

the JEWISH VOICE

Volume XVIII, Issue XIV | jvhri.org

Serving Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

26 Av 5773 | August 2, 2013

EDUCATION

LAUNCHING THE JEWISH VOICE

Newspaper undergoes name change, redesign

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – With the new Jewish year of 5774 starting next month and a new school year fast approaching, we're taking the opportunity to re-name and redesign the newspaper with this issue. We think these changes will help make the newspaper more accessible and informative for our local Jewish community.

First, the name: We are now The Jewish Voice.

Longtime readers will remember that the name of the newspaper has gone through several iterations, including after two newspapers – the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's monthly paper (the Federation Voice and later The Jewish Voice of Rhode Island) and the independent weekly, Rhode Island Jewish Herald – merged to become The Jewish Voice & Herald. Combining the names was a way to honor both publications, but it made for a somewhat unwieldy name. Years later, we now adopt a streamlined title.

But there's a more important reason why we chose The Jewish Voice. As a community newspaper with a small staff, we rely on contributions from people throughout the community. Published by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, this newspaper wants to represent the voices of everyone in our Jewish community – and we can't do that alone. (See our related story, "Guidelines for submitting articles for publica-

tion in The Jewish Voice" on page 6, to learn how easy it is to submit information to The Jewish Voice.)

Fortunately, we live in a time that makes it easier to include a great variety of voices. Just as electronic communication makes it simpler for people to contribute news, ideas and opinions to secular media, so, too, we hope it can broaden and enrich our coverage. If you don't think we're representing your voice, please tell us!

We haven't just slapped a new name and a new masthead on the same traditional newspaper. We believe our fresh new look (which is a work in progress) – more and larger photographs, more visually appealing graphics, more community news and more accessible stories, in print and on the web – will appeal to current and new readers.

What hasn't changed is our commitment to bring meaningful news and feature stories, commentaries and columns, simchas and calendar entries, as well as stories from across the nation and around the world. We believe an informed community is a stronger community. Whether you read us in print or on the web, we hope you'll look to The Jewish Voice as your guide to what's going on in our Jewish community.

We welcome your input, so let us hear from you. Contact me at nkirsch@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 168. Or you can post a comment online, directly below this article.

Thank you for reading!

ADAM TILOVE TAKES THE HELM AT JCDS

New head to focus on parents, pupils, plans and pizza

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE – Adam Tilove, the new Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island head of school, is relieved that Providence has good pizza. He riffed about pizza and talked seriously about JCDS with The Jewish Voice shortly after he, his wife Marni and their son Naftali arrived in Providence after leaving New York City.

Q. Welcome to Providence. When did you arrive and where are you living?

A. We just arrived (beginning of July) and, as of this writing, we're under contract for a house within walking distance of the school. We want to live in the community in which I



Adam Tilove

work. We want our son Naftali to grow up here.

Q. Any surprises since interviewing here in March or

since arriving?

A. I've been happily surprised by how many people have reached out and invited me to their homes for dinner and been willing to meet me and get together. I'm not that surprised, but it has been welcoming and the people have been great.

The other big surprise is pizza! I was worried about not being able to get good pizza. I said to my wife, "What will we do in Providence – half our meals [in NYC] are pizza." When I learned that Providence was the number two city in the U.S. for pizza, I said, "Whoa, a sign from heaven." So, I'm looking forward to some good Rhode Island pizza.

TILOVE | 22

EDUCATORS OFFER WORDS OF WISDOM



Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer



Brenda Gross-Stahl

For our Education Issue, The Jewish Voice reached out via email to several teachers around the state to seek their thoughts and perspectives about teaching. Their excerpted comments appear on pages 20 - 21.



Dov Ben-Shimon, an executive with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Mitzel Berkelhammer, who led the Lions of Judah mission to Cuba, chat.

A Cuban reunion

PROVIDENCE – Lions of Judah women who participated in the mission to Cuba (See <http://preview.tinyurl.com/myfh4dw>, "On a mission to Cuba, with the JDC," by Susan Leach DeBlasio, in the April 26 issue) attended a reunion at the home of Larry and Jill Goldstein on the evening of July 24.

Early in the evening, they enjoyed Mojitos and other Cuban-themed snacks and drinks.

Dov Ben-Shimon, executive director for strategic partnerships for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) – which partners with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island – staffed the Cuban trip and updated those present on JDC activities around the world.



Jill Goldstein, who hosted the second reunion of the Cuba mission participants, stands with her daughter, Sydney, at left.

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTE

"Everyone knows fafael ... and camel rides - but Israel is so much more."



Janice Adler, who participated in the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's mission to Israel in January 2013, stands with Lone Soldiers Tal, left, Max and David in Israel.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL MEYERHEIM



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LONE SOLDIER CENTER MINISTERS TO NEEDS OF IDF SOLDIERS FAR FROM HOME

Lone Soldier Center executive reconnects with Rhode Islanders

BY MICHAEL MEYERHEIM
Special to The Jewish Voice

KIBBUTZ GESHER, Israel - Don't let anyone tell you that time and distance will harm the closeness of our community! Just the opposite, I say; sometimes it shows the importance of maintaining our communities' relations, and can even make them stronger.

It has been close to three years since returning to Israel. Our

First Person

eldest daughter Shelley has chosen to remain in the United States to continue her studies and our youngest daughter Tal

is now serving her third year as a combat soldier in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

I have chosen to work with the Lone Soldier Center (LSC) in memory of Michael Levin, a U.S. resident who emigrated to Israel. After joining the IDF's paratroopers brigade, he fought during Israel's second war

SOLDIERS | 15

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FROM CAMP TO CAMPUS

Avid outdoorsman Aaron Guttin brings his teaching acumen indoors

BY NANCY ABESHAUS
Contributing Writer

KINGSTON – This fall, Aaron Guttin, 23, is going back to school – again. But this time, he heads to the campus of the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, where he will serve URI Hillel as its Jewish student life coordinator.

Where Are They Now?

“[Jewish] education is important,” said Guttin, “and developing programs that help students incorporate Judaism into college life is especially important.”

News of Guttin’s URI Hillel position may not surprise members of our Jewish community, as his life has always revolved around Jewish education.

Five years ago, Guttin became a part-time teaching assistant at Temple Emanu-El’s religious school in Providence; in 2010, he became the full-time youth coordinator at the Conservative synagogue, a post he held until this past June.

Guttin credits much of his growth as a Jewish professional to two mentors at Temple Emanu-El: Miriam Abrams-Stark, director of congregational learning, and Rabbi Elan Babchuck.

“I learned a lot from them,” said Guttin. “Of course, I’ve learned an unbelievable amount from my mother.”

His mother Ronni is director of Camp JORI in Worden’s Pond in Wakefield.

“My mother always wanted to be involved in Jewish education – specifically the Jewish camping world – [and] so do I,” said Guttin, whose family’s roots run deep in Camp JORI.

His late maternal grandfather, Norman Saltzman, was JORI’s head counselor before World War II; Aaron’s maternal grandmother, Harriet, marks her 12th summer as JORI’s secretary.

This is Guttin’s eighth season as a JORI staff member. Becoming head counselor in 2009 was a full circle moment for him.

“It was the summer after my grandfather passed away and it was special to become head counselor 65 years after he did,” he said.

At JORI, Guttin participated in many professional development programs. As a Goodman Institute Fellow, he completed a two-year program through the iCenter, an organization that assists dozens of Jewish camps across North America in making Israel an integral part of the camp experience.

“It really changed the way I looked at Israel education,”

said Guttin. “Everyone knows falafel, the army and camel rides – but Israel is so much more than that.”

Guttin also attended annual conferences to learn new ideas and cutting-edge initiatives.

“You get to see what works and what doesn’t work elsewhere, and learn different ways of bringing Judaism to camp,” he said.

He feels fortunate to have logged a decade of Jewish life and work experience so early in his career. “I was living it before I was formally learning it,” he added.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Guttin grew up in Cranston where his parents still reside. He attended Harry Elkin Midrasha from 2003 to 2008; in May 2008, as a Cranston East High School senior, he visited Israel with March of the Living, a trip that begins with visits to Eastern Europe’s concentration camps and culminates in Israel.

“Providence is on the map in a Jewish sense.”

“That experience really shaped my future,” said Guttin.

From 2009 to 2011, he taught cultural and current events classes at Midrasha, staffed community trips and taught at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island for two years.

In 2012, Guttin earned a B.A. in history with a concentration in American Cold War era history and American Judaic history from Rhode Island College. He plans to pursue an MBA in nonprofit management.

Guttin intends to stay local. “I want people to know why Providence is on the map in a Jewish sense,” he said. “There are a lot of young Jewish professionals coming up through the ranks right now and we are the future.”

As a proponent of experiential learning – a teaching philosophy he attributes to his Jewish camping background – Guttin envisions student basketball games as an opportunity to learn about sports in Israel, students cooking Shabbat dinners together as a chance to learn about Israeli-style dishes and Jewish students studying side-by-side.

“URI Hillel is an extremely warm, welcoming environment – one that makes it easy for students to do what they want to do Jewishly,” he added.

“Aaron’s camp background, his experience as a youth coordinator at Emanu-El and his engaging personality make him an ideal person to create meaningful Jewish experiences

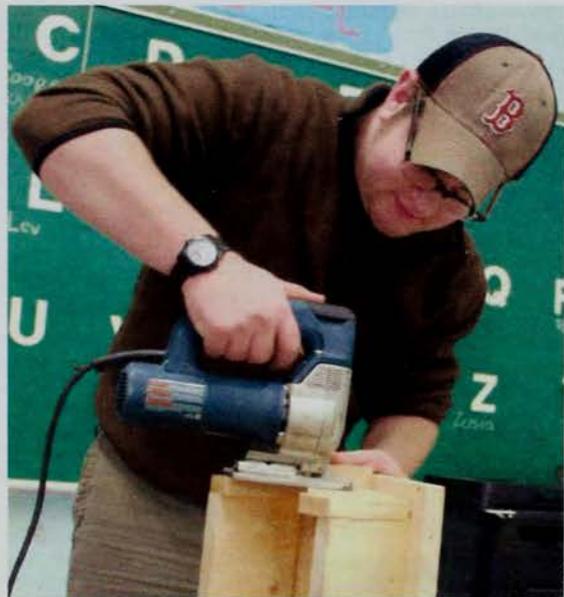
for students at URI,” said Amy Olson, executive director at URI Hillel. As a Rhode Island native, he “can hit the ground running.”

“There are so many ways to connect young Jews with the Jewish world around them,” said Guttin. “Helping them find that connection is a really wonderful thing – and that’s why I’m doing what I’m doing.”

Nancy Abeshaus (nabeshaus@cox.net) is a contributing writer for The Jewish Voice.

Aaron Guttin (amguttin@gmail.com)

If you are a young adult who grew up in greater Rhode Island and now work in the Jewish communal world, we welcome your story. Contact Nancy Kirsch at 421-4111, ext. 168 or nkirsch@shalomri.org, Subject Line: Where Are They Now?



Aaron Guttin demonstrates woodworking to Jewish Community Day School students in March 2013.

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WALKING IN THE SHOES OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

Local educator participates in Holocaust program in Poland

BY MARSHA GIBBER

Special to The Jewish Voice

PROVIDENCE – Although I stare at my computer screen in the comforts of my home, I see myself walking between glass display cases filled with thousands and thousands of shoes. Three wooden barracks that formerly housed innocent victims, mostly Jewish people, still house 185,000 shoes – men's tie shoes, shoes for little, even tiny feet, flat shoes, high-heeled shoes. They are piled atop one another, vying for recognition, dusty and stiff with age, worn out, starting to fall apart – all empty shoes. In early July, I was walking in Majdanek, a German concentration and extermination camp outside of Lublin, Poland. I was looking at the shoes, but

tional Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. In addition, my husband, Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, and I received a generous stipend from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island to participate together in this program. This trip was the culmination of a six-month, interactive, online course designed to train Jewish educators to teach Holocaust studies that includes both a Torah perspective and a breadth of historical knowledge.

I have taught a Holocaust studies class every other year since 2002 at the New England Academy of Torah to young women who are high school juniors and seniors.

My father, of blessed memory, was a survivor; his parents, siblings and family were not.

I feel that it is important for us to remember and never forget and to see that our children know and remember as well.

About 30 educators from all over the United States were on this trip. The question uppermost in our minds was, "Why are we here?"

The few days were intense, disturbing, indescribable. We visited three extermination camps, Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Belzec. The vestiges of indescribable atrocities and horrors assaulted our



A group walks into the entrance of Birkenau in July 2013; the train tracks led right to the death camp.

PHOTOS: MARSHA GIBBER

"Why are we here?"

I was also searching for footprints.

I was in Poland from June 30 - July 7 as part of a fellowship from the Zechor Yemos Olam Holocaust Educator Training Fellowship Program under the auspices of Torah Umesorah and funded by the Interna-

senses. In Majdanek, there is a memorial of Jewish ashes, a mound of earth where fragments of human bones are clearly visible. In Tarnow, we walked in the darkness of night down a lonely road with dogs barking on either side of us to a simple fenced rectangle in the woods. This enclosure is a mass grave holding the bodies of 800 young children whose

last footsteps were likely on that very same road.

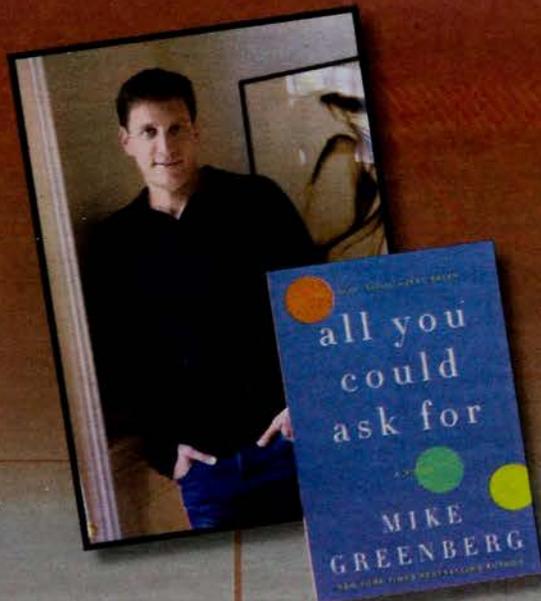
At the same time, we also visited Lublin, the site of the famous Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin of Rabbi Meir Shapiro, who instituted the daily study of the Talmud, the *daf yomi*. We prayed at the gravesites of Torah luminaries dating to the 16th century and in famous synagogues that have

been restore. Only a few synagogues survived the Nazi horrors, particularly in Krakow, a city that Hitler spared. Many of the participants had close relatives who survived and close relatives who did not survive the death camps. But even for those who had no immedi-

STUDYING | 23

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Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

WOMEN SHARE MEMORIES THROUGH OLD PHOTOS, STORIES

The Women's Alliance helps keep our Jewish community vibrant

BY MAYBETH LICHAA

Special to The Jewish Voice
BARRINGTON - As we begin our Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island Annual Campaign this fall, I have been reflecting on my many years of experience with the Women's Division/Women's Alliance (WA) of the Alliance. Now chairing the Community Division of the WA campaign, I have been involved with the organization since the 1990s.

Alliance Annual Campaign

I recently asked my close friends and fellow lay leaders for some of their remembrances from the time they began volunteering in 1980.

Mindy Wachtenheim has embraced the concept of volunteering with the Alliance with the grace that could only come from truly believing in its mission. An integral part of community building for more than 30 years, she cautions our young people to put more emphasis on working for our Jewish community rather than asking what the community can do for us.

She remembers that the late Robert Riesman, a former Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (now the Alliance) president, often used the expression, "Après moi le déluge," which means, "After me, the floods (will begin)." Her two other favorite fundraising quotes are these: "Raising money isn't glamorous, but it can be fun," and "Don't give until it hurts, give until it feels good."

Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow reflected on the close friendships that span the generations from her involvement with the Jewish Federation and now the Alliance. She was nostalgic as she looked through her meticulous array of newspaper clippings - some pictured herein - from many years of events held by the Jewish Federation and the Alliance; many of the women



CO-CHAIRMEN of the Rhode Island delegation at the national Young Leadership conference in Washington, Betsy Holland and Darrell Ross, flank majority leader and possible presidential candidate, Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas.

This is a PDF of a photo from the April 1986 issue of the Federation Voice.



Randi Goldman, Robert Goldman (Chairman Designate of the Initial Gifts Division), Cheryl Teverow, Maria and Ralph Posner

An image from the December 1988 issue of the Federation Voice.

featured in those stories consistently volunteered through the years.

"I think we understand the big picture of keeping our Jewish community vibrant," said Greenfeld Teverow. "Many of us also serve on organizations outside the Jewish community, but I doubt for the [same] length of time ... many of us worked outside the home, but also found the time to devote [to] helping our Jewish community, both in Rhode Island and abroad, getting the finances to sustain the many wonderful things we do. I'd love to see many other young women's pictures from now through 30 more years. It really is remarkable, but also scary, to see how many years have gone by."

Mitzi Berkelhammer joyfully told me of being a young woman in 1980 and being invited to an extremely moving talk by Gerd Weissmann Klein, who came to speak to the Women's Division. At that time, each woman contributed \$100 to the Women's Division to hear Klein, who authored "All But My Life," in 1957, which was later adapted for the 1995 short film, "One Survivor Remembers." Coincidentally, Mindy Wachtenheim chaired this event. This film received both an Academy Award

and an Emmy.

Mitzi remarked that she now realizes how much \$100 was in 1980, yet all the women gladly gave their donations to be part of this prolific Holocaust survivor's remembrances and wisdom about our Jewish community.

"I have been involved in many organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, but I always come back to the Alliance," she said. "The Alliance is the key to the Jewish community. We are community builders when we make our gift. We are not giving to the Alliance, but through the Alliance."

Certainly fundraising is an integral part of what the Alliance does; however those of us who have done this for years all agree that we have gained so much. The friendships we have built by showing up for meetings, participating in the many wonderful programs the Alliance has to offer and the pride in knowing that everything we do is important - these are some of the things I cherish from all these years.

As the Alliance's Annual Campaign begins, the WA welcomes new individuals who will someday share in the same wonderful memories that we, experienced lay leaders, hold

Zahava (golden) Division



Marilyn Friedman

An image from the September 1990 issue of the Federation Voice.



Mindy Wachtenheim

dear.

We can't let the future of our Jewish community be in anyone else's hands but our own.

For more information about the Women's Alliance (WA), contact Trine Lustig or Hillary Schulman at 421-4111.

For more information about the Alliance Annual Campaign, contact Eddie Bruckner at ebruckner@shalomri.org or 421-4111.

Maybeth Lichaa (Rivka1000@

hotmail.com) is chair of the Community Division of the Women's Alliance.

Editor's Note: These images are PDFs of photos that appeared in earlier issues of the Jewish Federation's newspaper, the Federation Voice, that Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow had collected throughout the years.

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THE JEWISH VOICE (ISSN number 1539-2104, USPS #465-710) is published bi-weekly, except in July, when it does not publish.

PERIODICALS postage paid at Providence, RI.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave. Providence, RI 02906.

PUBLISHER: The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Chair Sharon Gaines, President/CEO Jeffrey K. Savit, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

PHONE: 401-421-4111 • FAX: 401-331-7961

COPY DEADLINES: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: nkirsch@shalomri.org.

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GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JEWISH VOICE

Community newspaper welcomes local input

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – As a community newspaper with a small staff, The Jewish Voice relies on contributions from the local Jewish community.

We encourage synagogues, agencies, schools and other organizations, as well as individuals, to submit draft stories of 200 to 800 words.

Wondering whether a topic or event is newsworthy? Don't be constrained by what you've seen in the past. If you have something that you believe would interest people in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community, we'd like to hear about it. (If you want to write an opinion column or a letter to the editor, The Jewish Voice's guidelines for those appear on our opinion pages in every issue.)

Here are our guidelines for articles:

- Please include the "who, what, when, where and why" of an event and a few sentences about what was different or special about the event.

- If it is an annual event – such as an awards dinner or meeting – what happened this year that didn't happen in previous years? What information

was revealed that surprised or gratified people? If it is an annual conference, please give specifics on what participants learned and how they might apply this knowledge to their work in the community.

- As most readers appreciate learning about new developments, please try to include something that makes a frequently occurring event new and newsworthy. We are especially interested in reading pieces about an emerging trend or a growing concern, be it positive or negative – such as changing demographics, how to engage young people in communal Jewish life, etc. – though please focus on concrete developments, not your opinion, unless, of course, you are writing an op-ed column.

- Include the names of the key people involved, the nature of the event and the place and date it happened. Check the spelling of names and include any relevant positions (board member, staff member, etc.) the people involved may hold.

- It is especially important that we receive information in a timely fashion (days, not weeks, after an event). We are less concerned with writing style and grammar, as we can edit your

details into a good story. So please don't wait until you can polish your prose to submit material.

- Please include the name of a contact person, with a phone number and an email address.

- We prefer to receive submissions as emails or email attachments. As a last resort, we can work from a typed document that is mailed or delivered to us.

- We accept many submissions, but we reserve the right to decline publication for a variety of reasons. If we do accept a piece for publication, we reserve the right to edit the piece, for length and clarity, at our discretion. If we have questions or concerns, we will contact the person who submitted the piece to The Jewish Voice.

And, to respond to a question frequently asked, we do not generally accept original pieces previously published in another newspaper such as, for example, the Providence Journal, the New York Times, etc.

Thank you for contributing to our community. We welcome hearing from as many diverse and vibrant voices as possible to make The Jewish Voice a dynamic read for all.

The Jewish Voice hires a new advertising sales representative

Goodlin comes to the paper with extensive experience

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Voice welcomes its new advertising sales representative, Ellen Goodlin, who succeeds Tricia Stearly.

With eight years of ad sales experience, Ellen came to The Jewish Voice, effective June 24. Her most recent position was with Providence Business News.

We were attracted to Ellen's knowledge of advertising strategies, her enthusiasm for transforming our customers' ideas into sales and her abiding belief that, although her office is at The Jewish Voice, she works for our customers.

A Warwick resident, Ellen is a native Rhode Islander who not only knows successful strategies for increasing sales in our particular economy, but she also knows the needs and wants of our advertisers' prospective customers.



Ellen Goodlin

Please help us welcome this dedicated professional to our small, but vital, team, which includes Karen Berger as an independent sales representative.

Ellen will be calling on you soon. Please join me in welcoming her.

Of course, you can always contact Ellen at 421-4111, ext. 160 or egoodlin@shalomri.org.

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Thank you to all of our volunteer solicitors for helping us raise \$3.2 million for the 2013 Annual Campaign.

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Rabbis Elan Babchuck and Peter Stein to participate in prestigious fellowship

NEW YORK – Rabbi Elan Babchuck, of Temple Emanuel, the Conservative synagogue in Providence, and Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai, the Reform synagogue in Cranston, are two of 21 successful applicants to a rabbinic fellowship program.

More than 100 individuals applied for this, the fifth class of Rabbis Without Borders (RWB), a landmark initiative that helps rabbis make Jewish thought and practice more available for improving people's lives.

"Interest in the program



Rabbi Elan Babchuck

COURTESY RABBI ELAN BABCHUCK



Rabbi Peter Stein

COURTESY RABBI PETER STEIN

Rhode Island: in my synagogue and in Rhode Island's Jewish community for sure, but also to lead and teach those who are seeking comfort, learning and a sense of connection across our state."

Listed this past year in the Slingshot Guide of the 50 most innovative Jewish organizations in America, RWB encourages rabbis to think creatively about their work and the new American religious landscape.

Building a network of religious leaders from all streams, RWB helps rabbis make Jewish insights readily available, adding to the well of American spiritual resources.

The rabbinic fellows will gather in New York City four times during the academic 2013-14 year; sessions will focus on current trends in America today. The intersections of religion, politics, technology, identity and meaning making are all explored in depth.

has only increased over the years," said Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu, RWB director, in a press release. "Rabbis recognize that the religious environment has changed – from family makeup to spiritual practice. To reach people where they are and how they are, rabbis need to apply their skills in new ways. RWB ... helps rabbis better communicate in both familiar and new venues and makes Jewish wisdom an accessible resource for the American public."

"For me, this is a unique opportunity to share the expansive wealth of Jewish life with the community at large," wrote Rabbi Babchuck in an email to The Jewish Voice. "People are hungry for real Judaism – the kind that moves masses, inspires individuals and sparks change. This is it." "I am honored and excited to be part of the Rabbis Without Borders program," Rabbi Stein wrote in an email to The Jewish Voice. "I look forward to increased opportunities to share Jewish wisdom across

rabbiswithoutborders.org.

Touro Fraternal Association holds annual meeting, elects new leaders



Touro Fraternal Association's 2013-14 directors and officers pose for their annual picture. Front row, from left, Nathan Lury, Lester Nathan, Andrew Liss, Michael Smith, Milton Bronstein, Jeffrey Padwa, Barry Schiff and Judah Rosen; second row, from left, Max Guarino, Adam Halpern, Barry Shaw, Jed Brandes, Robert Miller, Steven Waldman, Richard Cohen, Rodney Locke and Alan Lury; third row, from left, Ried Redlich, Andrew Shuster, Manochehr Norparvar, Steven White, Stevan Labush, Jeffrey Davis, Bruce Weisman, Marc Gertsacov, Norman Dinerman and Andrew Lamchick. Arthur Poulten, Michael Levin and Max Dinerman are not pictured.

MIKE SKORSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

CRANSTON – Touro Fraternal Association, the largest independent Jewish fraternal order in New England, announces the retirement of Robert D. Miller as chairman of the board and Jed R. Brandes as his successor.

Miller, who served as chairman for the past 12 years, announced his retirement at the board's annual organizational meeting held June 12 at its headquarters at 45 Rolfe Square.

Miller, a Warwick resident, assumes the title of chairman emeritus with full lifetime voting powers on the board.

The board then elected Brandes of Cranston as chairman and Alan Lury of Sharon, Mass., as vice chairman; and re-elected Steven Waldman of North Providence as treasurer; Marc Gertsacov of Cranston as secretary and Judah Rosen of Cranston as chaplain.

Prior to his election, Brandes had served as chairman of Touro's Student Financial Aid and Communications committees. Lury also serves as chairman of Touro's Investment Committee and was Student Financial Aid Committee chairman. Both men are longtime members of Touro's board of directors and are past presidents of the association.

At its May 22 association an-



Touro Fraternal Chairman Emeritus Robert Miller, left, and newly-elected Chairman Jed Brandes

TOURO FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

nual meeting, other elections were held. Norman Dinerman, Stevan Labush, Ried Redlich, Barry Shaw, Steven Waldman and Steven White were named to three-year terms on the board of directors; Lester Nathan, president; Jeffrey Padwa, vice president; Andrew Shuster, secretary and Manochehr Norparvar, treasurer, will

hold their respective offices for one-year terms as Harmony Lodge officers. Norman Dinerman, president; Andrew Liss, vice president; Richard Cohen, secretary, and Michael Levin, treasurer, will serve one-year terms as Friendship Lodge officers.

tourofraternal.org.

Never too old for a bat mitzvah ... or to help heal the world

CHESHIRE, Mass. – Evie Baslow, the aunt of Ruth Perlow, will become a bat mitzvah later this month – at age 80!

As part of her *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) bat mitzvah

commitment, she became involved with "Kids 4 Harmony," a program that provides used musical instruments for underprivileged children.

She is collecting orchestral

instruments from anyone who might want to donate any unused instruments.

To donate an instrument, contact Ken Perlow, (508) 285-5047 or perlow123@gmail.com.

FIND US: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JVHRI

Golfing for a cause: Raising funds for military personnel nonprofit

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

SEEKONK, Mass. – A local group's third annual golf outing – to raise funds for armed services personnel – netted more than \$25,000, according to an event chair, Sharon Teich.

The event, "A Day of Thanks," is an opportunity, said Buddy Trinkle, another event chair, to thank former and active duty military personnel for their service to our nation.

On June 24, some 56 people took to the Ledgemont Country Club links to raise money for the nonprofit group, wish-fourheroes.org, as well as to increase awareness of the challenges that many of our armed services personnel face when they return from active duty, said Trinkle, in a phone interview with The Jewish Voice.

Asked why this event is important to him, he said, "When Sharon [Teich, formerly of Providence] approached me three years [ago] to play golf with Bernie [Teich's son, who, as a staff sergeant, was severely wounded in Iraq], I accepted the invitation. For me, it was an opportunity to give a small token of thanks to a war veteran who had served for us."

Named after his Uncle Buddy – who had died at Iwo Jima in World War II – Trinkle added, "We created the tournament to say 'thank you.' One veteran said it was the first time he'd been thanked in 40 years."



Although the oversized check, above, says "\$20,000," this year's fundraiser brought in more than \$25,000. Buddy Trinkle, from left, Sharon Teich and Jeff Wells, from Wish for our Heroes, pose with the check.



An honor guard greets active and retired military personnel.

Since 18 of the 19 foursomes included an active duty or retired member of the military, Trinkle said that the other three members of those foursomes could "spread the word" about this important cause.

Trinkle, for one, believes that many Americans neither recognize nor appreciate the sacrifices service personnel make when they put themselves in harm's way for us.

Although we notice the ones who come back with a missing

limb, Trinkle said that many more return home with Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome or Traumatic Brain Injuries.

Ledgemont Country Club, he said, assisted in making this a successful fundraiser, which included dinner and an auction.

With the money raised this year, the group has netted approximately \$65,000, he said.

Trinkle, Teich and Anthony DeFusco have been involved in this ongoing initiative since its inception. (Visit jvhri.org,

search "Bernie Teich" for past stories in The Jewish Voice & Herald.)

For more information, contact Buddy Trinkle (trinkle@trinkledesign.com). Wishfourheroes.org.

Fourth of July parade



The Jewish War Veterans, Department of Rhode Island, participated in the 228th Bristol Fourth of July parade. Ira Fleisher, Senior Vice Commander, left; Michael Penn, Junior Vice Commander; Evan Kerzer, recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan; Steve Shapiro, Vietnam War veteran; Sanford Gorodetsky, State Commander, Jewish War Veterans, Department of Rhode Island, and David Penn, World War veteran, displayed the national colors along with the Jewish War Veterans flag as they walked in the parade.

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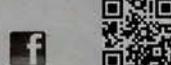


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Golf tournament raises funds for Beth-El's religious school



Rick Granoff, left, David Bazar, Neil Benharris, Fred Franklin, Ruby Shalansky, Anita Steiman and Rabbi Sarah Mack pose with an oversized check after Temple Beth-El's golf tournament.

PROVIDENCE - At Temple Beth-El's 4th Annual Golf Tournament on July 15, 90 golfers enjoyed a day on the links at Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass. Golfers and many synagogue members par-

ticipated in an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and dinner, with chances to bid on silent and live auction items, with auctioneer Steve McDonald, aka Jim Shorts on Sports. Committee Chairs David Ba-

zar, Neil Benharris and Rick Granoff announced that the tournament netted \$43,000; funds will benefit the synagogue's religious school. Beth-El is the Reform synagogue on the East Side of Providence.

Summer camp supports grieving kids

PROVIDENCE - Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island sponsors Camp BraveHeart, a free, two-day summer camp for kids and teens, ages 4 to 17, who have lost a loved one. The camp runs Aug. 22 and Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at YMCA Camp Fuller in Wakefield.

At Camp BraveHeart, children may participate in recreational activities and receive grief support. Activities include swimming, kayaking, archery, tower climbing, zipline, garden-

ing, storytelling and arts and crafts. In addition, counselors provide grief and emotional support through discussions, opportunities to memorialize loved ones, scrapbooking and remembrance circles.

"Children who experience the loss of a loved one can sometimes become 'forgotten mourners,'" said Home & Hospice Care children's grief specialist, Deanna Upchurch, in a release. "These surviving children often feel isolated and

lonely in their grief and may not be sure how to handle the conflicting emotions they feel. Camp Braveheart offers them grief support in an environment of fun recreational activities. We help them understand that what they're experiencing is normal."

To register, call 415-4610 by Aug. 16; transportation is available to and from pre-arranged pick-up and drop-off points.

Congregation Beth Jacob marks a centennial anniversary



The synagogue and its members in 1913



Synagogue members gather at Congregation Beth Jacob in late June 2013.

PLYMOUTH, Mass. - In 1909, when 40 Jewish families formed the Beis Jacob Society, they began making plans to build a synagogue. By 1911, the society had voted to spend up to \$4,000 to build that synagogue and, after securing a long-term mortgage, purchased land on Pleasant Street. The building was completed in 1913. In the 1940s,

when Jewish veterans of World War II returned home, they used their severance pay to pay off the mortgage.

On Sunday, June 23, Rabbi Lawrence Silverman (who has been the leader and "face" of Congregation Beth Jacob for more than one-third of its existence), along with Dr. Fred Sarke, synagogue president,

and a packed audience, including descendants of the original Beis Jacob Society and current and past members of the congregation, paid tribute to this historic structure. Dr. Karin Goldstein completed this rededication with her presentation of the history of immigrant Jews of Plymouth and their involvement in its growth.

Holocaust author to speak at United Brothers Synagogue

BRISTOL - It was November 1942. Nazi Germany had invaded Norway and the deportation of the Norwegian Jews had begun.

Then a very young girl in Norway, Irene Levin Berman grew up to write her account of that time: "We Are Going to Pick Potatoes: Norway and the Holocaust. The Untold Story."

She will speak about her experiences and read from her book at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at United Brothers Synagogue in Bristol.

"We are going to pick potatoes" was what Irene, then 4, and her brother, then 7, were told by their mother and their nanny to explain their sudden departure from Nazi-occupied Oslo, Norway, and escape to Sweden. Seven members of Irene's father's immediate family were among the hundreds in Oslo who were unable to escape and died in Auschwitz.

Her talk will describe the

impact of the Holocaust on her life in Norway as well as her life in the United States after her marriage to a U.S. citizen. Taking readers through more than six decades of history, she

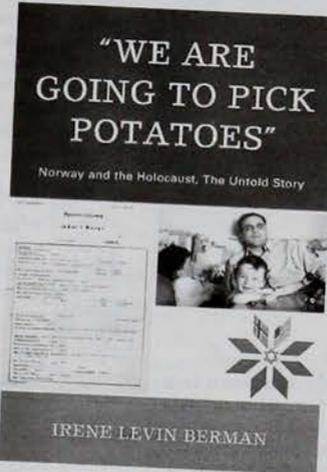
recounts her research through archives and personal interviews to discover the fate of the aunts, uncles and cousins who "disappeared."

Sponsored by the synagogue's Book Club, the program includes refreshments

and the opportunity to purchase Irene's book. Although the program is free, seating is limited; leave a message at 253-3460 or ubsbristol@gmail.com.

The synagogue is at 205 High St., Bristol.

To learn more about Irene's experiences, visit NorwayandtheHolocaust.com.



FREE Community Concert!

Wednesday
August 7
Show time:
6:30pm

Alliance JCC
401 Elm Grove Avenue
Providence

The Tzofim Friendship Caravan is a summer delegation of ten teenagers sent from Israel traveling across the United States and Canada bringing Israeli culture, music and dance, as well as a message of peace.

"We get a lot of multicultural performances from other countries, but nothing as happy and energetic like the Tzofim."

For more information contact Larry Katz at 401.421.4111 ext. 179. or lkatz@shalomri.org

CALENDAR

Ongoing

Alliance Kasher Senior Café. Kasher lunch and program provided every Wednesday and Friday. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon - lunch: 12:45 p.m. - program. A \$3 lunch donation requested from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 421-4111, ext. 107.

YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Am David Kasher Senior Café. Kasher lunch and program provided every weekday. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Program: 11:15 a.m. - program; lunch - noon. A \$3 lunch donation requested from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Elaine or Steve, 732-0047.

Aug. 3 | Saturday

Havdalah Service. Temple Sinai will hold a havdalah service and song session, beginning at 5 pm at Narragansett Beach, between lifeguard chairs 4 and 5. Contact Ann Messier, 225-2661.

Aug. 6 | Tuesday

Film Screening and BBQ. J Street Rhode Island hosts a potluck cookout and screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary, "5 Broken Cameras," that chronicles life in the West Bank. Film screening: 5:30 p.m., dinner: 6:45 p.m.; discussion: 7:30 p.m. Location: Providence home (information will be provided to those who RSVP to <http://preview.tinyurl.com/63s9uf>).

Book Reading in Bristol. United Brothers Synagogue's Book Club hosts Irene Levin Berman, who will share the stories from "We Are Going to Pick Potatoes ...," describing her experiences as a very young girl in Nazi-occupied Norway. Includes refreshments and optional book purchase. 7 p.m., 205 High St., Bristol. Event is free, but space is limited: Contact 253-3460 or ubsbristol@gmail.com.

Aug. 7 | Wednesday

Tzofim Friendship Caravan Concert. Israeli teens perform in free community concert. Alliance Social Hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Israeli food for sale at 5:30 p.m., concert begins at 6:30 p.m. Larry Katz, 421-4111 or lkatz@shalomri.org.

Aug. 8 | Thursday

Rhode Island Film Festival. Screening of "Putzel"; film director will attend. Alliance Social Hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. \$10. 7 - 9 p.m. Erin Moseley, 421-4111 or emoseley@shalomri.org.

Calendar Submissions

Calendar items for our Aug. 16 first Rosh Hashanah Issue must be received by Aug. 7. Calendar items for our Aug. 30 second Rosh Hashanah issue must be received by Aug. 21. Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."

Aug. 13 | Tuesday

"Books on the Beach." The Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah presents its annual book and author luncheon. Hester Kaplan, author of "The Tell," and her husband, "Michael Stein, M.D., author of "The Rape of the Muse" are joined by Dale Stanten, who wrote a memoir, "The Hooker's Daughter: A Boston Family's Saga." 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Atlantic Beach Club, 55 Purgatory Road, Newport. \$50; lunch choices are pasta primavera or salmon. Contact 463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org.

Aug. 15 | Thursday

PJ Library Storytime. Young children and their parents enjoy a free story and activity, courtesy of PJ Library. Garden City Gazebo, Cranston, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Michelle Cicchitelli, 421-4111 or mcicchitelli@shalomri.org

YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Aug. 16 | Friday

Colonial Jewish Newport. Walking tours of colonial Jewish Newport are being offered in connection with Touro Synagogue's 250th anniversary. 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Preregistration is required; contact Touro Synagogue, touro-synagogue.org or 847-4794, ext. 207.

Shabbat Barbecue & Service. Temple Beth-El hosts a family BBQ at 5 p.m., and a Shabbat Under the Stars service at 7 p.m. Current, new and prospective members are invited to the evening, which includes children's activities and a post-service *oneg* with ice cream. Dinner is \$5 per synagogue members; non-member guests are welcome at no charge. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Rob Massi, 331-6070 or rmasi@temple-beth-el.org.

Aug. 17 | Saturday

Service, Lecture and Celebration. In honor of its 250th anniversary, Touro Synagogue hosts special Shabbat services at 8:45 a.m., 1 p.m. lecture by Brandeis University Professor Jonathan Sarma and the celebration, from 9 - 11 p.m., at Malbone House includes kosher food. \$180 per person. Preregistration is required; contact Touro Synagogue at touro-synagogue.org or 847-4794, ext. 207.

Aug. 18 | Sunday

Keynote by Justice Kagan. The 66th annual reading of the George Washington Letter includes keynote speech by Supreme Court Associate Justice Elena Kagan. 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required; contact Touro Synagogue at touro-synagogue.org or 847-4794, ext. 207. Overflow seating at an adjacent church with the ceremony simulcast for viewing.

IRAN DIVESTMENT LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

Alliance CRC, legislators supported bills

BY MARTY COOPER
mcooper@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE - Thanks to legislation signed by Governor Lincoln Chafee, the State of Rhode Island is prohibited from conducting business or contracting with a company that conducts business with Iran. In addition, the legislation - 2013-H 5620A and 2013-S 0521A - requires the state Retirement Board to identify all companies - in which the public fund has direct or indirect holdings - that have business operations in Iran.

With Chafee's signature on July 11, Rhode Island became the 25th state (along with Washington, D.C.) to enact divestment legislation. In so doing, Rhode Island also became the eighth state to pass a contracting restraint bill.

Almost three years ago, the U.S. Congress passed the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, followed by passage of the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2012 (ITRA). These laws present companies with a clear choice: If you do business in key sectors in Iran, you are precluded from winning government contracts with federal or state governments.

These two federal laws allow states to pursue divestment initiatives. These laws not only opened the way for states to constitutionally pass Iran divestment legislation, but they encourage states to do so.

In 2010, the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island presented State Senator Joshua Miller (D-Dist. 28, Cranston, Providence) and members of Rhode Island's House leadership with a proposed Iran divestment bill that Miller and State Representative Chris Blazewski (D-Dist. 2, Providence) agreed to sponsor. In 2012, the bill came very close to passage.

This year, Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Kilmartin introduced similar legislation, which included the provision barring Rhode Island from conducting business with companies doing business in Iran. The sole exception to this prohibition is for the distribution of goods for humanitarian purposes.

State Representative Mia Ackerman (D-Dist. 45, Cumberland, Lincoln) was lead sponsor in the House for Kilmartin's legislation, while Miller was the primary sponsor in the Senate. While the Senate bill passed unanimously, all but two members of the House voted for passage of the House bill. This legislation sends a strong message, noted both Ackerman and Miller, to



Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Kilmartin speaks with an unidentified Rhode Island resident in an undated photo.

Iran's regime, which has expressed intent to pursue nuclear capability and state-sponsored terrorism worldwide.

As in previous years, the CRC testified in support of the legislation at hearings. This year, two additional supporters, Consul General of Israel to New England Shai Bazak and David Ibsen, executive director for United Against a Nuclear Iran, provided detailed testimony.

"The prospect of debarment ... [compels] corporations to end their Iran business."

The CRC testified that the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran should concern all Americans and was unacceptable to the community of nations. Noting that a nuclear Iran was neither an Israel-only nor Middle East-only issue, the CRC emphasized that a nuclear-armed Iran would present a global crisis that must be confronted by lawmakers in Washington, D.C., U.N. diplomats and state and local governments, as well.

"[As] legislators, we not only keep a close eye on state business but international issues that could affect us in the future as well," said Ackerman, according to a June 28 General

Assembly press release. "With the country's nuclear intents a very real threat to our entire nation, it's important that we stand together with our president in placing political pressure where necessary. We must all strive for peace."

"I commend the attorney general for recognizing the importance of cutting ties with companies that engage with Iran," said Miller in the same release. "I also laud my colleagues in the Senate and House chambers for ... noting the risks of continuing business as usual with a regime that seems to ignore the rules of being a good global citizen."

"Corporations and investors that do business with Iran support and strengthen a dangerous regime that is developing nuclear weapons brutally represses its own people and sponsors terrorism worldwide," said Kilmartin, in the release. "Companies that wish to continue 'business as usual' in Iran should be subject to debarment from state government contracts. The prospect of debarment is one of the most effective ways to compel corporations to end their Iran business."

Marty Cooper (mcooper@shalomri.org or 421-4111) is the Community Relations Council director.



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Newport's Touro Synagogue offers Kiddush luncheon speakers, kosher certification

NEWPORT – Rabbi Dr. Marc Mandel, senior rabbi at Touro Synagogue, announced that Touro Synagogue is hosting a special summer series of guest lecturers at the synagogue's Kiddush luncheons each Shabbat. T

The first speaker, Jeffrey Savit, president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, spoke July 13 about the Alliance's goals and visions.

David Strachman, adjunct professor of law at Roger Williams School of Law and the University of Massachusetts School of Law and the author of "Terrorism Litigation,"

spoke July 20. The author of "Terrorism Litigation," Strachman spoke about bringing suit on behalf of terrorism victims against terrorist organizations and their sponsors.

On July 27, Rabbi Dan Landsman from Teaneck, N.J., spoke about how people can use the lessons of the Torah to get through difficult times.

Upcoming speaker sessions include Marty Cooper, director of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Community Relations Council, on Aug. 3; Dr. Andrei Rebarber, a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist with a subspecialty certification in mater-

nal fetal medicine, on Aug. 10.

On Aug. 17, as part of a program associated with the 66th anniversary of the George Washington Letter Reading, Brandeis University Professor Jonathan Sarna will speak.

In addition, Rabbi Mandel announced that he has certified as kosher these Newport eateries: Newport Fudgery, 359 Thames St., and 168 Thames St., and Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt, 198 Thames St.

For more information, contact Touro Synagogue at tourosynagogue.org.

Seeking new – and old – stories about the High Holy Days

PROVIDENCE – Do you observe the High Holy Days as a blended family or multi-generational family all living together? Have you celebrated Rosh Hashanah at the beach admiring a fiery sunset, marveling at the strength in your lungs and back as you climb the highest peak of a mountain? Or, on a more poignant note, have you quietly marked the New Year in a more difficult environment – such as in a hospital or hospice room that you or a loved one occupied?

As for food, food and more food – for Rosh Hashanah and/or break-the-fast, we welcome your family recipes. Did you learn to bake a traditional Rosh Hashanah apple cake from your bubbe ... or zayde?

We welcome hearing your stories, salivating over your recipes and sharing your wisdom with readers of The Jewish Voice. Send all your reminiscences – and pictures, if you have them – to Nancy Kirsch, nkirsch@shalomri.org (sub-

ject line: Holidays) or by mail, to The Jewish Voice, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Please include a phone number (for contact information only and not for publication) and identify who's who in each picture. If you want to

have pictures returned, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

We will need to receive information by Aug. 15 so that we can publish your stories in our second Rosh Hashanah issue of Aug. 30.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford wishes to announce the opening of the position of its Executive Director. Ellen Hull, the current Interim Director will be stepping down from that position in September 2013. Ellen took over as Interim after the resignation of Olga Yorish to take a position in Orlando, FL.

The Board is currently looking to re-envision this leadership position for the Federation and has taken this opportunity to assess its needs. It has decided to recruit a part time Executive Director. The ideal candidate will have an understanding and familiarity of the Greater New Bedford region and its Jewish community. The candidate would have the ability to collaborate with community partners, to manage the diversity of ideas within the Jewish community, ability to work with donors and to develop charitable giving to support the activities of the Jewish Federation, competency in the creation of a variety of events and educational opportunities that encourage community understanding and participation, serve as the spokesperson for the Federation, an understanding of budgeting and finance.

For more information or to apply for this position please contact Ellen Hull at ehull@jewishnewbedford.org. Applications should be received not later than August 15, 2013.

A satisfied reader says...



I spend time every year in Baltimore, Md., and some time in Connecticut. I read Jewish publications from Baltimore and New London, Conn.; they cannot compare with Rhode Island's Jewish Voice & Herald. If you want real substance in your newspaper, The Jewish Voice & Herald is your paper.

Cliff Lander
Fall River, Mass.

ELENA KAGAN IS FEATURED SPEAKER AT TOURO SYNAGOGUE

NEWPORT – Supreme Court Associate Justice Elena Kagan's keynote address will highlight the 66th annual reading of George Washington's historic letter, "To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport."

The program will be held on Sunday, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m. at Touro Synagogue, in Newport.

The program, organized under the auspices of the Touro Synagogue Foundation and Congregation Jeshuat Israel, celebrates George Washington's 1790 letter, written during his first visit to Rhode Island as president of the United States. In the letter, President Washington affirmed the new national government's absolute commitment to the free exercise of religion, which he regarded as an "inherent natural right." The federal government, he stated, "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

A July 29 release from Touro Synagogue stated that Bernard Gewirz, of Washington, D.C., will read the George Washington letter; the Seixas letter to which President Washington replied, will be read by Rabbi Albert Gabbai of Congregation Mikveh Israel, in Philadelphia.

Rabbi Dr. Marc Mandel, rabbi of Congregation Jeshuat Israel, will give the invocation and



Associate Justice Elena Kagan

Reverend John Hanson of the United Baptist Church, John Clarke Memorial, will give the benediction. Newport Music Festival soprano, Erin Mercurio, will present a musical interlude and U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) will serve as the master of ceremonies. A reception will be held in Patriots Park immediately following the program.

Seating is limited; reservations required. Overflow seating with simulcast viewing will be at an adjacent church.

RSVP: 847-4794, ext. 207 or visit tourosynagogue.org.

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

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From The Executive Editor

VIVA TRAVEL, VIVA ITALY

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

Oof! That's tight! Just let me loosen my belt buckle a bit.)

Ah. Now, I feel better. After 10 days of a steady diet of pasta, prosecco and gelato, it's little wonder that I've gained so much weight that my buttons don't quite button and my zippers don't quite zip.

But, oh, what fun my son and I had traveling through Italy last month. At its best, travel doesn't just expand one's waistline, it also expands one's perspectives and viewpoints, expands one's knowledge of the world and the people therein.



Executive Editor

Nancy Kirsch

One of my most memorable experiences was spending time with a young couple from India who, like us, toured Rome's Colosseum and other ancient ruins one blistering hot afternoon. Over drinks and then a conversation-filled dinner, I learned more about their lives. Both members of the Brahmin caste, they had an arranged marriage and their wedding – somewhat small by Indian standards, they said – included some 600 guests! Although they now live and work in Dubai, each of them had spent some time studying in Boston. And, it was an example, yet again, of one degree of separation.

The young woman has an uncle who lives in Cumberland and works in Pawtucket – perhaps Little Rhody isn't so small after all.

At the end of my gap year in Israel – between high school and college – I spent a few weeks visiting Italy. Other *ulpan* participants from Kibbutz Nir David (not far from Afula, greater Rhode Island's sister city in Israel!) and I took three weeks to travel through Greece and Italy.

During our trip, we stayed in the cheapest hostels and carefully counted out our drachmas and lire to pay for our two meals each day.

This trip, naturally, was a bit different. While I pretty much stuck to two meals a day, they were nothing like the meals of my first trip to Italy. Traveling with a budding chef who loves Italian food probably more than I do and being more fiscally solvent than I was during my first Italian excursion meant that we ate well – exceptionally well!

Sharing meals and sharing conversations, debating the merits of different flavors of gelato and standing in stunned, silent reverie in the presence of Michaelangelo's David – and the Sistine Chapel – those were some of our experiences, as was navigating the claustrophobia-inducing 400-plus steps to the top of Rome's Campanile Tower and deducing just exactly which road would get us to the out-of-the-way, chef-recommended restaurant in Florence.

In a refreshing, yet radical, departure from past practice, I instituted two policies on this trip that served me well: Pack light – an important asset given my herniated disk – and turn off work emails. For the first time in a long time, I was able to fully and finally be “where my feet were” – in Italy!



“Family Werth” is the title of Providence writer Ronald Florence's most recent novel, self-published earlier this year. The title is a pun, for time and time again the characters call into question the worth of families in general and the worth of the Werth family in particular.

The story begins in 1907 in the fictional Bessarabian shtetl of Ornevka, with Kishinev to the northwest and the city of Odessa to the southeast. Reuven, head of the Werth family, totally dominates his passive wife Leah.



It Seems to Me

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

Although he is an attentive father to his three children, Samuel, Esther and Hirsch – all born within four years of one other, he is too busy and self-absorbed to realize that his children's dreams are far different from his own.

Reuven considers himself to be a “modern man,” but in many ways Reuven is a caricature of the *luftmensch*, that benighted “head in the clouds” fixture of Yiddish literature. To take but one example, for decades he is convinced that one day he will become rich because of the shares of stock he holds in the Jaeger-Dreyfus Company, which manufactures an allegedly time-saving combination plow and harrow; yet he remains oblivious to what every farmer knows: One plows when the soil is wet and harrows when the soil is bone-dry, so that the Jaeger-Dreyfus invention is useless. Reuven's brother-in-law Max mockingly calls him “the philosopher of the shtetl,” while many in Ornevka regard him “as either a snob or a madman.”

As his youngest son Hirsch puts it, “He wants to prove that everybody else is wrong and he's right.”

Reuven's difficult personality is but one of many reasons that all his children flee the narrow confines of their native shtetl. Samuel makes an attempt to try to fulfill one of his father's dreams by becoming a farmer in Colchester, Conn., on land purchased by the great Jewish philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch; but after three years, he abandons the farm and winds up building boats in Stonington on the shore of Long Island Sound.

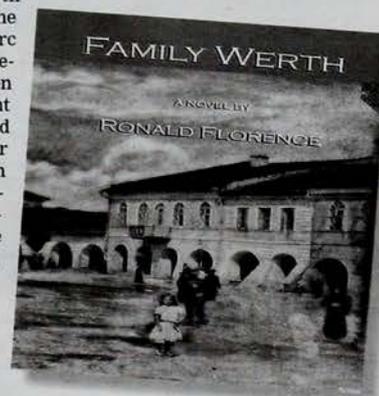
Meanwhile, Hirsch, who lives by his street smarts and his will-

THE WORTH OF FAMILY

Ronald Florence's newest book is a compelling tale

ingness to brawl when necessary, is forever getting in and out of trouble in Russia, in Turkey, in Palestine and in San Francisco, Calif. Esther, on the other hand, devotes herself to a variety of Socialist causes and looks for ways to change the world in Odessa, Berlin, Paris and Valencia, Spain. However, her political naiveté proves to be her undoing.

No short summary of the travels and travails of the Werth family can do justice to the tense and suspenseful arc of narrative that draws Reuven's three adult children into the world of constant change before, during and after World War I. Their story ends in 1939 with “the dreary reality of Europe sliding towards another world war.” Some brief highlights: Hirsch, having become disillusioned by life on a kibbutz, joins a band of Jewish terrorists who carry out a violent attack against a group of Arabs



“Sounds like a Jewish family. You could be talking about my father.”

in Jerusalem. Esther finds herself in the midst of the Spanish Civil War, and Samuel becomes indirectly involved with rum-running in the late 1920s and early 1930s during Prohibition. There is a lot going on in “Family Werth,” and I confess that I felt compelled to keep turning the pages to find out what happens next.

“Family Werth” works as a novel on many levels. In addition to telling the central story of a family whose members, separated by vast distances, strive to maintain contact with each other, Florence explores the complex politics that contribute to the outbreak of two world wars.

Sometimes a single pithy comment speaks volumes, as when one of the minor characters quips, “Russia The Bolsheviks are like the tsar. Brutality is all they know.”

At other times, Florence expands upon his somewhat jaundiced political insights: “If the German socialists had been cautious bureaucrats... the French socialists were masters of the theoretical argument.... They liked nothing better than to gather in

cafés, arguing ever-finer nuances of social theory, criticizing every word of a recent speech or newspaper editorial, turning their critiques into a never-ending circle of intellectual masturbation.”

Yet another dimension to this complex novel is Florence's questioning of the nature of Jewish identity under the stress of a rapidly changing world. It is significant that, as adults, each of the

three Werth children falls in love with a non-Jew. Nevertheless, their sense of Jewishness does not slacken but deepens over the years – though in different ways: performing Shabbat rituals, reciting Kaddish, working to build the Jewish homeland in Palestine, experiencing the scourge of anti-Semitism in a variety of forms.

Hirsch's San Francisco girlfriend tells him, “It is different for a Chinese person. For us family is everything. Obeying your parents. Respect for elders. Learning. Nothing else is important.”

To which Hirsch responds, “Sounds like a Jewish family. You could be talking about my father.”

And, in the end, the pull of family prevails; Reuven's children bring him to America.

I was surprised to discover that during his process of proofreading and editing, Florence failed to catch a major contradiction in the time line of the narrative: Depending upon which “facts” the reader chooses to rely upon, a climactic boat accident takes place in 1932 or 1933 or 1934!

Despite this minor annoyance, “Family Werth” is most definitely worth reading. Florence succeeds in telling a compelling and important story.

Rabbi James B. Rosenberg (rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org) is rabbi emeritus of Temple Habonim, the Reform synagogue in Barrington.

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Jewish Voice 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.

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

The Jewish Voice publishes thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds of 500 – 800 words) and letters to the editor (250 words, maximum) 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 or the Alliance.

Send letters and op-eds to nkirsch@shalomri.org or Nancy Kirsch, The Jewish Voice, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Include name, city of residence and (not for publication) a contact phone number or email.

SECOND CHANCES

Hearing Leonard Cohen – at any age – proves a worthwhile adventure

BY BILL MILES

For 36 years, I kicked myself for blowing a chance to see my musical muse in concert. It was my summer break from college. I was backpacking solo in Europe and amassing emotional highs and lows. It was the kind of stuff my hero – the songwriter, poet and bard Leonard Cohen – sang about. At least I liked to think he sang what I was feeling.

In a small French town along the Saône River, two retired brothers with scruffy beards from New Zealand – Claude and Gordon Brash – agreed to offer me passage on board their yacht. In exchange for my interpreting French and working on the boat, I could accompany them up and down the canals that they were then navigating, four years into their world tour. It felt like winning the college kid's lottery: free food and passage with wizened Kiwis along a bucolic stretch of France's countryside. But after almost

a week, Gordon somewhat brashly suggested I shove off. We were in Lyon.

As I dejectedly hoisted my backpack and walked off the sloop for good, a poster along the canal immediately caught my eye: Leonard Cohen was performing in town. Whether it was the hundred francs for a ticket or my rush to flee the scene of my shame, I let Leonard play without me. And regretted it ever since.

As I grew older – married, had children – I deliberately swore Leonard off. I decided his mournful and transgressive style was no longer compatible



with my status as husband, father, provider, affirmer.

But then, just a year or two ago, I read that, as a result of personal betrayal and dire fi-



Leonard Cohen performs in concert in an undated photo.

nances, in order to assure himself a decent pension, an older Leonard Cohen was on tour again.

So, at 78 years of age, the singer finally mesmerized me in Radio City Music Hall, my brother Robert – a white-haired singer and songwriter in his own right – sitting by my side. Often on his knees, or standing immobile as band members took solos, Leonard in New York in 2013 was not

what he must have been in Lyon in 1976. He was undoubtedly better: wiser, humbler, mortal. And with a voice whose lowered register now brought you down with him more than you thought possible.

I believe that there are second chances in life. And that that second chance may be even more enriching than the first one that you blew. With the passage of time, both you and your

missed muse may very likely improve. You just need to be patient.

Bill Miles (b.miles@neu.edu), a Seekonk, Mass., resident and Temple Emanu-El member, is a professor of political science at Northeastern University. When his daughter Arielle picks up her violin, Miles tries to accompany her on his cello – without regrets.

Miles' essay aired on WRNI's National Public Radio "This I Believe" on June 12, 2013. Hear Miles' essay at ripr.org/post/i-believe-rhode-island-2nd-chances.

The Jewish Voice thanks Frederic Reamer and Joseph O'Connor, "This I Believe" producer and WRNI general manager, respectively, for allowing us to reproduce these essays.

To submit your aired "This I Believe" essay to The Jewish Voice, send to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "This I Believe."

LETTERS

Columnist should learn his Mendelssohnian history

Michael Fink, as an English teacher, should know a bit more about "A Midsummer Night's Dream" – William Shakespeare's play and Felix Mendelssohn's music by the same name – before writing about them ("Midsummer night's dreams" in the June 21 issue).

Mendelssohn was inspired to write his Overture (in 1826, when he was just 17!) as homage to Shakespeare's comedy, a favorite of the Mendelssohn children. The Overture, initially, was not otherwise connected to the play. In 1843, on a commission from the King of Prussia (William, not the town in Pennsylvania), Mendelssohn wrote a complete suite, including the famous Wedding March, to accompany the play.

Also, perhaps Mr. Fink was auditioning for the role of Robin Goodfellow (Puck) himself when he suggested that June 21 is the summer equinox. June 21 is the summer solstice. The equinoxes occur in the spring and fall.

Barry Rubin
South Attleboro, Mass.

Writer disagrees with a rabbi's perspective

In the June 21 issue, Rabbi Jim Rosenberg starts his column, "The need for theological humanity," by quoting Anat Hoffman: "We entered the plaza to the sound of thousands of ultra-Orthodox men screaming insults and throwing garbage."

He goes on to ask, "For what reason did *haredi* women scream at the Women of the Wall for defiling *ke-dushat ha-makom*, the holiness of the place – apparently blind to the actions of their sons, their brothers and their husbands who were 'sanctifying' this sacred space with garbage, with spittle, with abusive language?"

This must be juxtaposed with the comments of Rabbi Raphie Schochet in his op-ed submission in the same issue, "Every soul is precious." He wrote that the ultra-Orthodox "are fulfilled by their abundant love of life and of their fellow Jews, demonstrated through countless acts of selfless kindness and generosity and all of this will continue unabated."

I think Rabbi Schochet should open his eyes. It is the Conservative and Reform Jews who are not tolerated by the ultra-Orthodox, not vice versa.

Edwin S. Mehlman, D.D.S.
Warren

Doing a service to others

We no longer have a double standard but something more like a quadruple standard; all-knowing media choose the individuals they vilify by race and creed.

Anthony Weiner can be labeled a Jewish-American. The media has vilified him for his lack of common sense and dignity. Although he clearly needs help, his constituents felt that he was a good politician.

Let's review certain other politicians who have held higher offices than did Weiner. Did Weiner use his office as a bordello, as did our illustrious former President Bill Clinton, a white man from the South? Not to our knowledge, yet Clinton is still revered by millions.

Did Weiner ever call Massachusetts police "stupid," bow to an Arab leader, try to destroy one of the world's greatest health

care systems, allow an ambassador to be murdered on foreign soil, freeze government employees' wages for three years and bare his soul to the nation, by saying that he, President Barack Obama, too, had been a victim of racial profiling, at a time when he should have worked to restore a nation's faith? Weiner has not been accused of these atrocities, as far as I know.

Perhaps Weiner is being victimized because of his religious heritage, while other politicians are allowed to conduct their baseless lives with impunity for reasons only our "enlightened media" understand. Isn't it time we all realized that the media treats us as fools because we allow it; isn't it about time we think for ourselves again?

John Cervone
North Providence

Reader doesn't need protection from controversy

I am again reminded of how people in power think they know more than us "little people." I just received an email from the (Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's) Community Relations Council applauding Governor Lincoln Chafee for denying "a faith-based organization [the ability] to offer the public the opportunity to purchase a 'Choose Life' license plate."

Its reasons were these: First, a "clear violation of the separation of church and state."

Can we please stop treating this as law? The phrase comes from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson; period. The actual text of the First Amendment that refers to religion is this: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." The license plate bill did not respect any religion, nor prohibit exercising thereof. So, this argument is invalid.

Second, "No controversial issue should be promoted as it can clearly be inferred as a state position."

Seriously? We need to be protected from controversy? If I'm a Yankee fan, should I be offended by Massachusetts granting special Red Sox plates? If I think manatees are delicious appetizers, can I take offense at a Florida "Save the Manatee" license plate?

These specialized license plates allow the state and some organizations to raise money. If you raise arguments against it on those grounds, feel free. But don't use the "separation of church and state" canard and "it's controversial" argument – those prohibit my freedom of speech, and doing so offends me.

Michael Frank
Warwick

Doing a service to others

We want to thank and congratulate Nancy Kirsch on having the courage to write and print "My father's story" in the June 21 issue. So many clients we worked with over the last 26 years have pain from past experience. They believe they are alone in their pain because no one talks about these things.

It is our belief that many people will be greatly relieved at knowing they are not alone. She has done a real service.

Lori and Bob Bomes
Bomes Consulting Group, LLC
San Diego, Calif.

BRINGING MY CHILDREN INTO THE BEST WORLD

Pregnant and birthing in the Land of Milk and Honey

So I'm pregnant again – and yes, I can barely believe it myself! This will be our third child over the course of barely four years – a big surprise! – and possibly (although hopefully not) our last. So I've been doing a lot of thinking about my past pregnancies and birthings, and about what I'd like to do differently this time.



Alison On Aliyah Redux

Alison Stern Perez

It's not always easy being pregnant (and giving birth) in Israel and it hasn't always been pleasant trying to navigate the policies and sometimes very misguided opinions of medical professionals here. I find I am constantly butting my head up against brick walls and having to fight like hell to get what I consider my basic rights even heard, much less respected. And yet, I have had just as many experiences that have felt truly wonderful and special, and have made me feel utterly blessed to be living in Israel and to have had my children here.

Because I have never been pregnant or given birth in the U.S., I have no way of knowing personally what is "better" or "worse." I am sure there are pros and cons to every possible context and scenario, and all I can talk about are those that I have experienced. Perhaps the biggest difference lies in my

need to invest much more energy in a never-ending search for a tiny cohort of like-minded people to validate what I am certain is not such a crazy approach to what should be honored as a very personal, intimate and ultimately beautiful experience.

To be clear, I have never been a "crunchy granola" type of woman. When I got to the age where I was starting to imagine being pregnant and giving birth, I remember always

"My favorite thing about this country is ... its deep investment and commitment to family values."

telling people that I wanted an epidural from the sixth month onward, and a few weeks after the birth, to boot. I have never had a cavity, nor broken a bone nor endured any type of surgery and I was convinced that my pain tolerance was somewhere in the "-100" range. But in the end, the more research I conducted, the more willing I became to do whatever I could do and needed to do to ensure the least harmful and most peaceful birth my babies could receive. That, I learned, was a

very foreign concept to many Israelis.

The hospital here in Be'er Sheva has the highest birth-rate in the Middle East, in part because of the Bedouin population. It is a true "baby factory," and a visit to the maternity ward at the "wrong" time (read: a busy hour) can look and sound like a scene from a horror movie. Women screaming on beds parked haphazardly in the hallway because of a lack of space; nurses strong-arming them into taking an enema or epidural; panic, confusion and fear abounding. Needless to say, when I took my tour of the ward and asked if I would be allowed to keep my baby attached to her placenta as long as I wanted after the birth, I was met with blank, incredulous stares.

So I went a different route, choosing a natural birthing center housed within Hadasah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. Most of the midwives spoke English and there were even a few Anglos. I felt more at home immediately, certain that the bedside manner would be in the gentle and respectful style to which I was accustomed. My first shock occurred when I was told that OB/GYNs do not attend the births of "their" patients, so there is no continuity of care whatsoever. A laboring woman arrives at the hospital and is subject to total "luck of the draw" with regard to the woman who will represent the first human hands to touch her baby and who will share one of

the most intimate experiences of the lives of everyone in that room.

I resigned myself to this fact, accepting that this is simply "how it's done" here in Israel. But there have been more disappointments: The countless ultrasound appointments where I am not even offered a gown to cover my various exposed body parts and barely receive a single moment of eye contact throughout the procedure. The doctor who kept coming into my birthing room and exclaiming loudly, "What, she's only dilated that much?" The midwife who announced that it was time for me to push and then promptly left me alone for the next half-hour. And the lactation consultant who asked me angrily, "What, do you want to kill your baby?" when I told her I didn't want to give my 7-hour-old son a bottle of formula.

But then there are the amazing, only-in-Israel moments that make all the other moments worth it. The obligatory visit to the Interior Ministry with our 2-week-old baby to get her birth certificate and passport, when we received number 813 and realized we would have to wait for an hour, but then were immediately ushered to the front of the line and told, "Babies shouldn't have to wait for anything." The huge number of times I have been kindly offered a cup of water by the proprietor of nearly every establishment in which I have had to nurse publicly.

And then there was the mo-

ment when I had to tell my brand-new boss, who had accepted me for a job just three days prior, that I had just found out I was pregnant. I was sure she would be angry or, at the very least, annoyed; I was terrified that she would find a way to "un-hire" me. But instead, she got a huge smile on her face, offered a hearty "Mazal tov!" and assured me we would find a way to work it out.

Indeed, perhaps my favorite thing about this country is its attitude toward its children and its deep investment and commitment to family values. Perhaps it is because Jews still feel so acutely and personally the loss of so many of our generations in the Holocaust or perhaps it is because Israelis know that their future and that of our homeland depend on the next generation.

Whatever the reason, children are welcome in every way and in almost every context. Indeed, I have taken my babies to restaurants, university classes and academic conferences, and have always been welcomed with smiles and offers (pleas, actually) to hold them. It's a beautiful worldview and way to live, and despite the challenges I have experienced while gestating and birthing my children, I can't imagine bringing them into any other world.

Alison Stern Perez (alisonsternperez@gmail.com or alisonsterngolub.com), a native of Seattle, Wash., is a 2000 Brown University graduate.

Parents are their college-aged children's heroes

BY RABBI HERSHEY NOVACK
JNS.org

After endless shopping trips, anxious parents will soon deliver their children to college for the first time. Some will be cooped up with their soon-to-be-independent high school graduate for many hours on a road trip. Other families will fly.

While the method of transportation may vary, one constant theme is the apprehension a parent may experience while bringing a college freshman to campus for the first time. It may be the student's first time away from home and, for parents, the feeling that "my little one is growing up" can be quite disconcerting. For many, this is their first child, and they arrive on campus with open eyes, voraciously absorbing all that the university offers, excited for their child's new opportunities. For some, this drop-off may have a hint of sadness: They are now empty nesters.

In my role as campus rabbi at Chabad at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., I have

participated in many move-in days. I have observed numerous tender moments as parents bid farewell to their children after spending most of the day sleeping and unpacking. I have also seen an occasional awkward moment, as parents or students grapple with the realization that they are unready or unwilling to recognize the dynamics of their shifting roles.

Fret not, parents. There is good news.

In their recent book, "Generation on a Tightrope: A Portrait of Today's College Student" (Jossey-Bass, 2012), Arthur Levine and Diane R. Dean wrote of college students: "When asked to name their heroes, [undergraduates] didn't cite celebrities or corporate, government or social leaders. Less than 1 percent named people like Barack Obama, Martin Luther King Jr., the Dalai Lama, Ronald Reagan, Rosa Parks, Al Gore, Abraham Lincoln, Margaret Thatcher, their teachers or their professors. They dismissed cultural heroes ... Instead, a majority (54 percent) of undergraduates with



Rabbi Hershey Novack

heroes named their parents. In total, two-thirds (66 percent) cited a family member."

The high regard that college students have of you, their parents, has increased dramatically over the past 20 years. When a similar study was administered in 1993, about the same proportion of students admitted to having heroes, yet only 29 percent of them indicated that they saw their parents as their heroes. In their more recent

study, the proportion nearly doubles.

There are many reasons for this shift. Simplest is an increase in technologies that allow parents to be a phone call or text message away. Indeed, 41 percent of students admit to communicating with their parents once per day. (There are also deeper sociological shifts occurring, which deserve their own article.)

Through my many interactions with Washington University students, it has become clear to me that many students truly adore, respect and idolize their parents. You have no idea how frequently you turn up in conversations I have with your children and in conversations that they have with each other. Your values, your experiences and, yes, even your occasional cringe-worthy humor, all provide a safe center around which your young adult orbits. You are their sense of balance and their strength, even if they may seem to chafe at your presence.

College is when your children will attempt to define themselves as emerging adults. Just

as your children are maturing, your relationships with your children will inevitably shift as well. The core values and beliefs you instilled in them do not disappear in college. Quite the contrary, we often find students coming to our Chabad house for a Friday night Shabbat dinner or Rosh Hashanah services, as that is what their family did back at home. Many others choose to attend, as well, because they know it will make their parents – their heroes – proud.

As you depart campus on that quieter journey home, having delivered your children to student housing, rest assured that you have left them with more than extra-long twin sheets. You have left your children with core values, for them to appreciate, grow into and guide them for the rest of their lives.

Rabbi Hershey Novack (rabbi@chabadoncampus.org) is beginning his 12th year directing Chabad on Campus – Rohr Center for Jewish Life serving Washington University.

BIRTHRIGHT TRIP INTRODUCES STUDENT TO 'FIVE LEGS' OF JUDAISM

A 10-day experience causes a radical shift in thinking

BY ALYSA REDLICH
Special to The Jewish Voice

CUMBERLAND – My Taglit-Birthright Israel experience began when I stepped off a crowded El Al airline flight onto Israeli soil earlier this summer.

The first few moments in the airport were surreal. I could not believe that I was about to experience a country that I knew only through Hebrew school texts, newspaper headlines and other media coverage. The idea of Israel was intangible to me, a conceptual abstrac-

First Person Commentary

tion in my mind. It would take just 10 days for my feelings to completely shift – for Israel to become my spiritual home. My experience in Israel marks the beginning of a journey that has helped me discover the memory of our people, the sanctity of our homeland and my personal Jewish identity.

Birthright participants find their moment of spiritual connection while in Israel. For many, it may occur at the Western Wall, atop Mount Masada

or at Yad Vashem. While these sites moved me, Avraham Infeld's speech truly got me thinking about my connection to Judaism. Infeld, an educator and president emeritus, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, offered Birthright participants his unique viewpoint on Judaism, claiming that it is not just a religion. Instead, Infeld argued that Judaism is a culture, a way of life. Initially, Infeld's claim didn't register in my mind; after all, I had known Judaism to be my religion for my entire life.

Using the "five legs" of Judaism: memory, family, covenant, Hebrew and Israel, Infeld argued that if each Jewish person were to adopt just three of the five legs, we would all be connected. However, this connection would not be a religious one, but rather a cultural one. Our people have become one by our common past and shared future, both of which are shaped by memory, family, covenant, Hebrew and Israel.

My Birthright experience helped me connect to the Israeli "leg" of Judaism. Upon our arrival in Israel, people at the airport excitedly exclaimed, "Welcome home." In my life, I felt as though being Jewish offered a sense of belonging.

Infeld's speech helped me to understand more about my personal Jewish identity. As a



URI Hillel students – Eric Goldberg, back row, from left, Ali Sprague, Jackie Abrams, Kimmy Ross and Kyle Rottenberg; front row, from left, Alysa Redlich, Rebecca Korman and Taylor Broser – 'mug' for the camera at the Dead Sea this summer.

child, I attended Hebrew school, observed Jewish holidays and celebrated Jewish traditions. It was my understanding that I was Jewish because my parents, grandparents and ancestors passed the religion on to

me. Traveling to Israel challenged my former viewpoint and has allowed me to recognize that Judaism is much more than a religion. It is a way of life.

Alysa Redlich (aredlich1@gmail.com), a rising junior studying to become a pharmacist, will be URI Hillel's education chair this fall.

FROM PAGE 2 SOLDIERS

with Lebanon and was killed in action in August 2006. His death inspired the creation of the Lone Soldier Center in his memory.

Lone soldiers are those individuals, both male and female (many from around the world), who serve in the IDF and do not have immediate family in Israel. In fact, many have no family members in Israel at all. Other lone soldiers are Israelis who come from less fortunate families and, in turn, must be completely self-sufficient. In Israel today, there are more than 5,000 lone soldiers.

Our goal at the LSC is to assist these young men and woman before, during and after their military service. We help find housing, furniture and food and provide one-on-one counseling. We provide the tools to help them successfully navigate through the military process and become better established within Israeli society.

In addition to our one-on-one services, several times during the year we also provide Friday night meals and holiday celebrations where hundreds of soldiers come together to eat and network with each other.

Several months ago, I received an email from our friends, Marc and Janice Adler,

who told me that the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island was planning a mission to Israel. When the group from the Alliance came to Tiberias (in January 2013), I met them at a restaurant and brought a few lone soldiers along to meet them. On that evening last January, the group welcomed three soldiers to eat dinner with them on the shore of Lake Kinneret, also known as the Sea of Galilee. Within a matter of minutes, the group embraced our lone soldiers and made them feel special and appreciated. The soldiers moved from table to table, introducing themselves, as mission participants reached out to greet them.

That evening, as we drove them home, they commented on their homes far away and feeling proud of what they are doing, not only for themselves, but also for the greater Jewish community. One soldier was a paratrooper from Venezuela; a second was a combat engineer from Alabama and my daughter, a sharpshooter/combat medic in field intelligence with her own Rhode Island roots. I know when they woke up the following Sunday morning and returned to their respective army bases, they were re-energized by feeling the importance



Last January, Gail Putnam, Jeffrey Savit, Lone Soldiers Max and Tal, Michelle Cicchitelli, Betty Adler, Nitsan Graff and Ilana Graff (the twin brother and mother, respectively, of Matan Graff, our community's emissary from Israel) gather in Israel.

of what they do and for whom they do it.

The Rhode Island community includes other individuals who have served as lone soldiers in the IDF, including Gershon Levine and Jason Teitlebaum. Abby Stouber, also from Rhode Island, stayed in my home during Shabbat shortly after she

had joined the IDF. I was a lone soldier 30 years ago.

I was happy to have spent that evening last January with fellow Rhode Islanders while helping to connect to our community here in Israel. I look forward to future Rhode Island missions visiting, as well as strengthening the fo-

cus on assisting our lone soldiers to "not be alone" while they stand in the defense and security of the State of Israel.

For more information: mikem@lonesoldiercenter.com or contact Mike Meyerheim in Israel at 054-984-2298.

KOSHER CHOICES IN PAWTUCKET

Rabbi Barry Dolinger kashers Garden Grille Vegetarian Café

BY NAOMI LIPSKY

Special to The Jewish Voice

PAWTUCKET – Garden Grille Vegetarian Café is now a kosher restaurant. Why go to the trouble of making a vegetarian restaurant kosher?

"It's about reaching out to the community, offering something [people] need," said owner Rob Yaffe, who also owns Wildflour Vegan Bakery & Juice Bar, in the same Oak Hill shopping plaza at 727 East Ave., and The Grange, a vegetarian restaurant in Providence. Last year, Rabbi Barry Dolinger of Congregation Beth Shalom, an Orthodox shul in Providence, worked with Yaffe to make Wildflour kosher.

The idea of *kashering* the Garden Grille gained impetus this year when chef Jordan Goldsmith, who is Jewish, was put in charge of its kitchen. When Yaffe suggested it, Goldsmith, a four-year employee before becoming executive chef, was enthusiastic.

Echoing Yaffe's comments about fulfilling the community's needs, she added, smiling, "Some of my family members [keep] kosher so they're very excited."

"It absolutely was inspired by Rabbi Dolinger," said Yaffe. "He kept the discussion going."

The process began about four months ago, when Rabbi Dolinger examined the café's food stores. With an all-vegetarian or vegan menu, most ingredients – fresh fruits and vegetables – are naturally kosher, and most purchased spices and flavorings were already certified kosher, so only a few changes were required. Some cheeses had to be replaced with kosher equivalents, said Goldsmith, who needed to also find new sources for vinegars and wine-based products as well as items in vinegar.

With no significant cost difference, Goldsmith said, "Either way it's a win-win, because you're getting a better quality product [with kosher food]." The staff has always carefully inspected vegetables for insects, another requirement for kashrut.

The Garden Grille closed for the day, June 23, when the *kashering* occurred.



Rob Yaffe, owner of Garden Grille Vegetarian Café

On that day, 10 giant pots of water boiled on the commercial-size stove and utensils and cookware are lined up, awaiting Rabbi Dolinger.

He got an early start on being a *mashgiach* (kosher supervisor) while still a college student, as he served as head *mashgiach* for the University of Pennsylvania's Hillel. Ordained by a seminary associated with Yeshiva University in New York in 2011, Rabbi Dolinger spent one full calendar year, 60 hours a week, while in the seminary, studying kashrut laws.

When he came to Rhode Island two years ago, people spoke with wistfulness about days gone by – when Providence used to have kosher restaurants. "But that will never happen again," they said.

His response? "That's ridiculous; we should have kosher food options."

In addition to Wildflour and Garden Grille, he also supervises the kashrut of Veggie Fun Restaurant in downtown Providence. These restaurants will all bear the rabbi's *hekhsher* (mark of kosher certification). Although this *hekhsher* is not a national mark, such as OU, from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, the rabbi said that his *hekhsher* meets all legal kashrut requirements.

Rabbi Dolinger began with a lesson. Items become kosher in two ways, he explained, citing the principles of *ha'agalah* (boiling) and *libun* (white-hot, as in an oven's extreme



Chef Jordan Goldsmith watches as Rabbi Barry Dolinger relights the restaurant's pilot lights.

heat). Items needing *kashering* are subjected to one or the other in the same way that they originally came into contact with non-kosher food. For example, a frying pan used on a stovetop will be *kashered* with boiling water on a stovetop. Glass and glazed ceramic items, which do not absorb non-kosher substances, merely require thorough cleaning.

The action moved into the kitchen, where Rabbi Dolinger, Goldsmith and staff member Luz Prew immersed all metal utensils, silverware and small metal tools into the boiling pots a handful at a time, then withdrew and rinsed them under cold water.

Although the process exposed all involved to burn splatters, Rabbi Dolinger joked, "People should know what we go through for kosher food in Rhode Island!" Other items went into industrial ovens at 500-550 degrees. The rabbi poured boiling water over countertops, other surfaces and the sinks. As only kosher food has been in the kitchen during the past few months, cleaning was straightforward.

"*Bishul Yisrael*" is the kosher requirement that a Jew perform the actual cooking. These days, the rabbi explained, if a Jew lights the pilot light and examines the kitchen periodically, the law is considered fulfilled – although rulings vary between Ashkenazic and Sephardic



Chef Jordan Goldsmith, left, and Rabbi Barry Dolinger kasher Garden Grille's utensils.

practices. Goldsmith blew out the pilot lights on the 10-burner stove and Rabbi Dolinger relit each one carefully.

Later, Yaffe signed a contract giving temporary ownership of the restaurant to a non-Jew for Shabbat and all other Jewish holidays, the final step in the process. The Garden Grille is now kosher and can display Dolinger's certificate of kashrut.

"I'm excited," Yaffe said with a hint of mischief. "Pawtucket, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, will now have two kosher restaurants. It's got to be the first time in Pawtucket's history."

Garden Grille: gardengrillecafe.com or 726-2826.

Naomi Lipsky (lipskyart@gmail.com), a Judaic artist in Johnston, is a freelance writer for The Jewish Voice.

This is one of a series of occasional stories about local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice.

"It absolutely was inspired by Rabbi Dolinger."

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YOU SAY 'TOE-MAY-TOES,' I SAY 'TUH-MAAAH-TOES'

Whatever you call them, tomatoes deserve a place at the table

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org



TOMATOES, who knew? Who was the brave soul who first bit into a succulent and ripe tomato ... and lived to tell the tale? After all, according to many sources, including Peggy Trowbridge Filippone who wrote about tomatoes' history in *about.com*, tomatoes were once considered poisonous. She writes, "A member of the deadly nightshade family, tomatoes were erroneously thought to be poisonous (although the leaves are poisonous) by Europeans who were suspicious of their bright, shiny fruit."

Now that we know tomatoes are not only not poisonous, but good – and good for you – there's no better time than August to enjoy some homegrown tomatoes.

If you want something more elaborate than a simple salad of freshly picked and sliced tomatoes from your garden and garnished with salt, pepper and some basil, try these recipes. 10 line drop cap for t of these?

These tomato recipes come from "The New American Cooking" by Joan Nathan (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2005).

PANZANELLA, A SUMMER TOMATO AND BREAD SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 loaf day-old farm or other rustic style white bread, torn into irregular pieces, including crusts (about 2 cups)
- 2-3 ripe, juicy tomatoes, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 cucumber, peeled and diced, seeds removed and cut into ½-inch cubes
- ½ red onion, cut into ¼-inch dice
- 1 cup torn greens, like frisee, arugula and watercress
- 3 tablespoons pesto (homemade or store bought)

- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon white or other balsamic vinegar
- sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Method

Toss the bread and tomatoes in a mixing bowl. Wait a few minutes while the bread absorbs the juices. Using your hands, blend in the cucumbers, onions, greens and pesto. Remove to a colorful plate. Drizzle the olive oil and vinegar over the salad. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve.



Makes four servings.

SKEWERED CHERRY TOMATOES WITH OLIVE OIL AND BASIL

Ingredients

- 1 pint cherry or pear tomatoes
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- freshly ground pepper to taste
- handful fresh basil leaves, preferably small leaves

Method

Preheat oven to 300 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a Silpat mat. Place the tomatoes in a small bowl with the olive oil. Roll the tomatoes in the oil, coating them well, then sprinkle with the salt and a few grinds of pepper. Place on the baking sheet and bake for 90 minutes or until dried out a bit. Remove from the oven and let the tomatoes cool. Just before serving, gently poke a hole in each tomato with a toothpick. Skewer each tomato on a wooden skewer.

Then thread a basil leaf (if small; otherwise, tear a larger leaf neatly in quarters) and a second tomato on the skewer, leaving about a half-inch in between.

Serve as a first course. Makes 12 skewers of tomatoes.

CARAMELIZED CHERRY TOMATO TART WITH OLIVE TAPENADE

Ingredients

- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes
- ½ cup olive tapenade
- 1 baked 9-inch piecrust
- ¼ cup brown sugar

Method

Preheat broiler and adjust the rack one-third up. Heat the olive oil in a medium frying pan large enough to hold all the tomatoes in 1 layer, toss them in and sauté until they start to exude some of their juice, about 5 minutes.

With a spatula, spread the tapenade carefully over the baked piecrust. Carefully spoon the cooked cherry tomatoes on top of the tapenade with their juice and sprinkle them with the brown sugar.

Place the tart under the broiler for a few minutes until the tomatoes become slightly caramelized. Remove from the oven and serve immediately as a first course or as a main course with a green salad.

Makes 12 appetizer or 4 main course servings.

The mighty tomato

Did you know?

Tomatoes are a good source of:

- Niacin (Vitamin B3), which reduces high cholesterol
- Potassium, which lowers high blood pressure
- Lycopene, an antioxidant that reduces risk or severity of diabetic complications, asthma and colon cancer

And tomatoes:

- Protect the prostate
- Help regulate blood sugar
- Reduce the frequency of migraine attacks
- Provide natural sunscreen
- Strengthen bones and benefit eyesight.

Source: tomatodirt.com/tomato-facts-health-benefits.html

Fun factoids about tomatoes

- Ninety-three percent of American gardening households grow tomatoes.
- Fresh-market tomatoes are grown in all 50 states.
- The largest worldwide producer of tomatoes is China, followed by USA, Turkey, India and Egypt. California produces 96 percent of the tomatoes processed in the U.S.; Florida is the number one producer of fresh market tomatoes.
- Tomatoes are thought to originate in Peru. The name comes from the Aztec "xitomatl," which means "plump thing with a navel."
- When the tomato was introduced to Europe in the 1500s, the French called it "the apple of love." The Germans called it "the apple of paradise."
- The scientific term for the common tomato is *lycopersicon lycopersicum*, which mean "wolf peach."

And yes, if your kids prefer fruits to veggies, you might be in luck: Tomatoes are a fruit!

Source: tomatodirt.com/tomato-facts.html

Vegetarian *and* Kosher?

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BHARIER ANTICIPATES A POSITIVE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Rising high school senior interviews Jewish college students

BY ESTY BHARIER

Special to The Jewish Voice

PROVIDENCE – While many parents of college-bound teens worry about drug and alcohol abuse on campus or skyrocketing tuitions, Jewish parents may also worry about the kind of Jewish life their child may encounter in college, and whether he or she will face anti-Semitism.

As I will be applying to colleges this fall, I wonder about the climate for Jewish students at my future university. How will I replicate my Jewish network,



Dena Kaye-Phillips:
Duke University,
Durham, N.C.

Kaye-Phillips (Duke University) and Ilan Levine (Union College) via email. All of them were active during high school in their Rhode Island Jewish communities.

“The pre-welcome retreat with Hillel ... eased my transition.”

one which I sometimes take for granted?

To find out more, I interviewed Dylan Abrams (the University of Southern California), Abby Kaye-Phillips (the University of Maryland), Dena

Q: How significant a factor was the strength of Jewish life in choosing your university?

Dylan: Choosing a university that not only has a strong Jewish presence on campus, but a vibrant local Jewish community was very important to me. I made sure that my school supported ... Hillel, Chabad and other Jewish and pro-Israel groups.

Abby: Jewish life was a huge part of my decision process. It was important to pick a school where the presence of active Jews was high, not just the percentage of total students who were Jewish.

Dena: It was a big factor, but

I wasn't that optimistic about Jewish life at Duke. I was worried it wouldn't be a strong enough community for me or [offer] the Jewish experience that I wanted, but I loved everything else about it.

Ilan: I decided to enroll at Union before I took my gap year in Israel. When I returned, I was much more enthusiastic about seeking out Jewish life on campus.

Q: What Jewish organizations are you involved with on campus?

Abby: UMD is filled with Jewish organizations,

Dena: Duke University has the Jewish Student Union (JSU), Duke Friends of Israel and J-Street U. I've been involved with JSU, a Jewish mentor program for freshmen and J-Street U.

I frequently attend Shabbat dinners at Chabad and Hillel. I participated in JAM's Maimonides program, a weekly



Dylan Abrams:
University
of Southern
California, Los
Angeles, Calif.

from religious/prayer-centered ones (Koach for Conservatives, Kedma for Orthodox), to purely social clubs (Jewish Student Union) ... [and] countless Israel organizations (TerPAC, J-Street, Birthright, etc.

Jewish learning seminar [on] Jewish issues in today's world.

Ilan: Union has Hillel, Chabad and a pro-Israel club. Hillel is mostly student run

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Share your talents Do you enjoy speaking Yiddish? Do you love Israeli Dance? Do you have a passion for teaching?

The Jewish Alliance Arts & Culture department is seeking a Yiddish teacher and Israeli Dance instructor to teach adult classes.

If you, or someone you know is interested, please contact Erin Moseley at 401.421.4111 ext. 108 or emoseley@shalomri.org.



Have you ever been to a Shabbat Service where the birds sing along?

Join us for a Shabbat Barbecue and Service Under the Stars!

It's happening Friday, August 16th, 2013

on the Julie Claire Gutterman Patio at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence. Barbecue begins at 5 pm. Worship Service at 7 pm, followed by an ice cream social Oneg. All are welcome! Please bring your friends and family and share the warmth and vitality of our Temple Beth-El community, and the beauty of our biblical garden. We will also have special activities for children. *And do come even if it rains!*

Please reserve by August 10th

Free of charge for all non-members, and \$5 per person for Beth-El members and their children. To reserve, call 401.331.6070. Members can send a check by mail, or register with Chaverweb at www.temple-beth-el.org. Please include your name and phone number, how many members and guests will be joining us, and how many would prefer a vegetarian meal.



School safety guide available online

BALTIMORE, Md. – A new guide, “Keep Your School Safe (KYSS),” has been sent to Jewish day schools; it is also available online at keepyourschoolsafe.com. The guide, according to a release from the organization, helps schools conduct a thorough security review to help them carefully evaluate and improve school safety.

The guide, which emphasizes combining existing resources with new innovations to create a strong and manageable security program, includes references to funding sources, such as available federal grants, to improve safety and security.

The guide includes sections on protecting school grounds, lockdown procedures, proper safety and security training for the teachers and staff, and other emergency preparedness measures.

Intended for Jewish day schools across the religious spectrum, the manual will also be sent to Jewish organizations, synagogues and camps. A similar guide is being prepared for all public and private schools throughout North America.



Thank you!



to our
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FROM PAGE 18 COLLEGE



college life?
Dena: Absolutely! When you meet [other] Jews, you automatically have something in common; it's easy to form relationships.
Ilan: The rabbi and his wife have

Abby Kaye-Phillips:
 University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

with one hired chaplain. A rabbi and his wife primarily run Chabad, but student board members help plan events. Our pro-Israel group, U For Israel, is entirely student-run. These groups are open to the entire campus. I was elected Chabad board president. I am a member of Hillel and I helped start U For Israel.

been comforting in the transition from Israel to a secular college. Off-campus, I have had little interaction with the Jewish community in Schenectady.

Dylan: The pre-welcome retreat with USC Hillel was fantastic ... it eased my transition socially and academically, preparing me for what I needed to know for my first few weeks as a freshman. I met many of my current best friends there.

Abby: Being Jewish definitely helped. I came to Maryland knowing many people from various Jewish experiences in high school (USY, Camp Ramah, HaZamir); it made a huge difference the first few weeks when I saw familiar faces at Hillel.

Q: Any anti-Semitism or negative experiences on campus? Do you ever feel you need to hide being Jewish?

Ilan: I never felt that I should hide my Jewish identity. That said, there is some anti-Israel

activity from a very small minority ... a few anti-Israel articles in Union's political newsletter and biased teaching in some political science classes. Pro-Israel students largely outnumber the anti-Israel group.

Dylan: The only anti-Semitism I have felt has been masked as anti-Israel propaganda. Students for Justice in Palestine protest most pro-Israel events. I have experienced [ambivalence] towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ... [and] general ignorance [about] Israel.

Abby: Maryland ... is so accepting of our holidays and [honoring Shabbat]. I have never experienced anti-Semitism on campus.

Dena: I am very comfortable and proud to be Jewish on campus. In gen-

Ilan Levine:
 Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.



eral, people I meet are supportive and curious to learn about Judaism. Occasionally there have been small

conflicts with some other student groups surrounding the situation in the Middle East, but I've never experienced anti-Semitism or fear of identifying as Jewish.

Q: What advice can you offer students attending college soon?

Dylan: Seek out opportuni-

ties. Don't be afraid to join [an unfamiliar] organization. The more opportunities you take advantage of, the more rewarding your college experience.

Ilan: Pick a school [with] options. Even if you have no interest in staying involved in Jewish life during college, [select] a school that has the possibility. You never know when you might yearn for a sit-down Shabbat dinner. To those who know they want to stay in the bubble, it's important to have some diversity unless [they] plan on moving to a shtetl after graduation. But seriously, if the

Dena: Think about the type of Jewish community you want before you get [to college]; don't be afraid to look into what different institutions have to offer. The biggest Jewish communities aren't always the best fit; there are multiple ways to get involved. If you end up somewhere where the community doesn't fit your needs, see what you can do to change it ... create the experience you want.

After these interviews, I feel much more confident about my future as a college student.

Esty Bharier, a senior at Providence Country Day School, lives in Providence.

Temple Shalom's religious school registration is open

MIDDLETOWN - Commencing its 24th year, Temple Shalom's Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School announces registration for the 2013-2014 school year.

Classes are offered in diverse topics - Hebrew, Bible, history, customs and ceremonies, challah baking and creating Jewish art - field trips are offered as well.

A flexible curriculum includes a family education program twice monthly in which adults and youth study separately for the first hour and then come together to learn as a family unit.

This process seeks to develop a learning model for Jews of all ages to learn and enhance their Jewish knowledge as well as to learn from one another.

For more information, contact Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer at 846 9002 or Andrea Marcovici, at 508-993-1370.

"You might yearn for a ... Shabbat dinner."

Dylan: Hillel, Chabad, Trojans for Israel (USC's AIPAC campus representation), SC Students for Israel, Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM), TAMID, USC Jewish World Watch and Jewish Alliance for GLBTs and Straights.

Q: Have Jewish connections eased the transition to

real world starts after college, let me remind you that America is the great melting pot.

Abby: Know what you are looking for; don't settle for anything less. If Jewish life is something you are looking for, make sure you find a place that can fill that need. Visit schools before you commit, go to services at Hillel, try to stay with a friend who is involved on campus and make sure you can see yourself enjoying life at that school.

A Jewish preschool offers many benefits



An Early Childhood Center art class at work.

BY NICOLE KATZMAN
 nkatzman@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE - Enrolling your child in a Jewish preschool is one of the most important steps you can take to begin your child's Jewish education and expand your involvement in the Jewish community. The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Early Childhood Center (ECC) recommends Jewish programs for these reasons:

VALUES

By developing long-lasting, positive emotional connections with Shabbat, Torah and Jewish values, children strengthen their Jewish identity.

COMMUNITY

By making friends with other Jewish children, they become part of a broader Jewish community - both locally and worldwide.

CELEBRATIONS

Children experience Jewish holiday and life cycle celebrations that may enhance fami-

lies' at-home observances.

A Jewish education, which develops a foundation for Jewish identity that may last throughout your child's life, is a gateway to Jewish life and community.

The ECC, which cares for children 3 months to 5 years, now offers therapeutic services for children with special health care needs.

ECC students begin weekly swim lessons at age 2; art and gymnastic classes are available for children ages 3 - 5 enrolled in the after-school program.

Maureen Fitzgerald-Nagle, mother of Kiera, an ECC toddler, wrote, "To witness such social growth has been one of the most delightful parts of being a new parent and we are ever grateful for her teachers' patience, kindness and love."

For more information, contact Nicole Katzman, ECC director, 421-4111, ext. 180.

RABBI CARRIES ON A NOBLE TRADITION OF TEACHING RABBIS

Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer: A quick look

Resides in Providence.

The rabbi emeritus at Temple Emanu-El, Providence has taught for many years in many venues.

Holds a B.A., Brandeis University, ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Q: Can you describe your background in teaching?

A: As a rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, I used the sermon as an opportunity to challenge the congregation with open-ended questions about the Torah portion or intriguing and sometimes puzzling commentaries.

Even after "retiring," I continued in my role as a teacher and a teacher of teachers. I teach a course in the rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Newton, Mass., called "Rabbi as Educator." I introduce these future rabbis not only to the basics of pedagogy, but also to the theories and practices of such things as synagogue *havurot*, family and adult education and how to run a religious school.

For several years, I also gave a course for education and rabbinical students at the Jewish Theological Seminary on "Teaching Jewish Theology," in which we discussed a range of ideas about God, revelation and Holocaust theology; we then asked how those ideas might be taught to students of various ages.

Q: With all your experience, is there one aspect of teaching that is most rewarding to you?

A: My most rewarding teach-



Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer

ing comes from two classes that I continue to teach at Emanu-El. One is a "Parashat Hashavua" (Torah portion of the week) class that I have conducted since 1992. A wide range of people whose backgrounds include psychology, literature, medicine and Judaic studies, all bring ideas about the weekly Torah portion from their professional and personal perspectives.

The other class that has been meeting for about 10 years or so consists of a group of women, many of whom are involved in communal leadership, who asked me to start a Torah study class.

Those two classes are exciting to me because we read a section of Torah, I offer a few traditional or modern commentaries and the discussion takes off. They are really running the class (although they think I am more directive). That indeed is what real Torah study is, and should be – and I love it!

Q: What advice would you offer a newly minted teacher or rabbi?

A: Be passionate and creative about anything you teach.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ENGAGES DAVID WASSER AND HIS STUDENTS

Q: How do you stay motivated after more than two decades of teaching? What do you do to get prepared to teach at the beginning of each school year?

A: In a very real sense, teachers are always preparing for the next school year!

We tinker with the design of each lesson, project or activity – even as we are engaged in them – and we take note of what works and what needs rethinking.

Q: How do you instill Jewish values in your young students?

A: As a teacher of kindergarten, first and second grade students, I am always looking for creative ways to present Jewish values and principles to students whose vocabularies probably don't include the words "values" and "principles!" Through art and drama, children are able to connect with concepts and feelings that can then be named and discussed.

Q: Can you give some specific examples?

A: Last year, we made videos of the children acting out various stories from the Torah, and leading one another in Hebrew reading games. The



David Wasser

thrill of seeing themselves on the Web keeps them coming back to view the lessons again and again!

Q: The school is now in a brand-new location in the new synagogue site. Is there anything else new and different?

A: This summer, Torat Yisrael's newly reconstituted school committee is engaged in an exciting and thoughtful process of re-envisioning Jewish education in the 21st century. Led by a group of passionate parents and a new program director, we are chal-

David Wasser: A quick look

Resides in Cranston.

Teaches kindergarten, first and second grade students at Temple Torat Yisrael, a Conservative synagogue in East Greenwich.

Years teaching: 23

Works as the middle and upper school technology teacher and technology integration specialist at Moses Brown School in Providence.

Holds a master's degree from the University of Connecticut.

lenging our congregation and ourselves to construct a curriculum that provides engaging, relevant and inspirational Jewish experiences that speak to the needs of our diverse community. I will be meeting with this group throughout the summer and devising new strategies and ways to create opportunities for "hands on," "minds on," and "hearts on" experiential learning that will involve not just students, but parents and grandparents, too!

FORMER BALLERINA USES MOVEMENT AND PLAY IN HER TEACHING

Q: What age group do you teach and what do you teach?

A: I work with young toddlers – children between the ages of 18-months- and 2½-years-old.

I teach the toddlers simple concepts through exploration and play.

Q: You're not Jewish, yet you work to impart Jew-



Stephanie Albanese

ish values and traditions to your young students. How do you do that?

A: We have a wonderful teacher and curriculum coordinator, Esta Yavner. She instructs us – the teachers – about Jewish values and holidays so we are able to implement those lessons in our classrooms.

Q: How do you get ready and motivated for a new school year?

A: I read and review books that focus on early education to get ideas and to get inspired. I will also get inspired through the arts, especially dance, since the age group I work with are toddlers and are very movement driven. As a former ballet dancer in New York City, I find movement and physicality very important for children of all ages as I feel it helps them with their overall coordination. It gives them a

Stephanie Albanese: A quick look

Resident of Providence

Teaches at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Early Childhood Center (ECC)

Years teaching at the ECC: 3

Graduate of the Professional Children's School and the School of American Ballet (the school of the New York City Ballet)

connection with their bodies, which helps them gain greater confidence.

Movement is also a way of expressing one's self emotionally; I believe children are more apt to express themselves physically before they can express themselves verbally.

Q: Do you have any particularly memorable teachable moments or teaching experiences?

A: The most memorable moments occur when we have worked on a particular idea during the week and then we see the children very focused and absorbed in the activities we have created. Also, our children have at times, weeks later, expressed what we had previously worked on and applied it to their own play. That is very rewarding!

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For more information, please contact Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman at 401-331-5327 x21



HOMework ASSIGNMENT FOR NOVICE TEACHERS: FIND A GOOD MENTOR

Q: What motivated you to teach Hebrew and religious school?

A: I decided to teach religious school and Hebrew school because I was bringing my own children to temple and figured I would use my time constructively. I really enjoyed working with the students and kept teaching long after my own children graduated.

Q: Did you have a mentor or someone who inspired you?

A: My mentor when I began teaching was Sharyn Wilk, she had so much energy and was always available to share her creative ideas with me.

Q: After so many years teaching, what do you to prepare and get refreshed for another year?

A: Taking the summer off usually re-energizes me. I then look back at what the previous classes seemed to like best and what they didn't like and try to change those things. Anita Steiman, Beth-El's religious school administrator, and Rabbi Sarah Mack also have a teachers' meeting before school begins. That meeting helps me refocus and reenergize before I get back in the classroom.

Q: What brings you the most joy in teaching?



Sandy Lamchick

Sandy Lamchick: A quick look

Resides in West Warwick. Teaches Shemot Hebrew (second year of Hebrew school, typically for fourth-grade students) and second grade in the religious school at Temple Beth-El, the Reform synagogue in Providence.

Years teaching: 17

Holds a B.A. in psychology from the University of Rhode Island, A.S. as an occupational therapy assistant from CCRI.

Works with pre-K through high school students as a certified occupational therapy assistant in the Cumberland school system.

A: I really enjoy it when the students get engaged in group discussions. That's when I know they are beginning to understand what we've been studying.

Q: Can you recall any teachable moments or highlights?

A: One teaching highlight occurred with a student who had demonstrated many problems with behavior. After meeting with the parent and student, we all began working together. The student began participating more in class and became one of the top students in the class.

For me, the most fulfilling

aspect of teaching is when the parents and the teacher are all on the same page.

Q: What advice might you offer a novice teacher?

A: Find yourself a good mentor and make sure you really like working with children. If you enjoy what you're doing, the rest is pretty easy.

Summertime ... and the livin' (and learning Hebrew) is easy

PROVIDENCE - Learning doesn't stop in the summer, at least not for the three-dozen or so individuals enrolled in the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's *ulpan* (Hebrew classes). Veteran educators from the Afula Gilboa region of Israel visit to teach beginning, intermediate and advanced Hebrew classes.

This is the 15th year, said Larry Katz, director of educational services, that the Federation and now the Alliance, has offered these classes. Simcha Pe'er, a high school principal in Israel, and Rachel Ziv, a teacher in Israel, taught classes at the Alliance during the last two weeks of July.

The classes draw a mix of new and returning students, including at least one student who, like Pe'er, has participated each and every year.

For more information, contact Larry Katz, lkatz@shalomri.org or 421-4111.



Instructor Rachel Ziv, obscured, at left, Varda Lev, Marilyn Rueschemeyer and Nancy Bassel, participate in an advanced Hebrew language class.



Hebrew instructor Simcha Pe'er leads a beginning Hebrew class, with Kara Marziali, far left, and Sara Leach, right.

RAPPORT WITH STUDENTS CAN COME AT ANY TIME, FROM ANYWHERE



Brenda Gross-Stahl

Brenda Gross-Stahl: A quick look

Resides in Bristol.

Years teaching in the Jewish communal world: 16

Holds degrees from Brandeis University; studied Hebrew, Jewish education and administration at Hebrew College.

Q: What subjects do you teach? And where?

A: I've primarily taught middle school programs - kashrut, holy books, Jewish films, cooking, *Megillot* (Jonah, Esther and Ruth), holidays, ethics and community service projects in several Massachusetts communities, including Sharon and Cape Cod.

This fall, I will teach fifth- and seventh-grade students at Temple Habonim, the Reform synagogue in Barrington ... ethics, a *siddur* (prayer book) project, *tefillah* (prayer) and Kabbalat Shabbat *tefillot* (prayers).

Q: What does a new school year mean to you? Does the rhythm of your schedule change when summer ends?

A: The school year is about starting new; it coincides with the High Holy Days during which I prepare for a New Year of possibilities. Just before school starts, I go to a camp in New Hampshire for a week of relaxing, kayaking and catching up with family and friends. I have been doing this every year since I was a student; it is a transition I look forward to each year.

Q: How do you gear up to get motivated for a new school year?

A: I meet with colleagues and review supplemental materials such as new books, props, music and videos for my classes. I also like to take workshops and participate in webinars to get ideas.

Q: Can you offer any advice to other teachers?

A: Keep learning, keep studying, keep interested. In fact, I am taking the *ulpan* (Hebrew language) at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island this summer.

Q: Do you have any mentors?

A: Evelyn Brier, of Providence, former education director at Temple Israel in Sharon, Mass., has been my inspiration to follow this path.

Q: Any special teaching moments?

A: I had just returned from camping before school started and I had put a chirping frog sound on my cell phone's ringtone. The phone went off in class and resonated for one high school student who had thought he would not remain in my class. You never know where rapport or connection with a student will come from. We learned together for the next three years.



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FROM PAGE 1 **TILOVE**

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs. I didn't go to Jewish day schools; I went to public school for almost all my education. My B.A. is from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.; my major was in religion, my minor in philosophy. I earned my M.A. in education from Brooklyn College.

"The argument, that tension, is what Judaism values."

Q. So how did a public school kid become a Jewish day school teacher? Did a light suddenly go off one day?

A. I'll tell you the story on a very personal level. I was in a near-fatal car accident and had some serious surgeries. I was 16 and spent six weeks in the hospital, three of them in the ICU (intensive care unit). That was very intense and a life-changing experience. When you almost die ... learning how to speak and eat again ... I [became] committed to finding more meaning in my life. Also, I had made my bar mitzvah at 16 ... and had a head full of Judaism when I had my accident. That's when the light went off. I became very committed to living a spiritual Jewish life.

While I was in a coma, my mother [said] the age-old prayer, the same prayer that Hannah [said] when she prayed for her son Samuel, "Let my son live and he belongs to You." This is who I am.

Q. What's your philosophy of Jewish teaching and learning?

A. Two separate answers. First education - I am a progressive educator. I believe how kids learn is more important than what they learn. I want to see active learning, full engagement ... kids developing their verbal skills, doing group work, negotiating problems ... inspiring each other ... taking joy in their own learning.

And as to Jewish education: I want kids to take Judaism seriously and see it as a religion of love and a way of life ... of making us a better people. Second is the concept of *mahlakat l'shem shamayim*, an argument for the sake of heaven. It is said that the two great rabbis, Hillel and Shammai, fought about everything. It is not that the argument is to be won, but that the argument, that tension, is what Judaism values.

Q. Do you plan on teaching?

A. I love to teach and I have a couple of different plans to teach. I get so much joy and satisfaction from teaching so it's important for me to get into the classroom. I may substitute or try to schedule something regularly to get to know the kids.

I want to do something with older kids - a class at [Harry Elkin] Midrasha. I've already spoken a bit with (Rabbi) Barry Dolinger (of Congregation Beth Shalom) and Elan Babchuck (of Temple Emanu-El) about doing something together. There's so much cooperation and admiration between the Jewish communities - a vibe of collaboration and excitement - that's been a nice surprise.

Q. What are some of the first things you're going to do?

A. My first job is to try and meet as many people as I can in the community, to really listen as much as I can and hear about why people are involved in the school, why they are involved in Judaism and why they are - or are not - coming to the school. I need to listen much more than I talk.

Second, my goal is to set the direction and help teachers and staff members understand how we can work together to provide the best education possible.

Q. Longer term goals?

A. We're a small school, around 65 students (pre-K to grade 5). We have room for more. I think we'd be more vibrant, more sustainable, at 100. We'd like to raise enrollment ... it comes down to having a really exciting, effective and inspiring product. Our small class size (six to 12 students) is great for teaching and learning. We live by our vision of education and of Judaism. If you like what we like and love what we love, then we're for you.

Q. What advice do you have for returning students and teachers?

A. Be open to trying new things, learning new skills and using new techniques to grow.

Q. What advice do you have for Adam Tilove?

A. The advice is the same [that] I give my son almost every night: Be nice to people; build good relationships [by] being warm and empathetic and by listening to people.

Adam Tilove (atilove@jcdsri.org) is also at Twitter: @adamtilove.

JCDS: jcdsri.org or 751-2470.

Arthur C. Norman (abcnorman@aol.com) is a contributing writer for The Jewish Voice.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ...

Remembrances from a religious school graduation ceremony

BY JEANINE SILVERSMITH

Special to The Jewish Voice

WAKEFIELD - If I asked you to complete this thought, "It takes a village," you would undoubtedly respond with "to raise a child."

First Person

Virtually all of us have heard this proverb, probably African in origin, and many of us would agree with its premise. As parents and guardians, we take on the monumental task of rearing our children, although not in a vacuum. We ask for help from countless community members, including extended family, friends, health care professionals, babysitters and, of course, educators.

With good reason. Learning from and interacting with a variety of people in healthy, meaningful ways can help children form a sense of community and foster their sense of identity. Many of us choose to enroll our children in a formal religious school education to further enhance this process.

At Temple Am David's Louis and Goldie Chester Religious School graduation ceremony last spring, I was repeatedly reduced to tears by how religious school can profoundly impact our children.

There was the group of 7- and 8-year-old girls who jumped up and down and hugged one another after each received her graduation certificate.

There were the teachers making spot-on statements about



Am David teacher Dori Adler stands with student Matthew Smith.

the students that demonstrated how deeply they understand their students. Many long-standing teachers add consistency and stability to Am David's program.

There was the group of middle school students who started their tenure at Am David as toddlers in the Shalom Friends program and are now all b'nei mitzvah age.

There were the kids graduating and promising to come back to volunteer as high school students.

There were parents discussing Am David's new Family Shabbat services that engage students in leading different parts of a traditional, yet child-friendly, ritual experience.

There were cheers and laughter from everyone in the room

when Rabbi Richard Perlman made jokes, some at his own expense.

There was applause for Jane Levenson and Gayle Katzman who, after more than 10 years, are stepping down from their positions as school committee chairs. (This September, Meredith Daniels and I will take over - talk about big shoes to fill!)

There was the overwhelming feeling that religious school builds a sense of community while providing a meaningful Jewish education.

It really does take a village.

Jeanine Silversmith (jeanine-silversmith@gmail.com), webmaster and editor of the online newspaper for Am David, is co-chair of the religious school.

Kehillah Schechter Academy will participate in digital badge learning

One of four schools nationwide to participate in new venture

NORWOOD, Mass. - Four Jewish day schools in the U.S. - including Kehillah Schechter Academy, a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Jewish day school in Norwood - will participate in a pioneering 'digital badge' learning program for the 2013-14 school year.

The program, called Tamritz (Hebrew for incentive), is a 21st century version of scouting merit badges with an academic twist.

Digital badge learning rewards student achievements across a wide range of disciplines and learning experiences, within and beyond the classroom, in traditional and online settings. Without earning the badges, student cannot move from one step to another in the program or unit.

Through digital badge learn-

ing, students are guided by their teachers, encouraged to explore their own interests, acquiring knowledge and skills along the way. Each digital badge earned becomes an electronic 'credential' that contains the student's knowledge and accomplishments. Sharing badges through social media allows teachers, the student and their parents to see the supporting documentation.

"Selected schools demonstrate an innovative spirit and readiness for transforming how learning happens," said Sarah Blattner, Tamritz' founder and executive director, in a recent release from KSA.

"The schools we chose are willing to experiment and explore how digital badge learning can engage students," said Myrna Rubel, chief advisor for

Tamritz' advisory council, in the release.

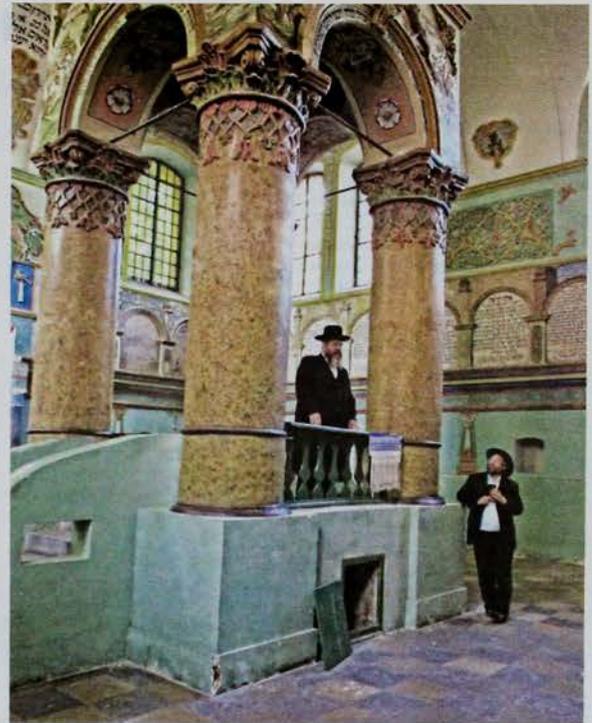
At KSA, badges will be used in the rabbinics program for sixth graders. Each time students show proficiency in the text and in the particular habit of mind, they will earn the badge. Before participating, teachers will have online professional development and students will participate in a nine-week digital citizenship course.

Tamritz will match program fees with in-kind support for each participating school during the first year, with support from the Joshua Venture Group's Dual Investment Program and the AVI CHAI Foundation.

Contact Nitzan Resnick (nresnick@ksa-ne.org or 781-769-5555).



Thousands upon thousands of shoes ...



A synagogue in Poland

FROM PAGE 4 STUDYING

ate family, it was a deeply moving and powerful experience.

Nevertheless, we asked, "Why are we here?" We were all students of the Holocaust; we knew the statistics, we knew the stories. What dimension was added by standing on the once blood-soaked earth.

Majdanek is one of the few labor-extermination camps that remained intact because the Russians liberated the camp on July 23, 1944, before the Germans could destroy the evidence of their systematic

pool of water heated by the crematoria for bathing. A short walk away, a grassy knoll rises and dips - it is the site of a mass grave where 18,000 Jewish people were killed in one day in the "Erntefest" (Harvest Festival) on Nov. 3, 1943. The Germans blared music to drown out the cries, but the locals from the Lublin area were able to watch the massacre with ease. The empty wooden barracks stand soulless.

We completed our tour of Majdanek, but we did not leave yet. One participant shared Torah thoughts and accounts from some individuals who had been transported to the camps. The program director recited the Kaddish as well as the prayer in memory of the departed. In this way, we sought to connect to the footprints of those souls who walked through Majdanek as well as their shoes.

Why are we here? We are here to intertwine our peaceful lives with the horrors that shattered their lives. We perpetuate their memories and the footprints of our forebears who walked through the dark abyss with courage and faith until their bitter end. We walk in their very footprints. We stand in prayer in the very places where they stood in prayer and beseeched the Almighty for an end to human pain and suffering. We are here to preserve their footprints forever in the continuum of the chain of Jewish tradition and history of Jewish suffering. We are here to remember, and never to forget.

Marsha Gibber (MGibber@PHDSchool.org) is a Judaic studies teacher at the Providence Hebrew Day School.

"We are here to remember and never to forget"

atrocities. They found 450,000 shoes when they arrived. Majdanek housed warehouses where clothing and valuables taken from victims of Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka, camps established under *Aktion Reinhard* (Operation Reinhard, the Nazis' code name for their plan to exterminate Polish Jewry), were sorted and stored and ultimately sent to Germany as part of the Nazis' systematic plunder.

A gas chamber remains intact, complete with a peephole in the heavy wooden door through which the final moments of the unsuspecting victims could be relished. The crematoria ovens stand looming in a row. The human ashes were used to fertilize flowers and cabbages grown outside the building. Germans used a



A cattle car that was used to transport Jews to the death camps.

Donate postage stamps to Holocaust Stamps Project

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. - The Foxborough Regional Charter School in Foxboro, Mass., continues to welcome post-ages stamps in connection with its Holocaust Stamps Project.

As of July 30, more than 3 million postage stamps have been donated to the school's community service learning initiative, which is designed to educate students about the

dangers of prejudice, promote tolerance and to raise awareness of the 11 million innocent lives lost during the Holocaust.

The school hopes to collect 11 million postage stamps for its collages, which use the collected stamps to reinforce student learning.



Contact **Jamie Droste** (jdroste@foxboroughrcs.org).

One Happy Advertiser Says...

Thank you all at The Voice & Herald for the great job you did with our ad in a recent Bar/Bat Mitzvah issue. Thanks to the ad, I got a phone call from my girlfriend's cousin to price up some menus - she recognized my picture in the ad. That's why we have this opportunity to bid for the job. Also, at least three or four people have come up to me at our synagogue to compliment me on the ad. So thank you for your help and guidance and a job well done.

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DISPERSED HOPE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMS HELP SEND KIDS TO COLLEGE

Organization hopes to build network of volunteers and donors

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE – An all-volunteer board – consisting of Hope High School alumni from different classes – runs Hope High School Dollars for Scholars, a non-profit organization committed to helping inner city students pursue and complete their post-high school education. To that end, this local chapter of Scholarship America (the nation's largest provider of private scholarships) provides scholarships to Hope graduates.

At an honors ceremony last spring, Louis Mendelsohn (class of 1965) presented the first Louis B. Mendelsohn Entrepreneur Award of \$10,000 to graduating senior Ariel Matos (see sidebar, below).

The Jewish Voice interviewed Jane Rosenbloom Bermont ('65), Hope High Dollars for Scholars board president, by phone and email. Excerpts of the interviews follow:

Q. What was the genesis for Hope High Dollars for Scholars? How did you get involved?

A. I had learned from my daughter Becky, vice president of media at Rhode Island School of Design, that there was an exciting and rewarding multi-year RISD/Hope collaboration, headed by Paul Sproll, RISD's director of arts education. [After] Paul and I met, our initial idea was to raise funds to improve the arts library at Hope.

One conversation led to another and I founded Hope High Dollars for Scholars in 2011 after bringing together about 10 interested alumni ... with Scholarship America (SA). SA [provides] non-profit status and a wealth of resources, from a website template to profession-

al guidance in fundraising and scholarship administration. [Our] Chapter affiliation offers a gateway to nationwide scholarship information and opportunities.

Q. Why did you decide to get involved? Did you grow up with the principles of *tikkun olam* and *tzedakah*?

A: As a Jewish child of the '60s, the value of social justice was deeply ingrained. I lived in two different communities – the upper-middle class Jewish community of Temple Beth-El and Ledgemont Country Club and the economically and demographically diverse Hope High School. Both communities clearly impacted my life, my career and my purpose. It was also the civil rights era; this President John F. Kennedy quote stayed with me: "If an American, because his skin is dark, cannot ... enjoy the full and free life which all of us want, then who among us would be content to have the color of his skin changed and stand in his place?"

And as a Jew, growing up after the Holocaust, I was compelled to pay attention.

Q. Dollars for Scholars is 2-years-old. Tell us about your accomplishments – members, funds raised, scholarships awarded.

A. We are diverse professionally ... but, so far pretty homogenous by age, race and religion (nearly all board members are Jews in their early to mid-60s). [So far] we have awarded \$22,000 in scholarships. In 2012 and 2013 [each], we awarded six \$1,000 scholarships. In 2013 ... we awarded the first annual Louis B. Mendelsohn Entrepreneur Award, \$2,500 per year for four years. We have raised more



Hope High Dollars for Scholars board members are front row, from left, Tom Aquino, Jean Musiker, Christina Ricci, Andi Brown, Paul Formal, Sharen Gleckman; back row, from left, Sheldon Mittleman, Jane Rosenbloom Bermont, Ann Salk Rosenberg, Barbara Kirshenbaum Shapiro and Ruth Flescher Tepper are not pictured.

JANE ROSENBLOOM BERMONT

... and have a decent reserve [as] a foundation for scholarships next year.

[We] have stayed in touch with our award recipients and ... Mendelsohn offered to become an active mentor. We will encourage board members and interested donors to provide that personal support and encouragement. We have ambitious plans. The close relationship we have forged with the school ... has provided volunteers and financial support [for] the school's golf tournament and "An Evening for Hope." Lewis Wintman and [board member] Tom Aquino have been instrumental in securing sponsorships for this event.

Q. What other plans do you have for the upcoming school year?

A. We hope to expand our cadre of volunteers [to] reach a greater network of alumni and community supporters. Our

multi-year goal is to increase donations by 50 percent ...to offer more multi-year scholar-

ships. Our most strategic effort will be to announce a structured program for leadership gifts, initiated by Mendelsohn's legacy gift. Next May, [we] will celebrate the accomplishments of notable Hope High alumni.

Our goal for the past two years was to develop an organizational infrastructure that will endure through the years, connecting alumni and the Providence community with investing in the educational and career success of Hope graduates. Success is defined, for me,

[not only] accomplishing our scholarship mission, but also by reconnecting with Hope, old and new friends and Providence.

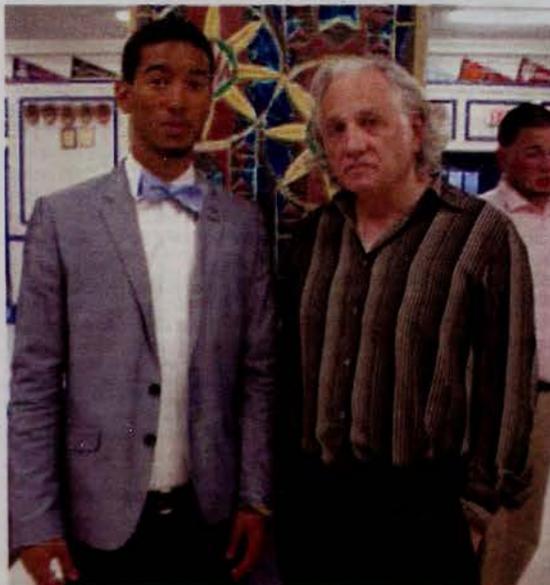
Q. Anything else you'd like readers to know?

A. We welcome more people on our journey. We are interested in reconnecting with members of the Jewish community who attended or care about Hope. We need volunteers, donors and leadership gifts to help build the community of support for students. They are Providence's future.

For more information, contact Jane Rosenbloom Bermont (jbermont@bermontassociates.com or hopehigh.dollars-forscholars.org).

Arthur C. Norman (abcnorman@aol.com) is a contributing writer with The Jewish Voice.

"I was compelled to pay attention."



Ariel Matos, left, and Lou Mendelsohn

LOU MENDELSON

An American dreamer

Lou Mendelsohn pays it forward

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN
Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE – Louis Mendelsohn didn't grow up on the wrong side of the tracks – he grew up on the tracks. Born in a public housing project, he later moved with his family to South Providence where, he said, the railroad tracks cut through his Byfield Street backyard. But Lou's is not a "woe-is-me" story. His is the

story of the American Dream writ large, where hard work and education provided success beyond his wildest imagi-

"Get involved. Contribute ... have a life-changing impact."

nation. Success enough, he said, to live up to the Jewish ideal to help others, from purchasing a building for the first synagogue in Wesley Cha-

pel, Fla., the Chabad Jewish Centre, to pledging \$50,000 over five years to establish Hope High School's Dollars for Scholars Louis B. Mendelsohn Entrepreneur Award.

This past May, at Hope's second annual honors ceremony, Lou, now a resident of Tampa, Fla., presented the first \$10,000 award (\$2,500 per

THE 'SUPER COMBO'

College studies may open – or close – doors to future career choices

BY MARC P. LIPPS

Special to The Jewish Voice

CUMBERLAND – Patrons of bricks-and-mortar cinemas and their omnipresent concession

Business Profile

stands are familiar with the “super combo” – a promotional device that features a large popcorn and beverage. This pairing obviously capitalizes on the complementary relationship that occurs when soda quenches the thirst produced by salty popcorn.

I strongly encourage high school students to incorporate academic super combos into their college curricular planning. While most high school students (and their families) understand the wisdom of applying to more than one college or university, they all-too-often adopt a singular focus with respect to academic majors and career options.

Multidimensional curricular

programs – two majors, a major and a minor, even a major and two minors or two majors and a minor – are quite feasible combinations at most institutions and, with careful planning, do not necessarily require additional time or tuition to complete. When purposefully constructed to accommodate student interests, innate talents and career exploration objectives, such strategies can confer enormous vocational flexibility as graduation approaches and can facilitate potential career changes in the future, as well.

For example, one of my clients was a high school sophomore whose intrigue with TV psychodramas and mystery novels prompted her to gravitate toward studying psychology in college. At the same time, chemistry was her favorite high school course, no doubt owing to her strong spatial aptitude. I recommended that she satisfy both preferences with a double major in psychology and chemistry, along with a minor in criminal justice, for good measure. She pursued this course

of study at a venerable New England university and completed the entire program in four years with no added cost.

Most important, this youngster's seemingly incongruous academic super combo was quite deliberately designed to support an exciting array of career possibilities – all of which

makes possible her transition to other related career paths if she so chooses – a most unlikely progression had she graduated with a psychology degree as her sole academic credential.

High school students should undertake such strategic college and career planning during their sophomore and junior years, well before they begin their search for best-fit schools, in order to ensure a match between their personal academic and vocational goals and the curricular opportunities available on specific college campuses – a combination that is truly super.

“The custom tailored blueprint ...”

spoke to her several passions: forensic scientist, clinical psychologist, law enforcement criminologist and pharmaceutical researcher specializing in mind-altering drugs. As a college student, she secured a summer internship at a state crime laboratory; for the past decade, she has enjoyed frequent promotions as an analytical chemist at a manufacturer of technical products. What's more, the custom-tailored blueprint that she pursued in college now

Marc Lipps (305-6705 or MarcLippsAssociates.com) is principal at Marc Lipps Associates, Inc., an independent educational consulting firm specializing in college and career planning.

This is one of a series of occasional business profiles, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice.

New Temple Sinai program – ‘gesher’ – is open to all

CRANSTON – Temple Sinai's religious school will offer a new program called *gesher* (bridge) for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students and their parents.

The program will focus on holidays and Jewish values in a hands-on approach that includes learning stations, stories, crafts, cooking and more, including adult learning resources.

The program, which runs from 10 – 11:30 a.m. for six Sundays beginning Sept. 22, may also include one Saturday evening session.

Gesher will be open to all, at no cost; membership at Temple Sinai, a Reform congregation, is not required.

Contact Toby Koritsky (942-3466 or tkoritsky@templesinai.org), educational director at Temple Sinai.

FROM PAGE 24 GROWING

year for four years) to graduating senior Ariel Matos, who will attend Bryant University this autumn.

Lou, who will also mentor Ariel through the next several years, said he is paying forward the kindness shown to him by a respected teacher from his own school years.

In 1960, Mendelsohn said, his father was injured and unable to work his peddler's route in Fall River, Mass. Because Lou had accompanied his dad for years on weekends, he was the sole family member who knew the route and its mostly low-income customers. His family needed special permission from the school department for Lou to leave early on Fridays and be absent on Mondays. As a teen, Lou suddenly had the responsibility of supporting his family. Junior high school English teacher Louis Filippelli helped ease Lou's burden with his support and encouragement during this challenging time.

“Mr. Filippelli was a *mensh*,” said Mendelsohn. It was Filippelli's influence, he said, that lives on, through him, in the Legacy Scholarship program he helped create at Hope High.

Lou's involvement with Dollars for Scholars grew out of connections he made at his 45th Hope High School reunion in 2010. He and Jane Bermont wanted to raise some funds for the school. Together, they planned a silent auction, with goods and services donated by



Lou Mendelsohn, age 5, on Byfield Street in Providence.

alumni and local merchants, to raise money for a then-unspecified project. They just knew, he said, that they wanted to help. The auction raised a modest \$1,000, but was the catalyst that led to founding the Hope High Dollars for Scholars program.

Mendelsohn said that other fundraising activities are in the planning stages and will broaden the Legacy Scholarship concept by including several different tiers of scholarships. This will give donors, he said, greater flexibility in both the size and frequency of dona-

tions. His advice to Hope alumni and other potential donors: “Get involved. Contribute ... have a life-changing impact. Name your own Legacy Scholarship to honor a loved one ... You'll experience the great joy of knowing that you are truly making a difference and fixing the world ... one individual at a time.”

Arthur C. Norman (abcnorman@aol.com) is a contributing writer with The Jewish Voice.



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RON TAFFEL ON THE LURE OF THE 'SECOND FAMILY'

Comfort, empathy and traditional rituals are keys

BY BETSY ALPER, LICSW
Special to The Jewish Voice

PROVIDENCE – For parents, back to school for their adolescents can mean many things – good and bad. It can be the

Women in Education

return of some order to an otherwise unstructured schedule or the return to stressful homework-filled nights and the struggle to find a free minute.

For some, it presents a chance to get some space away from their teen; for others, it brings the worry related to the lure and pull of their adolescent's "second family" as the school year brings much more contact with their friends and peers.

The "second family" is what author and child psychologist Ron Taffel calls the "collective power of the peer group and the pop culture." Taffel calls it "family" because it provides comfort in a different way than do traditional nuclear and ex-

tended families. Understanding, empathy, rituals and company are all part of healthy family life and are also attributes that draw teens to spend as much time as possible with their second family.

Today, social media and texting allow adolescents 24/7 access to their friends. Teens needing empathy can tweet their woes to find immediate responses from peers. A teen needing reassurance about her appearance can post a picture of her best-looking self and have 100 "likes" in two minutes, reminding her that she is, indeed, attractive.

Teenage insecurity is not new, but now, accessing relief from it has many different paths. With the return to school and increased contact with peers, the lure of the second family becomes even greater and parents often struggle to compete. What are parents to do when the power of the peers is so strong?

Taffel has several ideas to help maintain the family home as a place where adolescents

continue to return as a primary place for comfort. He suggests that traditional family rituals provide some of the predictability and routine that teens seek. Taffel says that many parents mistakenly believe family time must involve quality and enrichment for their children. However, children, adolescents and adults all take comfort in simple activities that provide downtime within their families.

Cheering together for a favorite sports team, enjoying the traditional birthday routine with cake and balloons, holding a family movie night – these rituals all represent comfort within the first family.

Taffel also reminds parents that, sometimes, teens are uncommunicative, in part, because parents do not appear to value what is important to them. An adolescent who is prolific when tweeting and texting about who likes whom or what one should wear to watch the football game will usually provide a monosyllabic answer to a parent's classic question, "How was school today?" Conversely, a mother's eyes may glaze over when her adolescent frets about "What should I wear tonight?"

By expressing a small bit of interest in a seemingly insignificant subject, a parent can actually help pry open the

doors of communication. It is important to remember what may seem of little significance to an adult may be occupying a large portion of the young adult's thoughts.

Adolescents gravitating toward their peers is nothing new and is perfectly normal. However, the roles of first family and the home base are essential in providing the comfort, predictability and routine that teenagers seek as they journey to adulthood and independence.

Betsy Alper, LICSW (betsy@jfsri.org) is clinical director, Jewish Family Service in Providence.

Adaptive PE teacher works with students with special needs

PROVIDENCE – Jill Spohn works as an adaptive physical education teacher in Middletown.

An adaptive PE teacher is a physical educator for students with special needs, whether they have physical, emotional or cognitive challenges. Federal law requires all students to have access to the educational curricula, including physical education; in some cases, students require modifications, accommodations or a separate plan. To be an adaptive physical educator, one must study both special needs and the general physical education and health curricula.

Q: What is your education-

al background?

A: I have a bachelor's degree from Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y., a master's degree from SUNY at Stony Brook, N.Y., a certificate of graduate studies in autism studies from Rhode Island College and national certification, Certified Adapted Physical Educator.

Q: If you were not doing this work, what would you be doing?

A: Probably something in education – teaching at the college level, working on policy or somehow teaching teachers.

Q: What drew you to this job?

A: It was the opportunity!



Jill Spohn

When I graduated from college, PE jobs were limited. At an interview, I happily said, 'I would love to teach a variety of students.'

Q: What's a perfect day at work?

A: When my students are successful with the activities I have planned for them ... when and if I have IEP (Individual Educational Plan) and parents are pleased with the progress their children are making in our program.

Q: What was your biggest professional challenge?

A: The challenges of the economic changes that have limited space, time and support for individuals in the special needs population. Students change constantly; while that is challenging in itself, it ... keeps my mind active and ready to learn.

Q: How do your Jewish values influence your work?

A: Judaism embraces *tzedakah* or charity – the giving of yourself. That is my mantra in my teaching. This is all about the students and their needs.

Q: What's the biggest mistake you have made? And what did you learn from it?

A: I had trusted an instructional aide to escort a student to an outdoor activity. He let the student transition on his own, but the student got lost. It was my responsibility; now, either I escort every student or review my clear expectations – even with adults!

Jill Spohn (jilljourney@yahoo.com) lives in Providence.



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An occupational therapist provides resources to clients

SHARON, Mass. – Lisa Shooman holds a master's degree in occupational therapy from Columbia University and advanced certification in sensory integration and applied behavior analysis. She works in private practice as a behavioral support specialist, occupational therapist and low-vision therapist for adults and children.

him. Being an occupational therapist is very rewarding; the most frustrating part of my business is insurance billing. I have to deal with the red tape of the insurance companies, which can be very frustrating.

Q: What's the best professional advice you've ever been given or given to someone else?

A: The best advice that I've been given is that I don't have to do it all. My best advice to others: Do what you enjoy and what comes naturally to you.

Q: How do your Jewish values influence or inform the work you do?

A: Hillel said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?

Women in Education

Q: What drew you to this work? Why did you get involved in this work?

A: I learned about occupational therapy when I was in high school at a women's-only career day. I met an occupational therapist and a mother who shared how she successfully merged her home and work life.

Q: What's the most meaningful part of the work for you? Most frustrating?

A: Occupational therapy enables people to perform daily tasks that they are having trouble doing. Occupational therapists help people gain skills for the job of living. Knowing that I can "change the world" for the people I serve is most meaningful. I may work with a senior with low-vision who learns to live independently or a young child who succeeds in school because his teachers understand how to adapt the classroom for

"Do what you enjoy and what comes naturally."

If not now, when?" I try to apply this concept in all that I do.

Q: If you weren't doing this work, what would you be doing?

A: My secret passion is public speaking and writing. I used to give speeches on the Holocaust when I was in middle and high school. My mother is a Holocaust survivor and I wanted to educate my classmates about her experiences. In high



Lisa Shooman

school, I wrote a play that students performed. I also wrote for my college school newspaper; after that, marriage, family and occupational therapy take most of my time. But I'm finding a way to integrate my professional life with my personal passions. Last year, I wrote, "The GraspRite Method: The Quick and Easy Guide to Helping Your Child Develop the Essential Fine and Gross Motor Skills Every Elementary Schooler Needs" (Golden Bird Publishing, December 2012). Earlier this year, I was invited to give a workshop by the R.I. Occupational Therapy Association. In the future, I hope to write more and provide more workshops to help each child flourish.

Lisa Shooman (lisa@grasprite.com) lives in Sharon, Mass.

Dyslexia need not stymie children's learning

Multi-sensory learning for literacy challenges

BY DIANA THIBAUT
Special to The Jewish Voice

PROVIDENCE – Many children who experience difficulty acquiring literacy skills such as reading, spelling, and writing are diagnosed with dyslexia.

Business Profile

Overcoming dyslexia is the subject of numerous studies, but included in that massive body of collected works is groundbreaking neuroscientific proof-positive that dyslexic brains can – and do – learn strategies necessary for language and literacy proficiency. The Orton-Gillingham instructional approach has proven highly successful with dyslexic children.

The key to effectively teaching a dyslexic student is by using all of the student's learning and sensory pathways. Multi-sensory teaching involves en-

gaging these pathways – sight, sound, touch and movement – that are often under-used or completely ignored in traditional classroom environments.

The premise is right out of "Teaching 101": Communicate content in the most understandable way for the student. The dyslexic child is most responsive to multi-sensory learning because the "usual" language-learning pathways are unavailable.

Dyslexic students must get across the great divide – they will uncover alternate routes; they will channel the same information other students learn,

but in a different way – perhaps through textured surfaces, finger paint gel (tactile writing), air writing (motion), magnets (visual and tactile), etc.

As a certified

Orton-Gillingham tutor, I provide dyslexic children with an individualized tutoring

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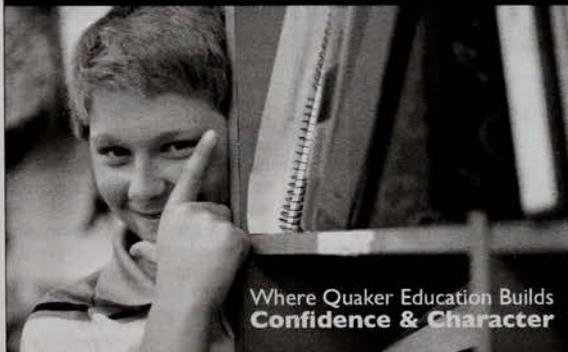
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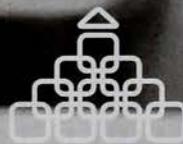
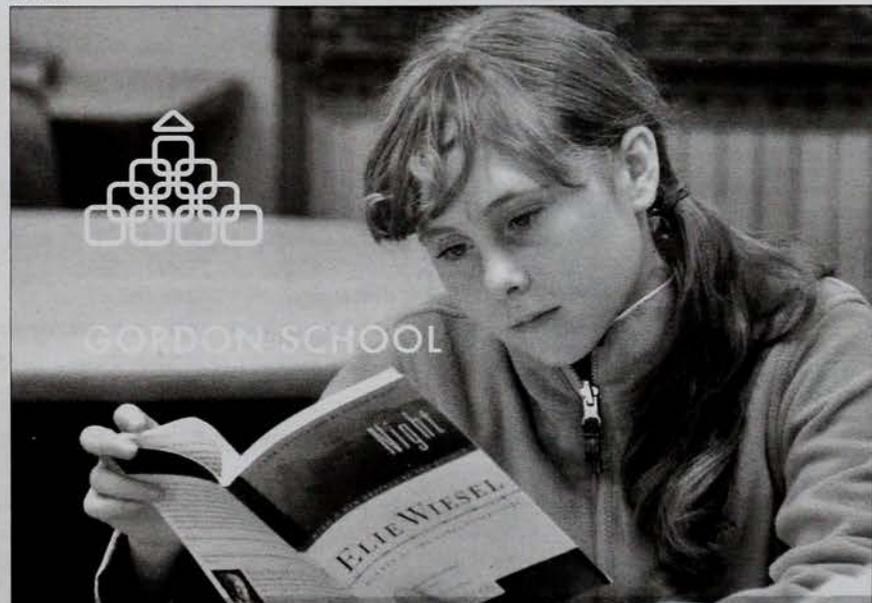


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Helping your forgetful student

To teach is to learn twice

BY RANDY KULMAN, PH.D.

Special to The Jewish Voice
PEACEDALE – We all forget things, now and again. However, if your elementary or middle school student always seems to forget his or her homework

Business Profile

or loses it between school and home, he or she might not be doing it on purpose. If that same child seems incapable of following more than one direction at a time, he may have some difficulty with his or her working memory.

Working memory is the capacity to hold information in mind as you are acting on it or doing something else. Think about walking to the refrigerator to get something and then staring blankly while you try to remember why you are standing there. For typical adults, working memory tends to deteriorate after age 35. For many children with attention difficulties or executive-functioning problems, working memory problems can be an ongoing struggle, which contribute to difficulty in learning, focus and organization.

Students who struggle with working memory may have

problems with reading comprehension and math word problems, as well as difficulty sustaining attention to tasks. The importance of working memory skills cannot be overstated – they have been identified as even more important than intelligence in predicting school performance.

Fortunately, parents can use several strategies to improve their child's working memory. Cogmed Working Memory Training and Jungle Memory, which work directly on changing the brain's structure, use video game-like technologies to practice and stretch working-memory skills. Educational technology websites, including my company's website, learningworksforkids.com, offer additional assistance. Parents may choose from a variety of video games and apps to practice working-memory skills.

Other approaches both practice and support less-than-stellar working-memory skills. A few of the best strategies for elementary and middle school children include:

- Encourage your child to connect an emotion to something he or she wants to remember.

For example, if your child is trying to remember information for a history test, ask him or her to consider how he or she might have felt in that historical set-

ting and connect that emotion to what he or she is trying to remember.

- Treat your brain like a garden. A 2 percent decrease in hydration can lead to a 20 percent loss in energy and in the capacity to memorize and think correctly. This means your child needs to drink water, juice or another healthy beverage to remain hydrated and to help with memory. Provide nutrition for the brain through memory-boosting vitamins such as Vitamin B12 or folic acid and power brain foods like salmon and fruit.

- Improve working memory by having your child teach others. Teaching requires individuals to process their learning in a way that consolidates for more long-term memory. It forces the teacher to think about what students are learning and memorizing in a different way so that they can present it to others. This illustrates the common axiom, "To teach is to learn twice."

Randy Kulman, Ph.D. (randy@learningworksforkids.com or 515-2006) is president of LearningWorks for Kids and clinical director, South County Child and Family Consultants.

This is one of a series of occasional stories about local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice.

New research indicates Jewish day schools make a positive difference

NEW YORK – Jewish day schools make a difference in the lives of children, their teachers and the communities they serve, according to information from Yeshiva University Institute for University-School Partnership. However, with escalating costs, a lagging economy and new educational models, day schools' sustainability has become an existential challenge, according to information published in *ejewishphilanthropy.com*.

school types [religious private schools, charter schools and public schools], even when sophisticated controls are used to adjust for socioeconomic status."

Jeynes' data, derived from an analysis of 90 studies on a variety of educational institutions, provides external validation. Because the data comes from a totally unaffiliated source, with no investment in Jewish day schools, it achieves a kind of objective authority.

This research confirms that Jewish day school education does make a significant difference. In an interview with the Council for American Pri-



ate Education, Jeynes said: "Students who attend religious schools score at an academic level about 12 months ahead of their counterparts."

Read more at http://ejewishphilanthropy.com/a-sharp-new-advocacy-tool-for-jewish-day-schools/?utm_source=

Although research conducted by Jewish communal agencies has long endorsed Jewish day school education, a new academic study provides evidence about the power of faith-based education.

William Jeynes, a senior fellow at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, N.J. – not a Jewish day school professional – has published an important paper in the *Peabody Journal of Education* that notes: "[A]ttending private religious schools is associated with the highest level of academic achievement among the three

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LEARNING

experience. Every child's experience begins with an assessment followed by lesson plans based on the initial, and subsequent, diagnostic results. Every session begins with a review of previously learned concepts, including specific examples to demonstrate the degree to which that concept has been retained and applied to a task. The second part is new material followed by examples of how the new concept is to be used along with many task performance examples to solidify the connections between concept and task. Reinforcement times eight is the key!

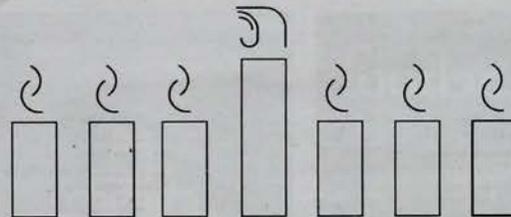
Embedded within each lesson section are short, but important, reading opportunities, with a segment dedicated to only reading before ending every session. Additional time for the final reading segment is always provided.

Over time, using methods learned with the Orton-Gillingham approach, dyslexic students can become successful readers, spellers and writers.

Diana Thibault (ogtutor121@gmail.com), a certified Orton-Gillingham tutor, lives in Providence.

This is one of a series of occasional business profiles about local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice.

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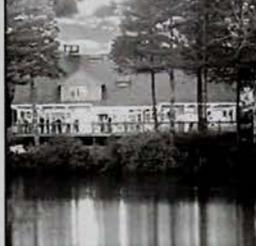
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News Brief

Schindler's list goes unsold on eBay

(JTA) - An original list of names of 801 Jews rescued by German industrialist Oskar Schindler did not find a buyer on eBay.

No one met the opening bid of \$3 million for the 14-page list typed on onionskin paper. California collectors Gary Zimet and Eric Gazin had said when the auction was announced earlier this month that they expected the list to sell for about \$5 million.

Though the list had no bids, more than half a million people viewed the auction on eBay. The sellers have said they will not re-list the document for auction at a lower price.

Gazin told the French news agency AFP that the sellers are in "active discussions" with several parties interested in acquiring the list.

Schindler was a German businessman credited with saving more than 1,000 Jews from the Nazis by deeming them essential workers for his enamel works factories.



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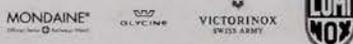


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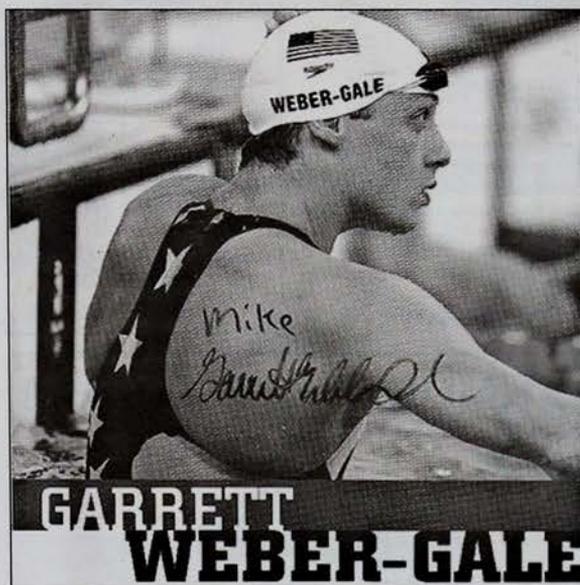
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BLOGGING FROM THE 19TH MACCABIAH GAMES IN ISRAEL



Olympic gold medalist leads U.S. delegation at Maccabiah opening

RAMAT GAN, Israel – When swimmer Garrett Weber-Gale heard his name announced recently as the U.S. flag bearer for the opening ceremony of the 19th Maccabiah Games, he just about lost his breath.

A two-time gold medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Weber-Gale had spoken with JTA about the powerful feelings he experienced during his first few days in Israel. His emotional high continued during a pep rally at the Maccabi movement's headquarters in Ramat Gan.

More than 1,100 athletes and coaches cheered the announcement of those chosen to lead the team into Jerusalem's Teddy

Kollek Stadium. Weber-Gale confessed to hoping he would be selected. He was not.

Then Jeffrey Bukantz, Maccabi USA's general chairman, called Weber-Gale's name as the flag-bearer and the room erupted in applause.

"My heart was pumping like crazy," Weber-Gale said. "I was a little embarrassed walking up there with everyone watching me."

"To represent the U.S.A., and the Jewish people in general, I can't tell you how much this makes my blood pump."

(From a blog post from Hillel Kuttler for JTA)

Remembering victims at Maccabiah

JERUSALEM, Israel – American, Canadian, Australian, Russian and British athletes started filing out of a Jerusalem hotel lobby recently to buses that would transport them to the opening ceremony of the 19th Maccabiah Games.

They paid little mind to the semicircle of older people forming around a table. A man lit two memorial candles and uttered a few words in Spanish. Within five minutes, the short ceremony had concluded.

Those in the semicircle – Argentinian tennis players in the master's division – were commemorating the anniversary of the July 18, 1994, terrorist bombing in Buenos Aires of the AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina) Jewish Community Center. The attack killed 85 people and destroyed the building.

Israel has long fingered Iran as directing the attack.

Similar commemorations were held nearly everywhere Argentina's Maccabiah athletes went. The AMIA victims were remembered during the Maccabiah's opening ceremony, along with the 11 Israelis murdered at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the fallen soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces.

The ceremonies were "not only a remembrance," but also "a [call] for justice," said Elena Belinky, deputy assistant to the Argentinian delegation head. They acquired greater meaning, she said, because of the Argentina-Iran agreement in January to form a panel to investigate the bombing.

(From a blog post from Hillel Kuttler for JTA)

At the Maccabiah, making mom, grandma and great-grandma proud

RAMAT GAN, Israel – For a week before they started competing, many of the 1,100 U.S. athletes in this year's Maccabiah Games toured Israel and learned about their Jewish heritage.

But when Yale Goldberg steps onto the tennis court, he'll have another tradition to draw on.

He'll be representing the fourth generation of his family to compete in the games.

His parents played tennis and swam for the U.S. in 1997, the year a bridge collapsed during the games leading to the deaths of four athletes. His grandmother swam for Israel in 1953, the second games after Israel became a state. And his great-grandmother and great-grandfather played volleyball and sprinted, respectively, a generation earlier.

"They always wanted me to play in the Maccabiah Games," Goldberg said of his parents. "I'm really excited to be here, to keep the tradition going. It feels like I should be here."

His grandmother, Anita Deutsch, was the youngest athlete in the 1953 games, but being 12 didn't stop her from taking silver in the 100-meter swim. She has memories of contestants from other countries taking out trinkets and kissing them for good luck before springing into the pool.

"At that stage in my life it was the high point of my life," said Deutsch, who now lives in Manhattan. "There was camaraderie among the other kids who participated."



Jeffrey Bukantz during the 2008 Olympics

Goldberg isn't the only member of the American delegation with family history at the games. Maccabi USA General Chairman Jeffrey Bukantz, who's leading this year's delegation, spent his career chasing his father's fencing achievements at the Maccabiah.

Bukantz's father, Danny Bukantz, won a gold in fencing at the 1950 Maccabiah. In 1981, Jeffrey finished fourth. He cried, and resolved to do better next time. In 1985, he took bronze, cried again and set his eyes on 1989.

During Jeffrey's third Maccabiah, in 1989, he finally won gold.

"When I got the gold medal I flipped my mask in the air and jumped uncontrollably three times," he said. "I was crying like a faucet."

This time, they were tears of joy.

(From a blog post by Ben Sales for JTA)

O Canada! ... Oh Baseball



RAMAT GAN, Israel – It's no surprise that the U.S. 18-and-under baseball team was expected to take gold at the Maccabiah.

There are only three teams, and the others are Canada and Israel – not countries known for their diamond prowess. Meanwhile, the American nine had never lost in the quadrennial competition.

Few expected, however, that the U.S. would no-hit Canada twice – the first two no-nos in Maccabiah baseball history. The red, white and blue showed some prowess with the bats, too, beating the Canucks 12-0 and 14-0.

The Americans' fortunes have been more mercurial, though, in their games against Israel. The U.S. maintained its dominance with a 15-1 victory, but the home squad later dealt a historic loss to the Americans, 5-3.

(From a blog post by Ben Sales for JTA)

Maccabiah athletes to be offered incentives to move to Israel

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org) – Around 9,000 Jewish athletes from 79 countries are participating in this summer's Maccabiah Games. Most of the athletes are visiting Israel for the first time, and Israel's Immigrant Absorption Ministry will grant a unique benefits package to Maccabiah participants who immigrate to the Jewish state by Dec. 31, 2014.

The package will include expanded financial grants, professional Hebrew courses and special assistance from the Immigrant Student Authority. The Immigrant Absorption Ministry will also encourage employers to hire immigrants

and give preferential aid to immigrants who choose to live in



Maccabiah medals in 2009

national priority areas. "The Maccabiah is an important impetus for aliyah [immig-

gration to Israel]," Immigrant Absorption Minister Sof Landver said. "We must not miss this opportunity to encourage young athletes and their families to move to Israel and settle down here."

Additionally, around 300 Israeli high school students will meet with Maccabiah athletes while they are in Israel. "We'll thus strengthen the connection between Israeli youth and Diaspora Jews and use the popularity of sport as part of the Education Ministry's goal of promoting a healthy lifestyle," Israeli Education Ministry Director-General Dalit Stauber said.



Evan Falchuk



Dan Wolf



Steve Grossman

GUBERNATORIAL RACE IN MASSACHUSETTS IS 'FAT' WITH JEWISH CANDIDATES

There's much talk of repairing the world

BY RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The election for Massachusetts governor is still 16 months away – too soon to know what the issues are or who the viable candidates will be. But apparently it's never too soon for *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

Four of the declared candidates are Jewish, and all are grounding their campaigns in the religious imperative to repair the world.

Steve Grossman, state treasurer and a past chairman of the Democratic National Committee, quotes from Isaiah in describing his ambition to close the gap between rich and poor. "I received my Jewish heritage, my background, in being that person who can be a repairer of the breach between those who are well-to-do and those who lack the things people aspire to," he said in an interview.

Dan Wolf, a state senator and an aviation entrepreneur, also knows a bit about repair. "This is about giving back and repairing the world," he said of his run.

Evan Falchuk, who is running under the banner of a new third party, United Independent, roots his quixotic bid to buck the two-party system in – you guessed it – world repair.

"There's so much to me about that story which is very common to Jews in America," Falchuk said, describing his grandfather's journey from Russia to Venezuela and his father's from Venezuela to the United States. "What is common is this notion of a stubborn insistence to make the world a better place."

Wolf and Grossman are Democrats who declared at the state party convention last month along with another Jewish candidate, Don Berwick, a former administrator of the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs who did not respond to requests for an interview.

A fourth Democrat, Joe Avellone, also declared his candidacy. No Republican has declared yet.

Massachusetts has never had a Jewish governor, and the proliferation of Jewish candidates this early in the race is no guarantee it's about to get one. Heavy hitters such as Massachusetts' Attorney General Martha Coakley, U.S. Rep. Mike Capuano and Juliette Kayyem, a former Homeland Security assistant secretary and Boston Globe columnist, are all considering bids for the Democratic nomination.

On the Republican side, Scott Brown, the Republican who won the late Edward Kennedy's U.S. Senate seat in 2010 and was ousted last year, and Gabriel Gomez, a former Navy SEAL who unsuccessfully vied for a U.S. Senate seat this year, may take shots at the governor's job.

"It's far too early; it can break any number of ways, and the Democratic Party has a history of primary candidates feeding off one another," said one insider who has worked for the Jewish community and on political campaigns.

On the other hand, residents of Massachusetts would hardly raise an eyebrow at the number of Jewish hopefuls in the race, the insider said.

According to American Jewish Year Book statistics cited by the Jewish Virtual Library, the state's Jewish population is 277,000, or 4 percent – more than twice the national percentage. And Jews also have figured prominently in state policy debates in recent years, including helping to shape health care reform during the governorship of Mitt Romney from 2003 to 2007.

"Barney Frank was in Congress for, what, a hundred years? He was an active Jew," the insider said. "No one under 35 would even think twice about it."

Grossman, Falchuk and Wolf all actively tout their Jewish community involvement, but none more so than Grossman, a past president of the American Is-

"Most voters don't know what the state's priorities are."

rael Public Affairs Committee and a major fundraiser for Jewish causes both in his state and nationally.

Grossman, 67, takes pride in his role reconciling AIPAC to the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations launched under Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the early 1990s.

"Rabin's exact words were, 'AIPAC is the most important American Jewish organization and I need your help,'" Grossman recalls of his 1993 meeting with the late Israeli leader.

Grossman immediately convened a phone conference with the AIPAC board, and it became the first U.S. Jewish group to endorse the talks.

"That was probably as meaningful a conversation I've had with any leader," Grossman said. "I felt I was participating in a small way in Jewish history."

Falchuk's mother is Nancy Falchuk, a former president of Hadassah, and he says they are equally proud of one another.

"When my mother talks about bringing about peace through health care, I find that inspiring," said Falchuk, 43, an executive at a health care company. (His brother, Brad, is a co-creator of the popular television shows "Glee" and "American Horror Story.")

Wolf, 55, is a co-founder of Cape Air, an airline based on Cape Cod, where Jews are few in number. But since his first run for the State Senate in 2011, he has sought to reconnect himself with the larger Jewish community in Boston.

"It has been interesting raising a family on the Cape," said Wolf, who moved to the region from his native Philadelphia in the 1980s. "Not only is there not a Jewish community, Wolf is not identified as a Jewish name, so people are surprised when they find out I'm Jewish."

Falchuk's emphasis has been on reintroducing political diversity in a state where Democrats dominate the legislature. His literature has been light on specifics, but he emphasizes fiscal responsibility while staking

out traditional liberal positions on social issues such as abortion rights.

He noted that a majority of state residents – 53 percent – are independents. That and low turnout in elections suggest that voters are frustrated with the "traditional parties," Falchuk said.

"I would tell you from my experiences most voters don't know what the state's priorities are," he said.

Berwick, considered the longest of shots among the five declared candidates, is focusing his campaign on improving the Massachusetts health care system.

More than a year in advance, it's difficult to predict which issues will dominate the race. At the moment, the Boston media are focused on the mayoral election, which also features a broad field that includes Mike Ross, a councilman who has close Jewish community ties.

Grossman acknowledges that the gubernatorial campaign is in its infancy. But he does know one thing for sure.

"Running for governor, I'm aspiring to take the leadership to the next level," he said, "always remembering my own Jewish values."

Pew: Jews support abortion rights (duh!)

BY JOE WINKLER

non-religious Americans.

The question was not about the morality of abortion, but about its legality, so the poll might tell us more about a Jewish desire to keep a strict separation between church and state than Jewish views about the legitimacy of prematurely ending a pregnancy. Or it might say something about the willingness of secular Jews to still identify as Jewish; non-practicing Catholics are probably far less likely to do that.

But either way, wow

Read more: <http://www.jta.org/2013/07/29/news-opinion/the-telegraph/poll-jews-support-abortion#ixzz2adCDcRRt>

JEWISH IDENTITY: FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

Finding fellow 'members of the tribe' in far-flung locales

Asking "Who is a Jew?" has never been an idle inquiry. The purpose of the question may have changed from continent to continent and from generation to generation, but it has never been a casual query prompted by idle curiosity.



Science
& Society

Stanley Aronson

New York City, March 1942: The nation was now at war, the infamy of Pearl Harbor was just four months old and the United States was mobilizing its resources, both industrial and human.

At City College of New York (CCNY), a municipal university that had a largely Jewish student body, the immensity of war precluded any trivial discourse. Intense discussions were now held, particularly among students in their junior and senior years. Many seniors had regis-

tered for extra classes in prior semesters and found themselves, in March 1942, possessing sufficient credits to get their baccalaureate degree. And this new knowledge led many seniors to ask: "Since we have already earned our degree, why are we leisurely continuing our

"Asking 'Who is a Jew?' has never been an idle inquiry."

collegiate status? Why are we still in civilian clothes?"

Accordingly, by late March of that year, a few dozen CCNY seniors volunteered through a U.S. Army recruitment office on West 145th St., choosing the Army over the U.S. Navy because most of us already were ROTC (Army Reserve Officer Training Corps) members, which facilitated our transfer to military status.

All the members of this eager group of volunteers were

to my memory – Jewish. But as we were inevitably mixed in with growing numbers of new recruits – both draftees and volunteers – the percentage of Jews progressively diminished. And so, by the time that we new recruits from New York were merged into the vast numbers of young American males from 48 states, the seemingly casual question, "Who is a Jew?" now assumed a new and compelling urgency.

In a succession of infantry training camps in western Illinois, southern Texas and western Georgia, the likelihood of finding a fellow-religionist was, at times, small. Of course, in the larger camps, there always was an overworked rabbi-chaplain; then, too, every soldier wore his metallic identification tags (dog tags) suspended around his neck, each one bearing a C (Catholic), a P (Protestant) or an H (Hebrew) to signify his declared religion. But these dog tags were hidden beneath layers of khaki garments and one did not reach for another's dog tag without provoking instant combat.

To seek out someone with a "congenial ethnicity" in a world of strangers, what non-psychic choices remained? One could be quite content with the friendship of one's barrack neighbors – all young, all American of whatever religion and all innocent of what lay ahead for us, or one may ask allegedly innocent questions such as, "Where ya from?" hoping that the answer might be "Brooklyn." Alternatively, one might concoct an openly expressed, but coded, question, the meaning of which would be appreciated solely by someone versed in vernacular Yiddish.

The question must be so brief as to be thought of more as a sneeze or an "ugh" in response to a stubbed toe. Some anonymous soul, however, invented the question, "Bist a Yid?" (Are you Jewish?), but asked in a slurred and rapid fashion, sounding much like a nonverbal exclamation. And so, walking alone in some railroad terminal building, perhaps seeking a USO sanctuary, one might encounter a cluster of GIs talking quietly.

One then strolls past, waving a hand while muttering to the ceiling, "Bist a Yid?"

If no one responds, just walk on, but sometimes, not often, one or more of the GIs might respond affirmatively and, within minutes, one has found a reliable friend in some alien corner of the world.

In the 1990s, as an elderly civilian, I was visiting a city on the Australian east coast, one with a fine medical school. It was a beautiful day, the site visit was proceeding well and I entered a dining room crowded with faculty. Someone greeted me from across the room; and spurred by a distant memory – and in an insane departure from propriety – I muttered, "Bist a Yid?" One member of the local medical faculty turned to face me and, in a cultured British accent, replied, "Landsman" (fellow villager)!

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., (smamd@cox.net) writes a bi-weekly column for The Voice & Herald.

ONE JEWISH IMMIGRANT TURNS 100

Otilia (Tanya) Plungyan is a woman of indomitable spirit

BY SOPHIA FRIEDMAN
Special to The Jewish Voice

PAWTUCKET – Otilia (Tanya) Plungyan was the youngest of six children born July 13, 1913 to a modest merchant and his wife.

The active and precocious young girl was much loved.

After Otilia completed her education at the gymnasium (secondary and college) level, she worked as a librarian in her Romanian hometown. After she met and married a young man, they moved to a different part of the country to be with his family. A few years later, the young couple, parents of a baby boy, was living in Soviet territory in the Republic of Moldova.

And then "it" came – the invasion by the Nazis – with all its horrors. With bombed evacuation trains and numerous deaths from diseases caused by unsanitary conditions, she lost her immediate family – her husband, son and mother-in-law all perished in the first three months of the war. The evacuation process brought her through the Caucasus and further into Tadzhikistan. With no knowledge of the Russian language, she was alone, scared and lost, and traveled mostly by walking or riding an ox.

After surviving a bout of typhoid, she was discharged from a hospital clad in the white dress and black rubber boots of someone less fortunate. One of

the hospital's kind doctors gave her a cleaning job and allowed her to sleep on a gurney. Tanya's gratitude was boundless; to this day, she can recall the name of this woman doctor.

For the next few years, she worked as a night watchman, cared for the horses and carried bags of grain – grueling manual work for a woman unaccustomed to hard physical work.

She encountered kindness and rudeness, friendships and abuse. One act of kindness brought her to her future husband Aron who took her into his family – his mother and four sisters. Kindness is always appreciated, but doubly so in times of hardship, isolation and strife. They were married a few years later and had their first daughter. Shortly after the end of the war, they returned to Aron's homeland in Riga, Latvia. Surrounded by his family, Tanya became the vibrant person that she is today, giving birth to their second daughter.

Although she had lost touch with her parents and siblings, she and Aron made good friends and enjoyed celebrations, even when food was scarce and living quarters tight. Thirteen years later, she was able to connect with her siblings, though her parents had died.

After 30 years of blending into the Soviet lifestyle, Tanya and her husband, along with their youngest daughter, Ella Levin

(now living in Philadelphia), son-in-law and grandchild, immigrated to Rhode Island in 1979, following in the footsteps of this writer, the oldest daughter, who had moved here seven years earlier.

Then in her 60s, Tanya learned English, her third language, after Rumanian and Russian. She blossomed in an environment offering religious freedom and a very active community life. After learning the basics of English, she became a member of "Golden Age Club" at the Jewish Community Center.

It didn't take her long to become a vice president and eventually "madam president" of that vibrant organization supported by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (precursor of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island). Sometime later, she became a JFRI board member.

Organizing trips and concerts, holding monthly birthday celebrations, inviting Russian immigrants to lunch programs and arranging transportation consumed a good portion of her time. She became a driving force behind most activities in the community of retirees and helped new immigrants with their needs.

Even after the "Golden Age Club" ended, Tanya continued to visit Jews in nursing homes, with Rev. Ethan Adler, to offer



Otilia (Tanya) Plungen, center, and her daughters, Sophia Friedman, left, and Ella Levin, at the birthday party for Plungen.

a kind word, a smile, a nosh and the rituals of Jewish holidays. Only in the last four or five years have physical limitations kept her from making these visits. Now, she is grateful when friends visit her at her home in Geneva Apartments in Pawtucket, where her door is always open.

Tanya is forever grateful to

this country for allowing her to become a citizen and experience all its freedoms. Her indomitable spirit that kept her alive during World War II continues to this day.

Sophia Friedman (sophiafr116@gmail.com), is the elder daughter of Tanya and Aron Plungyan.

Fay R. Bodner, 91

PROVIDENCE - Fay Bodner died July 27. A daughter of the late Paul and Sylvia (Lichtenstein) Robin, she spent the last eight years living near her daughter in Leeds, Mass.

She was predeceased by her husband, Nathaniel M. Bodner, to whom she was married for 50 years.

Born in Providence, she earned a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a certificate of advanced graduate studies from Rhode Island College.

She started her career as a social worker, then worked as a public school teacher and later became the first consultant for gifted students for the Rhode Island State Department of Education. She then served as assistant to the commissioner of education for special populations.

In retirement, she and her husband lived in Treasure Island, Fla. and Provincetown, Mass.; she moved to Clearwater, Fla., in 1996.

She leaves her daughter Jill Lester and her husband Howard of Northampton, her son Peter Bodner and his wife Catherine of Providence, and her four granddaughters and their families, Ilana and Jose Moreno of New York City, Aviva and Mark Sieber and Tali of Northampton, Rachel and Joseph Abatecola and Ian, Wesley and Miles of Cranston and Tovah and James Muro, and Ethan and Josephina, also of Cranston.

Donations may be sent to the Deaconess Abundant Life Communities or to the Masonic Health System.

Jill Dobson

SALEM, Mass. - Jill Dobson died June 25 with her mother Phyllis Kroudivrd of Swampscott, Mass. and her father Kenneth Edward Dobson of Los Alamitos, Calif., by her side.

Her family extends their appreciation to all her doctors and staff who enabled her to enjoy a full life after the initial diagnosis of cancer in 1997.

Donations may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Adrienne (Waldman) Enos, 70

WARWICK - Adrienne Enos died July 15.

The daughter of the late Helen (Stanzler) and Edward J. Waldman, she was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island where she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority.

An award-winning educator, she was a lead teacher at Providence Head Start for 25 years, and founded the Volunteers of Warwick Schools VOWS Program. She was also an accomplished pianist and piano teacher to private students.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El in Providence and the Jewish Community Center.

She is survived by her son David L. Enos and grandchildren Lauren and Bryan Enos, all of Long Island, N.Y., her sister Phyllis Waldman of Newton, Mass. and her niece Emma W.

Thorne of New York City. She was the mother of the late Dr. Michael R. Enos of Boston.

Donations may be made to the Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer Discretionary Fund at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Bernard Freeman, 85

WEST WARWICK - Bernard Freeman died June 21.

He was the husband of the late Beverly (Resevitz) Freeman. Born in Providence, a son of the late Solomon and Sophie (Rosner) Freeman, he had lived in Warwick for 50 years.

A loan officer at Fleet Bank for 15 years, he had a private accounting practice.

A World War II U.S. Army veteran, serving in the Pacific, he was a former member of Temple Am David and a member of Masons Overseas Lodge AF & AM and Jewish War Veterans. He was a graduate of Bentley College and an avid softball player.

He was the father of Paul Freeman and his wife Daureen of Coventry, and Barry Freeman and his wife Diane of Haverhill, Mass. The brother of the late Gerald Freeman, he was the grandfather of Amanda and Alyson and great-grandfather of Brendan, Madelyn and Zachary.

Contributions may be made to Madelyn's Dream, c/o Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 2374 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886.

Stanley Goldstein, 95

WESTPORT, Mass. - Stanley Goldstein died July 16. He was the husband of Ann (Grillo) Goldstein, to whom he was married for 59 years. Born in New Bedford, Mass., he was a son of the late Barney and Rose (Long) Goldstein.

He was president of Goldstein Farm and Lawn Equipment for 38 years.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son Bradford Goldstein, his sisters Shirley Katz and Reba Goldstein and his brother Sanford Goldstein. He was the brother of the late Jenny, Hyman and Samuel Goldstein. Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Harold E. Grant, 92

CRANSTON - Harold Grant died June 29. He was the husband of Edith (Engelson) Grant for 65 years.

Born in New York, N.Y., a son of the late Herman and Ethel (Hymes) Goldstein, he had lived in Cranston for 47 years.

He was the owner and general manager of Bess Textiles in Pawtucket for 26 years and previously owned Peter Pan Textiles in Patterson, N.J., retiring in 1990.

A World War II Army veteran, serving in Europe as a first lieutenant from 1944 to 1946, he received a Purple Heart for his service in the "Battle of the Bulge."



He received his bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University in 1943 and was voted "Best Athlete" in 1942.

A member of Temple Sinai and its Brotherhood, he was a chairman for the blood bank and enjoyed tennis, bridge, baseball and scouting.

The father of Michael Grant and his wife Joan of Scarsdale, N.Y. and the late Donald Grant, he was the grandfather of Steven and Allison, brother of the late Professor Sydney Grant and brother-in-law of Margarita Grant.

Contributions may be made to The Donald Grant Library Fund, c/o Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920 or the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018.

Rhonda "Ronnie" Kaplan

SEATTLE - Rhonda Kaplan died June 28.

Born Feb. 28, 1951 in Providence, she was the daughter of Lorraine Kaplan and the late Robert Kaplan. She was a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and worked for many years as a marine engineering designer.

A resident of Seattle since 2005, she had formerly lived in California, Rhode Island and Maine.

She is survived by her mother, her sisters Sandy Hertzberg (Paul Epstein) and Donna Miller (Charlie) and her nephews Jonathan and Matthew.

Donations may be made to Barnabas Health Hospice & Palliative Care Center, 95 Old Short Hills Road, West Orange, NJ 07052.

Arthur Klibanoff, 69

PROVIDENCE - Arthur Klibanoff died July 9.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Samuel and Eve (Sacarovitz) Klibanoff.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, he was a social worker with the Department of Human Services for the State of Rhode Island, retiring in 1997.

He is survived by his niece Zoanne Parillo and his nephew David Macomb, his great-neph-

ews David and Joseph and his great-niece Sabrina. He was the brother of the late Lenore Macomb.

Irma Lee (Blumenthal) Krasner, 84

WARWICK - Irma Krasner, a lifelong resident of Rhode Island, died July 1.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Lewis J. and Sally (Feldman) Blumenthal.

The audio-visual supervisor in the Warwick School Department until her retirement in 1994, she was a founder of WISE (Warwick Independent School Employees Union).

She is survived by her sons James H. Krasner and his wife Linda of Warwick and Sheldon D. Krasner and his wife Nancy of Burbank, Calif.; and her grandchildren Julian and Hannah. She was the sister of the late Elaine Silverman.

Donations may be made to Autism Speaks, 1 East 33rd Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016.

Fannie Levin, 82

CRANSTON - Fannie Levin died July 26.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Clara (Goodman) Spader, she had lived in Cranston for 53 years.

A member of ORT, Cranston Senior Guild, Majestic Guild and Temple Am David, she was a founding member of Temple Sinai and its choir. She loved world travel, including cruises.

She was the mother of Steven J. Levin and his wife Roberta of North Providence, Gary B. Levin of Cranston and Debra B. Deletetsky of Cranston; the sister of Shirley Katzman of Portsmouth and the grandmother of Jason, Adam, Jonathan, Michael and Taylor.

Contributions may be made to the Parkinson Disease Foundation, American Diabetes Association or Temple Am David.

Arthur M. Markoff, 89

ANDOVER, Mass. - Arthur Markoff died July 11.

He was the husband of the late Connie (Roberts) Markoff. Born in Providence, a son of the late Allen and Lillian (Bachman) Markoff, he had lived in Andover since 2011, previously residing in Windham, N.H., and Westport, Conn.

The co-owner of Roberts Furniture in Greenwich, Conn., for 25 years, he had previously worked for Paramount Line in Pawtucket for 18 years.

He was a World War II Army veteran serving in Europe. A 1944 graduate of Brown University, he was an avid fan of professional sports, especially the Boston Red Sox.

He was the father of Joan Lippa and her husband Andrew of Andover, and Marjorie Warmkessel of Millersville, Pa., the brother of the late Burton Markoff and the grandfather of Alex and Justin Lippa.

Contributions may be made to Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St., Bldg 9, Lawrence, MA 01843.

Ruth Max, 85

TAMARAC, Fla. - Ruth Max died June 22.

She was the wife of the late Herbert Max. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Ida (Zaidel) Lieberman, she had lived in Tamarac. She worked in administration at Brown University until her retirement.

The mother of Bert Max and his wife Bobbie of Furlong, Pa., she was the sister of the late Harvey Lieberman, grandmother of Bryan and Randi and great-grandmother of Talia and Brayden.

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FROM PAGE 35 OBITUARIES

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.



Judith (Webber) Meiselman, 84

PROVIDENCE – Judith Meiselman died July 11.

She was the friend and former wife of the late Michael Meiselman.

Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Joseph B. and Sarah (Olch) Webber.

She is survived by her daughter Deborah Arem and her husband Joel of Gaithersburg, Md.; her grandchildren Jocelyn Arem of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Benjamin Arem of Rockville, Md.; and her brother, Dr. Banice Webber of Providence.

She was a graduate of Classical High School and the University of Michigan, a lifelong member of Temple Beth-El and a member of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association and The Miriam Hospital Women's Auxiliary. She worked in the Urban Studies Department of Brown University and later as a real estate agent until her retirement.

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

Seymour "Sy" Norman, 82

EAST PROVIDENCE – Seymour Norman died July 18.

He was the husband of Edith (Weinbaum) Norman for 60 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Harry and Rebecca (Baker) Norman, he had lived in East Providence for six months, previously residing in Warwick.

He was self-employed in various businesses, most recently with Magic Automotive Center

in South Attleboro, Mass., for 16 years, retiring in 1995.

He was a graduate of Hope High School, class of '48, and the University of Rhode Island, class of '53, with a degree in agriculture.

A member of Touro Fraternal Association, he was a former member of Temple Beth-El. He was an artist who painted many pictures throughout his later years.

He was the father of Robert A. Norman of Westerly and Sandra Lamchick and her husband Andrew of West Warwick; the brother of Shirley Berson of Seekonk, Mass.; Deborah Armenti of Warwick and the late Yvonne Martin. He was the grandfather of Shaina, Leah and Jaime.

Contributions may be made to Tockwotton on the Waterfront.

Bernard Raisman, 81

WORCESTER, Mass. – Bernard Raisman died June 27.

Born in Framingham, Mass., a son of the late Milton and Lee (Shapiro) Raisman, he had lived in Worcester for two years, previously residing in Rhode Island and Mexico.

He was the owner and founder of Product Design and Sales Corp. since 1975, retiring in 1993.

He was the father of Greg Raisman and his wife Beth of Portland, Ore.; Lisa Sacks and her husband Stephen of Millbury, Mass.; Kim Ellery and her husband Michael of East Greenwich and Karen Raisman of West Warwick. The brother of the late Gary Zarchen, he was the grandfather of Danielle, Derek, Alicia, Megan and Rachel and great-grandfather of Robbie. He leaves his former wife Harie (Ross) Raisman of West Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Selma Soren, 93

WARWICK – Selma Soren died July 25.

She was the wife of the late Aaron Soren.

A daughter of the late Benjamin and Annie (Hahn) Levine, she was the mother of Norman Soren and the late Larry Soren, the sister of the late David Levine, Eva Gold and Lillian Soren. The grandmother of Marc, Jeffrey, Heidi and Chad, she was the great grandmother of Max, Zoe and Peyton.

Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Freda Fishman Stroh, 103

WARWICK – Freda Stroh died June 15.

Born to Max and Carrie (Wolk) Fishman in 1909, in Vergennes, Vt., she graduated from Vergennes High School and from the Sargent School of Boston University in 1930.

Before moving to Rhode Island, she lived in Suffield, Conn., Springfield, Mass., and Boynton Beach, Fla.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sisters Sarah Fishman Gould and Gertrude Fishman Coen and her brother Samuel Fishman.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Dr. Dorothy Fishman of North Kingstown, Cary Coen of Providence, Audrey Fishman Franklin of Boulder, Colo., David Coen of Shelburne, Vt. and Dr. Donald Coen of Medfield, Mass., as well as many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Visits with her were always an inspiration because of her kindness, her generosity, her unassuming nature and her keen mind and memory, which served her well through the years, including the last days of her life.

The family thanks her caregivers at Sunny View Nursing Home for their devotion and friendship.

Contributions may be sent to Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Burlington, Vt., the Vermont Community Foundation (Fishman VUHS Scholarship Fund), Middlebury, Vt., or the Bixby Memorial Library, Vergennes, Vt.

Eugene H. Taub, 87

EAST GREENWICH – Eugene H. Taub died July 7.

He was the husband of Lydia (Luftschutz) Taub for 52 years.

Born in Sighet, Transylvania, a son of the late Herman and Helen (Szabo) Taub, he lived in East Greenwich for more than 30 years.

He was the director of international licensing for Hasbro, Inc., and a member of Temple Sinai.

The father of Eva Taub-Checoury and brother of Margaret Leon, Sidonia Grant and the late Emil Tau, he was the grandfather of Naomi, Gabriel and Eli.

Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai.

Milton L. Unterberger, 78

COVENTRY – Milton Unterberger died June 28.

He was the husband of Marlene L. (Geisler) Unterberger for 49 years.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late Charles and Bertha (Helde) Unterberger, he had lived in Coventry, previously residing in Cranston and Groton, Conn.

An engineer for AT&T, Western Electric and Underwriters Laboratories before retiring 25 years ago, he was a veteran of the U.S. Army. A member of Mensa, he enjoyed science, mathematics, music and dancing.

He was the father of Brian Unterberger and his wife Suzanne of Westerly and Cheryl Eastwood and her husband Sean of Israel. The brother of the late Edith Corriel and Jeannie Fishman, he was the grandfather of Yocheved, Tovah, Avraham, Yonatan, Yoseph, Ahuvah,

Eliezer and Meyer.

Contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Hela (Newman) Widawski, 92

PROVIDENCE – Hela Widawski, a Holocaust survivor, died July 24.

She was the wife of the late Iser Widawski. Born in Poland, she had been a resident of Rhode Island since 1951. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

She is survived by her children Louis Widawski and his wife Donna of Haymarket, Va., Dorothy Swajian and her husband Peter of Cranston and Bernard Widawski and his wife Donna of Flemington, N.J.; and her grandchildren Gabrielle, Elisha, Maxine, Sara and Max. She was the mother of the late Max Widawski.

Contributions may be made to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (ushmm.org) or the charity of one's choice.

Leatrice J. Zawatsky, 83

CRANSTON – Leatrice Zawatsky died July 2.

She was the wife of the late Fred Edwards and the late Albert Zawatsky.

Born in Dorchester, Mass., a daughter of the late Bernard and Esther (Harrison) Baron, she had lived in Cranston, previously residing in Providence.

She and her husband owned and operated Zawatsky Glass Co. for more than 50 years. She continued until January 2012 to operate the business, after her husband died. She was also a clerk-typist for the Providence School Department for many years.

The mother of Bonnie Edwards Flanagan and her partner Howard Wilgoren of Cranston, she was the sister of the late Muriel Fistel and the grandmother of Chelsea and Kendyll.

Contributions may be made to WoundedWarriorProject.org.

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News Brief

Kerry predicts Israeli-Palestinian agreement in 9 months

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The Israelis and Palestinians will negotiate final status issues and come to an agreement in nine months, Secretary of State John Kerry said after the first round of renewed peace talks.

"The parties have agreed to remain engaged in sustained continuous and substantive negotiations on the core issues, and they will meet within the next two weeks in either Israel or the Palestinian territories in order to begin the process of formal negotiation," Kerry said Tuesday in a State Department appearance flanked by the top negotiator from each side, Tzipi Livni for Israel and Saeb Erekat for the Palestinians.

The sides met for the first time since 2010 on Monday night following months of lobbying by Kerry.

At the news conference, Kerry said he expected a final-status agreement in nine months and that the sides agreed to delegate to him all announcements prior to then -- and that he did not plan on making announcements.

Kerry also said that Israel in the coming weeks would ease conditions for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



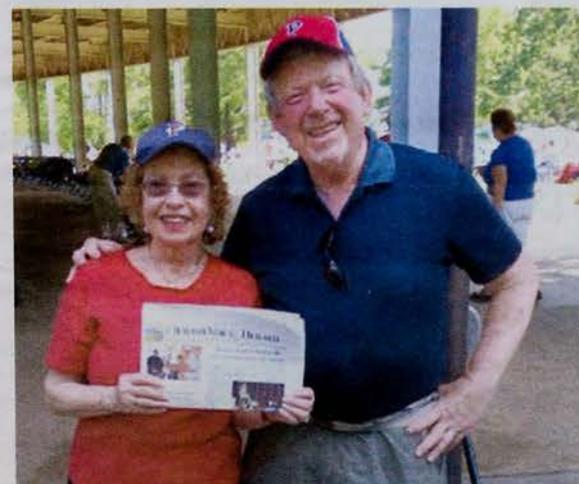
Rich Walter, Alyse Teitelbaum and Bernice Stone



Members of the Parness family

ATLANTA – Rich Walter, a former staff member of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (now part of the Alliance), now on staff at Emory University's Center for Israel Education, Alyse Teitelbaum (a teacher at Temple Emanu-El) and Bernice Stone (a teacher at Temple Habonim), participated in the Center's week-long professional development program for teachers in late June.

ISRAEL – Larry and Shelley Parness, residents of Narragansett, took their children and grandchildren to Israel to see family and, they wrote, "the country of miracles." They visited Israel, where Larry's sister lives, in mid-June.



Miriam and Arthur Plitt

THE BERKSHIRES, Mass. – Miriam and Arthur Plitt took their copy of The Jewish Voice to Tanglewood in the Berkshires to hear "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor earlier this summer. Miriam wrote, "His show is fantastic. At the end, he played Yiddish music and ...danced on stage as the audience [was] standing, clapping and swaying. I felt like I was at a Jewish wedding."



Lisa J. Goldstein, M.D.

AWARD – Pathologist Lisa J. Goldstein, M.D., a resident of Rumford, has been named the recipient of the 2013 Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., Outstanding Physician of the Year Award. Recognized by her peers for her clinical expertise, dedication to The Miriam Hospital and commitment to training the next generation of pathologists, Goldstein was honored during the hospital's annual medical staff association meeting on June 19. The Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., Physician of the Year Award recognizes a physician, nominated by one's peers, for outstanding contributions to medicine, leadership, professionalism and patient care – qualities exemplified by Carpenter.



Jenny Miller

INSTALLATION – Jenny Miller, of Warwick, has taken office as the 103rd president of the Rotary Club of Providence, one of the oldest and largest service organizations in southern New England. She is the youngest of seven women who have served as president in the club's long history.

A member of the club since 2001, Miller has taken active leadership roles in numerous projects, earning recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow, a high honor in Rotary International.

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Donna Marks

AWARD – Donna Marks, a registered dietician and certified nutrition support clinician, was named “Outstanding Dietitian of the Year” by the Rhode Island Dietetic Association board of directors. She was honored at the organization’s annual spring meeting on May 7 at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick. Marks, a resident of Providence, has been employed by ARAMARK in the department of food and nutrition at Memorial Hospital for the past 16 years. She chairs RIDA’s “Nutrition Fuels Fitness 5K” Health Fair each April, where hundreds of participants walk, run and educate themselves about nutrition, health and wellness.



Daniel Katz

AWARDS – Daniel Katz, a 2013 graduate of Providence Country Day School, received The Award for Excellence in History at the school’s June 7 awards ceremony. In April, he was inducted into the Cum Laude Honor Society. Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society honors scholastic achievement in secondary schools and, in addition to distinguishing themselves academically, its members must consistently demonstrate good character, honor and integrity in all aspects of school life. Before enrolling at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., Katz will spend the 2013-14 academic year in Israel with a USY Nativ program. Katz is a son of Larry and Marilyn Katz of Providence.



Emet Schwartz

AWARDS – Emet Schwartz, a 2013 Providence Country Day School graduate, received the Academic Excellence Award, which is given to a member of the graduating class who has been a student at PCD for two years or more and maintained the highest academic average. At the school’s June 7 awards assembly, Schwartz also received the Award for Excellence in Biology. Schwartz, son of Harry and Janine Schwartz, will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.,

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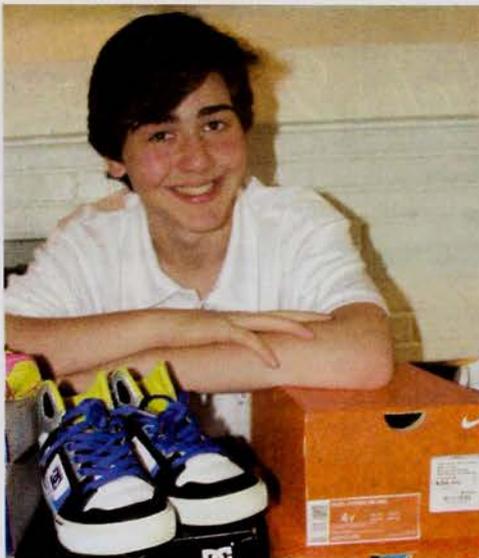
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Avi Schechter

GRADUATION – Avi Schechter, the son of Dr. Steven and Naomi Schechter of Providence, graduated from Maimonides Day School in Brookline, Mass., on June 16.



Nick Lowinger

AWARD – Nick Lowinger, of Cranston, received a 2013 Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* Award of \$36,000 for his work with Gotta Have Sole Foundation, a nonprofit that he launched to donate brand new footwear to children living in homeless shelters across the country. To date, his organization has donated new shoes to more than 9,000 homeless children in 15 states.

Now in its seventh year, the Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* Awards have given nearly \$1.5 million dollars to 40 teens who are tackling global issues and creating lasting change through *tikkun olam*.

Watch for an interview with Lowinger in an upcoming issue of *The Jewish Voice*! We'll find out what he plans to do with his prize money and what tips he might have for other young philanthropists.



Jonathan Elyashiv

AWARD – Jonathan Elyashiv, a 2013 graduate of Providence Country Day School, received The Award for Excellence in Instrumental Music at the school's June 7 awards assembly. The son of Noam and Yizhak Elyashiv, he will attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston this fall.

AWARDS – Esther (Esty) Bharier, a rising senior at Providence Country Day School, received The Harvard Club of Rhode Island Book Award, which is given to the outstanding student in the junior class who displays excellence in scholarship and high character, combined with achievement in other fields.

Bharier, who writes occasionally for *The Jewish Voice*, also received the Award for Excellence in Spanish and was inducted into the Cum Laude Honor Society in April. Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society honors scholastic achievement in secondary schools and, in addition to distinguishing themselves academically, its members must consistently demonstrate good character, honor and integrity in all aspects of school life.



Esty Bharier



Mark Jay Hoffer and Ellen Rose Brososky

WEDDING – Ellen Rose Brososky, daughter of Alan and Diane Brososky of East Greenwich, was married on March 2 to Mark Jay Hoffer, son of Michael Hoffer of Vero Beach, Fla., and Ellen Strauss McKenna of Warwick, at Saltwater Farm Vineyard in Stonington, Conn. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Ethan Adler. Diane Brososky, mother of the bride, was the matron of honor and Michael Hoffer, father of the groom, was the best man.

The bride, who holds an M.S. in nursing from Regis College, works as a nurse practitioner and the groom, who holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Hartford, is a self-employed construction estimator.

The couple honeymooned in California and live in Wakefield.

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It's a time for you to nourish your Jewish identity - to connect to the community and feel welcome. The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and area synagogues are partnering for the second year to open their doors for the High Holidays.

Tickets are now available for the following High Holidays:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah
- First day of Rosh Hashanah
- Second day of Rosh Hashanah
- Erev Yom Kippur
- Yom Kippur

Who is eligible?

- New community members
- Community members currently unaffiliated with any synagogue and have not yet been affiliated to the synagogue they wish to attend for 4 or more years
- Community members who did not participate in this program last year

Tickets will be available through August 29

For more information contact Wendy Joering at wjoering@shalomri.org or 401.421.4111 ext. 169.

Please note: This offer is valid for family members residing at the same address. Children ages 25 and older must apply for their own tickets.

Participating Congregations:

- B'Nai Israel, Woonsocket
- Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro
- Temple Am David, Warwick
- Temple Beth El, Providence
- Temple Beth Shalom, Providence
- Temple Emanu El, Providence
- Temple Habonim*, Barrington
- Temple Shalom, Middletown
- Temple Sinai, Cranston
- Temple Torat Y'Israel, East Greenwich
- Temple Touro, Newport

*Temple Habonim provides access to all.



Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Brought to you by the Synagogue Initiative of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island in partnership with participating area synagogues.

NEW PUBLICATION DATE

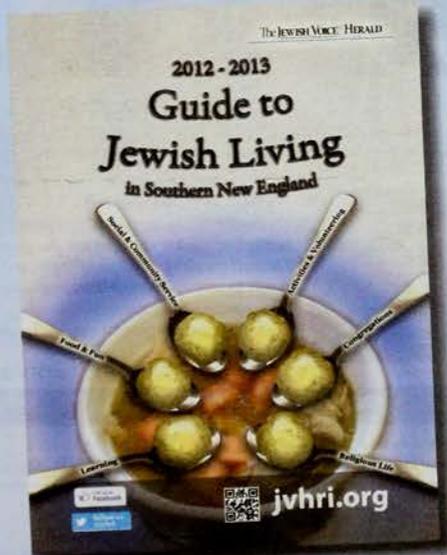
the JEWISH VOICE

2014 Guide To Jewish Living

Be part of the only publication that reaches more than 20,000 Jewish readers in Southern New England for a full year.

This Guide will be mailed to every known Jewish household in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts with our **October 25, 2013** issue of The Jewish Voice, the producer of this informative handbook.

Reservation Deadline: August 21, 2013 | Materials Due: September 11, 2013
Publication Date: October 25, 2013



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