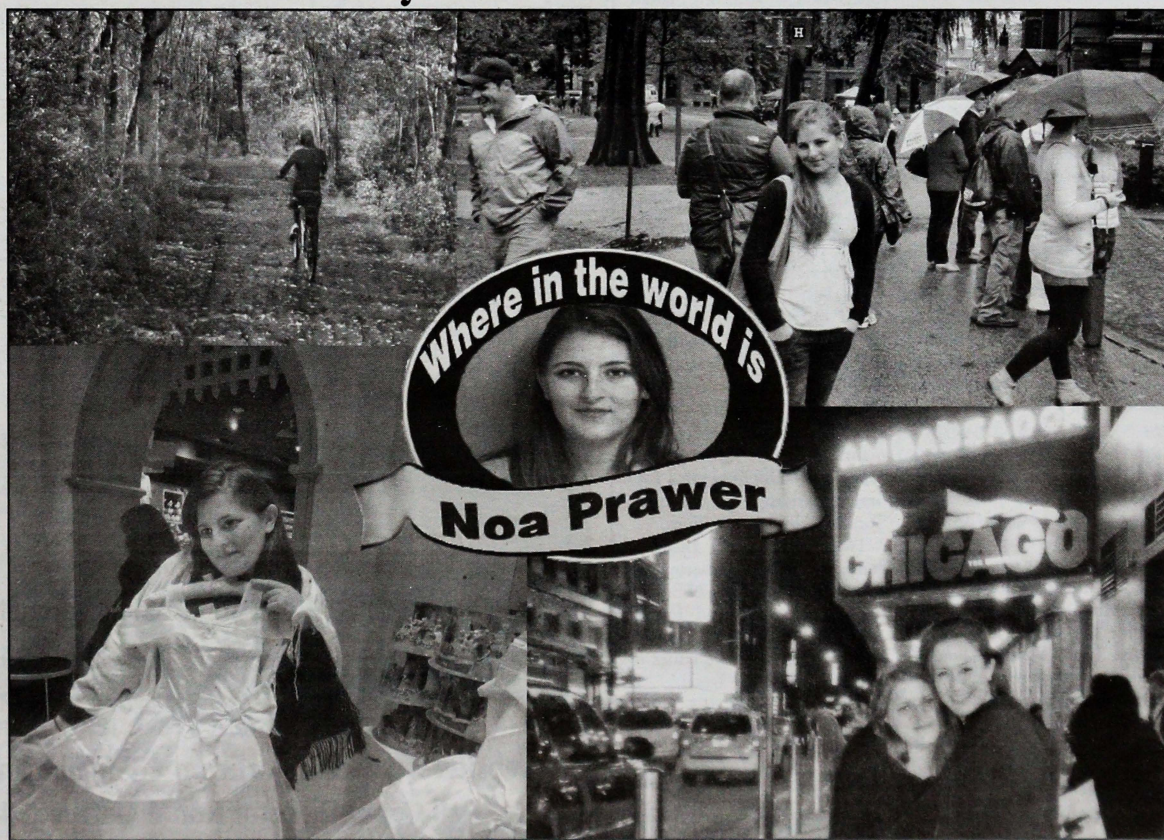
During my trip to Boston (top right), I visited Harvard. It has such beautiful buildings and there is such history there. Here, I am standing near Matt Damon's old dormitory.

### Times Square

Here I am at the Disney Store in Times Square (bottom left). Like other girls, I always dreamed of being a fairytale princess. What do you think? Can I pull it off?

### Broadway

I went to see "Chicago" (bottom right) on Broadway! We had to wait in line to buy the tickets for 90 minutes but it was worth it – the actors were amazing, and the music and setting were incredible!





# Holiday gift drive at the JCC



## Consider a different Hanukkah gift this year

By LARRY KATZ  
lkatz@shalomri.org

**I**F YOU'RE TIRED of giving gifts that are tossed aside shortly after they're unwrapped, why not give the gift of a lifetime? Give the gift of camp, and possibly save \$1,000.

If your child has never been to an overnight Jewish summer camp, you may be eligible for a grant. With more than 155 camps across North America to choose from — traditional and specialty — there's bound to be a place that's ideal for your child.

Summers at overnight camps are packed with a wide range of activities, from aquatics, arts and crafts and archery to basketball, outdoor adventure and hiking, and more. Campers discover talents and interests they never knew they had.

By weaving Jewish values,

culture and traditions into their daily activities, Jewish camps help campers connect to their 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.

Camp registration for summer 2012 is in full swing, so don't be left out in the cold! Register for an amazing summer at camp now, and then visit [onehappy camper.org/Hanukkah](http://onehappy camper.org/Hanukkah) to apply for your grant!

Camps span different denominations of Judaism and accommodate special needs in myriad ways.

For more information or to register, visit [www.onehappy camper.org](http://www.onehappy camper.org). Contact Larry Katz at 421-4111, ext. 179 or [lkatz@shalomri.org](mailto:lkatz@shalomri.org) if you have questions.

PROVIDENCE — You can help the Alliance provide gifts to families in our community who need some assistance in providing their children with holiday gifts.

The JCC at the Alliance is hosting its annual Holiday Gift Drive for children in our community. All gifts and donations are tax-deductible. Let us know if you would like a letter for charitable donations mailed to you.

It's easy to help; just follow these three simple steps: Choose a gift tag from one of the Holiday Gift Drive donation centers (the Alliance lobby and J-Fitness); purchase the items on the gift tag; and return the gifts no later than Dec. 12, with gift tags attached.

If you don't have time to go shopping, consider dropping off a check made payable to "JCC at the Alliance" (write Holiday Gift



Drive in the memo line). Our Holiday Gift Drive host will purchase gifts for you.

If you're looking for a unique way to donate, purchase a Hanukkah Party Pack for \$8; it includes paper goods plus extras such as party invitations, self-stick gift

tags, and decorations; all with a Hanukkah theme! One hundred percent of the proceeds will be used to purchase gifts for the Holiday Gift Drive.

For more information, contact Heidi Lebrón at [heidi@shalomri.org](mailto:heidi@shalomri.org) or 421-4111.

## 'Sassy Art' for the holidays

PROVIDENCE — Michele Keir's "Art for Parkinson's Disease Research in Rhode Island / The Sassy Nail Art Collection" will be on display at the Epoch on the East-side Assisted Living Residence, 1 Butler Ave., in Providence throughout December. The exhibit, open to the public, includes a collection of Judaica-themed images, new pieces and old favorites.

Keir, who has Parkinson's disease, creates colorful work from photos of her own nails that she then transformed into fine art. All proceeds from the sale of her works go directly to the American Parkinson Disease Association for research grants in Rhode Island.

For more information, visit her website: <http://keirdesigns.webstarts.com/index.html> or email [sassynailart@aol.com](mailto:sassynailart@aol.com).

### Hanukkah on the Harbor

*Majestic*

Monday, Dec 26, 2011  
Boarding: 2:30pm  
Departing: 3:00pm  
Return: 4:30pm

Adults \$25  
Children (3-12) \$15  
Under 3 Free!

#### Chanukah Cruise on the Majestic

- Complimentary cocoa
- Chanukah songs
- Family Photos
- Face painting
- Kosher snacks
- Latkes
- Dreidel Games
- Crafts

Majestic Departs from  
2 Bowen's Ferry Landing Newport, RI  
To Purchase tickets, please visit  
[www.NewportMajestic.com](http://www.NewportMajestic.com)  
or call 401-849-3575



## 'A Gift to the City'

AT THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL'S annual meeting, Jeff Brier, left, presents Providence Mayor Angel Taveras with a copy of "The Miriam Hospital, A Gift to the City," by Brian Jones. Approximately 150 people attended the annual meeting, which was held at Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass., on Thursday, Nov. 3.

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

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## Friday

### Dec. 9

#### Yiddish Shmooz

Guest speaker Rabbi Peter Stein of Temple Sinai

The Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

9:30 – 11 a.m.

More info: 421-4111

#### Congressman Cicilline at Beth-El

U.S. Rep. David Cicilline will speak after Shabbat services.

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

5:30 p.m. – Shabbat dinner; 7 p.m. – Shabbat service

\$18 for dinner

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

## Saturday

### Dec. 10

#### The PJ Library Shabbat at Beth Shalom Synagogue

Hanukkah stories with guest storyteller Ruth Forstadt; for children ages 3 – 8, accompanied by adult.

Kids' Room, Beth Shalom Synagogue, 275 Camp St., Providence

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

More info: Elly Leyman at elly207@gmail.com

## Sunday

### Dec. 11

#### Temple Emanu-El's Rosen Library Book Sale

Books for adults and youth, some audio books and videos available to buy.

Library, Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

More info: 331-1616

#### Torat Tots Pre-School Program

Introduction to Jewish tradition for preschoolers; meets one or two Sundays a month.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

9 – 11 a.m.

\$200/year for synagogue members; \$275 for nonmembers; 50 percent discount for second child

More info: www.toratysrael.org, Rabbi Levin at ty.rabbi@gmail.com or Donna Tarutz at tarutz@toratysrael.org

#### Temple Sinai Seniors Concert

Shireinu Jewish choral ensemble presents Hanukkah songs, familiar and new tunes,

and music reflecting Jewish tradition and experiences.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

1 p.m.

More info: Susan Gara at 615-8552 or Temple Sinai at 942-8350

#### Tamarisk Open House

Visit remodeled respite and trial apartments. Refreshments, raffles and give-a-ways.

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

1 – 4 p.m.

More info: 732-0037

#### Temple Beth-El Hanukkah Celebration and Concert

Event features David Grover and the Big Bear Band; refreshments and gifts for children.

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

4 p.m.

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

## Monday

### Dec. 12

#### Peter Mark at UMass/Dartmouth

Dr. Peter Mark, Professor of Art History at Wesleyan University, presents "The Forgotten Diaspora: Jewish Communities in West Africa and the Making of the Atlantic World."

Foster Building, UMass/Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, North Dartmouth, MA

3 – 4:30 p.m.

More info: Rabbi Jacqueline Satlow at 508-910-6551 or jsatlow@umassd.edu.

## Tuesday

### Dec. 13

#### Tuesdays Together – Hanukkah Party Time

Story time, music, student singers and treats. Make beeswax candles. Ages newborn – 4, with a responsible adult.

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

10 – 11 a.m.

More info: Dina Adelsky at 751-2470 or dadelksy@jcdsri.org

#### Book Discussion at Temple Sinai

Rabbi Peter Stein leads discussion of "When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry" by Gal Beckerman.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

11 a.m.

More info: 942-8350

## Thursday

### Dec. 15

#### JERI Satellite Office Hours

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

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

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

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

#### JCDS Preschool Story Time at Rochambeau Library

Children under 8 enjoy a funny Hanukkah story and participate with puppets and songs.

Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope St., Providence

3:30 p.m.

More info: Dina Adelsky at 751-2470 or dadelksy@jcdsri.org

#### Adoption Options Informational Meeting

For those considering adoption and interested in hearing about available options.

Jewish Family Service, 959 N. Main St., Providence

6 – 7 p.m.

More info: Peg Boyle at 331-5437 or peg@jfsri.org

#### Festival of Israeli Art in Sharon through Dec. 18

Exhibition and sale includes 1,500 works by 100 Israeli artists, featuring original oil paintings, watercolors, lithographs and etchings from Safrai Gallery in Jerusalem.

Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon, MA

Dec. 15: 7 – 10 p.m.; Dec. 16: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Dec. 17: 7 – 11 p.m.; Dec. 18: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More info: 781-784-3986

#### Vodka + Latke

State Ultra Lounge, 1 Throop Alley, Providence

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

\$18 includes two drinks, latkes and appetizers

More info: Rabbi Michael Weinstein at 421-4111, ext. 223 or mweinstein@shalomri.org

## Friday

### Dec. 16

#### The PJ Library Story Time at Books on the Square

Interactive story time with

books, songs, crafts and snacks.

Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Providence

10 a.m.

More info: 421-4111, ext. 180

#### Lunch and Learn: Kosher Senior Café

Program: Birthday celebrations and performance by "Ocean State Klassical Kids."

Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

11:15 a.m. – Program; Noon – Lunch

\$3 lunch donation for 60+

More info: Elaine or Steve at 732-0047

*This location hosts a meal site every weekday.*

## Saturday

### Dec. 17

#### Celebrate Israel at Dizengoff in December

Enjoy Israeli art, music and food.

Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon, MA

7 p.m.

\$5

More info: 781-784-3986

## Sunday

### Dec. 18

#### "It's For You" – Southern New England Women's Conference

Day of study, dialogue and reflection through workshops, lectures and exercises, with keynote speaker Reyna Simnegar, sponsored by Providence Community Kollel.

JCC at the Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

\$50, includes kosher luncheon

More info: 273-3923

#### Sculpty Dreidel Workshop

Create a dreidel and enter it in the dreidel contest during the Hanukkah Dinner.

JCC at the Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

3 – 5 p.m.

More info: 861-8800

## Monday

### Dec. 19

#### Temple Sinai Sisterhood Meeting

Book review of "Miriam's Kitchen: A Memoir" by Elizabeth Ehrlich.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

# CALENDAR

7 p.m.

More info: 942-8350

## Tuesday

### Dec. 20

#### East Greenwich Lunch & Learn

Topic: "Between Jews and Non-Jews." Participants order from the menu and Rabbi Amy Levin leads the discussion.

T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Road, East Greenwich

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

#### Hanukkah at Warwick Mall

Giant menorah lighting, Stan Freedman & Sounds of Simcha, arts and crafts, Hanukkah sale and gift shop, greetings from dignitaries, donuts and Hanukkah gelt.

Warwick Mall

5:30 p.m.

More info: Chabad of West Bay at 884-7888 or www.rjewishkids.com/789177

## Wednesday

### Dec. 21

#### Lunch and Learn Kosher Senior Café

Topic: "Government Services" Paula Bradley from United States Senator Whitehouse's office explains available resources and how to access them.

JCC at the Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

Noon – Lunch; 12:45 p.m. – Program

\$3 lunch donation for 60+

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

*This location hosts a meal site every Wednesday and Friday.*

#### Hanukkah Candle Lighting Ceremony at Statehouse

Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts joins Chabad of Rhode Island at celebration. Hanukkah prayers for peace, music, songs, latkes and gelt.

Rhode Island Statehouse

6:30 p.m.

More info: 273-7238

CALENDAR, Page 13

#### Calendar Submissions

Please note: Our next issue of The Voice & Herald will be published on Dec. 23. Please send calendar items for that issue by Dec. 12. Calendar items for the Jan. 6 issue are due by Dec. 28.

Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org with the subject line of "CALENDAR."





*Jewish Seniors Agency*

BERNICE WEINER, left, Marcia Gerstein, Seena Dittelman, Sylvia Brown and Anita Stein wrap Rosh Hashanah gifts.

## Life membership opportunity

### *JSA Women's Association holds 'non-event'*

PROVIDENCE – The Women's Association of the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSA) is celebrating 100 years by holding a "non-event" and offering life membership at a discounted rate of \$100. This offer is only good through the end of December 2011.

One hundred years ago, a few women in the Rhode Island Jewish community began The

Ladies Hebrew Union Aid Association to open a home for elderly Jewish residents. Today, in 2011, the Women's Association of JSA is an all-volunteer organization that provides significant financial support to JSA through its raffles, the Knit Shoppe at JSA, programs and membership.

Please consider becoming a life member, giving the gift of life membership to a loved one, or honoring someone special.

For more information or to enroll as a life member, email [info@jsari.org](mailto:info@jsari.org) (attention Jane Jacober or Maybeth Licha) or call 351-4750.

### Hanukkah at Pawtuxet Park

Pawtuxet Park, Narragansett Parkway, Warwick Menorah lighting, Hanukkah songs, latkes and gelt.

7:30 p.m.

More info: Chabad of West Bay at 884-7888 or [www.rabbiwarwick.com](http://www.rabbiwarwick.com)

## Thursday

Dec. 22

### JERI Satellite Office Hours

Topic: "Schmeer and Schmooze."

See JERI entry of Dec. 15.

Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket

9 – 10 a.m.

More info: Susan Adler at 621-5374 or [sadler-jeri@jsari.org](mailto:sadler-jeri@jsari.org)

### Temple Torat Yisrael's Cranston/Warwick Lunch & Learn

See Dec. 20 entry

Cozy Grill Restaurant, 440 Warwick Ave., Warwick

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

### Hanukkah Celebration at Cranston City Hall

Menorah lighting, arts and crafts, hot latkes

City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston

4:30 p.m.

More info: 884-7888 or [www.rabbiwarwick.com](http://www.rabbiwarwick.com)

### Dreidel-Tastic Hanukkah Family Dinner

Kosher dairy meal, magic show, dreidel and Hanukkah crafts, J-Kids performance

JCC at the Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

5 – 8 p.m.

\$8/adult; \$6/18 months–12 years.; \$32/family of 5; advance tickets required

More info: Shannon at 421-4111, ext. 147 or [sboucher@shalomri.org](mailto:sboucher@shalomri.org)

### Hug N'hamah: Circle of Consolation

Rabbi Amy Levin and Dr. Tom Broffman facilitate bereavement discussion group.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

## Friday

Dec. 23

### Yiddish Shmooz

Celebrate Hanukkah with latkes, applesauce, cookies and a menorah lighting. Optional gift exchange of \$5-valued gifts.

JCC at the Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

More info: 421-4111

### Temple Sinai Hanukkah Service

Annual Hanukkah services features Shireinu; pizza, salads and latkes.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

6 p.m.

\$5/person; \$20/family maximum

More into: 942-8350

## Monday

Dec. 26

### Olive-Pressing Workshop

Make olive oil at hands-on workshop.

Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick

3:30 p.m.

\$8

More info: 884-7888 or [www.rabbiwarwick.com](http://www.rabbiwarwick.com).



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## Temple Beth-El Brotherhood hosts Gina Raimondo

### *Pension reform legislation conversation draws a crowd*

By JONATHAN STANZLER  
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — The new Rhode Island pension law is a “tremendous step forward,” in the words of Gina Raimondo, general treasurer of the State of Rhode Island.

Raimondo, the principal author of the recently passed pension reform law, spoke to approxi-

mately 100 individuals at a Temple Beth-El Brotherhood breakfast on Sunday morning, Nov. 20. In her 30-minute presentation that included first her brief statement and then questions from the audience, Raimondo lauded the new law, and praised the process that led to its passage. “Government can work [when] people come together and make their voices heard.” The law reduces the state’s unfunded liability by \$3 billion, she noted, but this comes about because people made clear that they wanted change and action by their elected representatives.

Though pension reform is a “challenging and treacherous

issue,” the people of Rhode Island said, “fix it,” and it was fixed, she said. The alternative, said Raimondo, would have been “unacceptable” increases in property and state taxes, and “a pension system that would have run out of money.”

Raimondo praised the work of the General Assembly, and said she was particularly grateful for the work of Governor Lincoln Chafee and the General Assembly’s Speaker of the House, Gordon Fox (D-Prov.). She also noted the valuable work of numerous outside experts, who helped make pension reform a matter of “math, not politics.” But she cautioned that passage of the law is



GINA RAIMONDO

but believes, in any event, that the state will prevail in any legal action.

Raimondo also talked at length about municipal pension problems. Each of the 36 city, town or district plans, she said, requires its own remediation plan. Responding to allegations that the new state law did not address sufficiently the municipal pension problem, she noted that each plan is required to submit an actuarial study of its financial condition by April 1, 2012 and a remediation plan by Dec. 31, 2012.

Any failure to do so could result in withholding of state aid in future years. She called on all involved in solving the municipal plan crisis to “roll up their sleeves and fix the plans,” adding that she is available to help. Mayors and city and town managers must take the lead, said Raimondo.

Reiterating her support for the new law, which restricts automatic cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs), Raimondo believes it will also discourage “double dipping,” whereby public employees retire after 20 years with a full pension and then gain full-time employment elsewhere. Because the new retirement age for most people is now 67, double dipping “isn’t really [an option],” anymore, she said.

*Jonathan Stanzler is a lawyer in private practice and a member of The Jewish Voice & Herald’s editorial board. Contact him at jonstanzler@cox.net.*

### “Pension reform is a challenging and treacherous issue... people said ‘fix it.’”

only a first step, and that there is “much work to do.”

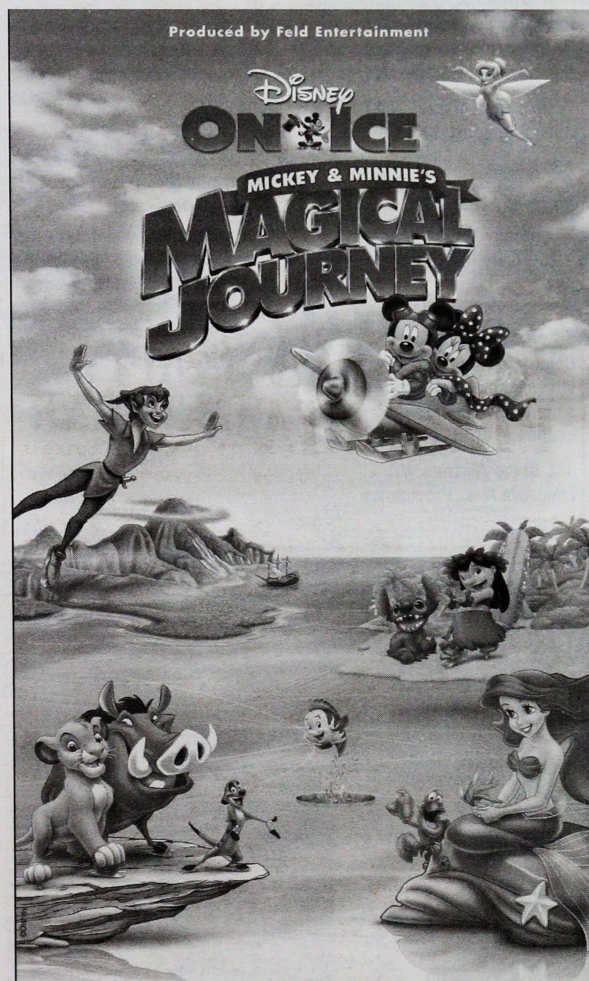
Rhode Island must now implement a new hybrid plan of defined benefits and a 401(k)-style defined contribution plan, she said, and tackle the serious financial problems inherent in many municipal pension plans. But the new law “gets this state on the road to recovery” and will help meet expenses for our public schools and other needs, she said.

After her remarks, the atten-

tive audience engaged in a spirited question and answer session.

In response to a question about recent reports of possible disability pension fraud and the role of her office, Raimondo acknowledged “sloppiness” was evident when she took over last January, but asserted that she “immediately took action,” with changes in investigative personnel and a “totally revamped” compliance review.

In answering a question as to whether Rhode Island’s public employees’ unions now “get it,” she predicted that a union-backed lawsuit would almost certainly be filed, but also believed that, as a result of the new law, “young teachers will get a pension.” She expressed optimism that union leaders would eventually “get it,”



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# Recipes from readers

**I**LANA KAPACH and Eric Lewin, featured in this issue's Family Pages, shared recipes with The Voice & Herald

This kefta recipe, which was not part of the story on page 25, makes a superb kabob, Kapach said. You may use lean ground meat, but the traditional recipe calls for a higher-fat content. The meat, fat, spices and herbs would all be passed through a meat grinder together.

## Kefta

### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef or lamb, or a combination of the two
- 3 ounces beef or lamb fat, optional
- 1 medium onion, chopped very fine
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon hot ground pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)
- 1 tablespoon chopped mint leaves, optional

### Method

Mix all ingredients together in a large mixing bowl, and leave for an hour or longer to allow the flavors to blend.

Shape into meatballs about the size of an egg. Heat oil in a skillet over medium flame and, working in batches, sauté the meatballs until browned on all sides and cooked through.

Browned meatballs can also be finished in a 350-degree oven. Or, if you want to make kebabs, take small amounts of kefta and shape them into cylinder or sausage shapes. Skewer the meat, squeezing it to mold it the skewer.

Cook over hot coals, approximately 5 minutes each side. It may take less or more time, depending on how hot the coals are, and how thick you shaped the kefta.

Watch the kebabs carefully, so you do not dry out the kefta.

Serves 4.

*Recipe is courtesy of Christine Benlafquih.*

## Sphinge, sfinge or sfenj

This is a modified version of Alice Ohana's recipe described on page 25.

### Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons yeast
- 1-and-1/4 cups warm water
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Oil for frying

### Method

Dissolve the yeast in warm water and set aside. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. Add water and yeast mixture, and stir vigorously with a large spoon until completely mixed. The dough should be too sticky to knead or shape by hand.

Cover the bowl and leave to rise for 3 - 4 hours, until double or triple in bulk, and mix or knead.

In a large pot, heat an inch or more of oil until hot. Dip your hands in water and pull a piece of dough and place dough in hot oil.

Fry until puffy and golden brown, flipping once or twice. Repeat this process with rest of dough. Remove the finished *sphinge* and place on a plate lined with paper towels to drain. Serve the sphinghe hot. If desired, sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.

Makes 8 - 10 *sphinghe*.

## Aunt Doris' latkes

This latke recipe is also good for Passover. Read Eric's story on page 23.

### Ingredients

- 3 - 4 potatoes
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 - 2 tablespoons matzah meal
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Vegetable oil for frying

### Method

Grate potatoes and onion. Add and mix in remaining ingredients.

Fry in vegetable oil on each side until golden brown.

Makes 30 to 40 cocktail-sized latkes.

Happy Hanukkah

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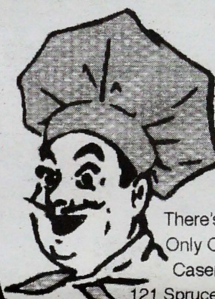
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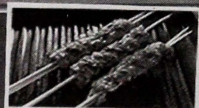
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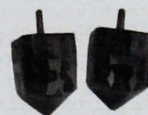
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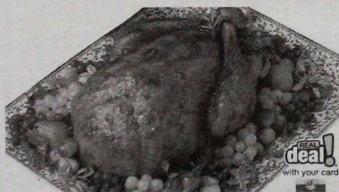


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## Not just bread, bagels and bialys, but cookies, too

*New cookbook offers  
a treasure-trove  
of recipes*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

**P**ART HISTORY book, part "how-to" (shape a bagel, bake a bagel, etc.) and part "walk down memory lane" for the authors, "Inside the Jewish Bakery, Recipes and Memories from the Golden Age of Jewish Baking" makes me quite sad that I must follow a gluten-free diet.

The color photos of challah twists, onion rolls, puff pastry turnovers, chocolate babka and apple strudels, among other mouth-watering carbohydrates, are tempting and tantalizing: I think I put on pounds just poring over the enticing photos and recipes!

Even as an experienced baker, I found the recipes' format a bit distracting — each ingredient is listed by volume, and in ounces, grams and baker's percentage.

While I can't consume the results of these recipes, you, our readers, may. These colorful cookies might appeal to children, who could help with some of these recipes. Food coloring, anyone?

### Rainbow cookies

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup almond or macaroon paste, at room temperature
- 1 cup egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon table salt
- 1-and-3/4 cup and 2 tablespoons cake flour, unsifted
- 1-and-3/4 teaspoons vanilla
- 15-20 drops red food coloring
- 15-20 drops yellow food coloring
- 15-20 drops green food coloring
- 1/4 cup apricot or raspberry jam, melted

#### Method

Preheat oven to 400, with rack in the middle. Cut or break the almond or macaroon paste into small pieces and add to the mixing bowl, along with 1/4 cup of the beaten egg. Using the whisk at medium speed, blend until smooth and lump-free, about 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the butter, shortening, salt and remaining egg. Beat until soft and light in color, 7 to 8 minutes.

Add the flour, 1/2 cup at a time, followed by the vanilla extract. Continue creaming until the batter is evenly mixed, with a very light texture resembling buttercream.

Divide the butter into three equal portions of about 10 ounces each, and put each into a separate bowl. Add a different food coloring to each and whisk until thoroughly blended.

Transfer the contents of each



bowl into three separate well-greased 8-inch square brownie or cake pans.

Spread to even thickness and bake until the edges are light brown and a tester comes out dry, 10 to 12 minutes.

Remove to a rack and let cool thoroughly. If necessary, you can bake the batters in several states: Simply remove the finished cake from the pan, rinse and dry it, re-grease it and bake the next color.

Melt the jam in the top of a double boiler or on very low heat to avoid burning.

Brush as thin a layer of the melted jam as possible on top of the green layer and immediately put the yellow layer on top. Repeat for the red layer, so that you end up with a multicolored block, with the jam as the glue.

Wrap the block in plastic and return it to one of the baking pans. Use a second pan on top to compress the layers. Add 2 to 3 pounds of weight on top of the second pan and refrigerate for 24 hours.

Remove the block from the refrigerator and cut into four 8x2x2-inch bricks. Frost them with simple chocolate icing or ganache.

When cool, use a sharp knife to cut the bricks crosswise into 1/2-inch slices.

Makes 4 to 5 dozen cookies.

### French cookies

#### Ingredients

- 2/3 cup almond or macaroon paste
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 3 large egg whites, well-beaten
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2-and-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons butter flavoring
- 2 cups bread flour, unsifted

#### Method

Preheat oven to 400, with rack in the middle. Cut or break the almond or macaroon paste into small pieces.

Using a mixer, blend the nut paste, sugar, salt and 1 tablespoon of the egg white until smooth and lump-free, 5 to 6 minutes.

Add the butter and shortening and cream until soft and light in color, 5 to 6 minutes.

Add the vanilla and butter flavoring, mix until blended, followed by the remaining egg white in a thin stream. Continue creaming until the mixture is very light and fluffy, almost like a buttercream frosting.

Add the flour, 1/2 to 1 cup at a time, and mix by hand to a smooth, creamy paste.

Using a pastry bag with a large star tip or a heavy-gauge plastic bag with one corner snipped off to

make a 1/2-inch opening, pipe the cookies onto well-greased cookie



or parchment-lined sheet pans in 1-and-1/2-inch rounds or 2-inch oblongs. Make sure to leave at least 1 inch between cookies. If desired, lightly press a candied cherry or nut half into the center of each cookie, before baking.

Bake until the bottom edges have a light brown ring, 10 to 12 minutes.

When cool, leave as is or spread the oblongs with your choice of jam to make sandwiches.

If desired, you can also dip one end of the plain oblong or sandwiches until melted semisweet or milk chocolate.

Makes 2 to 3 dozen cookies.

*Recipes and photos from "Inside the Jewish Bakery, Recipes and Memories from the Golden Age of Baking," by Stanley Ginsberg and Norman Berg; published by Camino Books, Inc. in 2011; ISBN 978-1-933822-23-5.*

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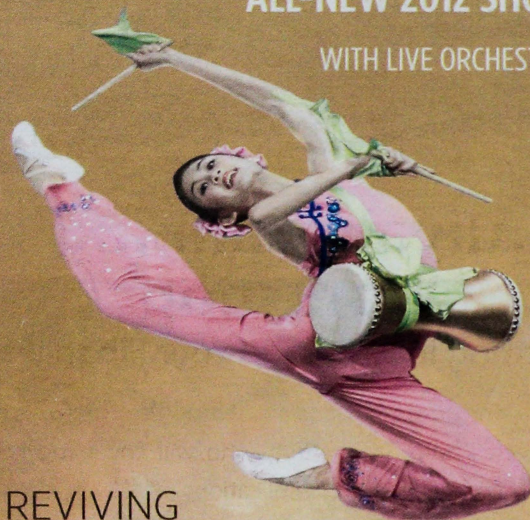
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SARAH FORMAN, ALEXANDER ROFES, and JOEY RESNICK with Rep. Barney Frank at a VIP reception on Oct. 18, 2011.

## STUDENTS find Jewish life through Hillel's presence on campuses

From Page 1

If URI lacked an active Hillel, Lily Nieto, 19, a sophomore from Needham, Mass., "would be lost."

Hillel's Shabbat dinners, services and programs "make this big college experience more homey," said Nieto, chair of First Year Students at Hillel (FYSH).

Without Hillel, Sam Krasner, 23, of Cranston, wouldn't have his "home away from home."

Fortunately, there is an active Hillel at URI, and Executive Director Amy Olson is a fan of "no-guilt Judaism."

Noting that no organization reaches 100 percent of its target audience, Olson wants Jewish students who infrequently attend Hillel events "to let the guilt go."

### FINDING THE JEWISH STUDENTS

Unlike some universities, URI doesn't include optional questions about religion on its application; as a result, finding Jewish students is, Olson said, "an investigative process. It's painstaking work on our part to keep ferreting them out."

URI's Chaplains Association mails postcards to enrolled freshmen (about 3,700 each year) requesting optional religion information; of 400 or so cards returned, 300 come from Catholic students and some 40 are from Jewish students. Booths or programs at Accepted Students' Day, Orientation, First Night (a freshmen-only autumn event) draw Jewish students or their parents to Hillel — as do programs at the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, such as the welcome barbecue and Shabbat service early in the academic year.

The Alliance's annual allocation (\$60,000 this year) funds some 24 percent of the overall URI Hillel budget, approximately \$250,000. Unlike the allocations to Brown RISD Hillel, which fund specific programs, allocations to URI Hillel "fund the essence of Hillel; Hillel's presence is its program," Olson said.

Asked to imagine URI without Hillel, she said, "It would be very difficult — there is no Jewish studies program here, there isn't kosher food in the dorms...and not that so many kids keep kosher, but it's a magnet for those who do. Hillel offers the informal kind of Jewish education and socialization that wouldn't [otherwise] exist at URI."

URI Hillel Student Board President Rebecca Kraut, 21, of Hauppauge, N.Y., describes Hillel as "almost a second home,"

for students who discover it offers a comfortable environment; for some, Hillel is their first Jewish experience. Others have been active in synagogue, youth group or camp and want to continue their Jewish involvement; others have "been there, done that and want to take a break," said Kraut.

Krasner calls his Hillel experiences "educational" — last spring's mock wedding was the first Jewish wedding he'd ever attended — and "mind-blowing" — the alternative spring break to Los Angeles, where he and others planted trees and volunteered with L.A. Family Housing, an organization helping families find permanent housing.

Hillel and AEPi, a Jewish fraternity on campus, help reinforce his Jewish identity and beliefs. "We [celebrate] the holidays that I did with my family; now, I [celebrate] them with peers," he said. "I have an understanding now of why I'm doing [certain traditions]."

One of a small number of Jewish Rhode Islanders at URI, Krasner is pleased that Hillel and AEPi, which he serves as president, collaborate. One such collaborative initiative may be a fundraiser this spring for Sharsheret, a nonprofit organization for young Jewish women facing breast cancer.

### BY THE NUMBERS

A review of URI Hillel offerings is stunning: Some 65 programs, services, events or activities were held from January through October 2011, exclusive of June, July and August. "Big programs" included the alternative community service winter break in January (in which 12 students took part), and two Birthright Israel trips in May (in which 15 students participated). Closer to home, the Israel Culture Club/Year-End BBQ welcomed 49 students and Mitzvah Day in March engaged 43 students.

Some 400 Jewish students (Olson estimates 1,200 of the more than 14,000 undergraduates are Jewish) participated in some program at the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center last year, Olson said; hundreds more are impacted through Hillel's activities and advocacy initiatives on campus.

Of Brown RISD Hillel, Einhorn said, "[It] is both a center for Jewish and campus life." Estimating Brown's student body as approximately 20 percent Jewish (with 1,200 Jewish students) and RISD's as approximately 10 percent Jewish (with 200 Jewish

HILLELS, Page 19



## JOURNEYS of Jewish discovery through Hillel

From Page 18

students), Einhorn said, "We see about 150 students each week and about 700 [unique visitors] during the course of the year."

Imagining the campus without Hillel, he said, "It's hard to imagine how Jewish life would exist. What would campus look like without an opportunity to learn with Rabbi [Mordechai] Rackover, Jewish faculty members or others as a community and share in one another's religious practices and learn new ones? Hillel is an active partner to enhance student experience for Jewish and non-Jewish students and to be a voice for Jewish students."

### ENGAGEMENT OUTSIDE THE BOX

Not all Jewish students are or desire to be engaged in Hillel.

Brown RISD Hillel's four engagement interns, who receive stipends, do not focus on getting students to Hillel, said Kotler-Berkowitz, but "to meet people where they are and connect with them. For some, it's coming into the building for Shabbat; for

help pay for baking supplies and ingredients to make the challahs, which are then sold to raise funds.

Another Brown RISD Hillel intern, she said, is working with Birthright students to create a "contrasts"-themed art exhibit. Micro-grant funds will pay to mount the exhibit and the art opening reception, she said. "[It] will be a reunion moment for [past and current] Birthright students, many of whom aren't connected to Hillel."

At URI, whose Jewish student population is smaller than Brown's, on a percentage basis, Hillel is doing something similar, thanks to a grant from international Hillel. This year, three Peer Network Engagement Interns are tasked with engaging Jewish students who aren't involved in Hillel. Their job is "not to bring them to Hillel programs, but to be friends with them as Jews... be the 'concierge of Jewish activities,'" Olson said. Not Hillel cheerleaders, these students know there are resources for Jewish students and that Hillel is one such resource.

This year, with Hanukkah smack dab in



JOSH EINHORN and DAN KESSLER display homemade matzah brei, Passover 2011.

others, it's continuing what they're doing but adding a Jewish spark."

One such Jewish spark has been lit for 11 students, all new to Hillel, who will spend alternative winter break in New York City. Working with Jewish Funds for Justice, these students and the interns will engage in a weeklong program in January with individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness and those who serve those constituencies, she said. Through intensive and transformative experiences, "really great things can happen; and people bond," said Kotler-Berkowitz. With community service a significant focus for Brown students, Brown RISD Hillel found this program appealing. Of the 11 students, none of whom Kotler-Berkowitz knew, she said, "It's never just the 11 students, [but also] the circles around them."

As part of this engagement initiative, the Alliance funds and Brown RISD Hillel sponsors Jewish engagement micro-grants or "JEMs," for short. With a "kaleidoscope of ways to connect with being Jewish," Kotler-Berkowitz said students who want to create amazing things – and are willing to collaborate (a key requirement) – may receive micro-grant funding. One JEM went to local students to initiate a local presence for Challah for Hunger, a national program that aids people in Darfur; micro-grant funds

the middle of URI's final exams, URI Hillel is surveying students about how they want to balance the need to study with the desire to commemorate Hanukkah. Should it offer a big pre-holiday party or something smaller during exams?

Although "every Hillel reflects the culture of its own campus and takes the lead from its students," Olson said that she and Marshall Einhorn want to be supportive to Jewish students attending Rhode Island colleges with small Hillels (Bryant, Roger Williams and Johnson & Wales) or without any Hillel, such as Rhode Island College and Providence College.

"Hillel should be rewarding and enjoyable," said Olson, "not [something] your mother made you [attend]."

After Katrina, Gitter attended one year of high school at a Jewish day school in Manhattan before returning to New Orleans. She spoke fondly of Brown RISD Hillel's family atmosphere.

"It's such a cliché, but Alisa [Kotler-Berkowitz] and other staff want to hear about our day. It's like having parents here."

For more information, visit Brown RISD Hillel at [www.brownrisd.hillel.org](http://www.brownrisd.hillel.org); and URI Hillel at [www.urihillel.org](http://www.urihillel.org).

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## POLISH experience enlightening, eye-opening and enriching

From Page 1

or "ambassadors" of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Scott is a member of the Alliance board and serves on the Jewish Life and Learning sub-committee of the Community Development Committee. Ronni Guttin, director of Camp JORI, and Melissa Shapiro, a Camp JORI counselor, joined us a couple of days later.

Although there is some anti-Semitism, none of my other perceptions was accurate. Instead, we found the people we met in Poland to be warm, friendly, loving and caring.

As this was our first visit to Poland, we toured Warsaw and Krakow and visited the Auschwitz concentration camps before attending the annual *Limud Keszit* (*Limud Keszit*) 2011, a three-day program that draws Jews from throughout Poland for opportunities to sing, dance, worship, study and pray together.

Both Warsaw and Krakow once had significant Jewish populations with rich traditions and histories, so visiting these major cities gave us a good perspective of Jewish Poland. Our brief visit also included meetings with dignitaries, including the former ambassador of Poland to Israel.

Poland's history is rich with royalty and culture. Did you know, for example, that Frederic Chopin, Poland's greatest composer, was born in Warsaw? Or that Helena Rubinstein, a self-made millionaire and founder of the cosmetic company of the same name, was

SCOTT LIBMAN, at right, dances the *horah* in Poland.

/Curt Fissel

born in Krakow?

Warsaw is much like any large American city but for the streetcars running in every direction, in great masses. While Warsaw still contains remnants of being under Communist rule, it is in the process of literally being restored to its once vibrant status. Government buildings now look like they did centuries ago. Old Warsaw has been totally refurbished to pre-Warsaw-uprising days.

Krakow is the polar opposite of Warsaw. Wars, fascism and Communism did not influence Krakow's architectural history as much as Warsaw's. Centuries-old palaces, churches and synagogues

look today like they did when they were first constructed. The Jewish quarter, *Kazimierz*, exists today and is the home to centuries-old synagogues, some of which still operate. It is also the home of the "new" Krakow Jewish Community Center (JCC), which began with a donation from Prince Charles of England. The JCC serves as a center for day care, children's activities, senior programming and young leadership programs and dialogue with approximately 400 members, according to Jonathan Ornstein, director of the JCC.

While visiting a concentration camp is an extremely emotional experience, I found the life and

vibrancy of the Polish Jewish community to be quite breathtaking. On more than one occasion, Scott and I envied their energy and commitment to exploring their Judaism – an energy and commitment we don't always see in greater Rhode Island. Later, our envy turned to pride when we learned that the Alliance and members of our Jewish community helped foster this renaissance of Jewish life.

If you have an interest in genealogy, be forewarned: Even if you think you are of Russian descent, you may have Polish roots. Before World War II, the boundaries of Poland included the Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania. Its Jewish population was more than 3.3 million people. Today, experts estimate that some 8,000 to 20,000 Jews live in Poland. Early in the 20th century, Warsaw, a hub for

Jewish activity, was home to more than 350,000 Jews.

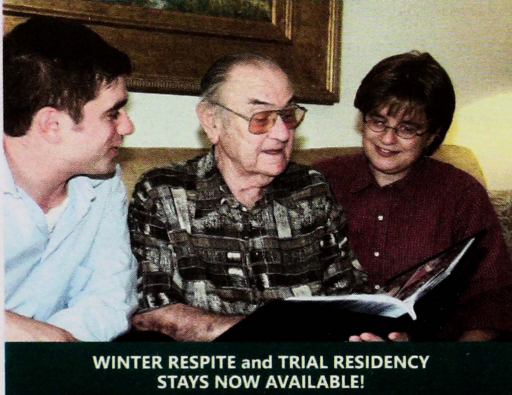
Today there is a Jewish renaissance. A generation of adults – from their early 20s to their late 50s – are discovering that their family trees are rooted in Judaism. With the fall of Communism in Poland, the people there are now free to explore who they are and where they came from, without fearing government intrusion or involvement. Just as Jews hid or converted to Christianity to survive the Spanish Inquisition, so, too, did Jews of Eastern Europe in the early 20th century. Generations later, hundreds, if not thousands of people are discovering their Jewish roots or connections. The result has been a rebirth of Jewish activity, especially in Warsaw. Interestingly a majority of the families are interfaith. In such cases, it seems that non-Jewish spouses support the Jewish identity of their spouses.

Scott, the Community Relations Council's Civil Rights and Anti-Semitism Taskforce chair, Ronni, Melissa and I were special guests at *Limud Keszit* 2011, which began with a Nov. 4 Shabbat dinner. Last summer, two Polish counselors from *Limud Keszit* worked as camp counselors at JORI ("JORI welcomes Jewish counselors from Poland" in this paper's Aug. 19, 2011 issue). During the summer of 2012, Melissa will spend two weeks as a counselor at a Jewish summer camp in Poland.

The Rhode Island contingent was seated at the head table with other dignitaries. We dined with the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich; the Ambassador of Israel to Poland, Zvi Rav-Ner and his wife;

BUILDING, Page 21

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## Finding family in Poland

### Making overseas connections

BY MARTY COOPER  
Special to The Voice & Herald

I ALWAYS KNEW that my family had Polish roots. My paternal grandfather was born in a town called Ostrowiec, near Radom, Poland. Before I left for my trip to Poland, I asked Karina Sokolowska of the Jewish Distribution Committee (JDC) in Poland to arrange for me to see the Jewish genealogist there so that I might learn more about my grandfather, other Polish ancestors and the town of Ostrowiec.

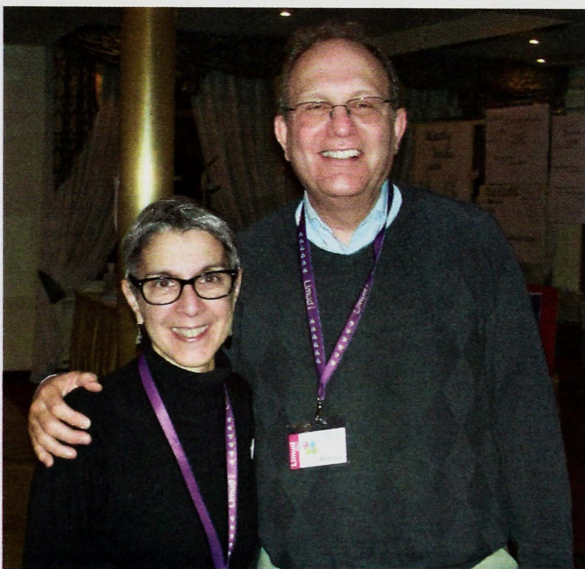
Yale Reisner, of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute Jewish Genealogy and Family Heritage Center in Warsaw, told me that my grandfather's hometown still exists and that Radom's cemetery was not

harmed during World War I or II. He told me there was a good chance that I would be able to find the plots of previous generations of my family at the Jewish cemetery. As plot stones and monuments from pre-1940 are inscribed in Yiddish or Hebrew, it is difficult for someone like me – who can't read Yiddish or Hebrew – to identify family members' gravestones. However, this cemetery, like many others in Poland, now has a database to help identify the deceased. Time constraints kept me from visiting either Radom or Ostrowiec.

Here my story takes a remarkable turn. The conversation went something like this:

**Genealogist:** Tell me about your mother's family.

**Me:** I was named for my grandmother who was from the Ukraine; she'd come to the United States via Vienna, Austria.



HELISE LIEBERMAN and MARTY COOPER

**Genealogist:** Before World War II, the Ukraine was a part of Poland and therefore your grandmother was of Polish ancestry.

(The next question made sense.)

**Genealogist:** What was her maiden name?

**Me:** Robfogel.

**Genealogist:** Hmmm, you know Robfogel is not a common name? (He calls over his wife Helise Lieberman – who hadn't heard any of this conversation) **Me:** Really, I did not know that.

**Genealogist:** Helise, why don't you tell Marty your mom's last name, where she came from and where she landed in America?

**Helise:** Hello, Marty. I am glad to see you got to meet Poland's genealogist. I hope he answered the questions you had about your grandfather.

(Helise was the second person I met when we arrived in Warsaw. She is a leader in the Jewish community.)

**Me:** My grandmother's last name was Robfogel and she was from the Ukraine. She lived with her family in Rochester, NY.

**Genealogist:** What was your grandmother's first name, and where did she live in the U.S.?

**Me:** Her first name was Minnie... She lived in Rochester, N.Y.

(At this point, both the genealogist and his wife, take a step back in surprise.)

**Genealogist:** Who did your Minnie Robfogel marry?

**Me:** My grandmother married Louis Markoff.

**Helise:** Well, I know we are not talking about the same Minnie Robfogel, because my Aunt Minnie married a man named Miller. (Now it is my turn to take a surprised step back and virtually every hair on my body is standing on end.)

**Me:** I was told that I have several relatives named Miller – related through the Robfogel family. Some even attended my parents' wedding... except for the most famous Miller – Mitch Miller of "Sing Along with Mitch." They were all from Rochester.

**Genealogist:** Marty, meet your new cousin. Helise, meet Marty, your new cousin.

**Me:** Helise, when I met you yesterday I knew we would become friends, but cousins? (As this conversation was taking place, some 100 people gathered around us as the family connections were made, with a great deal of nervous laughter, cheering and hugging.)

While we can't prove beyond a shadow of doubt that Helise and I are cousins, we strongly suspect we are. Even if we are not biologically related, we consider ourselves cousins nonetheless.

## BUILDING bridges with Polish Jews

From Page 20

Karina Sokolowska, Poland's Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) director; Stefan Oscar, JDC area director; and a major donor to *Limud Keshet* and other Polish Jewish related programs. We were greeted with great applause from a crowd of more than 700 individuals when we were introduced at the dinner as the "Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island"; ours was the only federation at the head table.

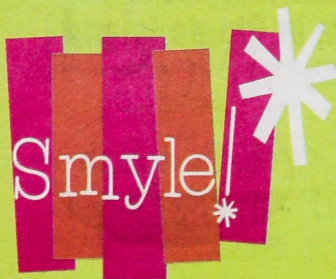
Throughout the evening people thanked us, the Alliance, for our support of the Jewish people of Poland. We received hugs, handshakes and kisses as tokens of appreciation for our commitment to help them find their Judaism and for assisting Polish Jews in need. A communal celebration of Jewish life, *Limud Keshet* included seminars, singing, dancing, art, and services, which the Orthodox and

Reform rabbis co-lead. More than 500 people sang together as one at the *havdalah* service on the evening of Nov. 5. Moments later, an Israeli singer led everyone in traditional Jewish songs. Can you imagine 500 Jews in greater Rhode Island singing and dancing the *horah*? The impact it makes is truly inspiring.

Helise Lieberman, former director of the Jewish Day School in Warsaw and now director at the Taube Center Foundation for Jewish Life in Poland, said, "We are doing a great mitzvah for the Jewish children of Poland [and] the Jewish population as a whole. As a federation from America, you help bring credibility to the Jewish renaissance taking place in the country."

In a lobby crowded with children, teens, young adults and senior citizens, Ami Mehl, direc-

POLAND, Page 22



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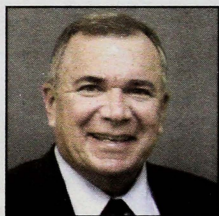
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# Sam and Esther Chester's generosity benefits Am David

*Religious school re-named, art gallery created*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

WARWICK – At a festive gathering of some 100 people on Sunday, Dec. 4, Temple Am David officially opened The Esther Chester Art Center and renamed its religious school The Temple Am David Louis and Goldie Chester Religious School, thanks to a generous gift from Sam and Esther Chester.

The theme of "I'dor va-dor," (from generation to generation) permeated Cantor Richard Perlman's comments at the gathering.

"Sam [at age 99] remembers his parents, of blessed memory," said Cantor Perlman. "It's a lesson to us all – and to our children, 'We're never too old to honor our parents.'"

The couple also donated 10 paintings done by Esther, a Rhode Island School of Design-trained artist. Valued at \$1,000 apiece, they will adorn the synagogue walls for generations to come, said Cantor Perlman. (The Voice & Herald featured the couple, "Sam and Esther Chester donate original art work," in Sept. 2, 2011 story.)

In a moving ceremony that brought tears to the eyes of some, congregants unfurled a tallis and draped it over the heads of Sam and Esther Chester to symbolize a *huppah*. "We pay tribute to you both. We admire and respect your



/David Lerner

CANTOR RICHARD PERLMAN, left, Samuel Chester and Esther Chester

generosity, your selflessness and your devotion to the needy among us," said Cantor Perlman. Chester, who donated funds to the kosher food pantry (now The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry), made a six-figure donation to Am David, said Cantor Perlman, who declined to give a precise figure. Continuing his praise, he added, "We pray that your ways be followed. May your example be remembered I'dor va-dor."

Cantor Perlman, who had earlier discovered Esther's love of chocolate, presented her with a giant-sized Hershey bar; Sam, a violinist with the Rhode Island symphony

for many years, played a love song he composed on the violin for Esther.

"Nothing is more important to him than his beloved Esther," Cantor Perlman said.

Songs and greetings by religious school students, proclamations from Warwick Mayor Scott Avdisian, greetings from Am David President Herb Singer and Marty Cooper, a former synagogue president and Community Relations Council director, a ribbon-cutting and cake and ice cream were part of the afternoon's festivities.

Herb Singer called the day "one of my fondest memories of my 46

years at Am David and one of the highlights of my current presidency."

For more information about Temple Am David, call 463-7944 or visit [www.templeamdavid.org](http://www.templeamdavid.org).



/Curt Fissel

SCOTT LIBMAN, second from left, Marty Cooper, second from right and Ronni Guttin, far right, talk with representatives from Poland's Jewish community.

## POLAND proves powerful experience

From Page 21

tor of the Jewish communities department from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel, said, "There are no more than 2,000 to 3,000 Jewish children today in Poland. Tomorrow there will be many more. We have you, the Alliance, to thank. Rhode Islanders do not know how good a mitzvah they are doing for the people of Poland. Once they were afraid to be Jewish. Today, they are proud to be Jewish."

As the wife of Ambassador Zvi Rav-Ner prepared to leave the opening ceremonial dinner, she grasped my arm and whispered, "While you are here, think with

your heart about the great things your community has done for the Jews of Poland.

In 2013, the Museum of Polish Jewish History, in conjunction with the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, will celebrate its grand opening. Designed to be several stories high and two to three city blocks long, the museum will have an entrance shaped like the Red Sea.

The Poland of tomorrow looks very promising for Polish Jews.

Marty Cooper is director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Contact him at [mcooper@shalomri.org](mailto:mcooper@shalomri.org).

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## Sharing traditions, celebrations and family rituals

### Area residents reveal holiday hints

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
voiceherald@shalomri.org

**M**ICHELLE Cicchitelli, The PJ Library coordinator, recruited area residents (and one out-of-towner) to share their thoughts and memories of holidays with The Jewish Voice & Herald. While Hanukkah is the predominant holiday theme within, one contributor offered some suggestions on simple wintertime Shabbats. They appear, in alphabetical order.

She is a member of The PJ Library Committee. Contact her at [bush.joy@gmail.com](mailto:bush.joy@gmail.com).

#### HANUKKAH DECORATIONS, PERFORMING MITZVOT

Rachel Davis and her family begin celebrating Hanukkah weeks before it is time to light the first candle. She wrote, "We might not hang lights [as her 3-year-old daughter requested], but we do have other decorations that adorn our house – teddy bears holding menorahs, glass dreidels and colorful window signs. We also discuss the meaning of Hanukkah. We work together to decide on gifts for family and friends. Through programs initiated by their school or our synagogue, we buy gifts to

"Creating a holiday atmosphere is not difficult. We listen to our favorite Hanukkah songs on CDs, and play Hanukkah games that are fun for all ages. The aromas of crisp homemade potato latkes with applesauce, delicious powdered sugar *sufginyanot* (jelly doughnuts) and homemade Hanukkah butter cookies are mouthwatering."



/Michelle Cicchitelli

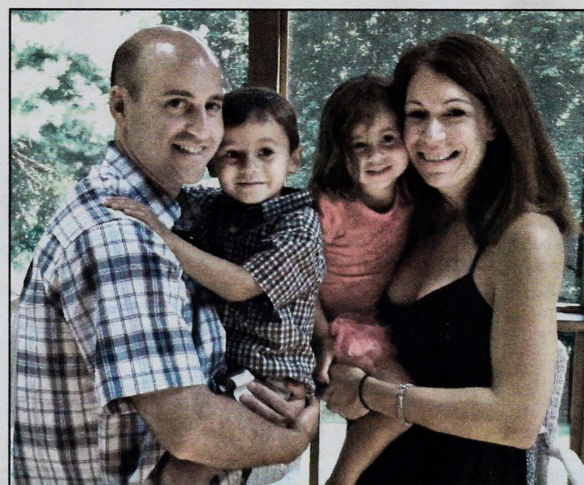
#### RIVKIE GERBER

Rivkie Gerber, a special education teacher for the Alliance, lives in Providence with her husband Ephraim and their youngest son, Michael. Their family also includes sons Rafi and Ellie and Ellie's wife Shifra. Contact her at [rivkiegerber@gmail.com](mailto:rivkiegerber@gmail.com).

#### A COLLEGE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"I look forward to my annual tradition of making my great-aunt's latke recipe with my dad," Eric Lewin wrote. "We spent weeks cooking latkes to give as gifts and bring to parties."

"I have another family in my fraternity of Alpha Epsilon Pi



/Charlotte Shaffer

#### THE DAVIS FAMILY – Mark, left, Eric, Samantha and Rachel

(AEPi), which organizes a Hanukkah study break. We spend hours fighting over whose grandmother (or great-aunt) has the best latke recipe. Then, 40 guys – who rarely cook – peel potatoes and onions, mix batter and fry hundreds of latkes. (See the recipe on page 15.)

"Instead of helping my dad cook, I help teach members of AEPi how to peel potatoes. Instead of exchanging gifts with my biological brother, I have a group of fraternity brothers with whom I celebrate Hanukkah. Instead of experiencing only my family's Hanukkah traditions, I learn those of [my fraternity brothers] from across the United States."

Eric Lewin, a senior at Brown, is from Fair Haven, N.J. He is the alumni relations chair for AEPi, a

Meiklejohn Peer Advisor for first-year students, and a mentor with the John Hope Mentorship Program. Contact him at [Eric\\_Lewin@brown.edu](mailto:Eric_Lewin@brown.edu).

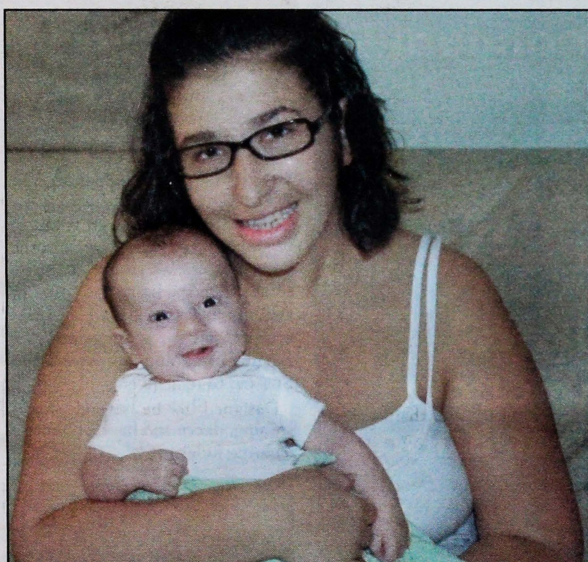
#### CHASING AWAY

##### WINTERTIME BLUES

Cold weather, said Sharon Sock, shouldn't keep families indoors: "Bundle up, get outside and take a hike. Rhode Island Families in Nature website ([www.rifin.org](http://www.rifin.org)) has suggestions for outdoor family activities."

"If it's absolutely too cold and wet to play outside, bring the fun indoors. Fill buckets with snow to dump into an empty bathtub. Put on gloves and have fun! Kids can

HOLIDAYS, Page 24



JOY BUSH and her son ADAM

#### FINDING MORE MEANING IN JUDAISM

When Joy Bush came to Providence to begin working at the Jewish Community Day School, she "learned the meaning and symbolism of each Jewish holiday. I began to learn about the 'minor' holidays – ones that were unfamiliar to me. I developed friendships with people who kept kosher, and became aware of the differences between Conservative and Reform Judaism. I even learned 'Hatikvah,' (Israel's national anthem). Now I can sing 'Happy Birthday' in Hebrew and I sometimes use Yiddish or Hebrew words in conversations outside my workplace."

Because Joy and her husband, an interfaith couple, are committed, "to celebrating childhood holidays, we will light the Hanukkah candles at our house and travel to New Jersey to celebrate Christmas. I will continue to explore my Jewish roots and help Adam, as he grows, establish his own strong Jewish identity."

Joy lives in Blackstone, Mass. with her husband Drew and their son Adam. Now on maternity leave, she has been a teacher at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

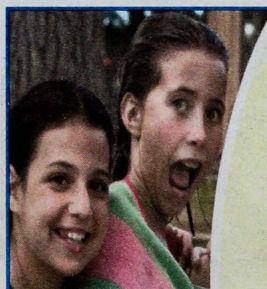
donate to children who are needy or homeless. As young as they are, they are able to appreciate that it is a mitzvah to help people who do not have money to buy toys themselves. I love watching them pick out the 'perfect' toy for whichever child is assigned to our family."

Rachel A. Davis lives in Montville, N.J. with her husband Mark, and their 4-year-old twins, Samantha and Eric. She enjoys visiting Rhode Island to see her sister Michelle Cicchitelli (The PJ Library coordinator at the Alliance) and her family.

#### HARD WORK GIVES WAY TO JOYFUL FESTIVITIES

Rivkie Gerber finds that "preparing for a bag, a Jewish holiday, can be extremely challenging with everything that needs to be done – the organizing, shopping, cooking, baking, and cleaning." What's the benefit to doing all that work for one holiday?

For Gerber, there are many benefits, but an especially meaningful one is her "memory of our family surrounding the brightly glowing Hanukkah candles, saying the blessings and singing 'Ma'oz Tsur' ('Rock of Ages') and other Hanukkah songs, in beautiful harmony."



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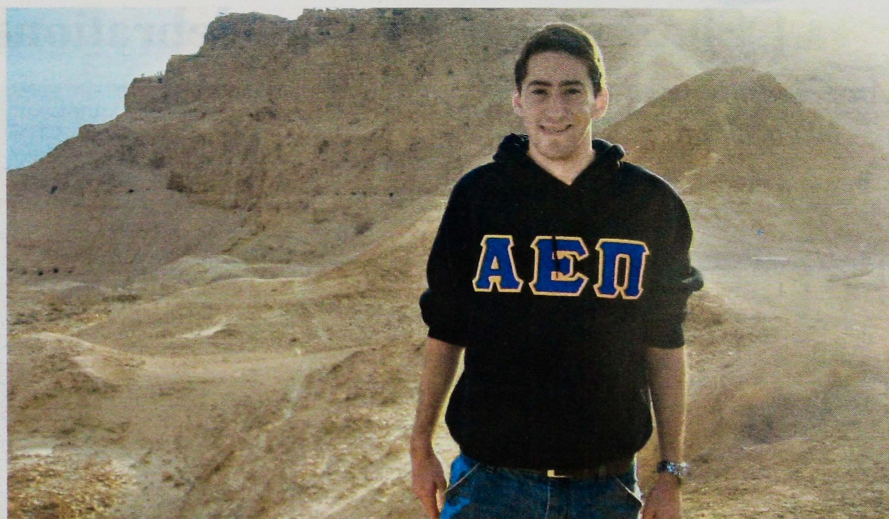
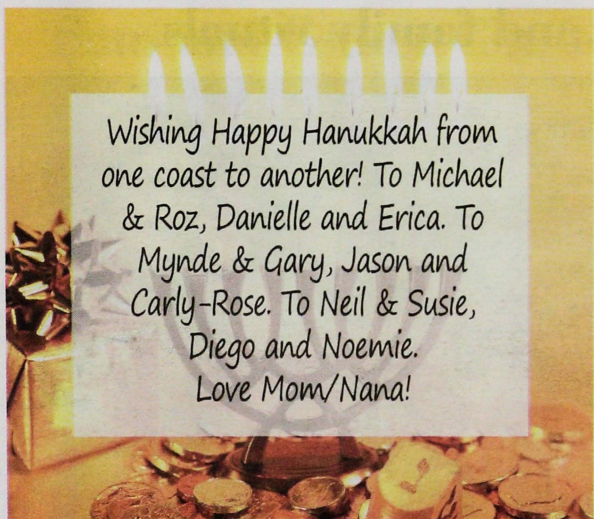
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ERIC LEWIN, in Israel



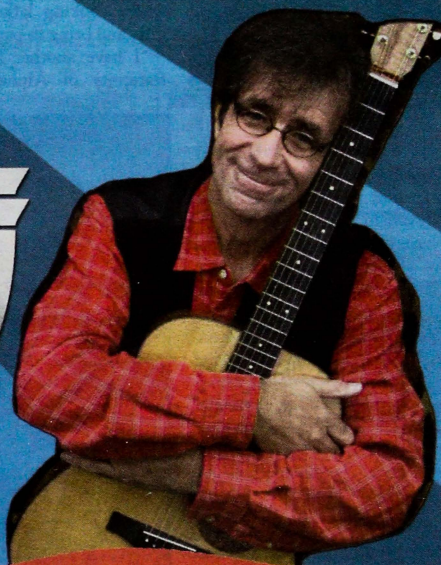
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## **FAMILIES find holiday fun**

From Page 23

make paths for toy cars; let them use their imaginations and 'run wild.'

"Shabbat is an ideal way to brighten up — or chase away — winter blues. It's simple to invite some friends, light the candles and serve some challah and hot soup. Throw a few songs into the evening's mix and you have a fun Shabbat to remember.

"At my Shalom Friends classes, we sing, dance and have a blast celebrating Judaism."



SHARON SOCK

Sharon Sock lives in Warwick with her husband Garrett and sons, Kevin, Reese and Cooper. The co-author of *Sing, Dance, Play: 18 Ways to Help your Children Love Being Jewish*, Co-creator and director of Shalom Friends, she is Camp JORI's art director. Contact her at [sharon.sock@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon.sock@yahoo.com).

For more about Shalom Friends, visit [www.shalomfriends.org](http://www.shalomfriends.org).

### **CARRYING ON**

#### **A COOKIE TRADITION**

Eliana Seltzer's Hanukkah begins with cookies. She wrote, "My mom has been making Hanukkah cookies [for years] and uses the cookie cutters — a dreidel, a *hanukkiyah*, a Jewish star, and a

FESTIVITIES, Page 25





Alice Ohana, at left (Ilana Kapach's mother), and Kapach's teacher are joined by Kapach's sister Silvy, Ilana Kapach, Kapach's sister Suzan, and Kapach's friend Miriam at a grade school Hanukkah party in 1966.



THE SELTZER FAMILY – Eliana Seltzer holds Talia and Rabbi Joel Seltzer holds Ayelet at the beach this past fall.

## FESTIVITIES feature food at Hanukkah

From Page 24

Judah Maccabee – she got from her mother. As a child, I decorated the cookies with colored sugar. I took my work quite seriously; I fancied myself the Picasso of sugar cookies. There was nothing better than drinking a cup of hot tea and dunking the cookie.

"Now, [as a mother myself with a home of our own], our 2-and-1/2-year old, Ayelet, is old enough to help [with] cookie making. She helps roll out the dough, shapes

and decorates the cookies. She does not have a taste for tea (it is too hot), but perhaps next year, she will learn the joys of a hard Hanukkah cookie dipped in hot tea."

Eliana Seltzer is the 5th-grade Judaic studies teacher at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. She and her husband Rabbi Joel Seltzer, of Temple Emanu-El, are the parents of Ayelet and 7-month-old Talia. Contact her at [eseltzer@jcdsri.org](mailto:eseltzer@jcdsri.org).

### FOREIGN CUISINE ALLOWS PASSPORT-FREE TRAVEL

Ilana Kapach, early childhood Judaic studies teacher at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, has fond memories of her childhood in Jaffa, Israel. "We loved our parents' stories every night of Hanukkah. My parents, Alice and Albert Ohana, are from Morocco and they have told these stories for many years. Now, I tell them to my own children and my students at JCDS."

"Share your family stories during Hanukkah if you can – it's an ideal time to reinforce your children's knowledge of your experiences and those of your other family members. After all, as Jews, we emphasize the importance of 'I'dor va-dor,' (from generation to generation)."

Kapach's favorite Moroccan Jewish food during Hanukkah is *sphinge*, soft fried dough, (see recipes for this and kefta on page 15). "During Hanukkah, we travel to

Brooklyn, where my parents now live. My mother prepares *sphinge* using the same recipe her mom used," said Kapach.

Ilana Kapach, a JCDS teacher for the past nine years, lives in Providence with her husband and four children.

Karolyn White is the JCDS librarian. Contact her at [karolynwhite@hotmail.com](mailto:karolynwhite@hotmail.com). For more information about the Jewish Community Day School, a partner agency of the Alliance, visit [www.jcdsri.org](http://www.jcdsri.org).

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## THE PJ LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT FAMILY Meet the Buschbaum Family

*Buchsbaum girls,  
parents all appreciate  
books from  
The PJ Library*

BY NICOLE KATZMAN  
nkatzman@shalomri.org

**Q**: Elisa, tell me about your family.

**A**: I am Elisa, my husband is Gordon and we have two girls: Sarah, 5, who is in kindergarten, and Jessica, 4, who attends pre-kindergarten.

**Q**: How did you and Gordon meet?

**A**: We met online through JDate. Our brunch date turned into a whole day event. We knew from the beginning that we were each other's *besht* (soul mate). We celebrated our seventh wedding anniversary on Oct. 30.

**Q**: Describe your education, where you grew up, what you do for work?

**A**: Gordon was born in New York and grew up in Greenwich, Conn. He is starting his own seafood distribution company, Gordon's Gourmet: Specialties from the Sea. He has an associate's degree from Johnson & Wales University and a bachelor's degree from Boston University.

I was born and raised in Providence, and earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and a master's in moderate special needs, both from Lesley College (now Lesley University). I have taught children with special needs for 19 years; now, I work in an integrated preschool in the Wellesley, Mass. public schools. My specialty is working with children with autism spectrum disorders.

**Q**: How did you learn about The PJ Library program?

**A**: My mother Barbara Lavine gave her grandchildren (Sarah and Jessica) the gift of The PJ Library Program.

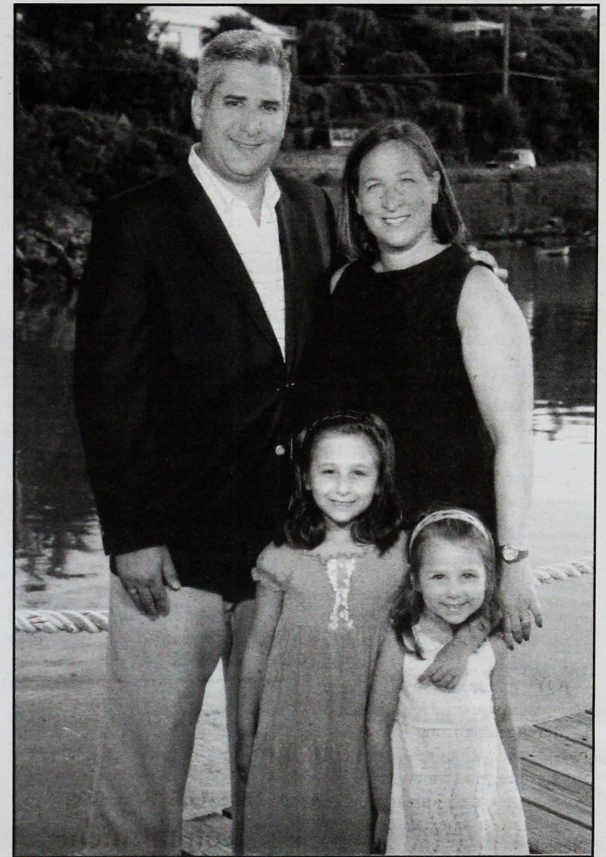
**Q**: Why is The PJ Library program important to your family?

**A**: The PJ Library helps support our Jewish values, culture and education that we are providing for our family.

**Q**: Do your children have any favorite books from The PJ Library?

**A**: Sarah's favorite is "The Hardest Word" [written by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn and published by Kar-Ben], and Jessica's favorite book is "A Grandma Like Yours/A Grandpa Like Yours" [written by Andria Warmflash Rosenbaum, illustrated by Barb Bjornson and published by Kar-Ben].

**Q**: Describe how your family celebrates Hanukkah. Are there any PJ Library books that you



/Buschbaum family

GORDON and ELISA BUCHSBAUM, with their daughters, Sarah, left, and Jessica

read to teach your children about the holiday?

**A**: We do it all. Our family celebrates by lighting the menorah, eating latkes that Gordon makes, and reading the latest PJ

**Q**: What advice can you offer about parenting?

**A**: Patience! Be appropriately honest with your children. Learn as much as you can about them and from them.

**Q**: What is your favorite PJ Library program?

**A**: We live in Sharon, Mass., so we haven't been able to participate in the story hours. We did attend the fundraiser last spring for The PJ Library in Providence. Gordon and I feel strongly about the program and what it has to offer.

**Q**: Is there anything else you would like to share with other families?

**A**: I was talking with someone about how great The PJ Library Program is, as a resource of age-appropriate children's books and music around Jewish themes and holidays. The girls love getting their books in the mail. We highly recommend The PJ Library for any Jewish family.

*Thank you to the Buschbaum Family for volunteering to be interviewed for The PJ Library Family Spotlight.*

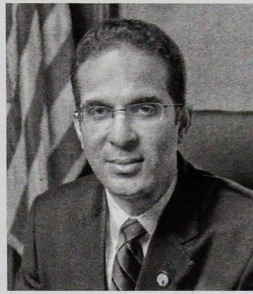
*If your family would like to participate in a future feature, contact Nicole Katzman, co-director of the Early Childhood Center and director of Shalom Family at the Alliance, at 421-4111, ext. 180 or nkatzman@shalomri.org.*

**"We highly  
recommend The  
PJ Library for any  
Jewish family."**

book about Hanukkah. The girls enjoy spinning dreidels and eating chocolate gelt. They have many aunts and uncles who give them gifts, but we try not to have gift-giving be the focus of Hanukkah. They get to open a different relative's gift each night and we save our gift for the last night of Hanukkah.

**Q**: Explain Sarah and Jessica's bedtime routine, what works, what doesn't?

**A**: We have a bedtime routine that includes books. Both Sarah and Jessica have their own bookcases in their bedrooms; each girl gets to choose a book for bedtime reading. The PJ books we receive in the mail get put in their bookcases – and we make sure the appropriate holiday-themed books are available in their bookcases, too.



## Happy Hanukkah!



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## Openly gay Jews participate in Orthodox forum

*Some see seismic shifts toward acceptance, others not*

By DAN KLEIN

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. (JTA) — The 15th annual conference of Nefesh International, an association of Orthodox mental health professionals, was a study in inclusion.

Dr. Judith Guedelia, director of Shaare Zedek Medical Center's neuropsychology unit, became the first woman to receive the conference's Esther Solomon Mental Health Award. Several participants noted the increased Hasidic representation. And three openly gay men for the first time were permitted to set up a table. Members of Jewish Queer Youth (JQY), a support group for Orthodox and formerly Orthodox LGBT Jews, distributed informational materials and debated — and occasionally berated — conference participants.

JQY members were allowed to participate in last weekend's conference at a Long Island hotel only as individual advocates raising awareness, not under the banner of an organization. And only after a special appeal to Nefesh.

"They wanted to talk about their struggles as homosexuals in the Orthodox world," said Simcha Feuerman, a marriage and family therapist in private practice in New York and the president of Nefesh. "Mental health professionals should be aware of those voices."

Feuerman noted that as an organization that abides by *halakha*, (Jewish law), Nefesh cannot support any organization that "normalizes" homosexual behavior.

"On the other hand, we certainly have great compassion and interest in the challenges and struggles that persons with homosexual desires and orientation experience," he said.

The inclusion of openly gay

men at the conference represents yet another shift, however incremental, in the willingness of the Orthodox community to candidly discuss homosexuality. It also comes as an organization that promotes reparative therapy for Orthodox gays — Jews Offering New Alternatives to Healing, or JONAH — did not participate in the conference after its controversial appearance last year. JONAH co-founder Arthur Goldberg told JTA that he had a prior engagement in Florida.

"The last few years have seen a seismic shift in attitudes toward LGBT people in Orthodox communities," said Jay Michaelson, the author of "God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality."

"To an outsider, things may seem barely to have changed. But to those of us who are part of or work with Orthodox communities, the change has been dramatic."

Last year, a gay Shabbaton in Connecticut attracted more than 150 guests. In the summer

ality signed by several leading Orthodox rabbis and Orthodox mental health professionals asserts that homosexuality is a curable condition and calls for resistance against "the infiltration" of homosexual activists in the Orthodox community. The statement, publicized last week on the Huffington Post, forbids a gay individual from being alone with a member of the same sex and cautions Orthodox individuals about "accepting some false notions."

On Saturday evening, Rabbi Dovid Cohen, one of three rabbinic advisers to Nefesh, spoke on making a distinction between sin and organized sin — comments interpreted by many conference-goers as targeting homosexuality in general and JQY in particular.

In an interview with JTA, Cohen said that anyone who organizes to reject a provision of the Torah should be regarded as a traitor. They should still be treated for their illness, he said, but not with compassion.

"It's as if someone was asked to treat an enemy soldier who is trying to kill him," Cohen said. "We shouldn't have empathy."

At the conference, JQY members sought to distinguish between homosexuality as an orientation and gay sex as an act, with only the latter prohibited by the Torah.

"JQY doesn't challenge anything in the Torah," said Mordechai Levovits, co-executive director of JQY. "We understand that there are some acts that are *halakhically* problematic, but we believe that [gays] can be openly themselves and still be part of the community and their families."

According to Levovitz, JQY does not "support or encourage sexual or intimate behavior ... and adheres to the principal of *tzniut* (modesty), which demands that intimate behavior stays private." The group, he says, only seeks "to combat shame, bullying and ostracizing while making families, yeshivas and communities safe and welcoming to their gay members."

### "A self-described Orthodox rabbi performed a gay commitment ceremony in Washington."

of 2010, a group of more than 150 Orthodox rabbis and mental health professionals endorsed a statement that called for greater sympathy from rabbis and counselors, urged families not to cast out homosexual children and cast doubt on reparative therapy, which most mental health professionals consider a sham. And just last month, a self-described Orthodox rabbi performed a gay commitment ceremony in Washington.

The developments are not without their opponents, however.

A statement on homosexu-

Despite the debate, many conference participants appeared supportive of JQY members and were pleased by their presence. A steady stream approached their station at the end of the hall featuring a well-stocked collection of testimonials about harmful therapeutic practices and statements from Orthodox rabbis on homosexuality. One of two television screens played a video of gay men describing the trauma they experienced as youths in the

Orthodox community.

"There is a gay population in the Orthodox community that needs to be integrated," said Malka Engel, a social worker and psychoanalyst who practices in Manhattan and on Long Island.

"Why not?" said a therapist who preferred anonymity. "We'd rather find a way to treat than kick them out. How can we learn anything without talking to them?"

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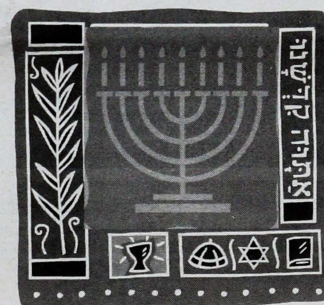


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## JEWISH man's lynching led to rise of ADL

From Page 3

said Roy Barnes, a former governor of Georgia, "but how did it happen to a large group of elite [citizens]?"

The grand jury charged with investigating Frank's murder was a complete sham - seven of the members of the grand jury had participated in the lynching!

Although Loeterman believes 17-year-olds are his target audience, many individuals in their 50s, 60s and 70s who attended the event were unaware of the story.

Even those who knew Frank's history found the film gripping. "The documentary was compelling. I was familiar with the story and had seen the Leo Frank exhibit at the Atlanta Jewish Museum four years ago," said David H. Leach of Providence. "But the film, with its combination of actual transcripts to recreate the courtroom scenes, comments by historians and descendants of some of the participants, and black-and-white photos and film from the period brought the whole story to life."

On the "micro-level," the results were tragic: Phagan was murdered, Frank was murdered and Jim Conley served time in prison. On a larger scale, Frank's lynching spurred the rebirth of two wildly divergent organizations - the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Members of the lynch mob consecrated a new KKK, one that discriminated against not only blacks, but also Catholics and Jews.

The ADL, said Loeterman, prepared educational materials for the film that he called "outstanding."

He said, "I hope young gay kids, black kids see this film and relate. This is uncomfortable stuff; [it's] one conversation with all Jews in the room, [and] a different conversations with people of color in the room."

"The People v. Leo Frank" and related educational materials are available to borrow from the Alliance. Contact Larry Katz, director of educational services for the Alliance, at 421-4111, ext. 179.



BEN LOETERMAN, the film's creator, speaks at the Alliance.



/Stephanie Markoff Cohen

SUGAR HONEY ICED TEA performs

## A musical evening at the JCC Social Hall

NEARLY 100 COMMUNITY members gathered for the Nov. 17 Café Concert, the second in a new series, which started earlier this fall at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. This show headlined Roz Raskin &amp; The Rice Cakes, who just completed their tour of the Northeast, with special guest band Sugar Honey Iced Tea.

The JCC Social Hall was transformed into a music venue with café tables and people of all ages coming to enjoy live music from local, contemporary performers.

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# Israel avoids taking innocent lives

Colonel Richard Kemp speaks at Brown University

By DAVID LONDON  
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Israel, said Colonel Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, “took much greater steps to avoid taking innocent lives than any other country in the history of warfare.” So said Kemp, when he spoke at Brown University’s “Independent Voices on the Middle East” lecture series on Thursday, Nov. 17, contradicting accusations leveled against the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) for soldiers’ actions in the 2008-2009 Gaza War.

Kemp is most noted for appearing before the United Nations Human Rights Council late in 2009 to debunk Judge Richard Goldstone’s UN report earlier that year, which accused Israel of deliberately targeting civilians. Kemp’s report, on behalf of UN Watch, helped contribute to Goldstone’s eventual retraction, which said,



BRANDON TAUB '15, left, JUDAH SCHVIMER '15, JENNIFER SIEBER '14, listen attentively to Colonel Richard Kemp.

“Civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of policy.”

Nevertheless, Kemp asserted to the audience of nearly 100 students that Israel is losing “the war of words.” The IDF is falsely accused of war crimes and those accusations are widely accepted as fact by the media, at the U.N. and throughout many nations, Kemp said. The international media has largely ignored Goldstone’s retraction.

Such “distortions and manipu-

lations undermine Israel’s legitimacy,” he said, give “justification for strikes against Israel,” and “serve only to cause further bloodshed.” As an example, the Goldstone Report, along with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, used Hamas-provided data to conclude that of every six Palestinian fatalities in the Gaza War, five of them were civilians. In contrast, a U.N. study showed

ISRAEL, Page 33



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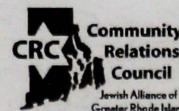
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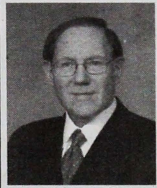
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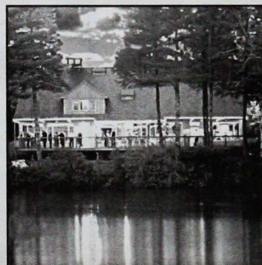


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# Author and medical artifacts' exhibit planned for Dec. 15

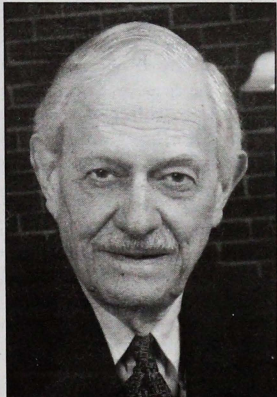
PROVIDENCE – In celebration of its bicentennial, the Rhode Island Medical Society is hosting an author reception and rare medical artifacts' exhibit at the John Hay Library on Dec. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m.

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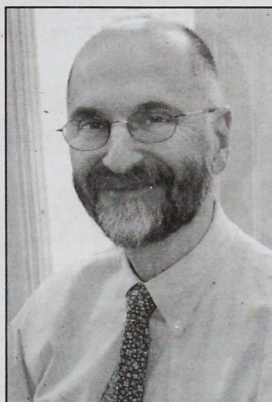
Visitors may view rare medical and scientific books, instruments and medical memorabilia in the library's historic Lownes Room.

*The library, at 20 Prospect St., is across from the Van Wick Gates at Brown University. The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Sarah Stevens at 528-3281 or sstevens@rimed.org.*

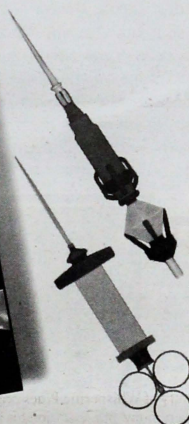
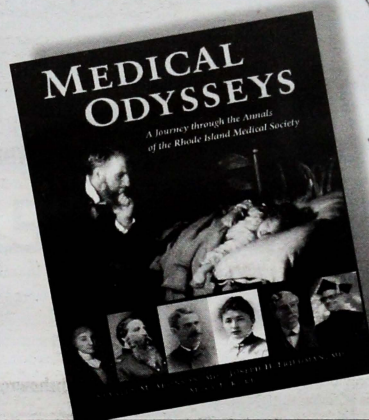


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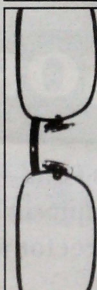
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D'VAR TORAH

# Wrestling with angels... and demons

GENESIS 32:4 – 36:43  
*Parashat Vayishlach*

By Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer  
*Special to The Voice & Herald*

**N**O LONGER ABLE to remain in his parents' home for fear of his brother Esau's vengeance, Jacob follows Rebecca's advice and flees Canaan to spend *yamim ahadim*, literally "a few days" with her brother Laban in Haran. (Genesis 27:44) Those "few days" turned into 20 years, during which he becomes a wealthy man with a large family. However, throughout these two decades, Jacob always sees himself as a fugitive and knows the time will come when he must confront his brother Esau.

This week's *parashah* opens with Jacob traveling toward Canaan with his entire family, herds and wealth. He is about

to encounter the brother whose birthright he bought and whose blessing he stole. Learning of Esau's approach with 400 men, Jacob sends gifts to appease his brother, and prays to God for aid and protection. "I am unworthy of all the kindnesses that You have... shown your servant: with my staff alone I crossed this Jordan and now I have become two camps. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother..." (Genesis 33:11-13)

This time Jacob cannot run away; he is forced to confront – or "face" – not only Esau but himself, acknowledging both his past actions and his future intentions. Interestingly, words derived from the word "*panim*," "face" appear several times in this *parashah*. For instance, immediately before his encounter with Esau, Jacob wrestled with a man whom he perceives as an angel; so he names the place Peniel,

"Face of God," because "I have a Divine being face to face, *panim el panim*" (Genesis 32:32). Later, he says of his encounter with Esau that seeing Esau's face is "like seeing the face of God." (Genesis 33:10)

Wrestling with the angel throughout the night, Jacob knows he will face Esau the next morning, and he must decide which "face" to present. Will it be the face of love and truth? Will it be the face he has shown in the past – the face of a deceiver? Will it be the face of one who runs to avoid the consequences of his actions? By wrestling with the angels, Jacob is choosing to face himself. By confronting the challenge, he is able to overcome the past, leaving the old Jacob behind and receiving a new name "*Yisra'el*" (Israel), meaning "one who has striven with God." (Genesis 32:39)


Every encounter we have with another human being happens for a reason; often, it provides a spiritual opportunity with which we must wrestle, confronting our beliefs, our integrity and our less worthy traits.

If we recognize that our life experiences come to us from God, and if, like Jacob, we accept the challenge, we can see these encounters as God's special message to us, letting us view ourselves clearly, without the usual excuse, pretenses or defenses that mar our vision and prevent us from growing.

Achieving spiritual growth requires courage and strength – the willingness to wrestle and a commitment to prevail. But we are not alone in this endeavor; God is our partner. If, by engaging with one another, we learn like Jacob to see the Divine in each other's faces. Then we shall truly have seen God, *panim el panim*, face to face.

Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer, rabbi of Temple Shalom in Middletown, is a member of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis. Contact him at [rabjag@earthlink.net](mailto:rabjag@earthlink.net).

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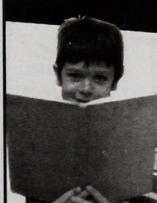
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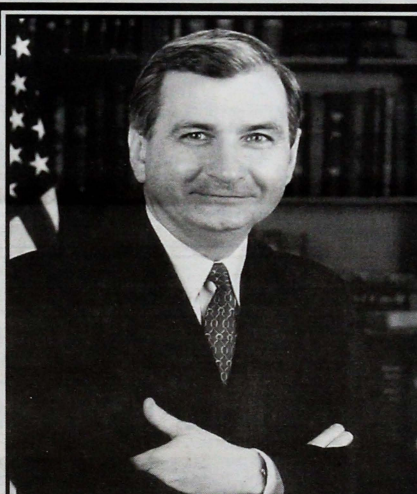
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## ISRAEL is losing 'war on words'

From Page 29

that only three of every six fatalities in similar conflicts worldwide were non-combatants. However, just one year ago, Kemp said that Hamas Interior Minister Hamad disclosed data showing that less than one civilian died for every combatant. In Kemp's words, "...a very different picture from the one Judge Goldstone painted... and undermining the widely held assertion that Israel deliberately and systematically targeted the civilian population."

Kemp, who also served as military attaché for the British ambassador to Afghanistan, the commander of the U.S. Task Force, and the U.N. secretary general's special representative, presented other examples of the "double standard" that Israel's military operations are held to, when compared to other Western democratic states.

After the 2010 Gaza Flotilla incident, the U.N. Human Rights Council and other "human rights groups, international law experts, politicians, and the world's media stridently proclaimed the blockade to be illegal," he said. When the commission appointed by the U.N. Secretary General delivered its report just last month, it criticized the passengers for "violent resistance" and the boarding Israeli force for "excessive" force. But, Kemp lamented, the media gave little, if any, attention to the report's conclusion: "The Israeli blockade was legal, appropriate and consistent with international law."

During a question-and-answer session, Kemp attributed "rampant" anti-Semitism in Britain to the public's fear of Islamic

terrorism, warning of "appeasement" tactics. Responding to a student's question about what role the United States and the United Kingdom might play in the Israeli/Palestinian issue, he suggested that the large powers are limited to being "facilitators," as the "conflict can only be resolved by negotiations between Israel and Palestine."

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COLONEL RICHARD KEMP

/Lydia Yamaguchi

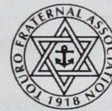
David London,  
a retired business  
executive, lives  
in Providence.  
Contact him at  
londondavid@  
aol.com.

Students for Israel Committee, Israel on Campus Coalition, The David Project, Israel Campus Roundtable, Watson Institute for International Studies and Brown's Middle East Studies Department sponsored Kemp's speech.

The distinguished Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) was conferred on Kemp, who served in the British military for 30 years, in 2006. The London Sunday Times named his co-authored book, "Attack State Red," a best-seller within two weeks of its publication. The book tells the story of the 2007 deployment of British troops to Afghanistan.



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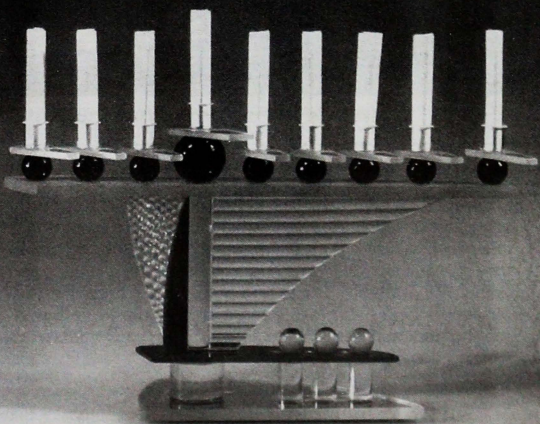
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## AS WE GROW OLDER Life's surprises

### Complete control is a myth

**N**O ONE TOLD me that my dreams and aspirations were just that — dreams and aspirations. Once I was old enough to think I could fulfill those goals, I was too immature to realize that nature and possibilities interfere with probability.



Tema  
Gouse

I was 8 when some biddy of a schoolteacher realized that I could not read her writing on the blackboard because I could not see well. She sent a letter home to my parents to tell them that I needed glasses. That was the first of many diagnoses I have received in my very long lifetime. It was the ultimate insult to a vain, indulged little girl.

But I got the glasses, glasses that I wore and broke on a regular basis. When there was no one around to reprimand me, I would often take them off; it wasn't until I matured that I stopped resisting their necessity. I realized that I could see more clearly with them than without them. If a boy were attracted to me he would not reject me because I wore glasses.

I married a man who is also

myopic. We worried that our offspring would be nearsighted, and of course they are. And then we worried that, with such a strong genetic strain, our grandchildren would be afflicted and of course they are. (God bless the inventor of contact lenses.)

I was the third of three children in my family. My brother took piano lessons because he was the oldest, and my sister took piano lessons because she planned a career in music. By the time I was old enough for lessons, my parents were tired of fighting with them to practice; they decided that two musicians in the family were enough. I yelled and complained; ironically, I was the only one truly interested in learning to play piano. It was one of the few battles that I, as the much-indulged youngest child, did not win. In my retirement, more than 50 years later, I

bought a piano and took lessons and practiced. (Carnegie Hall has yet to reserve a date for my concert there.)

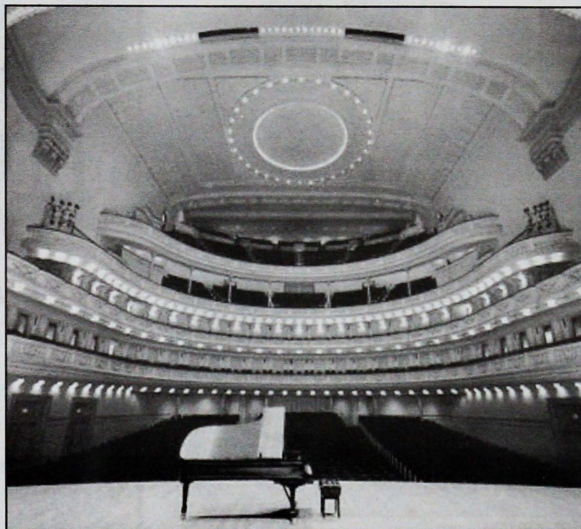
Members of the Pomrenze

At the risk of being prematurely optimistic, my offspring seem able to consume rich and spicy food without major disorders.

Besides the aforementioned piano lesson quandary, music has always been an important component in my life. As a teenager, I could jitterbug with the best. Readers who are younger than 40 might ask their parents what jitterbugging is. In my teens, I was also exposed to classical music and find it brings me joy to this day. So like most mothers who want to enrich their children's lives, I exposed mine

to the records of opera and symphony. (It really was for my own pleasure, but I naively thought it would rub off on them. It did not. One son took clarinet lessons briefly; the other was too preoccupied with watching sports on TV.)

During grammar school and high school, I was sure that my future lay in being one of Chicago's best teachers. But then,



**"I was blessed to enter a profession that proved more satisfying than teaching."**

you could teach only if you were a graduate of Chicago Teachers College. With the Great Depression still underway and Chicago Teachers College the only tuition-free college in the area, 6,000 applicants were tested. Only 110 were accepted into the school — and I was not one of them.

I went instead to a "regular" university and the rest is history. It is a long story to tell, but I was blessed to enter another profession, one that proved far more satisfying than teaching.

There is an old Yiddish saying — *"Mon tracht und Got lacht,"* "Man thinks and God laughs." I used to think that if I wanted something deeply enough, I could always get it or accomplish it. One of the virtues of advanced aging is acknowledging that we are not in complete control of what evolves in our lives.

Tema Gouse, a retired social worker, lives in Cranston. Contact her at [nbgtp@cox.net](mailto:nbgtp@cox.net).



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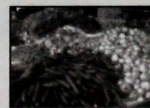


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## SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

## The mortal hazards of translation

*Translators must maintain a discreet presence*

**P**OETRY," said Robert Frost, "is what is lost in translation." Probably so – to the extent anything expressive, insightful or analytic may be said to be poetic, the adage is compellingly true.



**Dr. Stanley Aronson**

Others have commented that humor, when subjected to the roughshod indelicacies of translation, becomes a perishable commodity. Certainly so – much of humor depends upon its immediacy, its nuances, its quirky, earthy colloquialisms.

Thus, translating humor to another language may be akin to using Cambodian ingredients to prepare Croatian cuisine. Furthermore, since viable humor has a half-life measured in days and requires a receptive mood and an understanding of background circumstances to appreciate it, a word-by-word translation, literally a transliteration – while lexically accurate – would nonetheless leave the audience wondering where its humor is hidden.

In a world where no single language carries a monopoly of worthy rhetoric, translation nonetheless remains a necessary cultural transaction. Further, in a world where few persons are fluent in more than one or two languages (and often, not even one), translation represents an entryway to a global repository of esthetic insight. Translation brings us works of art from other cultures. It is as though Aristotle, Voltaire and Tolstoy, each now warmly familiar with colloquial English, sit comfortably in our living rooms and share with us their most sentient thoughts and ideas.

And with such a beguiling gift to humanity, such a marvelous access to the secular treasures of the world, why is there such skepticism, such profound doubt, about the merit of translation? Why such qualms? Why, indeed, the Italian adage: "*Traduttori, traditori*"

("translators, traitors")?

Why? Partly because a truly accurate translator – who by nature is a writer – must be a humble creature with no clandestine thoughts of improving the text to be translated. Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) said, "A translator is to be like his author; it is not his business to excel him." The translator's sworn duty is to preserve both the text and the subtext, including the awkward phraseology and assorted grammatical errors.

Translations, to fulfill their purpose and mission, must then be so faithfully close to the original that the translated author would marvel at his innate versatility in an erstwhile alien language. The translator must knowingly, willingly, noiselessly fade into the empty marginal spaces at the completion of his self-sacrificing task.

Consider now the many ancient and contemporary translational

Wycliffe (1328-1384), before the advent of the printing press, translated the Septuagint into vernacular English in 1380. He

Yet another English scholar and cleric, William Tyndale (1494-1536), believing that the scriptural text should not be confined



**SAMUEL JOHNSON**

was then accused of heresy, but inconvenienced the court by dying peacefully. Years later, a remorseless tribunal, not to be deprived, convicted him in absentia, had his remains dug up, burned and the ashes scattered.

to the theologians, translated the Bible into contemporary English. Promptly convicted of heresy, he was burned at the stake in 1536.

In 1604, King James I of Britain convened a gathering of 47 Anglican Church scholars, called

the Hampton Court Assembly, to compile an authorized English version of the Bible. The task was completed in 1611, just four centuries ago, and the published text was sold for 10 shillings per copy. It required another two centuries before all the typographic errors were removed (the inaugural printing was often referred to as "The Wicked Bible" since the word "not" in the commandment against adultery was inadvertently omitted.)

Translating is a profession that is both humbling and hazardous, yielding for its fortunate proponents a quiet life of ignominy and anonymity. But for those less fortunate – who incur the wrath of church authorities – their personal humility may be transformed into what has been euphemistically referred to as theological cremation.

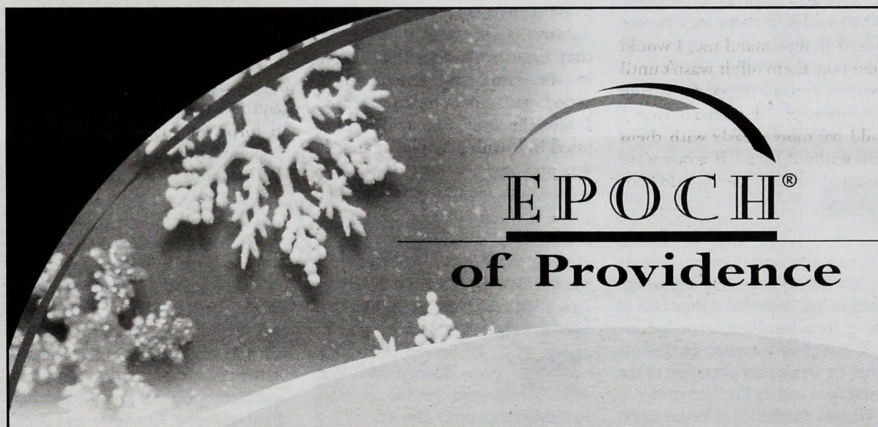
Stanley M. Aronson, MD, is dean of medicine emeritus at Brown University. Contact him at [smamd@cox.net](mailto:smamd@cox.net).

**"Much of humor depends upon its immediacy, its nuances, its quirky, earthy colloquialisms."**

iterations of the Hebrew Bible, beginning with a gathering of scriptural scholars in the fourth century BCE, assembled to transform the oral writings, histories, prophetic texts and books of wisdom into an enduring, written text later referred to as the Septuagint (in Latin, "*versio septuaginta interpretum*," meaning translation of the 70 scholars chosen by Ptolemy II). The final Masoretic version was composed of three divisions: the Torah, sometimes called *Pentateuch* (Koine Greek meaning the five books), the *Nevi'im* (histories and prophets) and the books of wisdom, *Ketuv'im*. (Collectively, as an acronym of these three titles, the Hebrew Bible is called the *Tanakh*.)

The Middle Ages witnessed many scriptural translations from the Aramaic, Hebrew, Greek and Latin to contemporary languages. Two such translations, to English, were disastrous for its translators.

The English scholar John



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**Ellen Brooks, 97**

PROVIDENCE — Ellen Brooks, of Washington St., died Nov. 30. She was the wife of the late Samuel Brooks.

Born in Poland, a daughter of the late Charles and Bella Winokoor, she had lived in Providence most of her life. She was a seamstress for 20 years, retiring 30 years ago. She was a member of the former Congregation Shaare Zedek Synagogue and its Sisterhood and Cranston Senior Guild.

She was the mother of Charlotte Block and her husband Philip of Newington, Conn., and Seymour Brooks and his wife Marsha of Cranston; the grandmother of Steven, Staci, Elisabeth, Laura and Susan; and great-grandmother of eight. She was pre-deceased by one brother and four sisters.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907 with a notation in the memo area, JERI.

**Raymond A. Gertz, 88**

CRANSTON — Raymond Gertz, of Cranston, died Nov. 26, at Kent County Hospital in Warwick. He was the husband of Minnie (Gurwitz) Gertz for 63 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Ben and Tillie (Simons) Gertz, he had lived in Cranston for 59 years.

A 1941 graduate of Hope High School, he received his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Yale University in 1946.

He was a World War II Navy veteran serving in the Pacific. The founder and president of Neptune-Benson, Inc. in West Warwick for 34 years, until he retired 20 years ago, he held many patents for filtration systems. He was recognized in the "Swimming Pool Hall of Fame" for water filtration design.

A founding member of Temple Sinai, he was a past president of the synagogue and its Brotherhood.

He was the father of Bruce Gertz

and his wife Roberta of Melrose, Mass.; Francine Gertz and her husband Burt Strom of Wakefield; Susan Gertz of Stamford, Conn.; Carol Gertz and her husband David Blumenstock of Westford, Mass.; and Lucille Gertz and her husband Larry Pottebaum of Tyngsborough, Mass. He was the grandfather of Annalee, Ruby, Rachel, Willow, Eva, Joshua, Autumn, Stephanie and Benjamin; and the brother of the late Norman and Babe Gertz.

Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai or your favorite charity.

**Dr. Melvin Goldenberg, 75**

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Melvin Goldenberg died Dec. 2. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Benjamin and Beth (Nozick) Goldenberg.

A graduate of Providence College and the University of Maryland Dental School, he maintained a dental practice until his retirement in 1998. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps.

He is survived by his children; Michael (Jackie) Goldenberg of Lawrenceville, N.J., Debra (Marc) Page of Providence, David (Bernardo) Goldenberg of New York City, and Jeffrey Goldenberg of Norwood, Mass.; and six grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Jewish Community Day School, 85 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or the American Lung Association of New England, 460 Totten Pond Rd., Suite 400, Waltham, MA 02451.

**Stanley J. Kaplan, 88**

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Stanley Kaplan, formerly of Middletown, and a resident of Delray Beach, Fla. for the last 30 years, died Oct. 28. He was married to Zita (Brenner) Kaplan for 64 years. The son of the late Sadie and Sam Kaplan, he was born in Providence.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and landed in Normandy, France on D-Day +6.

After the war, he started Sun Ray Curtain Company and later Newport Fabrics. He was a charter member of Temple Shalom in Middletown and a past president of the Touro Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

The father of Alan and Sheila Kaplan of Warwick, and Sharon and Michael Strongin of New York City, he also leaves four grandchildren and their spouses and six great-grandchildren.

**Gloria (Kosofsky) Kolodoff, 83**

WARWICK — Gloria Kolodoff died Nov. 17. She was the wife of the late Max Kolodoff and the late Selwyn Ackerman. Born in Fall River, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Rose (Zelniker) Kosofsky.

A bookkeeper for Carol Jane Creations for many years until retiring, she was a member of Temple Shalom, an associate member of Congregation B'nai Israel and a life member of Hadassah.

She is survived by her children: Debra (Seth Forster) Ackerman of Potomac, Md., and Barry (Mia) Ackerman of Cumberland; and her grandchildren: Emily, Samuel and Elicia. She was the sister of the late Harriet Klar.

Contributions may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI.

**Ruth (Heger) Malkin, 82**

PROVIDENCE — Ruth Malkin died Dec. 1. She was the wife of Samuel Malkin. Born in New York City, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Frida (Felix) Heger.

A graduate of Queen's College and New York University, she was an elementary school teacher in the Hewlett-Woodmere school district of Long Island, N.Y. for 30 years.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children: Robert (Ellen) Malkin, Susan (Jay) Malkin Kelly and Judith (John Burdick) Malkin; her grandchildren: Emily, Elizabeth, Nathan, Rachel, Jacob, Benjamin and Molly; and her great-grandchildren: Vivienne, Charlotte and Jack. She was the sister of the late Estelle Lerner.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Lidia Shnayder Pavlotsky, 78**

PROVIDENCE — Lidia Pavlotsky, of Providence, died Nov. 29. She was born in Odessa, Ukraine, and World War II shaped her youth. Along with her mother, baby brother and thousands of other refugees, she spent time in Central Asia during the Nazi occupation of Odessa.

Her father died in the Battle of Stalingrad. After the war, she proved herself a talented student, excelling in math and science. She loved literature, and had an encyclopedic knowledge of the Russian classics, and a soft spot for Victor Hugo.

After graduating from the Medical Institute in Odessa, she worked as a midwife and later an ob-gyn.

She married Isak Pavlotsky in 1955, settling with him in Bendery in the Moldavian SSR (formerly part of Romania and now independent Moldova). They had two children, Leonid and Anna. In 1979, the family immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Providence, where she served as a medication technician at Summit Medical Center for 18 years.

She enjoyed tutoring her grandchildren in Russian language and mathematics. An outstanding cook, she loved the beach and looked forward to tropical vacations with her daughter. She never tired of promoting the artistic and cultural richness of her native Odessa.

She is survived by her brother Vladimir Shnayder of New York City; her son, Leonid Pavlotsky of Boston; her daughter, Dr. Anna Pavlotsky Bowden of Warwick; and five grandchildren, Edward, Daniel, Ilana, Alexander and Dylan.

Donations may be made to Steere House, 100 Borden St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Abraham Schwartz, 65**

WEST WARWICK — Abraham Schwartz, of West Warwick, died Nov. 26. He was the husband of Arlene (Fafel) Schwartz. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Leo and Martha Schwartz.

A former co-owner of Columbia Furniture, he was employed by Pep Boys in West Warwick. He had a lifelong passion for trains.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his sons Samuel Schwartz and Leonard Schwartz and his wife Sara; his granddaughter Callie Schwartz; and his siblings, David and Martin Schwartz, Paula Taxer and Vickie Dovner. He was the brother of the late Charlie and Sam Schwartz.

Donations may be made to United Cerebral Palsy, 1660 L Street NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20036.

**Ruth Winkler, 88**

ELSEWHERE — Ruth Winkler died Dec. 3. She was the wife of the late Merrill Winkler. Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Morris and Minnie Mandell, she had lived in Cranston and Warwick before moving to Alameda, Calif. last month.

The office manager for MAG Jewellery in Cranston for 16 years, retiring in 1979, she was a life member of Hadassah and a member of Temple Torat Yisrael. An active volunteer, she was one of the first lecturers for Weight Watchers. An avid painter and poet, she received a certificate of recognition from Brown University.

She was the mother of Dr. Mark Louis Winkler of Henderson, Nev., and Linda Winkler Garvin of Alameda; sister of Herman Mandell of Sun City, Ariz., and Estelle Abrams of Cranston. She was the grandmother of Scott and Ryan Garvin and of Alena, Anna, and Mark Winkler.

Funeral services will be held at the Priest Chapel in Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick, on Dec. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Reception will be at Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick, on Dec. 11, 6 – 8 p.m.

**Bella Winoker, 79**

WARWICK — Bella Winoker, a lifelong resident of Rhode Island, died Nov. 21. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Rose (Bochner) Winoker.

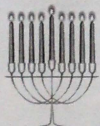
She is survived by her sisters, Lillian and Betty Winoker, of Cranston. She was also the sister of the late Jerome Winoker and Martha Flodin.

Donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

## To All of Our Friends, Relatives & Staff

We wish you a

# HAPPY CHANUKAH

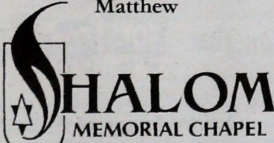


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#### To celebrate a simcha:

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#### Chinese food:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Date night/romantic meal:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Casual "go to" spot:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Bagel source:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Bakery:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Kosher meat/poultry/fish source:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Kosher wine source:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Beach:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Vineyard:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 8. Museum/Gallery:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 9. Vacation spot:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 10. Gift shop:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 11. Apparel store:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 12. Shoe store:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 13. Children's party locale:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 14. Consignment shop:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 15. Golf course:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 16. Night spot:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

### 17. Salon/Spa

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Wild card: What didn't we ask about that you absolutely love? Tell us, so we can tell our readers!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Best  
Bagel?

Mail, drop off or email (scan and email) the completed survey to Nancy Kirsch,  
The Jewish Voice & Herald, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

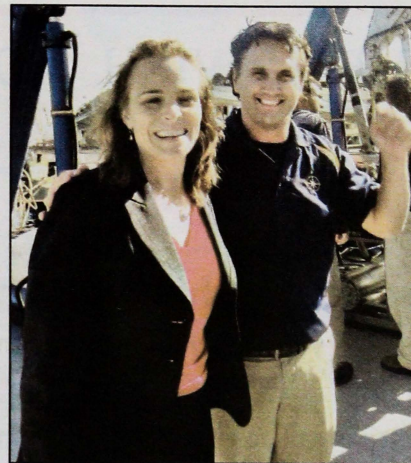


To the world he is a soldier.

To us, he is a friend,  
a brother, a son.



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KATHY TUFTS and DWIGHT COLEMAN



GERALD COHEN and AVI NEVEL

## Trade trip to Israel a success

### Business leaders find Israel an enticing market

BY AVI NEVEL  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**O**N A FLIGHT from Philadelphia to Israel (for Rhode Island's Nov. 4 - 10 trade mission to Israel), I talked with an Israeli in the adjacent seat. He works for Oracle, in Herzliya, and had been visiting its Burlington, Mass. office.

When he asked me where I was from, I said, "Providence."

He asked, "Where?"

"Providence."

After a moment, he said, "Ah, Connecticut."

"No, Rhode Island."

When he asked about the location of Rhode Island, I told him that if he'd ever driven from Boston to New York, he would have driven right through Providence. Doubting me, he checked his GPS on his iPad and confirmed my statement. I told him about Newport's Touro Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in the U.S.

"I definitely need to visit on my next trip," he said.

Like many other Israelis, he knows little about Rhode Island and what it offers. On the other hand, 18 of the 21 Rhode Islanders on the mission had never visited Israel; their knowledge of Israel came mostly from national news sources. The delegation included representatives from software, jewelry, biomedical technology, polymer and textile companies, and Brown University and Rhode Island College.

The mission's first day was action-packed, with visits to the Knesset, to learn about Israel's parliamentary system; and Mishkenot Sha'ananim, where Judah Touro's \$50,000 bequest helped Montefiore build the first Jewish neighborhood outside the old city in 1860 (an early economic development project). There, we were briefed by Jeremy Issacharoff, deputy director for strategic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, about Middle East issues.

Visits to the Israel Museum and Yad Vashem were followed by a night tour of Jerusalem's old city and dinner at a restaurant in Abu Gosh. The full day helped members understand Israel's past, present and future and prepare them for doing business in Israel.

The more than 100 grueling meetings with Israeli counterparts, potential cus-

tomers and collaborators included an economic and business briefing from Jonathan Heimer, senior commercial officer of the U.S. Embassy; a visit to the Technion Institute in Haifa; a briefing by a Naval base commander in Haifa; a Rhode Island Day presentation to Israeli businesses in Herzliya; and visits to URI's Nautilus ship and Better Place, an electric car company.

Our final official event was a dinner reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence, hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro. Nadav Tamir, formerly consul general to New England, and now political adviser to President Shimon Peres; Yair Shiran, former economic minister to North America; Roni Yedidia, former consul to New England; Yuli Tamir, former education minister and president of Shenkar College, were among the Israelis who attended.

Ron Perry, a mission member, emailed me: "This was one of the most exhausting and enjoyable business trips I have had in a long time. The people of Israel were so pleasant and easy to work with. I came back with a totally new outlook on Israel and its business, culture and nature."

The first 29 years of my life were spent in Israel and 2011 is my 29th year as a Rhode Island resident. I feel especially fortunate to have been so involved in co-leading this mission with Kathy Tufts, associate international trade director at the R.I. Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC), to bring Rhode Island business people to Israel.

Heimer wrote in an email: "This was [a] most successful trade mission, looking at the number of trade leads developed."

I know that more visits and business development will lead to job creation, friendships and stronger relations between Rhode Island and Israel. Many agencies or government organizations - including RIEDC, which organized the trip, Israel Consulate to New England in Boston, Chafee Center for International Business at Bryant, New England Israel Business Council (NEIBC), U.S. Commercial Service at the Embassy in Israel, Foreign Ministry and the Israel Economic Ministry in New York - were instrumental to the mission's success.

A few hundred Israelis now know: "Where in the world is Rhode Island and what does it offer?"

Avi Nevel, of Providence, is CEO of Nevel International LLC, R.I. representative of NEIBC, and CRC's Israel Task Force chair. Contact him at [anevel@cox.net](mailto:anevel@cox.net).



## Births



TWIN BOYS, HARRISON SYDNEY (left) and JAMISON LAWLOR LAX

**R**YAN and MAGGIE LAX of Cranston announce the birth of their twins, Harrison Sydney and Jamison Lawlor, on July 25. Harrison weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces and Jamison weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces. The twins join big brothers, Noah and Jacob, and the family dog, Eddie. Their paternal grandparents are Rhonda and Marvin Lax of Pawtucket, and their maternal grandmother is Altie Kirk of Monroe, Conn.

## We Are Read

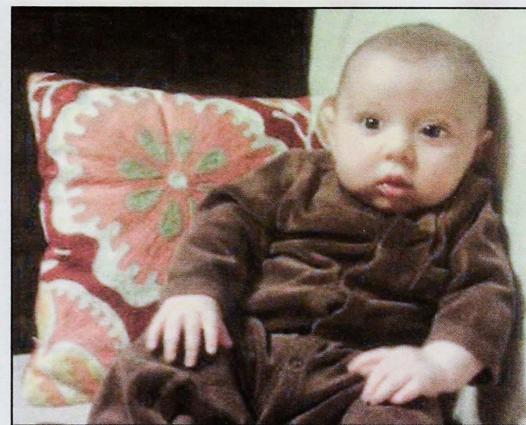


American Jews, Polish Jews in Poland

**S**COTT LIBMAN, left, Stefan Oscar (the Joint Distribution Committee's Europe director), Marty Cooper, Melissa Shapiro, Ronni Guttin and Karina Sokolowska (the Joint Distribution Committee's Poland director), with a copy of The Jewish Voice & Herald in Poland. See Cooper's story on page 1, "Life for Polish Jews."

**Keep your 2011-2012 Guide to Jewish Living handy...you'll need it!**

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



SARAH LEIBA DILL

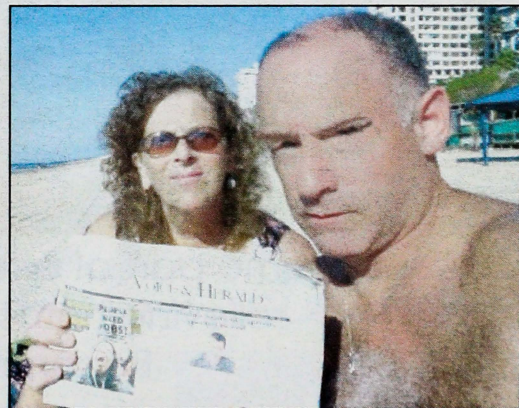
**J**UDI and SY DILL of Providence are happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter Sarah Leiba on Aug. 14, in New Jersey. Sarah is the daughter of Jennifer and Joshua Dill. Her older siblings are Yaakov and Basya. Aunt Pamela and Uncle Marc Ardizzone, and cousins Dahlia and Ezra of Pawtucket give a warm welcome to Sarah; Uncle Mathias and Aunt Jenna of Los Angeles will meet her during Hanukkah.

## Bar Mitzvah



JAMISON GRIFFITH EVANS

**J**AMISON GRIFFITH EVANS became a bar mitzvah Nov. 19 at Congregation Beth David in Narragansett. The son of Brian and Jeannie Evans, Jamison is a seventh grader at Alan Shawn Feinstein School in Coventry. His maternal grandparents are George and Elaine Sullivan of East Greenwich and his paternal grandparents, of blessed memory, were Melbourne and Pauline Evans, of Albuquerque, N.M.

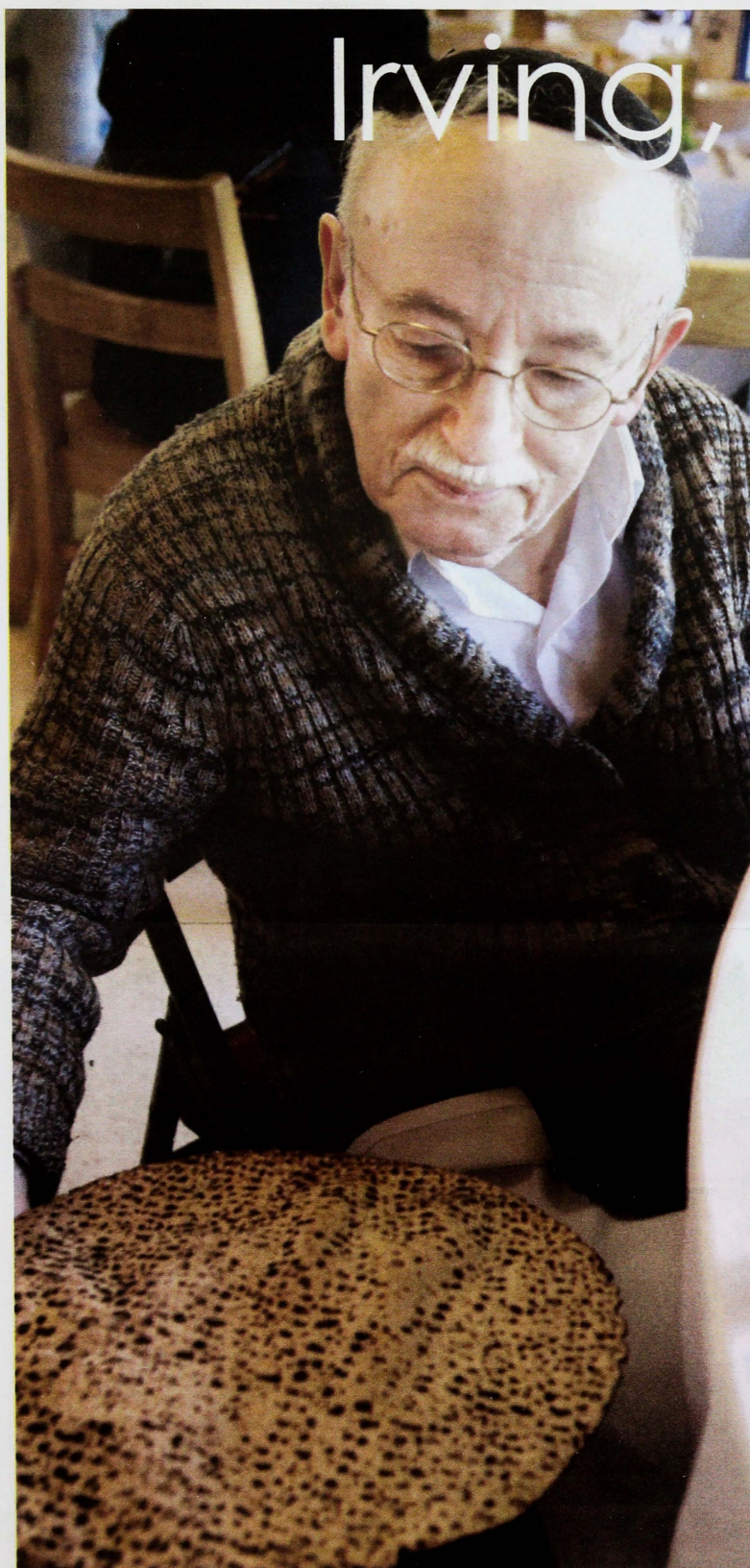


BARBARA and KEVIN DWARES

## A beach near Tel Aviv

**B**ARBARA and KEVIN DWARES visited Bat Yam Beach near Tel Aviv, Israel on Nov. 22. They were in Israel to visit their new granddaughter, Maya Dwares.





# Irving,

a senior member of our community, can no longer drive. He does not have family in the area so he is often confined to his home. Irving began to lack consistent human contact and had a hard time making sure he had the food he needed for his meals.

Thanks to your generosity, Irving is now able to have meals delivered to his house regularly from Meals-on-Wheels. He is also provided with transportation to attend group meals at the JCC at the Alliance, allowing him to remain social and active.

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Our Annual Community Campaign supports more than 300 programs and services that work, day in and day out, to sustain and enrich Jewish life and Jewish lives for this and future generations.

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