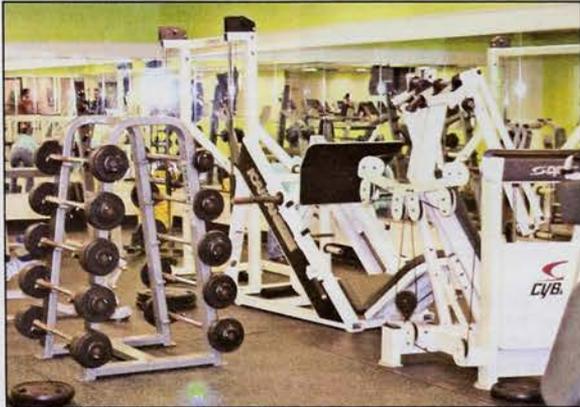


# the JEWISH VOICE

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 Serving Rhode Island and  
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 5 Kislev 5774 | November 8, 2013

**Special Issue:**  
**Thanksgiving and  
 Hanukkah**



PHOTOS | BRIAN SULLIVAN

## J-Fitness Center getting into shape

*Upgrades part of Dwares JCC modernization*

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
 anorman@jewishallianceri.org  
 As with our own personal health and fitness regimen, some results are visible – others not. So it is with the Alliance JCC fitness center – some upgrades, the external ones, are easily noticeable – others are “inside” and not so appar-

ent at first. In an effort to enhance the member experience, the Alliance is taking steps to modernize the J-Fitness as the first steps of a larger building “makeover.”

The first thing you will notice at the fitness center is the new, vibrant and energizing paint scheme. The flooring through-

FITNESS | 20



ARTHUR C. NORMAN

## RI State Council of Churches Annual Awards Breakfast

*Rabbis Amy Levin and Andrew Klein honored*

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
 anorman@jewishallianceri.org  
 On Thursday, October 31, the West Valley Inn was the setting for a glorious convocation of the Rhode Island faith community. Hosted by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches (RISCC), the

4th Annual Heroes of Faith Breakfast brought together more than 325 members of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu communities to honor individuals who have had a significant impact

on improving interfaith relationships and understanding in Rhode Island.

After a brief welcome by Reverend Betsy Garland, president of the RISCC,

RISCC | 36

## Women's Alliance holds its Annual Campaign Celebration

*Donate to the community and meet bestselling author Pam Jenoff*

BY IRINA MISSIURO  
 IMissiuro@jewishallianceri.org  
 The Women's Alliance members are hands-on, independent women who enjoy participating in philanthropic events and socializing with like-minded inspiring individuals

of this empowering community. The goal of the Women's Alliance is to instill a sense of Jewish identity in all women through raising funds, establishing diverse programming, developing leadership and providing community service. Founded in Miami, Florida,

in 1972, the Annual Campaign has been part of a long-standing tradition. Chaired for the first time by the grandmother of Hillary Schulman, the Jewish Alliance's financial resource development associate, the Campaign Celebration was resumed last year

after a hiatus. On Wednesday, November 20, the Women's Alliance will hold its annual event, chaired by Lezli Pious, at Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

CELEBRATION | 24



Pam Jenoff

## No charitable gift has a greater impact on the lives of Israelis.

There are many ways to support Israel and its people, but none is more transformative than a gift to Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical response and blood service agency. Your gift to MDA isn't just changing lives, it's literally saving them, providing critical care and hospital transport for everyone from victims of heart attacks to casualties of rocket attacks. **Save a life. Make a year-end gift to Magen David Adom today.**

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**THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE**

**"We can all make a difference in other people's lives."**

**Walter Feldman deconstructs himself**

*Internationally renown artist at gallery (401)*

**BY LEE KOSSIN**

Special to the Jewish Voice

Walter Feldman, whose show of Recent Works is on display at gallery (401) through Nov.15, spoke in an informal question and answer session about his work on Tuesday, Oct. 29. Feldman, who is quite a raconteur, began by sharing with more than two dozen attendees the setting that informed the small abstract collages in his show. These collages are listed as "Collage and Flame on Canvas" in the sale catalog. As he said, he wanted to let us know how they came about – not only how they were made but also how they were "psychologically born."

As a combat infantryman in 1945, Feldman recalled a cold, icy and windy day as a first scout – a soldier whose role it was to draw enemy fire so that the artillery could know their location. He remembered resting in a Belgian town when his infantry was told to get ready. They spent the next eight hours on a truck and then digging foxholes and waiting until they were under attack. Walter remembers ending up on a field, under a tree and looking up to see a beautiful orange cloud infiltrated by bits of black.



His next memory was of being hit by shrapnel, experiencing pain and operations, eventually winding up in a hospital in Britain and discovering, through pain and X-rays, even more shrapnel still lodged in his body.

Of course, he said, the experience of war and injury changes one. Feldman wanted to express some of this experience visu-

ally. He found some old canvas that had been prepared with lead white. He discovered that, by manipulating the canvas, cracks appeared which could be used as drawings. Next, he used an acetylene torch with which he could darken and burn holes into the canvas. The burning is symbolic to him of a catastrophic event. His canvasses are abstract so that we, as the viewers,

can join our own references to the references which he, as the artist, imagines. Thereby his work depends on the interaction between the two witnesses. This is why he prefers abstract art to representational art in his own work.

After this introduction, members of the audience asked a variety of questions of the artist. People were interested in how he came up with some of the symbols in his work. Feldman said that he takes much time to prepare before he starts a project, such as his mosaic at Temple Emanu-El, by reading and research. He incorporates many meaningful symbols, transformed by his imagination and hand, in his work. He also spent a year in Rome learning the art of mosaics from artisans because it was a new medium for him.

When asked for the influences in his life, he stated that his favorite artists included De Kooning, Klee and Byzantine artists. Also, he feels that his students have had a profound influence on his life. He mentioned that he is founding a Trust to support young artists in Boston and one of his board members

FELDMAN | 23

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# Kristallnacht 75th Anniversary

BY ALICE GOLDSTEIN

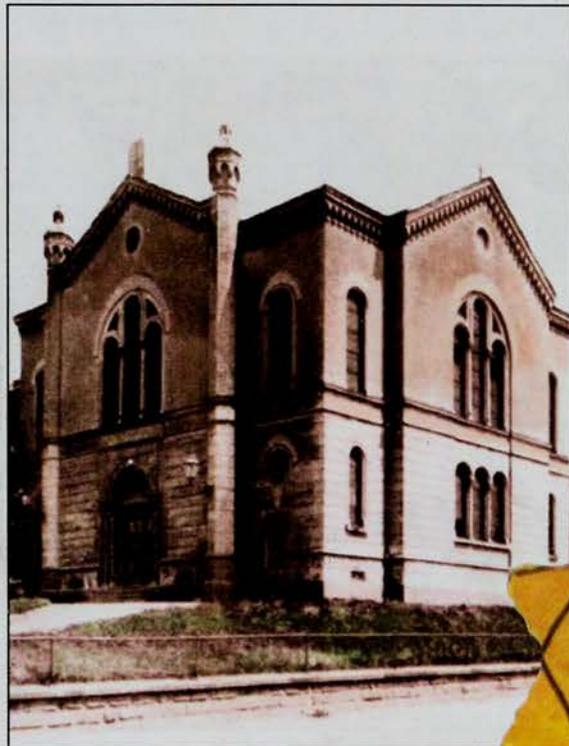
On November 9 of this year, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht – the Night of Broken Glass. The event marked a crescendo in the ever-escalating abuse of Germany's Jews that had been underway for the previous five years, ever since the Nazis came to power. Jews had been successfully isolated socially, broken economically and removed from the body politic by being declared no longer citizens of Germany. Most legal, cultural and social institutions had gradually become off limits. Even public schools were no longer available for Jewish children. That is why I, as a seven-year-old, was not at home when the pogroms of Kristallnacht occurred. I was living with my maternal grandparents in Freiburg, a city not far from my home village of Kenzingen. But I have vivid recollections of the time and have heard what happened in Kenzingen that night and the following day.

My family had been living in Germany since the middle of the eighteenth century and my great grandfather established a dry goods store in Kenzingen in the middle of the nineteenth century. It flourished in the village environment and provided a comfortable living. The family was fully integrated into village activities even while remaining fully observant Jews, and my father and his brothers were an active part of the social and athletic life of their cohort. My mother, brought up in the nearby city of Freiburg, brought a breath of urban culture to the village and

was greatly appreciated for her piano playing and good cooking. The good life our family had in Kenzingen was sharply curtailed once Hitler came to power. The event of Kristallnacht heightened the urgency they felt to leave Germany.

The pogroms of November 9, 1938 were carefully and centrally orchestrated at the highest echelons of the Nazi government. At given orders, hundreds of synagogues all over Germany were vandalized and burned. The beautiful Freiburg synagogue went up in flames. The next day my *Opa* Valfer (grandfather) disappeared from our household. Jewish schools were abruptly closed. In a few days, my *Mama* came to take me home to Kenzingen, where our store was boarded up, and both my *Papa* and *Opa* Dreifuss were missing. Decades later I learned the story of Kristallnacht in Kenzingen.

All during the day of November 9, school children were mobilized to march in the village streets, singing nationalistic and anti-Semitic songs. Teachers all wore their swastika armbands; Hitler Youth appeared in uniform. Blood-red flags with the black swastika hung from every possible window. Tension rose with each turn of the marching children and Hitler Youth through the narrow streets. My parents and grandparents, who lived in apartments above our store, could only bolt the door, close the shutters and hope that people would forget that they were huddled inside the house. No one stopped by to offer a word



Freiburg Synagogue

PHOTOS | ALICE GOLDSTEIN



the books and piano sheet music they could find. They threw them out the window and piled them in a heap on top of the merchandise. Then they set fire to the entire mound and kept the flames going through much of the night, while my terrorized parents and grandparents huddled helplessly in their home.

The next day, the Gestapo arrived in Kenzingen in open lorries. They went to each of the three houses in Kenzingen where Jews lived and arrested all the males age 16 and over. At the time, my *Opa* Dreifuss was out of the house, taking his usual morning walk in the countryside. Farmers told him that the police were looking for him so, not wishing to get the family into trouble, he hurried back home. He arrived just in time to take off his walking shoes and

change into slippers before the Gestapo arrived. He and my *Papa*, like Jews all over southwestern Germany, were transported to the Dachau Concentration Camp. Many, like my relatives, were taken in open trucks, in

KRISTALLNACHT | 6

of comfort or encouragement.

That evening, a group of men, ostensibly from the surrounding area, were organized by the Gestapo, plied with liquor, and marched into Kenzingen. There, they zeroed in on the only Jewish-owned shop in town –

ours, broke the glass window and looted the store. Although a three-year boycott had left the store with pitifully few goods, these were piled in a heap in the street. The men then went up to the third floor – my parents' apartment – and gathered all

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## Welcome Back, Hinda

*Varied program to show Cantor's full range*

**BY ADELE GEFFEN EIL**  
Special to the Jewish Voice

If you've been missing Hinda Eisen's beautiful voice in the sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El, you're in luck. Hinda Eisen, former Ritual Director and guest cantor for the High Holy Days at Temple Emanu-El, will be back at the temple on Saturday, Nov. 23, to present a solo concert sponsored by Arts Emanu-El, entitled "Journeys in Prayer." The public is invited to attend. "Journeys in Prayer" will also serve as Eisen's graduation concert from Hebrew College where, in June 2014, she will be ordained as a cantor and will be granted a master's degree in Judaic Studies.

Eisen grew up in West Caldwell, New Jersey, and graduated from Boston University in 2009 with a major in religion and a minor in special education for children with severe disabilities. While at BU, she joined the Zamir Chorale of Boston under the direction of its founder Joshua Jacobson, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northeastern University. She served as Conducting Fellow to Professor Jacobson during the 2008-2009 academic year and since then has, in addition to singing



HINDA EISEN

in the chorale, been on its staff as Assistant to the Conductor.

Eisen became Ritual Director at Temple Emanu-El soon after graduation from college. She began her cantorial studies on

a part-time basis while serving as Ritual Director at Emanu-El; she left her position at Emanu-El in July 2012 to devote herself full time to her cantorial studies.

"Journeys in Prayer" is a varied program that reflects her range both as a musician and as a person. She will sing in six languages including English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino (the language of Sephardic Jewry). While all the selections are spiritual, some are religious – cantorial music from the golden age of cantorial music (1890 - 1930) and some secular – e.g., lullabies and love songs.

The cantorial program at Hebrew College envisions the cantor as more than a musician. The program prepares its students to be pastors, spiritual leaders, teachers and representatives of the community. Even before ordination, Eisen's voice carries all that and more in its tones.

"Journey in Prayer – a concert by Hinda Eisen" will be performed at Temple-Emanu-El, Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and include a post-concert reception with Hinda Eisen.

**Purchase tickets** at Temple Emanu-El website, [teprov.org](http://teprov.org), or by check to Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906; with note: "Hinda Eisen Concert."



The Edwards Twins

## Las Vegas comes to Temple Beth-El

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth-El is proud to present the Amazing Edwards Twins, live on stage at Temple Beth-El on Saturday, November 16th. This Las Vegas-quality act features the music of your favorite singing legends, including Elton John, Billy Joel, Cher, Bette Midler and many more. The show is open to the public. Tickets are \$35 each and proceeds go to help the Brotherhood's College Scholarship Fund for Graduating Seniors. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with food and beverages available. The Show begins at 8:30 p.m.

**For more information:** contact Brotherhood President John Catania, 598-7085.

## To Life Center – Everyone Deserves a Little TLC – *Adult Day Services*

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**Abraham J. Heschel**



For further information, contact Susan Adler at [Sadler-jeri@jsari.org](mailto:Sadler-jeri@jsari.org), or 621-5374  
[www.jsari.org](http://www.jsari.org)

Partially funded by the Jewish Alliance



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## Is the sky falling?

*Scholars Analyze the 2013 Pew Report on the Future of American Jews*

The Program in Judaic Studies at Brown University and Brown RISD Hillel invites you to a panel discussion on the recently released Pew report on Thursday, Nov. 14. The program will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Room 115, MacMillan Hall, 167 Thayer St., Providence.

**PANELISTS:**

- Lila Corwin Berman, Associate Professor and Director, Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University
- Calvin Goldscheider, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Ungerleider Professor Emeritus of Judaic Studies, Brown University
- Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Director, Research and Analysis, Jewish Federations of North America

• Daniel Vaca, Visiting Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Brown University

**MODERATOR:**

• Maud S. Mandel, Associate Professor of History and Judaic Studies and Director, Program in Judaic Studies, Brown University.

This event is co-sponsored by: Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America  
Department of History  
Department of Religious Studies  
Office of Chaplains and Religious Life  
Population Studies & Training Center

**For more information:** Contact Marshall Einhorn, executive director, Brown RISD Hillel, at 863-9354.

## The 20th Anniversary of the Oslo Peace Accord:

*Gershon Baskin to speak*

Gershon Baskin is the founder of Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), an advisor to Israeli Prime Ministers on the Peace Process and negotiator with Hamas for Release of Israeli Soldier Gilad Shalit.



This program is sponsored by:

- Program in Judaic Studies-Brown RISD Hillel
- Watson Institute for International Studies, Middle East Studies Brown Students for Israel
- J Street U Brown

The program will take place Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Salomon Center (on the Brown University Main Green), Room 001.

**For more information:** Marshall Einhorn (marshall\_einhorn@brown.edu), executive director, Brown RISD Hillel, 863-9354

**Editor's note:** Gershon Baskin holds a Ph.D. in International

Affairs from the University of Greenwich. He is the author of "Jerusalem of Peace and The Negotiator: Freeing Gilad Shalit from Hamas." He is currently working on a new book which covers thirty years of stories about his efforts to work for peace.



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SUSAN ADLER

## Help stock the Kosher Food Pantry

BY SUSAN ADLER

This Hanukkah is a special time of the year as we will also be celebrating Thanksgiving on the same day. This technically has never happened before. Sadly, poverty and hunger are issues some Rhode Islanders deal with on a daily basis.

As we reflect on the miracle of Hanukkah while giving thanks, we turn to the community at large. We light 44 candles throughout the holiday. We are asking you to donate \$44 to represent the hope that each candle stands for. While we know the miracle of Hanukkah is that the oil lasted for eight days, imagine the struggle of those who use the Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, to make food last for their family. With the help of your dona-

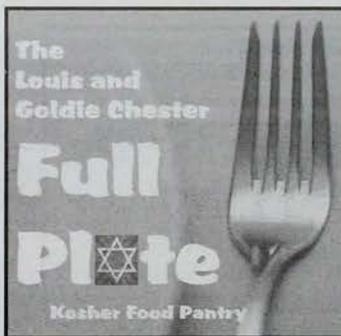
tion we can create new miracles by helping to fill the shelves of the pantry and we say thank you on behalf of those whom we proudly serve at the pantry.

another. And see how its own light increases, as a candle gives its flame to the other. You are such a light."

Moshe Davis and Victor Ratner thank you for keeping the flames of hope this Hanukkah and Thanksgiving season alive for those who truly need it.

Donations can be sent to Jewish Seniors Agency/ Full Plate, 100 Niantic Avenue, Providence, RI. Please contact Susan Adler at 621-5374. Donations can also be made online at jsari.org.

Susan Adler is the Director, Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, Director To Life Center Adult Day Services, and Coordinator, The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry.



The Chester Pantry is a partner agency with the Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island.

"A candle is a small thing. But one candle can light

# the JEWISH VOICE

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## Read – or heard – a good book lately?

*It's Jewish Book Month*

Jewish Book Month, an annual event in recognition of Jewish books and authors, is being celebrated from October 26 to November 26. It is the Jewish Book Council's longest-running program, harking back to the Council's origins in Jewish Book Week, a program independently started in 1925 by Fanny Goldstein, a librarian of the Boston Public Library and quickly adopted by Jewish communities across the United States. Sponsored by the Jewish Book Council, this program gradually expanded to a month-long event in the 1940s.

Another popular program sponsored by the Jewish Book Council is the JBC Network, which sends authors on tour throughout North America. This program is featured in over 100 sites across North America, and continues to grow in both author and community membership.

This year, 260 authors are participating in local communities' bookfairs and literary events through the JBC Network. The Jewish Book Council

continues to complement its long-standing programs with innovative resources and engagement. Adding to its effusive online presence at JewishBookCouncil.org, the Jewish Book Council launched a new resource: JBC BookClubs, an initiative providing hand-picked book selections and recommendations, reading and discussion resources, and opportunities to video chat live with participating authors.

The Jewish Book Council is the only organization in the American Jewish community dedicated to promoting the reading, writing, publishing,

and distribution of books of Jewish interest in the English language. Contact your local Jewish organizations and leaders to find out how they are celebrating Jewish Book Month!

**For more information:** Suzanne Swift, Director, JBC Network Jewish Book Council, 520 Eighth Avenue, Fourth Floor, NY, NY 10018 (347)871-3567 Suzanne@jewishbooks.org jewishbookcouncil.org



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## RWU FILM/SPEAKER SERIES ON THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE

Featuring three events this November that focus on the Jewish experience from the colonial to the contemporary eras through shortfilms, documentary, and media. Free and open to the public!

**TUESDAY, 11/12, 6:00 p.m.**, Mary Teft White Center, University Library, with short films, *Reporting on the Times: The New York Times and the Holocaust*, and *A Universal Language*  
**WEDNESDAY, 11/13, 6:00 p.m.**, Global Heritage Hall 01, a feature film, *Forget Us Not*  
**SUNDAY, 11/17, 2:30 p.m.**, Global Heritage Hall 01, a speaker, **Michael Hoberman**, Fitchburg State University, author of *New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America*, and a film, the Academy-Award® short-listed documentary—*The Lady in Number 6*

Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Rd., Bristol, RI.  
More information, contact nsoukup@rwu.edu, 401-254-3433.

## Bernhardt Foundation seeks applications for grants

*Potential for grant money for Jewish nonprofits*

PROVIDENCE – Are you affiliated with a Jewish nonprofit organization in need of grant funds? If so, you might want to consider submitting a grant request to the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation (the "Foundation").

Established in 2005 under the wills of the late Helene and Bertram Bernhardt, the Foundation's mission is to support nonprofit organizations, with a specific preference given to

Jewish nonprofit organizations in Rhode Island and to nonprofit organizations that Helene and Bertram Bernhardt supported during their lives.

Since its founding, the Foundation has distributed almost \$3 million to such nonprofit organizations as Temple Beth-El, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Jewish Community Center (both of which, with the Bureau of Jewish Education, now comprise the Jewish Alli-

ance of Greater Rhode Island), Jewish Family Service, Hillel, Jewish Seniors Agency and many other agencies.

The deadline to submit applications for Fiscal Year 2013-14 is December 31, 2013.

**For guidelines** and application form for the grants, contact Samuel Zurier, secretary of the Foundation, at 55 Dorrance St., Suite 400, Providence, RI 02903 or sdz@om-rilaw.com.

## Speak UP Week 2013 celebrates Israel

*New England teens take part in international initiative*

BOSTON, MASS. – From November 4 to 8, teens from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont will join peers from around the world for Speak UP Week 2013, a BBYO International initiative that explores Israel education, awareness and advocacy through formal, informal and experiential lenses.

Themed "Find Your Israel," each day of the week features a prompt that encourages teens to think about the different ways they connect with Israel and share them through social media platforms. Speak UP Week programming also offers information about Israeli history, culture, various Israel advocacy organizations and ways to support the Jewish Homeland.

Speak UP Week 2013 includes an exciting video storytelling contest, "I Find My Israel when ..." where people can share their personal connection to Israel. Video submissions will be voted for online at bbyo.org and the winner will receive Israel swag from BBYO's Speak UP

Week partner, StandWithUs, which they can proudly use to show their support for Israel.

BBYO New England invites the entire community to get involved and share how they identify with, support and advocate for Israel socially by joining the online conversation using the hashtag: #SpeakUPWeek.

BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish

are among the most prominent figures in business, politics, academia, the arts and Jewish communal life.

Now, BBYO's network of Jewish teens, alumni, parents, volunteers and philanthropists serves as the Jewish community's most valuable platform for delivering to the post-bar/bat Mitzvah audience fun, meaningful and affordable experiences. With year-round activities in hundreds of local communities and inspiring world-wide travel experiences, BBYO's broad program menu enables teens to explore areas of leadership, service, civic engagement, Israel education and Jewish values.

**For more information** about Speak UP Week 2013 or to get involved with BBYO New England, please contact Casey Topol Pressberg, Regional Director, at ctopol@bbyo.org or 617-299-1925.

**Editor's note:** BBYO should not be referred to as the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, but rather by its acronym "BBYO."



teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. For 90 years, BBYO's leadership programs, the Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA, high school fraternity) and the B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG, high school sorority) have been providing exceptional leadership programs and identity enrichment experiences, shaping the confidence and character of more than 400,000 alumni who

## FROM PAGE 3 KRISTALLNACHT

plain sight of their neighbors. None in Kenzingen tried to stop the trucks or protest the deportation. My grandfathers were released from Dachau within a week because they were elderly. My father was forced to remain longer, until my mother could convince the Gestapo that we were trying to leave Germany as soon as possible, thus helping to make Germany Judenrein (clean of Jews). He returned home much thinner, and without even a fringe of hair on his head. His other souvenir of those traumatizing weeks was his yellow star (pictured).

The silent acquiescence to Kristallnacht of most Germans

was echoed by the world. A few headlines and newspaper articles in the world press and a few diplomatic protests were the general reaction. The only foreign ambassador to be recalled by any of the major powers was the one from the United States. Few remarked on the thoroughness with which the pogroms had been carried out or on the fact that they reached even the tiniest villages where Jews lived. Hitler saw the reaction as carte blanche for continued and escalated atrocities against Jews and other minorities. As we remember those monstrous times, it is that silence that can teach us the most valuable les-

son.

**Editor's note:** Alice Dreifuss Goldstein was born in Kenzingen, a small town in southwestern Germany, near the French border. The family eventually was able to escape to the United States in August 1939. Alice's story is more fully told in her book, "Ordinary People, Turbulent Times," published by Author House. She has lived in Rhode Island with her husband and children since 1955.



PHOTOS | MRS. MIRIAM E. WEINER

## Special Needs Sensitizing at PHDS

*Students learn to appreciate what being disabled means*

**BY MIRIAM ESTHER WEINER**

Special to The Jewish Voice

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, middle school and high school students at the Providence Hebrew Day School were treated to a special workshop run by Mrs. Batya Jacob, the educational director of the International Jewish Resource Center for Inclusion and Special Education, a division of Yachad/The National Jewish

Council for the Disabled. The workshop, titled "Sensitizing your Students to the Learning Challenges of their Peers" was truly amazing!

Stations were set up that allowed the students to perform hands-on activities demonstrating specific learning issues. For example, they experienced fine motor challenges by manipulating items while wearing gloves, performed reading and writing

challenges, were exposed to distracting stimuli in their environment while trying to perform a task and more. Students were then guided in discussion with questions on what they experienced, what they learned and how this could mirror the experiences of their peers.

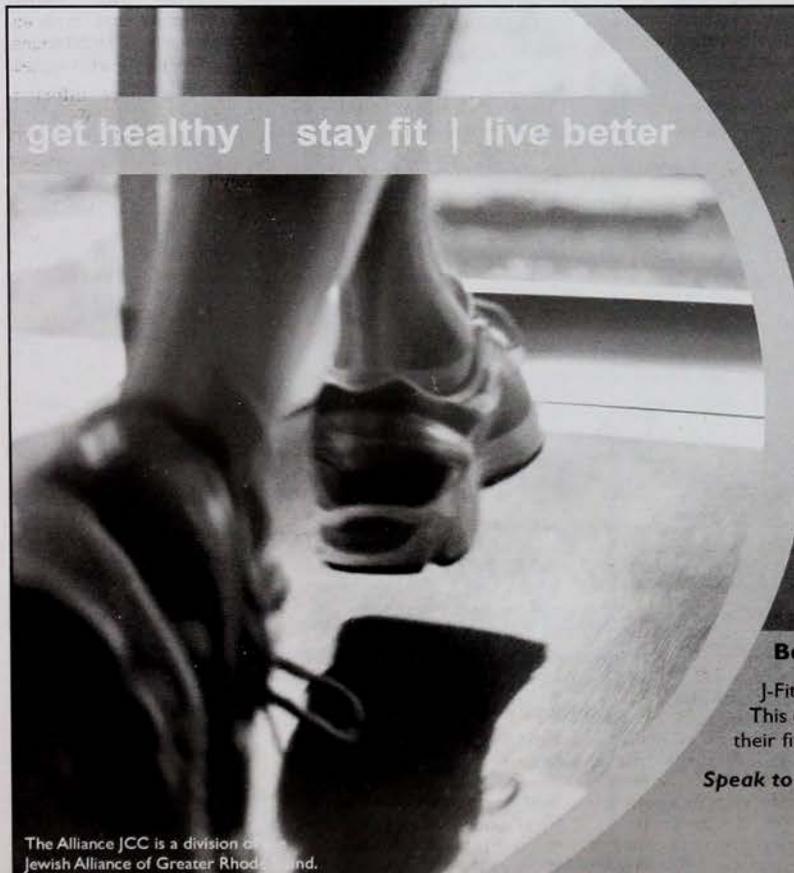
The goal of the workshop was to enable the students to return to class with a new understanding and with more sensitivity

and patience for their peers and members of the community at large. The school encouraged parents to talk to their children about the program and to discuss ways in which they can be more inclusive.

The teachers who were able to experience parts of this program were so enamored of it that the school is working with the Jewish Alliance to bring Mrs. Jacob back to present an

in-service for teachers in both Jewish day schools and an evening program for parents.

**For more information:** Mrs. Miriam Esther Weiner (ME-Weiner@Phdschool.org), Principal of the Providence Hebrew Day School, can also be reached at 331-5327, ext. 18.



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## Convert to Islam to speak in Temple Emanu-El

*Saliha Malik dispels myths and stereotypes*

BY IRINA MISSIURO

imissiuoro@jewishallianceri.org  
The Jewish Voice sat down for a conversation with Saliha (Carol) Malik, a British convert from Christianity to Islam. Malik will appear at Temple Emanu-El's Fishbein Chapel on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss what it's like to be a religious Islamic woman. In her talk, she will debunk some prevailing media-perpetuated myths and stereotypes about her faith.

I began the conversation by asking Malik to tell me about herself and the circumstances through which she arrived at the decision to convert. She divulged that, in England, she trained to be a teacher of the Alexander technique – the system of reeducating the postural mechanism. After she finished her studies, she came to the United States in 1984 to establish a drama school in Berkley, California.

While there, she met a young Islamic man whom she describes as “extremely gentle and kind.” Malik elaborated, “I had been acquainted with men in my own culture as being rather pushy and presumptuous in terms of interaction.” Referring to her contact with men in the

Islamic community, she said, “I was struck by the difference in their respectful treatment of a woman.” Continuing, Malik shared that this man gave her the writings of the Promised Messiah, the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community she currently belongs to, and she thought them to be compelling and moving: “I felt his teaching seemed to fit my direction entirely.”

When asked if she still kept in touch with the young man, she smiled and said that he was her husband. For a moment, I was having flashbacks of Austen's “Reader, I married him,” but Malik quickly ended my Jane Eyre reverie by emphasizing that she would have converted to Islam regardless of whether or not she was in a relationship with a Muslim, saying, “I was very attracted to this path.” She feels that her life is richer through her belief in God. In her community, they emphasize to people that, through devotion, “their lives will be in a state of peace and bliss. Without God, the world is at risk. The ego gets big, and then we get a state of chaos.”

As I wondered about the supposed inequality within a Muslim marriage, she assured me

that women have equal rights. According to Islam, a group works better if there is a leader within it, so the family unit recognizes the husband as the leader. He is given the responsibility to provide for his wife and children, so that they all could live in the way that he sees fit. Malik clarified, “Being the breadwinner, he has the last say

“I was very attracted to this path.”

of her community to declare that her rights are not looked out for. The board will then grant her a divorce due to incompatibility. Asked about her family's reaction to her conversion, Malik disclosed that her mother was no longer living and that her father had some questions for her. Despite knowing her as a methodical person who gave much thought to her decisions, her father wondered about her immersion in an unfamiliar culture. Malik conceded, “You do feel alone when you are going through that journey.” Her brother and sister tolerate her decision but they don't like to talk about her religion, changing the subject whenever she brings it up.

Raised Protestant, Malik loved spiritual poetry. She was particularly moved by Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Victorian poet who converted to Catholicism and became a Jesuit priest. Recognizing how much she enjoyed poetry, her husband gave her the Holy Quran in the form of a poem. Malik was very taken by its message, “If you read the Holy Quran, you can't accept that Muslim women are subjugated by the religion. It's by the cultural traps that those countries have fallen into – that's why

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the women are subjugated. It's not the teachings of Islam but the old cultural traditions that have reasserted themselves, causing the women to be put down in many ways. The Quran is very supportive of women. It speaks about the importance of women having rights, the same capacity for spiritual progress as men, as citizens of society.”

Malik did admit that not everything about the ways of Islam appealed to her. She really struggled with having to cover herself up. An emancipated woman in the time when shoulder pads ruled and women asserted themselves, Malik hoped that the custom of having to wear scarves would soon be changed. She even asked her husband, “Surely this is under review now?” Laughing, he explained that Quran has remained unchanged since its revelation.

Malik wrangled with the decision until she had a revelation of her own. In a dream, she was dressed in the full covering – the exact way that she disliked to dress because she felt that it was unfair to women. She woke up surprised because she

ISLAM | 34



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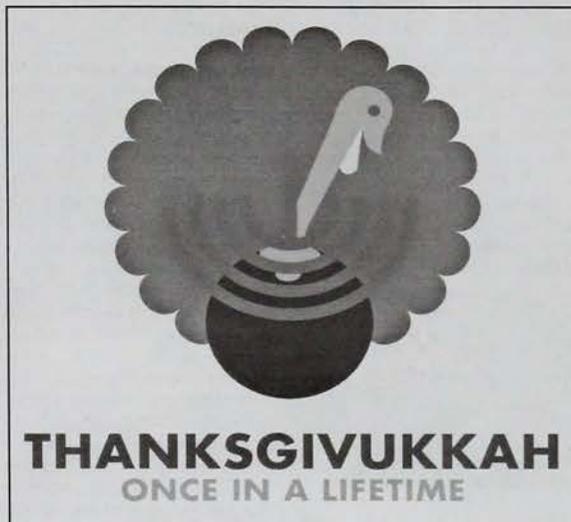
## The science behind Thanksguvvukah

BY KIT HASPEL

The complaints started in August: The holidays are so early this year! Rosh Hashanah is just two days after Labor Day. Next, no sooner have we slogged through a September where it seems that more days are Jewish holidays than not, than we get hit with how early Hanukkah is. I hear the refrain: I can't believe the first candle is the night before Thanksgiving!

Actually, Rosh Hashanah is always the first day of the Jewish month of Tishri and the first day of Hanukkah is always on the 25th of Kislev. But since the "regular" Gregorian calendar is solar-based and the Jewish calendar is lunar/solar-based, and since most of our lives revolve around the secular calendar, there is the old Jewish joke that the holidays are either early or late, but never at the right time.

Without going into too much detail, let me explain. The Gregorian calendar is based on the solar year (the time it takes for the earth to revolve completely around the sun, or 365 1/4 days). As we all know, the months are of varying lengths, adjusted to fit into 365 (or once every four years, 366) days. The Jewish calendar is at its heart lunar



based. That is, it is based on the amount of time it takes for the moon to complete a revolution around the earth. On average, this takes 29 1/2 days; so in order to have complete days in a lunar month, some are 29 and some are 30 days. The problem is that a 12-month lunar calendar is about 11 days short of a year. Without adjustment, the Jewish holidays would float around the year, changing

even what season they occur in (which is what happens with Ramadan, as the Muslim calendar is entirely lunar based.)

In order for this to not happen, our wise Jewish ancestors (a feat commonly attributed to

Hillel in the fourth century) established a complicated system of leap months. That is, over every 19-year period, an extra month is added to the calendar 7 times. Thus we see a pattern as we look at our Jewish holidays: they seem to get earlier and earlier over time and then suddenly are late, only to get progressively early again.

There has been even more buzz this year about the calendar because of the fact that the first day of Hanukkah falls on Thanksgiving (which means that the first candle is lit the night before.) There have been a number of people who have posted on the web about how this coincidence has happened only once before and can never – or perhaps in 75,000 years – happen again. (See "Drumsticks and dreidles" in the Oct. 25 issue of The Jewish Voice.)

So it seems that this is a rare occasion that demands attention. One entrepreneurial Manhattan fourth grader did just that, by creating a "Menurkey," or menorah shaped like a tur-

key that is actually available for purchase. The Buzzfeed website has many recipes and ideas for celebrating what they call "Thanksguvakkah." And the Union for Reform Judaism has information on its website about combining the holidays as well.

Here at the Alliance, we're also taking advantage. On Nov. 19 at 9:00 a.m. or Nov. 21 at 4:00 p.m., you can drop in at the Creativity Center to make a Hanukkah/Thanksgiving craft.

And if you just want to learn more about Hanukkah in general, come to our free Hanukkah Helper workshop on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Kit Haspel is the Director of Interfaith Outreach at the Alliance. To learn more about the Hanukkah Helper program, contact Kit at 421-4111, ext. 184 or khaspel@jewishalliance.org. To learn more about the Drop-In Crafts, contact Michelle Cicchitelli at ext. 178 or mcicchitelli@jewishalliance.org.

## Jordan Rich at Tifereth Israel

BY MEL B. YOKEN

Special to The Jewish Voice

Jordan Rich, one of the most acclaimed national contemporary newscasters and talk show hosts, spoke at the Oct. 20 Sunday Morning Breakfast Seminar at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in New Bedford, Mass. Rich dazzled his audience with his acumen and savvy regarding the contemporary broadcasting world and his own personal journey to success.

He discussed media trends, the responsibility that broadcasters have vis-a-vis their audiences, the multitude of celebrities he has interviewed over the years and the diminishing role that newspapers have in our contemporary quotidian life. Born and raised in Boston, Rich has been a fixture on radio and TV for more than 35 years. He began his illustrious career at WRKO in Boston at age 18 and moved to WBZ in 1996, eventually succeeding his long-time friend and mentor, the late Norm Nathan. The Jordan Rich Show is currently heard throughout most of the

United States and Canada, and worldwide on the Internet.

His enormous popularity is the result of his innate ability to connect wholeheartedly with his listeners in a positive, supportive and upbeat way; plus, he always adds a large dose of humor and fun to his work. Succinctly, his *jolie de vivre* is in-



Jordan Rich

imitable! Rich's magnanimous work with many non-profit agencies has been widely recognized, as is his tireless work for a variety of charities. He is especially proud

of his meritorious work with Boston Children's Hospital. The New England region is truly fortunate to have a man of Jordan's Rich's caliber, integrity, altruism and stature. Succinctly, he truly remains as one of the most respected figures in contemporary broadcasting.

Mel B. Yoken (myoken@umassd.edu) is Chancellor Emeritus of French Language and Literature at University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

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## CALENDAR

## Ongoing

**Alliance Kasher Senior Café.** Kasher lunch and program every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon - lunch; 12:45 p.m. - program. \$3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 861-8800, ext. 107

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

Continuing Through  
Nov. 15

**Recent Work by Walter Feldman.** Featuring collages honoring the victory in World War II and reliefs hand-painted on Japanese paper. gallery (401), Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Erin Moseley at 421-4111, ext. 108 or EMoseley@jewishallianceri.org

## Continuing Through Jan. 2

**Prints, Landscapes and Cut-paper Wall Sculpture.** Works of three RI artists: Carol FitzSimonds, Wendy Ingram and Robert Pillsbury. Temple Habonim Gallery, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. 245-6536 or gallery@templehabonim.org

## Friday | Nov. 8

**Shabbat Service and Dinner in Honor of Veterans.** Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 6:00 p.m. 885-6600 or www.toratvisrael.org

## Saturday | Nov. 9

**PJ Shabbat Storytime.** For children ages 3 to 8 years with guest storyteller Emely Aghion. Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence. 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. 621-9393 or officebethshalom@yahoo.com or www.bethshalom-ri.org

## Sunday | Nov. 10

**Rhode Island Wind Ensemble at Temple Sinai.** Forty musicians perform a variety of concert music. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 2:00 p.m. Ann Messier at a.messier@cox.net

## Tuesday | Nov. 12

**Roger Williams University Film/Speaker Series Facing Forward While Looking Backward:** The Jewish Experience Today. Films: Reporting on the times: The New York Times and The Holocaust: A Universal Language.

6:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. Mary Teft White Cultural Center; Roger Williams University Library, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, R.I.

## Wednesday | Nov. 13

## Is Summer Camp for Your Child?

Learn about Camp JORI. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 861-8800, ext. 124 or rachel@campjori.com

## Roger Williams University Film/

**Speaker Series Immutable Memories:** The Jewish Experience and The Holocaust. Film: Forget Us Not. 6:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, R.I.

## Thursday | Nov. 14

## Exercise and Vitamins at Leisure

**Club.** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. - Cathy Santaniello, East Side YMCA, discusses "Exercise for Better Health." 11:10 a.m. - noon - Nancy Tortolani, URI Pharmacy, speaks on "Vitamins: Is it possible to get all your vitamins through a well-balanced diet?" Miriam Abrams-Stark at 331-1616, ext. 14 or miriam@teprov.org

**Hanukkah Helper.** Holiday preparation class for parents in interfaith families and anyone who wants to learn more. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pre-registration is encouraged. Kit Haspel at 421-4111 ext. 184 or khaspel@jewishallianceri.org

**Pew Report Panel Discussion.** Scholars analyze the 2013 Pew Report on the future of American Jews. Moderator: Maud S. Mandel, Associate Professor and Director, Program in Judaic Studies, Brown University. MacMillan Hall, 167 Thayer St., Room 115, Providence. 7:30 p.m. Marshall Einhorn at 863-9354

## Friday | November 15

**Soulful Shabbat Scholar in Residence Weekend.** Rabbi James Jacobson Maisels, founder and spiritual director of Or HaLev: A Center for Jewish Spirituality and Meditation in Israel, leads Shabbat service and teaches after dinner. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 6:00 p.m. 331-1616

## Saturday | Nov. 16

**Scholar in Residence Weekend Continues.** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 8:30 a.m. - Meditation led by Rabbi Maisels; 9:30 a.m. - Drumming and chanting service; 10:00 a.m. - Soulful Shabbat with Rabbi Maisels leading the Torah discussion; 1:00 p.m. Rabbi Maisels leads lunch and learn; 4:00 p.m. - Shabbat after-

CALENDAR | 11

## Calendar Submissions

Items for our Nov. 28 HANUKKAH GREETINGS must be received by Nov. 12.

Calendar items for our Dec. 6 WINTER issue must be received by Nov. 20.

Send all calendar items to [anorman@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:anorman@jewishallianceri.org), subject line: "CALENDAR."



## Hanukkah Helper Holiday workshop

BY ARTHUR NORMAN  
anorman@jewishallianceri.org  
The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode is excited to offer - for the first time - the Jewish Outreach Institute's free Hanukkah Helper Holiday prep workshop. Designed initially with the interfaith family in mind, this informal, interactive, hands-on program was created to be a fun evening for anyone who wants to learn more about celebrating Hanukkah in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

In addition to discussing the various stories of Hanukkah (yes, there are more than one), participants will ponder the usu-

al "December Dilemma" questions, learn Hanukkah songs, light Hanukkah candles, play the game of dreidel and make (and eat!) latkes.

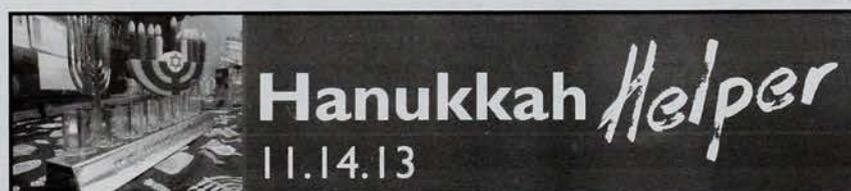
"We've successfully run similar programs around Passover and, thanks to the generous funding by the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund, we're excited to add the free Hanukkah Helper program this year," says Kit Haspel, Director of Interfaith Outreach, who will be running the workshop with the able assistance of Chef Georgina Sarpong, who will supervise the making of the latkes. "My children will tell you I'm a klutz in

the kitchen," laughs Haspel.

Asked to define interfaith outreach more broadly, Haspel offered, "It is reaching out to interfaith families with a message of welcome, acceptance, and inclusiveness and with a willingness to teach them what they want to learn about Judaism and to guide them along the way if they wish."

The program will be held at the Alliance on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Pre-registration is encouraged.

For more information or to register, please contact Kit Haspel at 421-4111, ext. 184 or khaspel@jewishalliance.org.



**Who:** for moms and dads in interfaith families and anyone else who wants to learn more!

**What:** a FREE holiday preparation class to help you celebrate Hanukkah in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

Participants will:

- explore the origins of the holiday
- light the Hanukkah candles
- play the game of dreidel
- make latkes
- discuss the "December Dilemma"
- discover the joys of Hanukkah music

**Where:** Alliance JCC | 401 Elm Grove Avenue, Providence

**When:** Thursday, November 14 | 7:00 - 9:30pm

For more information contact Kit Haspel at 401.421.4111 ext. 184 or khaspel@jewishallianceri.org. Pre-registration is encouraged.

The Mothers Circle is a program of the Jewish Outreach Institute and is made possible locally by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, with additional funding from the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund.





**"I cannot live without a book." – Thomas Jefferson**

A monthly meeting of the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Reading Circle took place Oct. 28, where the book "Living Biblically" by A. J. Jacobs was discussed. Featured left to right are Sandy Finkelstein, Nancy Riffle, Leslie Chazan, Elaine Dickstein, Lynn Rakatansky, Elaine Sandy and Linda Sinel.

**FROM PAGE 10 CALENDAR**

noon gathering, third Shabbat meal and study session led by Rabbi Maisels followed by Soulful Havdalah. 331-1616

**Sunday | Nov. 17**

**Super Sunday.** One-day fundraising phone-a-thon when the community comes together to raise money to help those in need and strengthen our Jewish community. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Michele Gallagher at 421-4111, ext. 165

**Sisterhood Book Review.** Discuss and review "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 10:00 a.m. 885-6600 or www.toratvisrael.org

**Camp & Israel Travel Fair.** Local, national, and international representatives available to answer questions, offer incentives, and provide information. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Noon – 3:30 p.m. Elanah Chassen at 421-4111, ext. 140

**Islam Discussion at Leisure Club.** Saliha Malik shares her personal experiences about "Women in Islam." Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 2:00 p.m. Miriam Abrams-Stark at 331-1616, ext. 14 or miriam@teprov.org

**Roosevelt & the Jews.** Carl Feldman speaks on "What We Knew Then, What We Think We Know Now." Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston. 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. May-Ronny Zeidman at 453-7860 or mzeidman@hercrl.org

**Roger Williams University Film/Speaker Series:** Speaker Michael Hoberman: Transcending Boundaries and Building Bridges; Film: The Lady in Number 6.

2:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, R.I.

**Tuesday | Nov. 19**

**Oso 20th Anniversary at Brown.** Gershon Baskin, founder of Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information, speaks on "What Went Wrong? What Are the Prospects for a Lasting Peace Between Israelis and Palestinians?" Salomon Center Room 001, Brown University Main Green, Providence. 7:30 p.m. Marshall Einhorn at 863.9354 or marshall\_einhorn@brown.edu

**Wednesday | Nov. 20**

**Author at Women's Alliance Event.** Pam Jenoff, author of "The Ambassador's Daughter" and "The Kommandant's Girl." Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk, Mass. 7:00 p.m. – Presentation; 8:00 p.m. – Dessert reception and book signing. \$118 minimum gift to 2014 Alliance Annual Campaign (first time donors \$54). Danielle Germanowski at 421-4111 ext. 109 or dgermanowski@jewishalliance.org

**Thursday | Nov. 21**

**Film Screening at Leisure Club.** Matan Graff, Israeli emissary, presents "The Flat." Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence. 10:00 a.m. – noon. Miriam Abrams-Stark at 331-1616, ext. 14 or miriam@teprov.org

**Theological Exchange at PC.** Rabbi Michael Klein Katz discusses "Jews, Christians, Muslims: The Victories and Challenges of Interreligious Dialogue." Aquinas Lounge, Providence College, One Cunningham Square, Providence. 6:00 p.m. May-Ronny Zeidman at

453-7860 or mzeidman@hercrl.org

**Gallery Opening.** Papercut artist Craig Tinsky presents Divine Providence. Exhibition continues through Jan. 10, 2014, gallery (401), Jewish Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 7:00 p.m. Erin Moseley at emoseley@jewishalliance.org or 421-4111, ext. 108

**Adoption Options Informational Meeting.** For those considering adoption and interested in hearing about available options. Jewish Family Service, 959 N. Main Street, Providence. 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Peg Boyle at 331-5437 or peg@jfsri.org

**Sunday | Nov. 24**

**Temple Sinai Scholar in Residence.** Rabbi Michael Klein-Katz will speak on cultivating gratitude during the Cranston Interfaith Thanksgiving service, an annual service with several Cranston churches: includes music, prayer and fellowship. 7:00 p.m. 30 Hagen Avenue, Cranston.

**Tuesday | Nov. 26**

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.** Guest speaker: Christina Paxson, President Brown University. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 331-6070 or www.temple-beth-el.com

**Wednesday | Dec. 11**

**Cranston Senior Guild Hanukkah Luncheon.** West Valley Inn, West Warwick. Noon. \$21. Natalie Palla at 615-9483 by Nov 21.

**LETTER**

*Re: American Jews focus of two recent studies (Oct. 25.)*

Across many measures of Jewish engagement and behavior, the study shows substantial gaps between Jews by religion and Jews with no religion, between in-married and inter-married Jews, and across the Jewish religious denominations. There's a growing consensus among those of us who study American Jews that these gaps have widened over time.

I don't think the community is in danger of assimilating itself away. I think the composition of the community is changing over time. There are segments of the community that remain strongly and highly engaged in Jewish life, and others that are much less so. What I think is happening is a growing polarization between these groups.

The study has revitalized the long-standing debate between in-reach and outreach strategies, that is, between support-

ing those who have already demonstrated a commitment to Jewish life and community, and reaching out to those who are less engaged with the community. For better or worse, we have a very de-centralized community. There's no one approach or strategy that is going to work for or appeal to every community and every Jewish organization. Each community and organization will need to decide for itself how best to respond to the study's findings.

**Dr. Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz**

**Editor's note:** Dr. Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, a Providence resident, is Senior Director of Research and Analysis and Director of the Berman Jewish DataBank, both at The Jewish Federations of North America. He was an advisor to the Pew Research Center on the study.

**Let's serve veterans as well as they have served us**

**BY DANIEL M. DELLINGER**

During the recent government shutdown, many numbers were thrown around. But there is one number that stands out and it has nothing to do with the debate over the federal budget.

**More than one a day.**

That is how many members of our active-duty military, National Guard and Reserve forces have committed suicide over the last year. Simply put, we are losing more service members by their own hands than we are by the enemy in Afghanistan. Only those who experienced firsthand the horrors of combat can understand why most of these young men and women feel compelled to take such drastic and permanent measures.

As Veterans Day ceremonies and parades occur throughout the country, it is important that we commit ourselves to do everything possible to prevent these needless and tragic deaths. We are their friends, their family, their co-workers and their neighbors. It is up to us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans. There are many tangible ways that we can acknowledge their sacrifice, but the easiest is to simply say, "Thank you for



what you have done for our country."

If he is showing signs of unhappiness or depression, encourage him to seek help through the Veterans' Administration immediately. If she has had difficulty obtaining the benefits that she is entitled to, let her know that The American Legion has thousands of trained service officers nationwide that will help her navigate the bureaucracy free of charge.

And if that veteran has made the Supreme Sacrifice, remember the price that has been paid for our freedom and offer your support to the loved ones left behind.

But Veterans Day is a time to honor not just those who have fought for us in battle but, in fact, all of the outstanding men and women who served in our nation's Armed Forces since our founding more than 237 years ago.

Not all veterans have seen war, but a common bond that they share is an oath in which they expressed their willingness to die defending

## Leave your light on

I didn't put on the lights for Halloween this year. I didn't do it last year, or the year before that or for several years before that. I gave myself all sorts of reasons for not opening my home and giving out assorted candies to various ghosts, princesses, cowboys and superheroes: I don't know any of the kids who come from the door from other, less fortunate, city neighborhoods; I'm way too busy; giving sugary treats to kids is not good for them; what difference does a piece of candy make; let them go to another house. I've heard this rationale from friends, neighbors and family and, possibly, you've thought it too.

But here's the deal. Maybe it doesn't seem like a very big thing to do, tossing a treat into the bag of a kid who may not even know the significance of asking "Trick or Treat?" who then gathers up his sweet swag and scampers off into the darkness. It's not, is it? Well, what if it is? What if just one of those kids can really use that smile and kind word? What if my, or your, little bit, really could make a difference?

Then I thought of a group of people who do make a difference in the lives of others – many others – my colleagues at the Jewish Alliance with whom I am blessed to work. No, you won't see any capes here, you won't see any red S's here, but each and every one of them is a superhero. What you would see are folks – each with two or even three portfolios of responsibility. What you would see is the incredible support and encouragement people give each other – offering time, energy and ideas in pursuit of common goals.

One example that I see replayed so often happens when one staff member is presenting to a group, or hosting an evening forum, film or philanthropic phonathon. It is the rule, not at all the exception, to see many colleagues present in support. I never observed that in the private profit sector. I rarely witnessed that as a public school teacher. Behavior like this is inspiring. It is energizing.

Two weeks from now, November 24, is Super Sunday. A dedicated volunteer is going to phone you and ask you for your help and for your support in maintaining the critically needed programs that service those in our community who truly benefit from them.

This Super Sunday, I'm going to leave my light on. Please leave your light on.



**INTERIM EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

ARTHUR C. NORMAN

### Re: Oct. 11 Jewish Voice

Just wanted to let you know that I was very impressed by the last issue of the Jewish Voice. I learned a great deal from the articles and was inspired by a great deal of the content. Not only was it helpful to me as general member of the community, but as a Jewish communal professional as well. Keep up the good work!

**Rachel Mersky Woda**  
Assistant Director, Camp JORI

### Re: The assimilationist Voice

Judaism speaks to me in the voice of faith, fear of heaven, Torah study, commandments, marital fidelity, Sabbath observance, kashrut, the holiness of the promised land of Israel, *tzedaka* and justice.

The Jewish Voice speaks to me in the assimilationist language of the liberal Democrat, with ideals of abortion rights, pressuring Israel to give up land to enemies, gay marriage, confiscation of private property by the government to give to various voting blocks, and approval by our non-Jewish neighbors. As a Hanukkah reminder, the Maccabees did not fight only against the Greek armies. They fought against the Hellenist assimilation of Jews during their time.

Sometimes, the Voice has an article about continuity. Are these concerns about whether our community will continue to follow Jewish practices or that all Jews should become liberal Democrats? I wish the Voice spoke more in the language of Jewish observance rather than its liberal political agenda. That would be a Voice I would welcome.

**Farrel I. Klein**  
Providence

## "Knockin' on Heaven's Door"

The very first time I heard Bob Dylan sing was way back in the summer of 1963 or 1964 at a relatively small ocean-front venue off the boardwalk in Asbury Park, N.J. The evening belonged to the folksinger Joan Baez, but at one point she introduced her scraggly sidekick, who sang a couple of social protest songs with

### IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

a hoarse and grating voice. To be honest, I was underwhelmed; "there is no music in him," I mused. "He'll never go anywhere." So much for my ability to predict the future of American popular culture.

Since then, I have heard Dylan in concert twice more: once during the summer of 1999, when he shared the stage with Paul Simon at the Tweeter (now Comcast) Center in Mansfield, Mass., and again in the summer of 2006 at Pawtucket's McCoy Stadium.

While I am grateful to have had these three opportunities to hear Dylan live, his real influence upon me has been his many recordings: records, tapes, CDs. Over the decades, I have come to associate particular Dylan songs with particular periods of my life – the highs, the lows, the in-betweens. These songs – "Girl From the North Country," "Masters of War," "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall," "It Ain't Me Babe," "Tangled Up in Blue," "All Around the Watch Tower," "Just Like a Woman," "Like a Rolling Stone" and, especially, "The Times They Are A-Changin'" – have provided the background sound, the music, the poetry, the rhythm for the ups and downs of my one-way journey through time: destination unknown, ticket non-refundable. In one way or another, I have been tangled up with Bob Dylan ever since my undergraduate days at Columbia College.

Despite the fact that Dylan grew up in a Jewish home in Hibbing, Minn., as Robert Allen Zimmerman, son of Abraham and Beatty, he has always seemed to me to be somewhat

ambivalent about his Jewish identity. Indeed, according to many reports, he actually became a born-again Christian in 1979; however, with hindsight, that flirtation appears to have been relatively short-lived.

There are those who insist upon Dylan's essential Jewishness, pointing to particular Jewish themes in some of his lyrics: for example, the Akeidah, the binding of Isaac, in "Highway 61 Revisited" or his "prophetic" voice on issues of social justice in many of his earliest works. Add to this the fact that in his later years he has been known to associate with certain Chabad rabbis. As Seth Rogovoy put it in the October 5, 2012 online issue of the "Jewish Daily Forward," "While Bob Dylan has, throughout his life and career, engaged in all sorts of mythologizing and playful biographical falsification, it has never been in the service of denying his heritage ... he never strayed far from his roots, nor did he deny them."

Even if I could be persuaded of Dylan's positive sense of Jewish identity, I was at first highly skeptical to read in J.J. Goldberg's Sept. 12, 2013 online "Forward" piece that he had designated Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" as the opening "act" of an ersatz Yom Kippur service in song.

In his column, "Songs to Atone By: Dylan, Jolson, Streisand, Oysler," Goldberg explained that he had "put together a selection of songs that sum up the day and capture its spirit ... I've tried to follow the order of the day, from the introductory prayer to the Kol Nidre, the Maariv service, some highlights of the Mussaf, the Jonah story and finally Neilah and absolution." Goldberg has chosen renditions of traditional liturgy, such as Kol Nidrei and Avinu Malkeinu, as well as "American songs that capture message and flavor" of Judaism's Day of Days.

Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" has been in my ear and in my soul for decades. The

original version, composed in 1973 for the soundtrack of Sam Peckinpah's "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid," tells in two short verses the simple but poignant story of a wounded deputy who senses he is soon to die:

"Mama, take this badge off of me/I can't use it anymore./It's getting dark, too dark to see/I feel I'm knockin' on heaven's door."

"Mama, put my guns in the ground/I can't shoot them anymore./That long black cloud is coming down/I feel I'm knockin' on heaven's door."



The song's chorus holds a poetry of melody and rhythm which brings me – at least metaphorically – to heaven's door.

Four times Dylan insists: "Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door."

There is, of course, no way of knowing what inspired Dylan to write these words. I suspect that the poet/songwriter himself does not know. Nor is there any single way to interpret these words. Has Dylan consciously or perhaps unconsciously drawn upon the Yom Kippur imagery of the worshipping congregation assailing the gates of heaven – *sha'arei shamayim* – with songs of prayer and repentance? Again, no way of knowing. What I do know is that when I approach Yom Kippur 5775, eleven months from now, the "knockin'" words and melody and rhythm of Dylan's song will help carry me on my journey towards renewal and release.

**James B. Rosenberg**  
(rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org) is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim 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, repre-

sent the views of the authors; they do not represent the views of The Jewish Voice or the Alliance.

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

## A Jewish Atheist

BY LEE KOSSIN

Special to The Jewish Voice

Some years ago, my middle daughter occasionally did cat sitting for a rabbi. One day, he called for her and we ended up in a conversation that led him to ask where we were affiliated. I told him that we went to the JCC and belonged to the "Jewish pool club." When he asked again, I told him that we didn't attend a synagogue because I come from a long line of atheists and my husband is an atheist by choice. After a contemplative silence he said, "But your daughter is such a good person."

I thought of this recently when I was reading the newly released Pew report on Jewish Americans. Two of the factoids really caught my attention. In response to the question, "What does it mean to be Jewish?" 69 percent of the respondents said: leading an ethical/moral life. In answer to the question,

"What is compatible with being Jewish?" 68 percent of the respondents said a person can be Jewish even if he/she does not believe in God.

According to my mother, my great grandfather came to America to spread the word about socialism. He was a great believer in spreading wealth

**"Being a Jewish atheist means not believing in a different God than a Christian atheist doesn't believe in."**

and, even though he earned very good money as a builder, he gave most of it away. He named each of his six children with names that reflected his ideology: One uncle was named Thomas Carlyle, another Charles Darwin and my grand-

father was named Victor Hugo. He raised his children to be rational, moral and atheistic.

My father came from a more Jewish background with a father who escaped being forced into the Russian army as Jewish frontline fodder. Whatever belief my father had was certainly lost when he helped liberate the concentration camps at age 20. My mother was an atheist who longed to be agnostic. She taught me, once I became a confirmed atheist, that one should lead their life assuming that God doesn't exist but act as if She/He does. It is a value that I hope I have passed on to my children.

My oldest daughter is an educator and dreams of opening a school that will serve homeless children. When she spent two years teaching in a rural and very poor part of North Carolina, her fellow teachers assured her that, though she claimed to be an atheist, she must actually be a Christian because who else

would be willing to do what she was doing.

My middle daughter plans on pursuing a degree in psychology to work with troubled teens and my youngest seems well on her way to a career in teaching. They are smart and ambitious women and could choose any profession, but none is interested in anything other than "helping" (or, at least, "not-hurting") professions. I don't believe that Belief is fundamental to my Jewish identity. Yet I feel myself to be Jewish. I agree with Robert Mankoff, the cartoon editor of the New Yorker, who recently wrote that being a Jewish atheist means not believing in a different God than a Christian atheist doesn't believe in. I also agree with my mother, who said, "You can deny being a Jew all you want, but when they come for the Jews, they will have your name on the list."

I try, as unsuccessfully as the next person, to lead an ethical

life, which means to me to be concerned for those less fortunate, try to minimally hurt the environment, vote Democrat. I hope my husband and I have raised moral children who don't look to God as an excuse to do right but have incorporated "rightness" into their lives.

I understand the rabbi's confusion about how atheists can raise good people, but I believe that Judaism demands that we pay attention to the world and one another other right here and right now. We don't do the right thing because we fear punishment or hope for a reward in the afterlife - we do it just because we know it to be right - because if there was a God, She/He would demand this of us. With no God, we aren't excused from our shared humanity but must choose every day to live our values.

Lee Kossin (lkossin@yahoo.com) is an artist residing in Providence.

## LETTERS

### Re: JFNA General Assembly Fails to Lead on Israeli Occupation

I was disappointed to learn that the annual General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), which will meet in Jerusalem next month, will not include any discussion of Israel's occupation of the West Bank. The JFNA boasts on its web site that the gathering "tackles the most critical issues of the day" and brings together Jews "from North America and Israelis from across the political spectrum to discuss issues facing Israel."

According to reporting by "The Forward," when asked if topics would include the occupation, Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of the JFNA, said, implausibly, that the JFNA does not get into political issues. He also said that he doesn't use the word "occupation" to describe Israel's military control over 2.6 million stateless Palestinians. What word does he prefer, "truthiness"?

Instead of avoiding the issue, the General Assembly should issue a strong, public statement of support for President [Barack] Obama's and Secretary of State John Kerry's efforts to negotiate a two-state solution. Alas, Federation leaders prefer to stick their heads in the sand.

Perhaps it is because of leadership like this, which increasingly follows more than it leads, that, as the Pew survey has recently reported, Jews are drifting away from both Jewish communal institutions and attachment to Israel, especially in the younger generations.

Nina Tannenwald

**Editor's Note:** Nina Tannenwald teaches international relations at Brown University. In 2012-2013, she served as an advisor in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation in the U.S. State Department.

### Re: Recent college graduate tells her coming out story (Oct. 11)

Thank you for the report from Justin Willner on the experience of Dana Speesler when coming out to her family as a lesbian. Willner and Voice readers will be glad to know that parents faced with such a situation do not have to struggle alone. For more than four decades, PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) has been providing friendship and support to families wanting to understand and accept

their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children. The stories that members relate about their own journeys to acceptance in the past are uniquely helpful to newcomer parents. LGBT people are also welcome at PFLAG as they seek to come out into the embrace of their families.

PFLAG is a grassroots, self-supporting, volunteer organization with no religious or political affiliation. Mental

health professionals sometimes refer clients to PFLAG as an adjunct to professional treatment. PFLAG of Greater Providence (pflagprovidence.org) meets monthly and serves the entire state and southern Massachusetts.

Myra Shays  
Founder, PFLAG/Greater Providence

## ONLINE COMMENTS

### Re: Dr. Hamolsky honored with the 2013 Human Dignity Award (Oct. 11)

Thank you for memorializing this great event. Diane and I were there and cherished the many comments of all, most notably those of Dr. Hamolsky.

Ed Iannuccilli

### Errata

Re: Boston Jewish film festival celebrates 25 years (Oct. 25)

Shelley Sackett's email was incorrectly listed. It is shelleya.sackett@gmail.com

### Re: Parenting Center (Oct. 25)

Congratulations to Director Cicchitelli and to the Jewish Alliance for having the vision to get this project going! This center serves as a wonderful model for communities around our country.

Dale Hisiger

### Re: Dr. Milton W. Hamolsky honored with the 2013 Human Dignity Award (Oct. 11)

As a major subject of a recent featured article in the Jewish Voice, I wish to express my appreciation for its publication, its origin from Home & Hospice of Rhode Island, and the professional and factual accuracy of its reporting by Ms. Lee Kossin, a freelance writer of Providence.

Regarding the development of the Medical School at Brown University, I feel compelled to acknowledge the many others who made it possible. I would like to remind the careful reader that any human enterprise of such magnitude, as the founding of a new medical school "from scratch" as undertaken by Brown University and a group of eight Rhode Island hospitals requires the collaborative vision and dedicated efforts of several entities and individuals. Includ-

ed are the following: the Corporation of Brown University, the Board of Trustees of the hospitals, the administrations, the faculties, the political leaders and legislators, the media, RI Medical Society, the RI Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

The development of a high quality medical program was enabled by the recruited young men and women physician pioneers who gambled their career futures to join the university and the hospitals as full time academicians, dedicated to patient care, education and research, talented medical staffs at the hospitals, medical students, interns, residents and sub-specialty fellows. As a critical collaborative discipline, it was enabled by the concurrent growth of nursing throughout the state. The effort

enjoyed widespread support of friends and members of the community. Regarding my role, I feel that I have had the good fortune to share in the beginning and continued development, and the privilege of observing the progressive evolution of "the dream."

I greatly appreciate the honor bestowed upon me by Home & Hospice of RI with the Human Dignity Award for my contributions to medicine and patient care in the state. I am particularly touched by the recognition of such an extraordinary organization known for its excellence in caring at the most difficult time in peoples' lives.

Respectfully,  
Milton Hamolsky M.D., MACP.,  
Professor of Medicine Emeritus,  
Brown University

### Re: The Jewish Voice

The past few issues of the Jewish Voice have been exceptional. Interesting and fun articles. It's been informative about many issues and also supplies some smiles along the way.

Keep up the good work!

Judi Silverman

Alison Stern Perez, whose monthly column regularly appears on these pages, is on a brief hiatus and will resume writing soon.





## KOSHERFEST

Kosherfest is the world's largest Kosher certified food and beverage trade show for the retail and food-service industries. The 25th annual edition of Kosherfest was held October 29-30 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey. Featuring the latest in Kosher trends, tastes and flavors, more than 350 exhibitors from around the United States, Israel, Argentina and Europe displayed their products.

The Kosher food market is a \$12,500,000 market growing at a rate of 15 percent annually, according to MINTEL, a marketing company. Events during the two-day show included: Kosherfest New Products Presentation, Mashgiach – "Kosher Supervisor of the Year" Award Presentation and the Kosherfest 6th Annual Culinary Competition.



### Share your holiday recipe

Our readers tell us they love trying recipes that they read in the Jewish Voice. Send us your favorites or share the results of ones you have tried. Send them to [IMissiuoro@jewishallinceri.org](mailto:IMissiuoro@jewishallinceri.org), subject line RECIPES.

## Community Kitchen Latkes

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
[anorman@jewishallinceri.org](mailto:anorman@jewishallinceri.org)  
 This recipe, submitted by Cindy Elder ([celder@rifoodbank.org](mailto:celder@rifoodbank.org)), director of communications for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, is not only the personal recipe of Beth Rabin, former longtime volunteer at the Food Bank's Community Kitchen, but also, says Cindy, "hands-down, the best they've (Community Kitchen chef instructors) ever tasted."

Community Kitchen is a culinary job training program for low-income and unemployed adults. During the course of their 14-week training, Community Kitchen students prepare 500 meals per day for the Kids Café program, which pro-

vides afterschool meals to low-income children at Boys & Girls Clubs and recreation centers.

### Best-ever latkes

#### INGREDIENTS

3 lbs. potatoes  
 2 carrots  
 1/4 cup flour  
 3 eggs, beaten  
 2 tsps. vegetable oil  
 salt and pepper  
 (optional) 1 medium onion

#### METHOD

Peel and grate the potatoes and carrots. After peeling, roll vegetables in toweling to remove as much moisture as possible.

Place vegetables in a large bowl and add flour, eggs, oil, and salt and pepper.

(Optional) sauté the onion and combine with the mixture.

Mix well and drop, by table-spoonful, in heated oil in a heavy frying pan.

Eat as soon as possible (with your favorite topping)!

## FAVORITE RECIPES FROM READERS

### Sweet potatoes from Brenda Lucier

Brenda Lucier says this family Thanksgiving favorite is easy to make and delicious. She's been making it for at least ten years.

#### Whipped Sweet Potatoes

##### INGREDIENTS

4 - 6 sweet potatoes  
 1/4 cup butter  
 1/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar  
 1 tsp. salt  
 1/3 tsp. black pepper

##### METHOD

1. Peel and cut sweet potatoes into uniformly sized chunks.

2. Boil or steam sweet potatoes until soft. Be careful not to overcook. Sweet potatoes will

absorb too much water if over-boiled.

3. When potatoes are soft, drain off water and let sweet potatoes rest in the colander a few minutes in order to drain away absorbed water.

4. Fill a standard-sized home food processor bowl with as much of the cooked sweet potatoes as will fit. Depending on the number and size of sweet potatoes used, you may have to process several batches.

5. Then, to the food processor bowl add the butter, sugar salt and pepper. Puree all ingredients together. If necessary, add more sugar to taste.

6. Blend all ingredients and serve.

### Texas stuffing from Louanne Lambert

#### Texas turkey cornbread stuffing

Louanne Lambert sent us this favorite.

##### INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup margarine  
 5 - 6 cups cornbread or corn muffins  
 6 cups of soft cubed toast  
 1/2 cup oil

1 cup diced celery  
 1/2 cup chopped onion  
 1/2 cup green pepper  
 2 teaspoons salt  
 2 teaspoons pepper  
 1 1/2 teaspoons poultry seasonings  
 sage to taste  
 2 beaten eggs  
 1 1/2 cups turkey broth

##### METHOD

1. In a bowl, mix together crumbled cornbread and cubed toast.

2. Pour and mix in heated margarine.

3. Saute veggies in oil, add seasonings and pour over the cornbread and toast.

4. Add well-beaten eggs.

5. Stir in turkey broth to desired moistness.

6. Add turkey giblets if desired - every Texan would!

7. Place in casserole dish and bake for 30 minutes at 400° F or use to stuff the turkey. Yippy-i-o-kayee!

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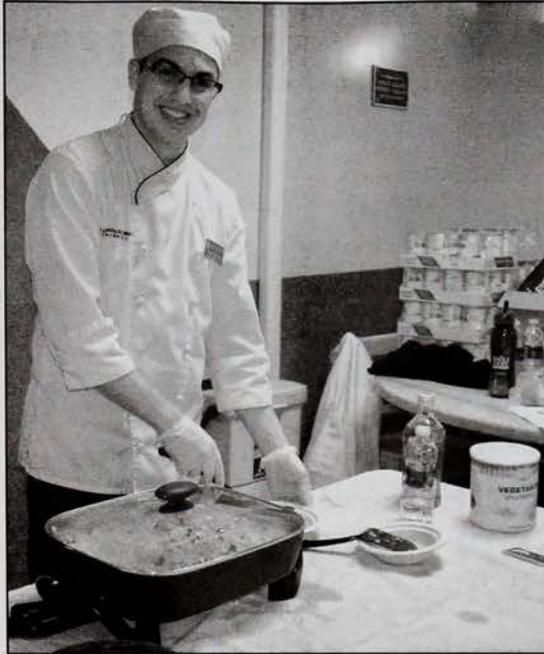
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Chef Trevor Daneker

CINDY ELDER

## Community Cooking: feeds the soul

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
anorman@jewishalliance.org

Chef Trevor Daneker is a nutrition education coordinator for the Community Cooking program of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Community Cooking empowers food pantry clients to make smarter, healthier choices.

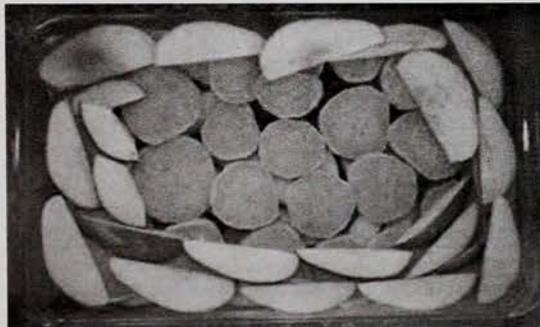
Hands-on cooking is combined with in-depth study of nutritional issues that can have a profound effect on people's health as well as on their food budget. By incorporating more vegetables and healthy proteins, clients gain a measure of control over their food security.

Here is chef Trevor's riff on baked apples and sweet potatoes.

2 tablespoons honey

### METHOD

1. Boil 5 sweet potatoes in water until they are almost tender.
2. After the sweet potatoes cool, peel and slice them.
3. Peel the apples, remove the cores and slice the apples.
4. Preheat the oven to 400° F.
5. Grease a casserole dish with butter.
6. Put a layer of sweet potatoes on the bottom of the dish.
7. Add a layer of apple slices.
8. Add some sugar, salt and tiny pieces of butter to the apple layer.
9. Repeat steps 6, 7 and 8 to make more layers of sweet potatoes, apples and sugar/salt.
10. On the top layer of apples,



### Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes

#### INGREDIENTS

- 5 sweet potatoes (cooked)
- 4 apples
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 cup hot water

sprinkle the rest of the brown sugar and butter pieces.

11. Sprinkle the top layer with nutmeg.
  12. Mix the hot water and honey together. Pour the mix over the top layer.
  13. Bake for about 30 minutes until apples are tender.
- Yields 8 servings



XXX

## New from Joan Nathan

Joan Nathan, Providence's best-selling kosher cookbook author, signs copies of her book at Kosherfest 2013

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## WORLD SERIES OF JEWISH DESSERTS AT TEMPLE BETH-EL

*An evening of tasty treats and good causes*

BY IRINA MISSIURO  
 IMissiuoro@jewishallianceri.org

The competition was fierce at Temple Beth-El's "World Series of Jewish Desserts." More than 20 chefs brought their finest sweet creations in hopes of winning the Oct. 27 contest. The judges included Lynn Williams, owner of Seven Stars Bakery; Dr. Andy Robin, a doctor, former award-winning writer for "Seinfeld" and "Saturday Night Live" and current columnist for the Providence Journal; and Anita Solomon, former owner of the East Side favorite, Lloyd's Restaurant, and a temple member of more than 80 years.

This year's fundraiser, benefitting the Temple Beth-El Religious School Scholarship Fund, followed last year's "World Series of Kugel" and the 2011 "World Series of Brisket," each of which attracted 200 attendees and raised \$7,500 to assist member families with school tuition costs.

The chefs brought their best game to the table. Robin Homonoff decided to gild the lily to win over the judges with a personal touch. Next to the Sour Cream Walnut Cake, she placed framed photos of the family patriarch, along with her handwritten plastic-encased recipe, on the table. The Torgan family also displayed creativity by including miniature Israeli flags in the muffin cups containing caramel-dipped local Macoun apples, which William, 7, the youngest chef of the night, picked with his Sunday school.

Several thought ahead and provided printed recipes for "sweet teeth" to take home. I can now make Sour Cream Nut Cake, Passover Chocolate Mandelbrot, Matzo Crack (yes, you read that right) or Chocolate-Banana Kugel when the urge strikes. A number of contestants incorporated Yiddish words for various relatives, the originators of the recipes, into the titles. So, if you wondered how to spell *bubbe* or *zayde*, you should have attended the event.

My favorite entrant was a little boy who, upon my exclamation "And who made these donuts?" answered, "The bakery." It turns out that their chef *d'oeuvre* didn't come out of the oven as expected, so the parents voluntarily disqualified themselves from the contest. As the boy's dad explained, after jokingly chiding his son for revealing secrets to the reporter, they still wanted to contribute something to the event, so they brought some *sufganiot*. Had I not been so captivated by the Feldman boy, I would have no-

ticed that their sign read "Silver Star Bakery." Though the family didn't win, they get my Gold Star for their honesty and effort.

Coffee Cake tied with Rugelach for the most popular dessert, with four entries of each kind. Some coffee cake recipes hailed from Eastern Europe, so they fattened up on their beloved sour cream, while other all-American ones sneered at the idea. All rolled up and smelling of cinnamon, some Rugelach bore the fruit of grape vines and the Ghirardelli factory. One particularly innovative Rugelach decided to wear her clothes inside out and call herself Rugelach Revised. You won't be wrong to suspect writer Nancy Kirsch of creating the name and the recipe. Zoe Finkelstein gave her a run for her money, however, with Deconstructed Chocolate Cheesecake Cupcake. Derrida, anyone?

Mandelbrot, masquerading under various misspellings, followed with three entries, challenging the lonesome Kamish Broit, of the same dessert heritage - a real rebel that wanted to distinguish itself with an original name - what a Crazy Bread!

"Kamish" had the right idea since many names that evening sounded similar.

Emily Torgan-Shalansky baked a tantalizing Mascarpone Cake with Mango Sauce to contend with her mother-in-law Ruby Shalansky's Chocolate Caramel Matzo. Mia, the youngest member of the family, tried to maintain peace by helping everyone. Henry Mayer, with Sam Salinger's help (both with BBYO Providence), competed with Layne Mayer, his mother, who, along with Vanessa Weiner and Amy Orth, teased with Dark Chocolate-Dipped Gluten-Free Macaroons. Their true competition, however, was Deb-

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Cantor Judy Seplowin and her daughter Jessica Kalish



Ellis and Debbie Waldman, one of the contestants, react as the winners are announced.



Anita Solomon, one of the judges.

FROM PAGE 16 **DESSERTS**

bie Waldman's gluten-free and nut-free Chocolate and Banana Kugel. Fortunately, the Kugel wasn't also fat-free because then it would have nothing left to lose, as Janis Joplin once aptly pointed out.

Rabbis raced against cantors, moms' recipes – against grandmas' and caramel-dipped creations – against chocolate-dipped ones. The contest even included two teenage girls who made their desserts from scratch. Madison Selsberg, a cook and a baker since the age of seven, prepared her signature Coffee Cake. Julia Birnbaum, a food blogger (thesweet-

lifeofired.blogspot.com), made Zabar's Black and White Cookies, beguiling everyone with their fancy tuxedos.

**Editor's note:** the winners are listed here; their recipes will appear on page 18.

**Best Dessert:** Emily Shalansky – Mascarpone Cake with Mango Sauce

**Best Dessert First Runner-Up:** Layne Mayer, Vanessa Weiner, Amy Orth – Dark Chocolate-Dipped Macaroons

**Best Dessert Second Runner-Up:** Adrienne Uffer – Hamantashen

**People's Choice:** Doug Blake – Rugelach



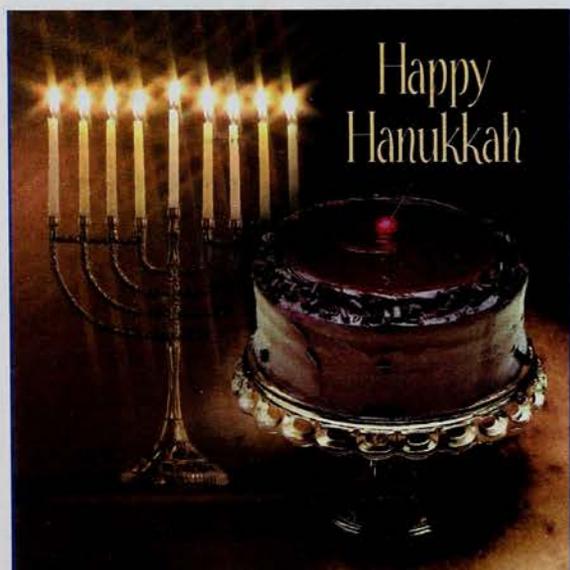
Rugelach



Caramel Apples



Doug Blake, The People's Choice winner, is beaming almost as much as the award he is holding. You like him – you really, really like him. Congressman David Cicilline and event chair Karen Borger bask in Blake's victory.



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## And the winners are ...

BY IRINA MISSIURO  
IMissiuoro@jewishallianceri.org

**Best Dessert: Emily Torgan-Shalansky, Mascarpone Cake with Mango Sauce**

This cake is Torgan-Shalansky's version of a recipe from her grandmother, who had emigrated from Poland to Honduras.

INGREDIENTS  
CAKE

2 cups sifted cake flour (not self-rising)  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 stick unsalted butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla  
2 eggs  
1 cup buttermilk

MASCARPONE CREAM

8 oz. mascarpone  
1 cup chilled heavy cream  
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar

**Dona Ana's Mango Sauce**

3 large ripe mangoes  
sugar  
lime juice

PREPARATION

CAKE

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Butter a 9-inch round cake pan (2 inches deep). Line bottom with round of parchment paper, then butter parchment.

2. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

3. Beat together butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until fluffy and pale. Beat in vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. With mixer on low, beat in buttermilk until just combined. Add flour mixture in three batches, mixing after each addition until just combined.

4. Pour batter into cake pan, smoothing top. Rap on counter to get rid of air bubbles.

5. Bake until golden and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 10 minutes, then run a knife around the edges of the pan to loosen the cake. Invert it onto plate. Remove and discard paper.

MASCARPONE CREAM

Beat mascarpone, cream and sugar in a large bowl until mixture holds stiff peaks.



Emily Torgan-Shalansky and Mia Shalansky with their winning Mascarpone Cake with Mango Sauce.

ture holds stiff peaks.

**Dona Ana's Mango Sauce**

Peel and pit mangoes. Put flesh into a blender with about 1 tablespoon lime juice and two tablespoons of sugar. Blend.

ASSEMBLY

Halve cake horizontally with a long serrated knife. Remove top half. Put bottom half on plate and spread with half of cream. Put top half on; spread with remainder of cream. Serve with sauce alongside.

**Best Dessert First Runner-Up: Layne Mayer, Vanessa Weiner, Amy Orth, Dark Chocolate-Dipped Macaroons**

These are a sophisticated version of the contestants' favorite Passover dessert.

INGREDIENTS

5 large egg whites  
1/2 vanilla bean, split lengthwise

3/4 cup - 1 cup sugar (depends how sweet you want them)

4 cups long-shred unsweetened coconut (about 6 ounces), lightly toasted

3/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted, cooled, ground

12 ounces bittersweet (not unsweetened) or semisweet chocolate, finely chopped

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 275°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.

Place egg whites in large bowl; scrape in seeds from vanilla bean. Using electric mixer, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, beating until meringue is very thick (similar to marshmallow crème), about 5 minutes.

2. Fold in coconut, then almonds. Drop batter by rounded tablespoonfuls onto prepared sheets, spacing mounds 1 1/2 inches apart.

Bake macaroons until pale

beige outside and dry-looking (insides will still be soft), about 25 minutes. Transfer baking sheets to racks; cool macaroons completely. Transfer macaroons to work surface; re-line pans with clean parchment.

3. Place chocolate in top of double boiler over simmering water. Stir chocolate until smooth; remove from over water. Dip bottom of 1 macaroon into melted chocolate to depth of 1/4 inch. Place on prepared sheet, chocolate side down. Repeat dipping with remaining macaroons. Chill until chocolate is firm, about 1 hour. These can be made three days ahead. Cover and keep refrigerated. Let macaroons stand at room temperature 1 hour before serving.

Makes roughly 4-5 dozen.

**Best Dessert Second Runner-Up: Adrienne Offer, Hamantashen**

Adrienne Offer bakes these so often, she no longer needs to measure the ingredients. For our readers, she did.

INGREDIENTS  
DOUGH

1 cup butter  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon lemon extract  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt

Mix ingredients together to make dough. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or up to 24 hours. Roll out dough and make circles.

FILLING

1 lb pitted prunes  
1/4 lb apricots  
1 cup raisins  
1 teaspoon lemon rind  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 cup apricot preserves

DESSERTS | 19

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Robin Homonoff, her special-mention recipient, Sour Cream Walnut Cake, and the family heirlooms.



Rose Mayer, Eve Weiner, Emily Principe and Miranda Birnbaum are getting ready to compete on their own in a couple of years.

FROM PAGE 18 **DESSERTS**

**PREPARATION**  
Cook prunes, apricots and raisins. Chop, then mix the rest of ingredients.

Shape and fill hamantashen and bake in an ungreased pan in 375°F oven for approximately 15 minutes.

**People's Choice: Doug Blake, Rugelach**

"Every good baker needs a good teacher. My first and best teacher was my mother, Sally Goldberg. The rugelach teacher was my wife's cousin Irene, who introduced me to the Cuisinart. We baked these at the Jersey Shore in 90 percent humidity (not recommended for a first attempt!)"

**INGREDIENTS TRADITIONAL RUGELACH**

**DOUGH**

- 3 cups flour
- 1/2 lb (2 sticks) butter, unsalted, softened
- 1 package yeast
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 egg yolks

- MIXTURE FOR ROLLING**
- 2 cups sugar
  - 3 teaspoons cinnamon
  - 8 ounces chopped pecans, mixed very finely in a food processor.

**MIXTURE FOR SPREADING**  
Seedless preserves (apricot, raspberry or plum)

**PREPARATION**

In a food processor or a stand mixer, combine flour, salt and yeast. Cut in the butter. Add yolks and heavy cream; mix well. Wrap in foil and refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 375°F. Prepare cookie sheets with parchment or silicone liner. Divide dough into fourths and work one part at a time, keeping the rest cold. Spread board generously with pecan sugar and roll out dough in mixture, covering both sides and working some into the dough. Roll into 14- to 16-inch circle. Cut into quarters; spread each fourth with jam, then cut each fourth into four slices. Sprinkle with more pecan sugar and roll up each slice from the edge to the center; bend each piece into a crescent. Bake 12-15 minutes; cool on racks and sprinkle with powdered sugar if desired. Makes 64.

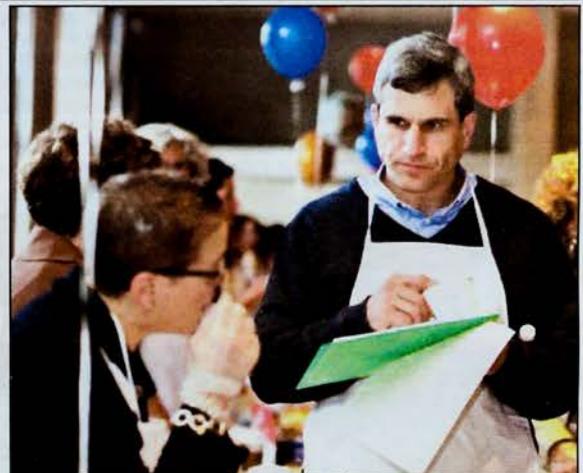
**INGREDIENTS CHOCOLATE RUGELACH**

**MIXTURE FOR SPREADING**

- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons chopped bitter-sweet chocolate

At right: Melanie Coon describes her traditional Rugelach. Coon used chocolate chips instead of raisins because ... who can say no to chocolate?! Judge Dr. Andy Robin certainly couldn't.

- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder
  - 1/4 teaspoon espresso powder
  - 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
  - 2 tablespoons melted butter
- Roll out 1 piece of dough as above in pecan sugar. Brush with melted butter. Spread with chocolate mixture; cut into slices and roll up as above. Makes 16.



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FROM PAGE 1 **FITNESS**

out the strength area has been replaced along with a portion of the cardio side. New additions to the fitness center include both cardio machines and strength equipment. New ellipticals, step machines and All Motion Trainers are on the floor. Several of the old Cybex strength pieces have been replaced with new Cybex pieces. The state of the art Cybex Multi Gym takes the place of three separate machines as well as the popular cable crossover. This choice of equipment opens up floor space in the strength area for those who wish to get involved in a more dynamic workout as opposed to a stationary workout.

"The thought process is," says Carlene Barth, Director of Health, Fitness & Aquatics, "that fitness is about movement, not sitting on a piece of equipment. We are making room for both comfort purposes and small-group training classes which we are planning on rolling out toward the end of the year." Small group-training is a cross between personal training and group exercise. An individual gets the benefits of



Tim Morton, facing, helps put a new face on J-Fitness.

personal training with the motivation of being part of a team at a lower price per session than individualized personal training. Personal Trainers are available to answer any questions that you may have regarding the new equipment

Painting the corridor and both group exercise studios will

be completed soon but beauty, as the saying goes, is only skin deep. According to Alliance COO/Controller Dan Hamel, there will be other, less noticeable but, nonetheless, crucial changes to the building's overall "health."

The entire facility will be getting new lighting, which will

put us onto the "green" path as we move forward with an energy efficient footprint. We are almost done with phase one of the HVAC work. You may have recently noticed a crane in the back of the building as the roof was prepped for the new pool unit - to be installed in mid November " The new pool HVAC combined with a new water temperature control system will allow us to keep the air temperature 2-3 degrees above the water temperature, creating a more comfortable and energy efficient atmosphere in the pool."

Hamel adds that other upgrades contemplated for the facility involve the locker rooms, health clubs and the elevator modernization project. One of the goals is to make the entire building more accessible - both entering and throughout - and user friendly. These plans are now being phased in as part of the overall funding and scheduling blueprint.

J-Fitness is getting fit. The entire Dwares JCC is getting fit. Isn't it time for you to get fit? To help you get started, the Alliance JCC is offering two personal training sessions or two swim lessons free when you sign up for an annual membership during the month of November.

For more information about J-Fitness, contact Carlene Barth (cbarth@jewishallianc-eri.org) or call 421-4111, ext. 210.

For more information about Alliance JCC membership, contact Nancy Desrosiers (ndesrosiers@jewishallianc-eri.org) or call 421-4111, ext. 115.

For more information about the Dwares JCC modernization project, contact Dan Hamel at dhamel@jewishallianc-eri.org.



ARTHUR C. NORMAN

Angela Sullivan works out on new J-Fitness equipment.

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For more information visit [jewishallianceri.org](http://jewishallianceri.org) or contact Michelle Cicchitelli at 401.421.4111 ext. 178 or [mcicchitelli@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:mcicchitelli@jewishallianceri.org).



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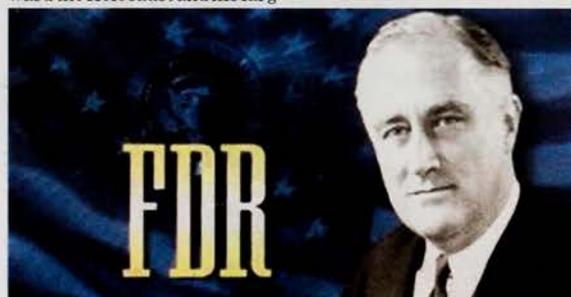
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## Roosevelt and the Jews: What we knew then and what we think we know now.

*A lecture by Carl Feldman  
for the Victor Baxt Lecture Series.*

**BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN**  
[anorman@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:anorman@jewishallianceri.org)  
Carl Feldman will be speaking on Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his background, the power of the Presidency, his attitude toward the Holocaust and his larg-

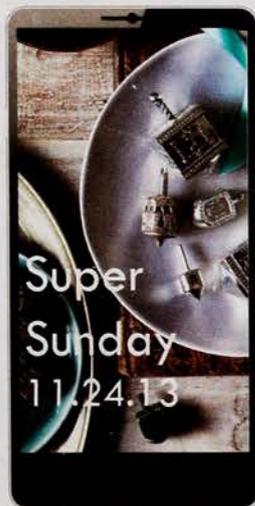
er dreams of a world at peace. He has been teaching about the Holocaust for the last 30 years. The Victor Baxt Lecture Series honors the late Victor Baxt, an ardent supporter of Holocaust Education. A fund has been established in his name



er dreams of a world at peace. Carl Feldman was born in Providence in 1937 and is a graduate of Providence Public Schools, Boston University, BA 1959, Case Western Reserve, MA 1960, and advanced graduate study at the University of California, Berkeley, 1960-61. He has done extensive research on the Holocaust and

at the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of RI to ensure that his legacy continues. This program, on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. is free and open to the public and will take place at the Central Library located at 140 Sockanoset Cross Road, Cranston, R.I.

**For more information:** please visit: [cranstonlibrary.org](http://cranstonlibrary.org).



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For more information about becoming a Super Sunday volunteer, contact Michele Gallagher at 401.421.4111 ext. 165 or [mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org).

Agency teams are encouraged to volunteer.



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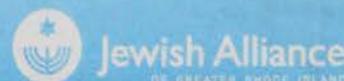
Money raised during Super Sunday goes into the Alliance Annual Campaign. In other words, we use it to help people.

Instead of focusing on one need, we look at the community as a whole. This way your donation helps the issues you're aware of as well as those that are less obvious, but no less important.

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ARTHUR C. NORMAN

Erin Moseley, Director of Arts and Culture and NextGen Engagement, introduces Walter Feldman.

FROM PAGE 2 **FELDMAN**

is a student from fifty years ago. Asked if his Judaism informed his work, Feldman said he didn't know because he has wide-ranging interests. His father was a socialist uninterested in religion but very interested in being a good person. Feldman said he aspires to also be a good person but not to define his interests in one direction.

Feldman spoke a bit about his work in creating books. In 1990, he found Zigurat Press, which prints small-edition handmade books. He told the audience about one based on a letter he received while in the trenches. His mother, he said, had been completely illiterate, but she learned to write English so she could send him comfort from home. He made a printing plate of her handwriting and created a book called "A Packet of Letters." He was clearly proud that copies of this book honoring his mother are in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Finally, he was asked if he preferred one medium over others and if he worked in one until he tired of it and moved on. Interestingly, in his answer, Feldman suggested that he based his art life on the Old Masters who were able to create in a number of different media. He revealed that some media don't interest him personally but if he is interested, he will dedicate time and effort to learning how to use a new material as he had with stained glass and tesserae for mosaics.

Walter Feldman is a Rhode Island treasure and his informative talk transformed his work for the audience while lending insight into how an artist moves from experience to expression. His "Collage and Flame on Canvas" especially gained a deeper significance for me after hearing the personal story that led to their creation. If you haven't done so yet, take time to view this wonderful show before it closes this month.

Lee Kossin (lkossin@gmail) is an artist residing in Providence.

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CLOSER TO THE ISSUES

## FROM PAGE 1 CELEBRATION

The Campaign Celebration will kick off with a dinner for Lions of Judah – the Women's Alliance members who donated \$5,000 or more. During the meal, the guests will hear remarks from Mitzi Berkelhammer, Lion of Judah chair, Susan Froehlich, Lion of Judah campaign chair, Susan Leach DeBlasio, financial resource development chair, and Wendy Joering, community concierge and synagogue liaison.

After dinner, Pam Jenoff, the featured speaker of the evening and the international bestselling author of "The Ambassador's Daughter" and "The Kommandant's Girl," will address the Women's Alliance members and answer their questions. Pam Jenoff is the author of six novels. After receiving her master's degree from University of Cambridge in England, she served as special assistant to the Secretary of the Army, helping families of the Pan Am Flight 103 victims secure a memorial and observe recovery ef-

forts at the bombing site.

Later, Jenoff worked at the U.S. Consulate in Krakow, Poland, focusing on Polish-Jewish relations and the Holocaust. She went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. After working as an attorney, she now teaches at Rutgers School of Law. Jenoff lives outside Philadelphia with her husband and three children. For more information on the author, please see the companion interview with her by Robin Kall Homonoff at right.

The Lion of Judah dinner is Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 5:00 p.m. at Ledgeport Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk, Mass. The dinner will be followed by a presentation by Pam Jenoff. It is free with a minimum donation of \$118 to the Jewish Alliance, or \$54 for first-time donors. Desert reception and book signing to follow the presentation.

For more information, contact Danielle Germanowski at 421-4111, ext. 109.

## Women of the Wall marking 25th anniversary

*Hundreds gather in prayer and celebration*

JERUSALEM (JTA) – In a display of the changes the group has experienced this year, Women of the Wall held a peaceful prayer service under police protection at the Western Wall to mark the group's 25th anniversary.

Absent from the November 4 service, which the group said drew at least 800 worshipers, were large crowds of Orthodox girls who, at the behest of their rabbis and activists, had blocked the wall's women's section in previous months.

For the first time in recent memory, Women of the Wall occupied the majority of the section, with a crowd of male supporters stretching back into the plaza.

The group has met for a women's prayer service at the wall at the beginning of each Jewish month for the past quarter century, but has seen rapid change in its status during the past six months.

Until April, women in the group who donned prayer shawls or sang too loudly often would be detained by police. But that month, a Jerusalem district court judge ruled that the group's practices did not violate any of the wall's regulations.

In May, a crowd including thousands of men packed the plaza in a protest that turned violent.

Since then, however, the demonstrations have waned. Several dozen men came to protest on Nov. 4, some yelling epithets at teenagers who had come to support Women of

the Wall. But aside from a few token disturbances – screams and whistles – the service continued uninterrupted.

"It's a big success because the traditional community has an outlet to show its stance and doesn't have to resort to violence," Women for the Wall co-founder Leah Aharoni told JTA of the group's prayerful protest.

The past half a year also has seen the Israeli government intensify its focus on the conflict at the wall, soliciting a compromise solution from Jewish Agency for Israel Chairman Natan Sharansky. An outline Sharansky released in April called for a significant expansion of an area to the south of the plaza called Robinson's Arch that is now used for non-Orthodox prayer.

After backing away from the plan, Women of the Wall endorsed it last month, agreeing to move to the new section should a list of conditions be fulfilled.

Brandishing the Western Wall regulation that forbids the group from bringing a Torah scroll to its services, Hoffman told JTA that Women of the Wall has yet to reach all its goals. She said, though, that given the relative calm at the wall, the group will now be turning its attention to negotiations with the government about the Robinson's Arch plan.

"We're not scared of jail and arrests – we're scared of negotiations," Hoffman joked. "Can we get the maximum? We won't be suckers."

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# Abraham's legacy

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(Genesis 28:10 – 32:3)

By Rabbi Richard Perlman

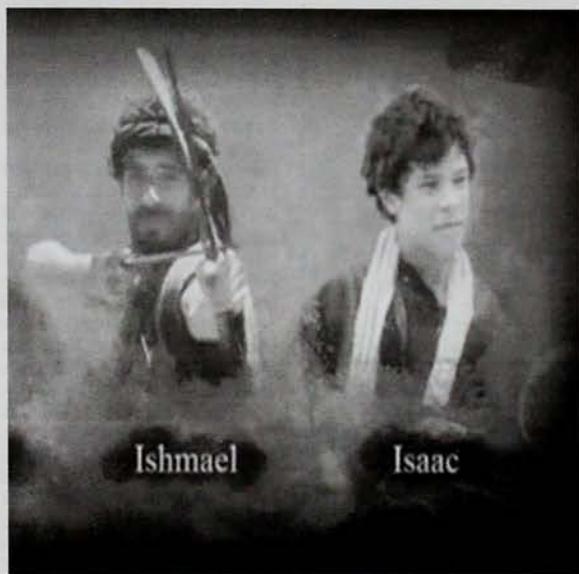
Only a few weeks ago the Torah described how Isaac will be born to a man who would be 100 years old and a woman who would be 90. There can be no question as to the identity of Isaac's parents. Last week's Torah portion went out of its way to tell us twice in one verse that Isaac was the son of Abraham.

One cannot help but wonder what the Torah was trying to teach us about the lives of the patriarchs when it told us: "This is the story of Isaac, son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac." (Genesis 25:19)

Family, of course, can be a source of support and comfort; but it can also be a source of terrible jealousy and hatred. As we have already seen with Cain and Abel, this is as true with the families in the Torah as it is for too many of us and our families today. I cannot tell you how many times I have stood at the grave of a parent, watching the deceased's children crying genuine tears of mourning, but who will not speak to each other. Even while sharing the loss of a beloved father or mother, they still could not be civil with each other!

With this sad fact in mind, perhaps last week's Torah portion began the way it did because it wanted us to know that both Esau and Jacob will be descendants of Isaac, son of Abraham. But we also know, since these brothers were so detached from each other, that would never be. The relationship of these brothers was so bad that the Torah tells us they even began fighting with each other in their mother's womb. With this sibling rivalry in mind, how could the Torah be telling us that these two brothers would be "the descendants" of Isaac (who is the source of the expression *Idor va-dor* – from one generation to the next) of Abraham?

We have to ask ourselves why sibling rivalry remains such a problem for all the descendants of Abraham. Perhaps we get a hint when the verse says: "Abraham begot Isaac." Wow! Amazing! What about Ishmael? Do we remember what the Torah said about his birth? It said (in Genesis 16:15): "Hagar bore a son to Abram, and Abram gave



the son that Hagar bore him the name Ishmael." See the difference? The key is Hagar, the mother, whereas in the case of Isaac, the key is Abraham, the father. That alone was enough to set off some type of sibling rivalry.

Consider, for a minute, who Abraham was. Abraham was a world leader of great stature.

**"Ishmael was 'a wild ass of a man; his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him.'"**

He was a successful businessman with plenty of land and livestock and a fearless warrior. He pioneered the notion of philosophy and founded ethical monotheism. Most important of all, Abraham was the one chosen by God to bring blessing to the entire world.

Isaac had to believe that his father was the more important parent, and that, because of his father's stature, he was born into royalty – whereas his brother Ishmael was not. Isaac also knew that he was the only son of Sarah, and that his birth had been prophesied by angelic messengers from God. In his mind, there was no question that he would be Abraham's heir; but he also knew this was a heavy responsibility and would be most challenging.

This could have forced Isaac

to feel that he was the one who must emulate his father, but the sad reality is that he could not. Nobody could be like Abraham, so Isaac could do nothing but be a very passive person. He must have questioned how he could presume to compete with the most creative and determined father who ever lived!

To make matters worse, his half-brother was very aggressive. As the Torah puts it, Ishmael was "a wild ass of a man; his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him." (Genesis 16:12) Not only was Isaac intimidated by believing he had to model himself after his father, he must have thought that Abraham favored his strong and popular brother Ishmael.

And what about *Akedat Yitzhak* (the binding of Isaac) – the scene when Abraham brought Isaac up the mountain to be sacrificed? How could that have helped Isaac's self-image? Imagine what the young Isaac must have been thinking as he was being bound and readied for his death. He must have been thinking that getting him out of the way was Abraham's way of making sure that his legacy would go to his first son, Ishmael.

Perhaps this is what led to the apparent estrangement between father and son right after the *Akedah* ended the way it did. Isaac must have known that Abraham would have gone through with the sacrifice, had divine intervention not stopped him. Perhaps that is why Isaac is not even recorded as being

present at his mother's funeral.

In this week's Torah portion, we are introduced to the life of Jacob. He, like his father, is also passive at the outset. But later, we shall see that the three generations of ancestors finally end with Jacob becoming Israel. We shall read about this next week. We shall see that it happens when Jacob finally understands that the truest and most worthy heir to Abraham requires not physical strength but compassion, righteousness, morality, justice and obedience to God's laws, the *mitzvot*. That was something his father never understood.

It was only when Jacob became Israel that the problems caused by his father's lack of self-esteem finally ended. Unlike the meek and mild Jacob we encountered last week and this week, next Shabbat, when his name is changed to "Israel," Jacob will be a new man; he will become such an important leader of our Great Nation that ever since then we have been known as B'nei Yisra'el, the Children of Israel.

Ironically, history and theology are much kinder to Jacob's father Isaac than he seems to have been to himself. Those of us who have managed and maintained successful businesses know that it takes a very different set of skills than the entrepreneurial spirit required to start a business. Entrepreneurs can take far more risks in starting a business than managers can in maintaining and growing the enterprise.

Religious movements are no different. For Judaism to grow, Abraham's entrepreneurial spirit could not be followed by another entrepreneur. In building on what the entrepreneur began, his successor needed to be far more consistent. That is why Isaac reopened the very same wells that his father had dug and Abimelech had stopped up. That is why Isaac tilled and worked the same sacred ground his father had received from God.

What do we learn from all this? That parents should never try to clone their children in their own image; and – just as important – children should never try to be clones of their parents. However, the added value of building on what we learn from our parents is immeasurable. It is only by valuing the differences each new generation brings that we can appreciate the beautiful and

wonderful contributions that we pass down.

The key to the legacy passed down to us from Abraham is clear and simple. As Jews, we have one central mission: to live a life of compassion, righteousness, morality, justice and obedience to the *mitzvot*. By choosing this way, we add value to the great mission that was handed to us. It is up to us to ensure that it remains thus for all time, not by being clones of the generation before us, but by adding value *Idor va-dor*, from one generation to the next, in new ways as well.

This year, as we celebrate Hanukkah on Thanksgiving, let us also give thanks that we can share our faith and our lives as one large family. Let us act as a true "light unto the nations," by earning respect through our deeds and by living together with people of all faiths and ethnicities *b'shalom*.

**Rabbi Richard Perlman** (RabbiPerlman@cox.net) is the rabbi of Temple Am David in Warwick.

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## Pam Jenoff speaks to the Women's Alliance

*Internationally famous author featured at the celebration*

BY ROBIN KALL  
HOMONOFF

If the envelope-stuffing party at the Jewish Alliance office is any indication, the Women's Alliance Campaign Celebration at the Ledgemont Country Club on November 20th promises to be filled with friends, both new and old, mixed in with lots of laughter and a love of reading! Internationally known author Pam Jenoff will be the featured guest and I had the pleasure of getting to know her through Facebook and emailed questions.

**Q. You will be in Rhode Island for the Women's Alliance event right in the middle of Jewish Book Month. What is the audition process for The Jewish Book Network?**

A. The Jewish Book Network is incredible – I always joke that I'm one of their Borscht Belt performers because I'm back for something like my fifth time in six years, but it is quite the phenomenon. Hundreds of authors come to New York in May to speak for two minutes each in front of Jewish Book Fair reps from all over the country; the committees in each town then decide which authors to invite. I have been to so many cities for book events and it is an incredible, cost-effective way for publishers to tour authors. I've already asked my publisher to sign me up next year.

**Q. Travel is central in your bio and your writing. Was this something that had always been important to you or did attending college in Cambridge for your masters inform that travel going forward?**

A. My family never traveled, even for vacations, but I'd always had this burning desire to go to Europe, especially Britain. Books like "Mary Poppins"



*Pam Jenoff at her book signing*

and works by Charles Dickens filled my brain with images [of England], but I didn't get to Europe until college. I received a fellowship to England – getting to live there and getting to graduate school realized two of my biggest dreams. And the experience didn't disappoint – before having kids, my years at Cambridge were the happiest of my life. The UK is also a big publishing market for me; I'm thrilled that my books have been popular there and there is nothing better than going back for a book release where I get to see college friends and my books in the shops.

**Q. Where are some of your favorite travel destinations and what's up next on your list?**

A. For me it has always been Europe. I lived there for almost five years. Closest to my heart are the two places I've lived there – Cambridge and Krakow, Poland. They are like having two kids I can't choose between. Beyond that I love Central and Eastern Europe: Prague, etc. "The Wild East," I used to call it, right after communism ended. I just connect with the earth and the people there on a very gut level. I think it is my Slavic roots and also a feeling of *Yid-*

*dishkeit* from our people living there for centuries.

Now for a true confession: these days my wings are clipped by three preschoolers and I have no plans to travel anywhere soon. I hope to return to Europe someday. But for now the only travel I do is for book events. Jewish book month will take me all over the US and to Canada this year and it takes the whole village (husband, my mom, nursery school, etc.) just to get me out of the house and to the airport.

**Q. How old are your children?**

A. I have twin girls who are three and a son who is four and a half. It is a party all the time – we never close!

**Q. Are they big readers? Which of your favorite childhood books do you enjoy sharing with them and which are you looking forward to sharing when they are older?**

A. My son is just starting to read and that is a thrill. I have read to them since the day they were born and it is wonderful both to introduce them to some of my childhood favorites, like Dr. Seuss books and "Madeline," and to discover new ones, such as, "Is Your Mama a Lla-

ma?"

**Q. The "how do you do it all?" question is so tired. Do you get asked that often – how to balance the kids, husband, teaching, writing, traveling?**

A. I get asked that and I also spend a lot of time asking myself that. I joke that I do too many things and none of them well. But Anne Lamott said it better than me: "I used not to be able to write if there were dishes in the sink, until I had a child. Now I can work if there's a corpse in the sink." You just do it.

**Q. We have many Facebook friends in common. Not to play favorites, but let's! Who are some of yours? Who do you enjoy following and, not to name names, but do you ever get the sense that there is a lot of "humblebragging" going on in the authors' status?**

A. I do think it is very hard to have so many authors out there talking about their amazing achievements and productivity and not compare them. Recently, when I was juggling my life, I was seized by the notion that all of the other writers I know are just fairy princesses who sit in castles and write all day. Then you put it aside, because you have to play your own game. As to my favorites, I will say that my very great joy is being part of the "Grand Central" anthology, which will come out next year. The other authors – Kristina McMorris, Melanie Benjamin, Jenna Blum, Amanda Hodgkinson, Sarah Jio, Sarah McCoy, Alyson Richman, Erika Robuck and Karen White, are the most amazing and supportive group of women. I love them and I love their work.

**Q. Are any particular writers more generous with their support and advice?**

A. The "Grand Central" sisters, above. Also, I'm so grateful to some of the Mira authors I've met over the years – Susan Wiggs and Deanna Raybourn, just to name a few.

**Q. How do you handle it if a writer you are friends with writes something you are not in love with and you are asked for a blurb?**

A. I have been asked to blurb a handful of books and I always try to do it if at all possible. So far, they've been wonderful! I often decline to read other writers' works-in-progress because I'm not an editor and I don't want to interfere with my own writing choice.

**Q. The last time you were in Rhode Island was 2006 for the New England Independent Booksellers Association show? You mentioned to me that it was the first time you had ever seen one of your novels in print and what a**

**fond memory that was. Now seven years later, does it still give you that same feeling?**

A. The first time I saw one of my books, "The Kommandant's Girl," was at the New England Independent Booksellers Association show in Providence – I walked into the hall at the trade show and it was sitting on a table. I autographed my first copy there. I still get shivers thinking about it. Seeing someone reading my books on a train or the beach is a big wish list item of mine, but it hasn't happened yet. I want to walk up and ask how they like the book, incognito.

**Q. Do you believe in "writer's block"? What do you do when you're feeling creatively stymied?**

A. I don't believe in writer's block. Writing is my job. When I was at the law firm, I couldn't say, "Oh I can't write this brief today because I'm blocked." You just do it. That said, there are days I'm more productive than others. And there are ways to head off potential blocks. My routine is to take notes the night before either on ideas I have or from something I'm reading for research or a book on craft and that way I have prompts to get me going when I'm bleary-eyed at five the next morning.

**Q. Has anyone ever insisted that a character in your novel is based on him or her? How do you react when it does?**

A. Once a character in a book referred to her mom as not cooking meals from scratch and my mom is convinced I meant her. "Funnier" is when people take my characters as autobiographical. My brother called me once and asked if I had a tattoo because my protagonist did (I don't). I also had the fun once of seeing an ex-boyfriend after many years and joking "I'm killing you off in my next book. What do you want your name to be?"

**Q. What has been the most memorable reaction you've ever gotten from a reader?**

A. The most moving are when people tell me they've gone through a tough period, such as illness or grief, and that my book helped them escape for a bit.

**Q. Do you enjoy the author signings held at bookstores?**

A. Bookstores are tough – you sit in the front of the store, and maybe a few people come by if it is your hometown and others just look at you sadly and you never know whether to say hi or if passersby think you are stalking them. I'm much happier at book events like the one I'm doing in Providence – a room full of smart engaged readers, ready to talk.



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FROM PAGE 11  
**VETERANS**

this nation.

Perhaps most significant in preserving our way of life are the battles that America does not have to fight because those who wish us harm slink away in fear of the Navy aircraft carrier, the Coast Guard cutter, the Air Force fighter squadron or the Army soldier on patrol. Or they have heard the words that recently retired General James Mattis shared with his Marines: "Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everybody you meet."

While we should all be grateful for the remarkable advancements made in military medicine and prosthetics, the

**"Let us always treat our 23 million veterans as the saviors of our country that they are."**

fighting spirit and inspirational stories of our veterans are not due to technology.

**These traits come from the heart.**

And many of these veterans are women, such as Army Chief Warrant Officer Lori Hill. While piloting her helicopter over Iraq in 2006, she maneuvered her chopper to draw enemy gunfire away from another helicopter



and provide suppressive fire for troops on the ground. Despite flying a damaged aircraft and suffering injuries, she landed the helicopter safely, saving her crew. For her actions, she became the first woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Women are major contributors to our military presence in Afghanistan and many have given their lives in the War on Terrorism. The American Legion recently issued a report calling upon VA to improve its response to the unique needs of women veterans. The VA and military health systems need to adequately treat breast and cervical cancer as well as trauma that resulted from domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault. America is home to more than 1.2 million women veterans and they deserve our support.

In the poem "Tommy," the

great writer Rudyard Kipling lamented over the rude treatment a British soldier received at a pub. Writing in classical old English, Kipling compared the abuse with the more favorable treatment that "Tommy" receives by the public during war.

*"For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' Chuck him out, the brute!"*

*But it's 'Savior of 'is country' when the guns begin to shoot; An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' anything you please; An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool - you bet that Tommy sees!"*

Let us always treat our 23 million veterans as the saviors of our country that they are, even when the guns are no longer shooting.

**Daniel M. Dellinger** is national commander of the 2.4 million member American Legion.

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## Jews have special reasons to remember JFK on 50th anniversary of assassination

BY IRA STOLL

NEW YORK (JTA) – As the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination approaches, we Jews have our own special reasons to mourn.

The conventional community memory of Kennedy would be enough by itself. JFK overcame the legacy of his father, Joseph Kennedy, President Franklin Roosevelt's notoriously appeasement-minded ambassador to Britain on the eve of World War II, to build a warm relationship with American Jews.

As Warren Bass recounted a decade ago in his book "Support Any Friend," the U.S. - Israel alliance advanced significantly with JFK's approval of the sale of HAWK – short for Homing All the Way Killer – missiles to Israel.

President Kennedy appointed Arthur Goldberg as labor secretary and then to the Supreme Court, Abraham Ribicoff as secretary of health, education and welfare, and Mortimer Caplin as internal revenue commissioner. Even a strangely large number of the gentiles in his administration had Jewish roots: Speechwriter Ted Sorensen was a self-described "Danish Russian Jewish Unitarian," while Treasury secretary Douglas Dillon and White House aide Arthur Schlesinger Jr. both had Jewish immigrant grandfathers.



President John F. Kennedy

In the closing days of the 1960 campaign, Kennedy held separate rallies in New York's garment district with David Dubinsky's International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and with the rival Amalgamated Clothing Workers, which also was heavily Jewish.

In conducting research for my new book, "JFK, Conservative," I came across two lesser-known pieces of evidence that shed new light on Kennedy's positive views about the American Jewish community and the warmth of his relationship with it.

The first was a tape recording of a meeting between Ken-

edy and American civil rights leaders following the March on Washington in 1963. The Oval Office recording system became famous under Nixon, but it was active in the Kennedy years as well, and it captured some fascinating interactions.

With the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the White House following his "I Have a Dream Speech," Kennedy launched into a discussion not of the need for federal civil rights legislation, but rather of what blacks could do to help themselves.

"Now, isn't it possible for the Negro community to take the lead in committing major em-

phasis upon the responsibility of these families, even if they're split and all the rest of the problems they have, on educating their children?" Kennedy asked/lectured. "Now, in my opinion, the Jewish community, which suffered a good deal under discrimination, and what a great effort they made, which I think has made their role influential, was in education: education of their children. And therefore they've been able to establish a pretty strong position for themselves."

Kennedy added, "With all the influence that all you gentlemen have in the Negro community ... [you] really have to concentrate on what I think the Jewish community has done on educating their children, on making them stay in school, and all the rest."

For blacks, the president's advice might have been good, patronizing, beside the point or all of the above. But for Jews, it encapsulated the way Kennedy admired them and saw them as a success story of American immigrant upward mobility.

An example of that trajectory was the Jewish attorney Lewis Weinstein, who built a close relationship with Kennedy and is the source of the second piece of evidence.

Weinstein had been born in Lithuania in 1905. He had come to America when he was

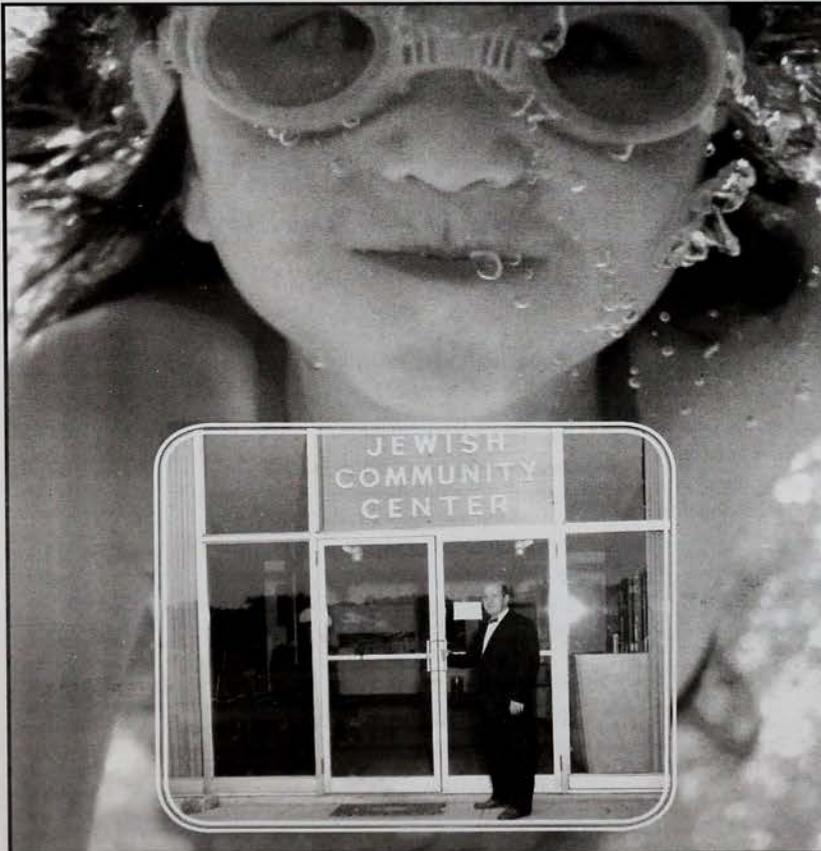
15 months old, graduated from Harvard and its law school, served in the army on Eisenhower's staff during World War II, and had returned to become a partner at the Boston law firm of Foley, Hoag, and Eliot.

One day in the summer of 1946, Weinstein's partner Thomas Eliot, whose grandfather Charles had been president of Harvard, walked into Weinstein's office and said, "Lou, meet Jack Kennedy." From this classic Boston political moment – the Brahmin lawyer introducing the Irish Catholic politician to a Jewish partner who could help him raise campaign contributions – an enduring relationship began.

The relationship came into play later when the plight of Soviet Jewry was starting to emerge as a concern for American Jews. And this particular anecdote is at least a partial corrective to the claim in Gal Beckerman's well-received 2010 history "When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone" that Soviet Jewry "was an issue that John F. Kennedy ignored."

It is true that American Jewish organizations were rebuffed when they tried the usual route – having friendly members of Congress contact the State Department. The assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, Frederick Dutton,

KENNEDY | 29



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Milton Stanzler circa 1961

Archival image courtesy of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.



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FROM PAGE 28 **KENNEDY**

sent Senator Keating of New York a long letter acknowledging that Russian synagogues had been closed and Jewish cemeteries desecrated as part of "the long-term Soviet campaign against religion generally," but fretting that the American government could not do much about it.

"It is doubtful if further protestations would be helpful to the Jews in the Soviet Union," the letter concluded.

But that was not the end of the story. Weinstein, as he later recounted in a little-noticed 1985 article for the journal *American Jewish History*, went to Robert Kennedy and succeeded in having a mention of the Soviet closing of synagogues included in President Kennedy's September 1963 speech to the United Nations General Assembly.

Weinstein persuaded the president to have Averell Harriman raise the matter with Khrushchev during Harriman's negotiating mission to Moscow on arms control. And in a White House meeting with

President Kennedy in November 1963, Weinstein, who was soon to take over as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, launched into a plea on the issue.

**"... you really have to concentrate on what I think the Jewish community has done on educating their children."**

"You know, it's getting pretty bad," Weinstein said. "There are murder trials going on. They call them economic trials, but the defendant is always a Jew. He's charged with black market [trading] or something else like that, he's always convicted and executed. They're murder trials, in which the defendant is murdered and not the murderer."

Weinstein told Kennedy that Soviet authorities had closed

the gates, slowing the flow of Jewish refugees out of Russia to a trickle. And he said no American president had intervened with the Russian authorities on behalf of the Jews since President Theodore Roosevelt had protested to Czar Nicholas II after the Kishinev massacre.

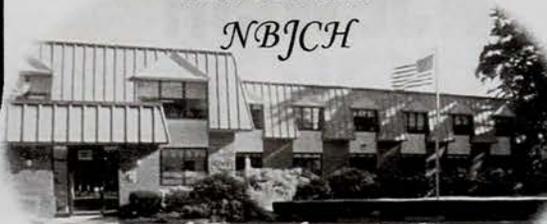
Kennedy replied: "Well, here's one president who's ready to do something."

Kennedy told Weinstein to organize a conference in Washington about the Soviet Jewry issue. The president told Weinstein to schedule the meeting for sometime soon after Kennedy returned from an upcoming political trip to Dallas.

Ira Stoll is the author of "JFK, Conservative," published Oct. 15 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. He was managing editor of the "Forward" and North American editor of "The Jerusalem Post."

Read more: <http://www.jta.org/2013/10/13/news-opinion/opinion/op-ed-jews-have-special-reasons-to-remember-jfk-on-50th-anniversary-of-assassination#ixzz2iBJKPEi0>

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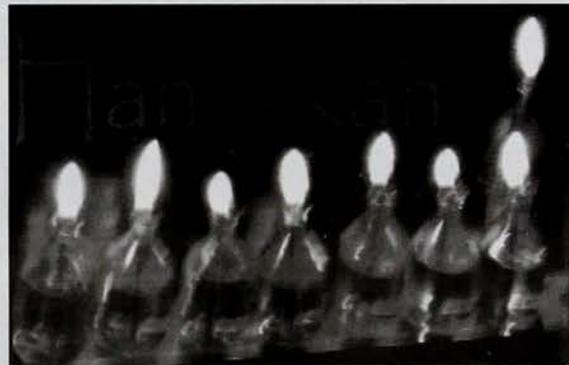


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## Simplify Your Life with moving services

*Valerie Achorn is a transition professional*

### BUSINESS PROFILE

BY IRINA MISSIURO

IMissiuoro@jewishallianceri.org

When you are coming to terms with your elderly parents' sickness or their newly-apparent dependence on caregivers, you shouldn't have to worry about the mundane details an inevitable relocation will involve. If you simply don't have the time or the energy to help your parents with their move to assisted living, you can rely on a professional who can perform this task seamlessly for you. Valerie Achorn is that person, and Simplified Lives, her company, is the service you need.

After helping her parents move twice while her father was suffering from Alzheimer's, Achorn realized how difficult it is for a spouse to go through the ordeal with which her mother was faced. She wanted to specialize in moving seniors by facilitating every step of the thorny process. Her background in special events management – overseeing important, large-scale events for states, universities and cities – prepared Achorn for connecting the dots for clients and staying grounded when faced with circumstances that might prove challenging for others.

An acquaintance with a busy job hired Achorn in 2009 to move her family across the country, saying, "You are the most organized, competent person I have ever met, and, if I ever want somebody to move me, it would be you." Once Achorn aced the

task, the woman's great recommendation led to other jobs, and people started telling Achorn that she should consider starting a business.

Hesitant at first to plunge into such an unusual field, Achorn gained support upon discovering the National Association of Senior Move Managers.

Having moved 35 times in her life, Achorn was a professional mover and packer even before she completed the necessary training, bought insurance and provided references to become the organization's member and be listed on NASMM.org. Once she joined, she says everything fell into place: "It solidified for me – this is what I wanted to do." Having done volunteer work for a council on aging in Massachusetts,

**"I recommend her highly to anyone who is contemplating a move."**

sets, she feels that older people are sometimes treated as if they were invisible. Achorn believes that we don't revere them the way we should, "We don't take the time to figure out what they want or need. I try to have my services focused on them – to go slowly, be thorough and efficient and thoughtfully help with this very big transition."

Achorn works with many out-of-state adult children, siblings who are often scattered throughout the country. Making order out of chaos involves multiple phone conferences and emails. Sometimes, one of the parents has dementia or the

onset of Alzheimer's. Every so often, the house, which she prepares for a ready-to-sell state, is unoccupied because the parents have died. In those instances, the children usually don't even know where to begin. She eases the way during the trying circumstances.

Typically, the process begins with a phone conversation. If someone is thinking about moving and wants help, Achorn offers a free, no-obligation consultation. After she assesses their needs, she helps them get their house ready to go on the market. If someone is thinking of staying in their home and needs to have some necessary work completed to make the stay possible, Achorn is there to do just that. She will oversee various provisions, including the installation of safety items, such as handrails and stairwell chair lifts.

Another major part of her service is helping people sort through a lifetime of possessions – decide what they want to keep, send away to friends and relatives, sell or donate. Often, real estate agents will contact her when their clients feel overwhelmed by having to empty their sold houses to allow the new owners to move in. Working with an online auction company, she completes household sales in a prompt manner. While she acts as the company's referral for Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, Achorn doesn't accept a fee because she wants to stay objective and to keep her clients' best interests at heart.

Ellen Sucov, a recent client, benefitted from Achorn's skill-

ful handling of her move: "In July, when I told Wendy Joering [Community Concierge at the Jewish Alliance of RI] that we were planning to move to Israel, she recommended Valerie Achorn as someone who could help us with the move. Valerie has been a treasure and a blessing. She provided competent skills, splendid intelligence and warm support throughout each phase of our preparations. I recommend her highly to anyone who is contemplating a move."

Additionally, Achorn networks with healthcare providers. Associations of assisted living are a huge referral source for her. Diane Lamontagne, the sales manager at Laurelmead Cooperative on the East Side of Providence, describes Achorn as "a great person and a great help to our residents." Lamontagne shares that Achorn has assisted some Laurelmead residents in their moving process: "She helps with packing, sorting, furniture placement, unpacking and just about anything else her clients need. Simplified Lives is a perfect name – it's what she does – she simplifies lives."

Amy Levine, director of provider and community relations at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, says: "Valerie instills confidence in her clients whom she helps in managing the often daunting tasks associated with moving and with paring down belongings. She exudes class and is very efficient in her work, regardless of the scope and size of the job. ... It is a pleasure to work with her, and she truly



SIMPLIFIEDLIVES

*Helping people sort through a lifetime of possessions is another major part of the service.*

aims to keep things simple and to leave her customers satisfied with the results of downsizing and relocation."

When she first entered the field, Achorn "wasn't sure that this was going to be an entire profession," but now she sees the need for the services she provides, saying, "It makes me happy to see the relief." She often tells her clients to give her their anxiety and let go. They feel free to call her at night and on weekends; after all, she's their "moving advocate," as she describes it.

**For more information:** Contact Valerie Achorn at 401-480-1532 or at Valerie@SimplifiedLives.com.

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## The wrong cup

I met my aunt Stella for the first time when I was a bar mitzvah boy. I mean a young teen-ager. Why? She came down to our cobblestones from Montreal, now that the war was over and travel



A Sketchbook

Mike Fink

bans were lifted. You could take a train or drive on your tires. She brought some records for our new blonde m a h o g a n y player in the knotty pine den (once an open porch). I liked Stella right away. The records were celebrations and translations of Yiddish curses, listing all the misfortunes you might wish on your worst enemies. They were called "kloles."

Now, my mother's sister bore a very slight resemblance to her siblings: the same height and weight, probably, and the complexion and tone. But the look was quite different: Stella stood upright to speak and tell her jokes and anecdotes before the hearth. Her jawline was just a bit jutting. In life, she had always led with her chin. She had married very young, had her son and daughter, left their father and allowed the grandmothers to raise her children – very "modern," in a sense.

She found another husband, with gentle good looks and devotion not only to her, but equally to her boy and her girl. Stella had had two (or three) last names, and even "Stella" was most likely an adaptation of "Hadassah." I believe that Stella was the only truly and literally native Canadian. The rest of the brood of sisters were Rumanian by birth. She brought me Quebec

gifts, sweaters with maple leaf or fleur-de-lys motifs, and such regional items.

So what did I like about my newfound aunt? She treated me as an adult, always, and took my concerns seriously, but lightly, and, mostly, noticed me and noted that I, in turn, noticed her.

"She's a liar and a cheat," her intimates told me, but not really insultingly, believe it or not. I think they actually also admired her coping skills, her pre-feminist independence, her sheer vitality. Oh, now don't judge her quite yet. Fast forward to my college years. Stella liked to pop into New York for shopping sprees, and for smuggling her purchases over the border, often by wearing layers of clothing to sneak them without frontier inspection. If I was visiting Manhattan at any time on an undergraduate weekend jaunt, she met my friends and dates and never forgot the details of those encounters.

And yet, her own son worked on Wall Street and lived in nearby Forest Hills. My cousin had a totally different perception of his mother. He thought she did not take him as seriously/lightly as I had observed. Once more, let's move forward through the years. My mother has passed away. I am visiting Montreal, as a sort of pilgrimage. "I used to hide your mom in the closet or the cellar, so my boyfriends wouldn't prefer her, she was so gentle and gorgeous!" Stella says to me. And then, she takes me to a fashionable men's store and buys me a beautiful blazer that expressed the British traditions, mixed with the French influence, of coast-to-coast Canada. (I have it, and wear it, still.)

Stella received my father as a widower graciously in her apartment home and served her renowned poached eggs at brunch. She was also famous for



Stella

awakening one eye at a time, so this early reception was a notable exception to her customary lifestyle. She predicted he would re-wed ASAP. He never did so, as I had predicted, and I learned that my aunt may have been keenly observant, but not necessarily correct in her interpretations. I guess that was what I so much enjoyed about my mother's sister. She had her own life and soul, her own victories and errors of judgment. Her own flaws and faults, her particular charms and gifts – good and bad fortunes. She enjoyed her time on earth, went to nightclubs and flew, or migrated, to Florida, of course, the Eden of the Jews of up north and over the national border of the Americas.

I asked if I might visit her when I heard of her final illness, but

she turned me down. I should have expected this, given her pride in pleasure, not in pain.

Nevertheless I still keep one slight resentment about her performance in this, our life. It has to do with the headline of this report. The Wrong Cup. You see, my darling mother collected elegant teacups. It was something of a refined Rhode Island custom of browsing among the various Junior League boutiques that presented the leftovers of the great estates from Newport. You middle class newcomers, you can at least make believe that you came here from fabulous backgrounds. Isn't a cup the symbol of life's portion of happiness and nobility, a courteous salute to the concept of "plenty"?

Well, to go back to the land of snow and the scene of the his-

toric and geographic French and British struggles, upon one of the stately occasions when my mother Betty was visiting the landscape of her youth, she admired an elegant teacup on the glass shelves of her youngest sister Stella. Stella said good-heartedly, "Well, it's yours then. I'll wrap it up and give it to you presently ... ." When Betty arrived, whew!, back in Providence, and pulled the strings and ribbons ... she found a different cup and saucer safely but ignobly popping out. She was, unaccountably, deeply disappointed. On some level, this confirmed her girlhood sense that Stella may indeed have been a successful woman of her time, hale and hearty, but she was also an unreliable ally. Does this say as much about my beloved Betty as it does about my enchanting aunt? My mom believing the best, vulnerable to melancholy, when the best became something secondary, not primary. Or my aunt, in one of those endless sibling rivalries saying, without being even aware of the message, that my mother had the authentic devotion of her chosen nuclear family. And that one has to cope as well as hope, to grab and hold onto what you have, at all costs?

Dear *nechama* of Aunt Stella, you're no footstool up above the autumn clouds; you're playing poker, perhaps, but take a moment to forgive me if I'm coming across in an unkindly way. I think of you with admiration and affection, I'm a good nephew, I am, as best as I can be. I play my recordings not of the *kloles* curses but such enchanting ballads as "Stella by Starlight" and picture you, a star in my galaxy – with a touch of puck-like mischief. The wrong cup but still a *gut yur auf dein cup!*

Mike Fink (mfink33@aol.com) teaches at RISD.

## Nation celebrates Hospice month

*Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island Encourages Families to 'Have a Conversation'*

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
anorman@jewishallianceri.org

PROVIDENCE – November marks National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, when hospices across the country raise awareness in their communities about the care and services that hospices can offer to individuals facing a serious illness. Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island (HHCRI) is taking the opportunity to encourage families and individuals to "have a conversation" about the services hospice can provide to a seriously ill loved one.

"Health care is complex. Every situation is different and it's not always clear when it's time for hospice care," said Diana Franchitto, president and CEO of HHCRI. "We want the com-

munity to know that there's help available that brings comfort, love and respect to patients and families coping with serious illness. We offer a multitude of services that can absolutely help individuals and families. Our hope is that families will take the time to have a conversation about serious illness and discuss the services that are available to them."

Hospice and palliative care are different than traditional health care services. HHCRI provides pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support and spiritual care to patients and their families facing the advanced stages of serious illness. A team of dedicated and caring experts – including doctors, nurses, hospice aides, so-

cial workers, chaplains, trained volunteers and grief counselors deliver care in homes, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals and group homes. In addition, HHCRI's Philip Hultar Inpatient Center, the only freestanding inpatient provider of hospice care in Rhode Island, offers a higher level of pain and symptom management than can be achieved at home.

HHCRI's efforts to encourage individuals and families to 'have a conversation' about the help that hospice can provide will be promoted throughout the month in a variety of ways, including advertising in local community papers, through the HHCRI website and through HHCRI's social media platforms on Facebook (Facebook.com/

hhcri) and Twitter (@HHCRI).

"It's important that the public knows, year-round, the full range of services that we provide in the community," added Franchitto. "Yet during November, we ramp up our efforts to raise awareness of the high-quality care that's available to them. Every individual and every family deserves to have quality, compassionate care that helps people maintain their identity, dignity, and freedom from pain and anxiety."

HHCRI offers consultations to patients and their loved ones on a daily basis.

To learn more and to get the information you need to make decisions for yourself or a loved one, call 415-4200 or visit hhcri.org.

**Editor's note:** Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, the major teaching affiliate for hospice and palliative medicine of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, is the largest hospice in Rhode Island and the second oldest in the nation.

For more than three decades, HHCRI has been a leader in hospice and palliative care, compassionately and skillfully providing comprehensive medical, emotional and spiritual care. With a vision to enable patients, their families and loved ones to have a meaningful experience during a difficult time, HHCRI helps people live out their lives with comfort and dignity.

# So look who's talking in Yiddish!

*How Yiddish entered the mainstream*

There are many non-English words, currently held hostage in a purgatory of orphaned words, begging to be admitted to the English vocabulary. But since



**OF SCIENCE & SOCIETY**

STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D.

there are no admissions committees authorized by Washington – or even a friendly rabbinical council – how then may an alien word manage to enter the standard English vocabulary? Should there be, perhaps, formal entrance requirements with a judicial court of language savants then sitting in rigorous judgment? Or, alternatively, can one pay an admission fee?

There exist, of course, those zealous guardians of Truth and Purity who resist any expansion of mother English, particularly if the candidate word does not possess an unqualified Latin or Greek heritage. The origin of the candidate word, perhaps more than its current utility, may sometimes determine whether it will join the ranks of acceptable verbiage. Thus, if the foreign word had once been deemed jargon, cant, gutter-tongue, slang or abusive argot, its admission is not a foregone conclusion. Only the insistent voice of the many will overcome the negative decisions of the rhetorical purists. The acceptance by the anonymous hordes of users keeps English an eminently democratic tongue, eventually satisfying the expressive needs both of the sages and the street-folk.

So, if there is no one official entrance to the domain of acceptable English, what pathways may then be employed to transform, e.g., say an Inner Mongolian term into a word unconditionally inhabiting a standard English dictionary?

**“If the word resonates persistently well after the initial shout, then democracy has prevailed and a new entrant is welcomed into the unabridged dictionaries of the English language.”**

The sole criterion of viability remains the public survival of each candidate word. Imagine now that each such word is shouted into an echo chamber called the marketplace; and if the word resonates persistently, if there are echoes lingering well after the initial shout, then democracy has prevailed and a new entrant is joyously welcomed into the unabridged dictionaries of the English language.

The most evident mechanism to facilitate the transfer of a foreign word into the ranks of English is foreign people moving here. This movement might take the form of an invading army, an immigrant family seeking refuge or even a human surrogate such as a motion picture or some other cultural embassy.

**“The sole criterioum of viability remains the public survival of each candidate word.”**

The millions of Ashkenazi Jews – immigrants principally from Russia, Poland and the Baltic and Balkan communities of Europe – arrived in America during the interval of 1880 to 1910. They settled mainly in the larger cities of the east coast; and, in their zeal to assimilate, they rapidly learned English but not without a lingering touch of the Yiddish language to add emphasis and even nuance to their thoughts.

Use of the mother tongue – whether Italian, Spanish or Yiddish – was one of the last things to be relinquished by the newly-arrived immigrants of that era.



And so, isolated Yiddish nouns and adjectives necessarily intruded into the daily conversations in a variety of industries; and with time they were incorporated into the mainstream vocabulary of the workplace well as in places of public assemblage.

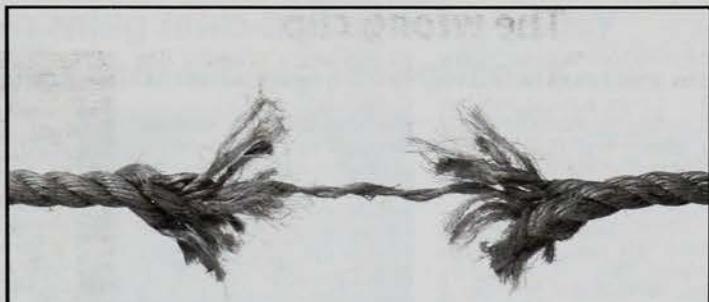
For a multitude of reasons – opportunity, exploitation of old-world skills, ethnic tradition – many immigrant Jews at the turn of the 20th century sought employment in the business of entertaining others. And so, audiences rather than isolated listeners became accustomed to hearing Yiddish words; they were incorporated into monologues and comic routines of the world of entertainment as well as into the daily discourse of the many mercantile businesses, both wholesale and retail.

Eventually, and regardless of their religion, those in the food industry became familiar with alien nouns such as bagel, blintz, kasha, latke and knish.

In general street discourse, such words as *gonif*, *klutz*, *noodge*, *litvak*, *mesh*, *nudnik*, *yenta*, and *golem*; and such endearing or felicitous attributes as *chutzpah*, *haimischkeit* and *kvelling*.

The day has finally arrived when a Texas cowboy, weary after a lengthy horseback ride, might stagger into an Abilene saloon and declare: “I’ve been *shlepping* a load of *bupkis* for days and I’m still *shvitzing*; so give me a cold beer and maybe add a bagel, some lox and a *shmear* of cream cheese.” The bartender would reply without pausing: “Sure thing, *boychik*.”

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., may be reached at [smamd@cox.net](mailto:smamd@cox.net).



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## Yellen's rise to Fed chief gains more attention for gender than faith

BY RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Janet Yellen is soft-spoken, tough, methodological, flexible – and Jewish.

President Obama's announcement last week that he had tapped Yellen, 67, to succeed Ben Bernanke as chairman of the Federal Reserve made news in part because she would be the first woman in the top spot.

That very little was made of her Jewishness likely derives mostly from the fact that she would be not the first or second but at least the fifth Jewish chair of the United States central bank and the third in a row following Bernanke and Alan Greenspan.

For the first Jewish Fed chairman, one has to go back to the 1930s, when the post was assumed by Eugene Meyer, better known, perhaps, as the patriarch of the family who ran the Washington Post for eight decades.

**"Ms. Yellen's policy orientation has proven to be flexible and appropriate to the prevailing economic conditions."**

Yellen's Wikipedia entry lists her as Jewish based on a reference to a 2001 profile of husband George Akerlof, then a Nobel Prize-winning economist at the University of California,



Janet Yellen

Berkeley. The article noted that the couple attended the Reform Congregation Beth El in the northern California city.

Beyond that, Yellen's Jewish connections are not known. It's not clear if she and her husband are attached to any Washington-area synagogue and local Jewish religious leaders are unaware of any affiliation. The lone Jewish organization to note her nomination, the World Jewish Congress, made more of her gender than her faith.

Profiles quoting her classmates at Brown and Yale universities and at Fort Hamilton High School in her native Brooklyn, N.Y., depict her as a soft-spoken nerd.

Her parents were Jewish, but one classmate's memory of her Brooklyn home evokes an upbringing focused on all-Amer-

ican traditions. Her mother, Anna Blumenthal, was a den mother to Cub Scouts, Rich Rubin told Reuters.

Yellen, who in the 1990s chaired President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, went on to become president of San Francisco's Federal Reserve Bank from 2004 to 2010. Obama named her the vice chairwoman of the Federal Reserve in 2010.

News reports about Yellen have focused on her similarities to Bernanke. According to a New York Times profile, Yellen intends to continue and expand his insistence on transparency in how the Fed arrives at its policies, and prizes precision in arriving at formulas to assess interest rates.

Yellen emphasizes unemployment over inflation, and has said she is willing to adjust inflation rates above 2 percent to spur employment.

But some colleagues have noted her past embrace of "hawkish" policies. Peter Hooper of Deutsche Bank wrote in the Economist on Oct. 11 that in the 1990s, as a member of the Fed's Open Market Committee, Yellen pushed to raise interest rates amid low unemployment.

"Ms. Yellen's policy orientation has proven to be flexible and appropriate to the prevailing economic conditions," wrote Hooper, who was a staffer with Yellen on the Fed's Division of International Finance. "I have known her to be a straight shooter, someone whose views are governed by an objective assessment of the data within a reasonable analytical framework."

## FROM PAGE 8 ISLAM

experienced a complete state of peace in that dream. Malik had an epiphany: "What I realized was – when you go towards God, you don't bend the rules to fit you. You have to make those changes within yourself to come close to him so you can be at peace." She confessed that she did receive some negative comments when she started wearing the garment, but had dismissed them because such ridicule is part of normal suffering: "When you accept the teachings of the prophet, you're likely to be mocked and persecuted. You have to withstand that attack and be steadfast in it. Then God says, this person is serious."

I wondered if it ever bothered her to suppress her attractiveness. Malik explained that she still has the opportunity to present herself in the best light to her fellow female community members and to her family – she just can't go out into society looking the same way as she appears in front of her close ones. Summing up, she said, "You don't show the world your adornments."

Malik has plenty of chances to present herself to the women's organization she oversees. Currently, Malik is serving as the national president for *Lajna Ima'illah*, the local women's auxiliary to the Ahmadiyya Muslims. The organization's website states that their pledge includes the promise "to always be ready to sacrifice my life, property, time and children for the cause of the faith and the community." Malik's duties in this organization, whose name she translates as Moidservants of God, consist of overseeing 72 communities throughout the U.S., approving leader elections and supervising activities. Members educate young women and children because they believe that women advance and develop best under the guidance of other women.

She said, "We encourage each other towards proper modesty and spiritual progress."

One of their new annual traditions is giving blood for a month, starting on September 11. Malik explained, "9/11 is a wound on our community because the authors of it were Muslims in the so-called name of Islam, which is, of course, completely wrong. We want to heal that wound." Malik emphasized that Islam is not an aggressive religion: "It's a religion of peace – even the meaning of it is peace."

To illustrate, she told an account of a British journalist who traveled to Afghanistan to get the inside story on the conditions in which the local downtrodden women live. Wearing a shuttlecock burka (only the eyes are uncovered), the journalist went on an exploration. Unfortunately, her poorly hidden camera was discovered and she was captured by the Taliban. Tortured and interrogated, she was able to come out of the horrific ordeal by promising her captives that she would read the Holy Quran. The journalist kept her promise and found that Islam was so supportive of women that she became a Muslim.

Noticing my skeptical look, Malik pointed out that she sees the irony of the situation. She exclaimed, "So why don't they [the Taliban] read the Holy Quran? They're obviously not reading it! Isn't that strange?!" According to Malik, the Taliban people have been indoctrinated. Without thinking about their religion, "they are doing a huge amount of harm to their own people, to women, and to the world." She believes that this presents a really serious problem because "when people have issues with Islam, they really have issues with the political agenda."

Discussing various religions, Malik says that the one common thread among Christianity, Judaism and Islam is Abraham. "He's the founder of prophets, the forefather, and our prayers include him." Another similarity between Islam and Judaism is monotheism. While the two religions share the belief that there is only one God, Muslims believe that all prophets receive revelations from God, who, in turn, supports and protects them. Islam also has a great regard for Moses, who is mentioned 40 times in the Quran. Muslims believe that he and Mohammad led very similar lives: "They both came bringing a law."

Malik invites people to come to the Temple Emanu-El event bringing an open mind and a readiness to ask questions.

**For more information:** contact Miriam Abrams-Stark at Temple Emanu-El, 331-1616.

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**Calvin Goldscheider**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Under-leader Professor Emeritus of Judaic Studies, Brown University

**Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz**, Director, Research and Analysis, Jewish Federations of North America

**Daniel Vaca**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Brown University

#### MODERATOR

**Maud S. Mandel**, Associate Professor of History and Judaic Studies and Director, Program in Judaic Studies, Brown University

Thursday, November 14, 2013

7:30 p.m. | MacMillan 115

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**Frances Ida Ruth (Freeman) Berger, 92**

EAST PROVIDENCE - Frances Ida Ruth (Freeman) Berger died October 16. She was the wife of the late John H. Berger. Born in Portland, Oregon, she was a daughter of the late David and Esther (Finstein) Freeman.

She is survived by her daughters, Nancy Riffle and Wendy Miller and grandchildren, Elana Riffle and Elyse and Michelle Miller. She was the mother of the late Alan Berger and sister of the late Louise Carlin.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the Jewish Elder Care, 100 Niantic Ave., Cranston, RI 02907.

**Myron Bloom, 75**

TAUNTON, Mass. - Myron Bloom died October 24. He was the husband of Dianne (Kauffman) Bloom. He was a son of the late Hyman and Anna (Cohen) Bloom and a lifelong resident of Taunton.

He attended Suffolk University and was the owner of the former Bloom's Butcher Shop in Taunton, retiring in 2004. He was a member of Congregation Agudath Achim and The King David Masonic Lodge.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons, Wayne Bloom and Russell Bloom; his sister, Muriel Goldstein; and his grandchildren, Kevin, Molly, Aidan, Callie, Ellie and Lacey.

Contributions may be made to Congregation Agudath Achim, PO Box 826, Taunton, MA 02780 or to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 455 Brookline Ave, Boston, MA 02215.

**Muriel B. "M" Cohen, 72**

WAKEFIELD - Muriel B "M" Cohen died Oct. 21 at home.

She was a Nationally Certified Counselor and a long-time partner of Delta Consultants of Rhode Island.



Thomas "Pa" Comiskey, sons David and Joseph, daughters Michelle and Jennifer, daughter-in-law Isabel Cohen, sons-in-law Peter Manning and Iain Roberts, grandchildren Mason, Sage, Max, Jacob, Emma and Caleb, and her first husband Stewart Cohen.

Contributions may be made to The Jonnycake Center, 1231 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale, RI 02879

**Shirley Goldenberg, 87**

WARWICK - Shirley Goldenberg died Oct. 26 at St. Elizabeth Home, East Greenwich. She was the wife of the late Irving Goldenberg. Born in Johnston, a daughter of the late Emilio and Susie (Terelli) Ferranti, she had lived in Warwick for eight years, previously living in West Warwick and Providence. She was a receptionist for Capuano Sanitary Landfill for many years, retiring more than 20 years ago.

She was the mother of Janice Maggiacomo and her husband, Philip, of Cranston, Jacob Goldenberg and his wife, Elyse, of Exeter, and Marsha Carbone and her partner, Scott Molloy, of West Kingstown; sister of Celia Ricci of Cranston and the late Salvatore Ferranti; grandmother of Lacey, Shana, Daniel, Michael, Sara and Robbi; great grandmother of Jason, Ava, Sophia, Lilianna, Caleb, Jenna and Bella.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association

of Rhode Island, 245 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

**Irma (Malley) Gross, 91**

PROVIDENCE - Irma (Malley) Gross, died on November 5. Born in Hartford, Conn., the daughter of the late Solomon and Dora (Shapiro) Malley, she moved to Providence in 1946.

She attended Smith College and Tobe-Coburn School for Fashion Careers and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University in 1985. She was an active volunteer and recognized leader in organizations that included Mount Hope Day Care Center, Inspiring Minds (Lippitt Hill Tutorial), National Council of Jewish Women, INSIGHT Radio and Temple Beth-El (Minyan).

She was the wife of the late Herman Gross and the mother of Rosalie Gross Fox of Dorset, Vt., Joanna Beth Seere of Warwick, N.Y., Emily Van Cleve of Santa Fe, N.M. and Lauren Gross of Potomac, Md. She leaves sons-in-law, Lee Fox, Ray Van Cleve, and Hal Segall; grandchildren Daniel Fox, Ned Fox, Hilary Fox, Jeremy Van Cleve, Eli Van Cleve, Deanna Segall and Hayley Segall; and brother Alvin Malley.

The funeral will be held on Friday, November 8, at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Burial at Swan Point Cemetery. Shiva will be observed at her late residence, Sat. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Sun. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Contributions may be made to one of her favorite organizations.

**Gertrude Hak, 98**

PROVIDENCE - Gertrude Hak of EPOCH on Blackstone Blvd., died November 2. She was the wife of the late Philip Hak. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Harry and Ida (Goldstein) Goldberg, she had lived in Pawtucket most of her life before moving to Providence six years ago.

Gertrude was a teacher in the Pawtucket school system, a member of Temple Emanu-El and a life member of Hadassah. She was the mother of the late Kenneth Hak; sister of the late William Goldberg, Anne Goldfine, Evelyn Mellion and Myrtle Silverman; grandmother of Rachel Goodman. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

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

**Mildred (Landy) Shusman, 91**

PROVIDENCE - Mildred (Landy) Shusman died October 29. She was the wife of the late Tevis Shusman. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Nathan and Sadie (Golden) Landy, she had lived in Massachusetts for many years before moving to Virginia in 2008.

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in portraiture, she was a former docent at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts and the GWV Smith Art Museum, both in Springfield, Mass. She was a former member of Kodimoh Synagogue and Sinai Temple, both in Springfield.

She is survived by her children, Joel Shusman and his wife Melody, and Deborah Anne Snyder and her husband Jeffrey; her brother Allan Landy; her granddaughter Rachel Gleesing; and her great-granddaughter Lyla Gleesing. She was the sister of the late Annette Halpern and Loretta Penn.

Contributions can be made to Lewy Body Dementia Assoc., 912 Killian Hill Road. S.W., Lilburn, GA 30047.

**HealthSource RI new metrics**

PROVIDENCE - HealthSource RI, Rhode Island's health benefits exchange, has released certain metrics from its fifth week of operation, Sunday, Oct. 27, through Saturday, Nov. 2:

- Contact Center calls:** 3,508
- Contact Center walk-ins:** 558
- Unique Website visits:** 11,825
- Total Website visits:** 13,778
- Accounts Created:** 1,922
- Completed and Processed Applications:** 880

Coverage for all plans begins on January 1, 2014.

Since open enrollment began on Oct. 1, HealthSource RI has reported:

- Contact Center calls:** 18,977
- Contact Center walk-ins:** 1,798
- Unique Website visits:** 101,135
- Total Website visits:** 119,352
- Accounts Created:** 11,609
- Completed and Processed Applications:** 4,642

HealthSource RI reports volume totals for Contact Center calls and walk-ins, as well as Website visits, accounts created, and completed and processed applications, for the prior week on a weekly basis. Monthly enrollment data reporting is expected to begin during the second week in November.

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FROM PAGE 1 **RISCC**

Reverend Marie Carpenter set the tone for the event – “Everyone can make a difference” – by relating the story of the starfish:

“An elderly beachcomber came across a multitude of beached starfish dying in the sun and began throwing them back into the water. A young jogger came upon the scene and challenged the older man, ‘Why are you throwing them back into the water? There are thousands of them – what difference can that possibly make?’ At that, the elderly man picked up another starfish, tossed it back into the sea and said, ‘It makes all the difference to that one.’”

“We are all just individuals,” said Carpenter, “but we can all make a difference in other people’s lives.” She then went on to introduce the Heroes of Faith and the Partners of Faith as individuals who selflessly “lent their lives helping one person, one group, one organization at a time ... we are blessed to have them all in one room ... the energy and the spirit in this room today is truly amazing.”

The Jewish Alliance delegation included Board Chair Sharon Gaines; President and CEO Jeffrey Savit; Senior Vice President Minna Ellison; Community Relations Council Director (CRC) Marty Cooper; Maxine Richman, of the Rhode Island Interfaith Steering Committee, as well as Rabbi Emeritus Jim Rosenberg of Temple Habonim, Rabbi Marc

Mandel of Touro Synagogue and Rabbi Andrew Klein of Temple Habonim and his husband Andy Mastoon, and a reporter from the Jewish Voice.

Reverend Don Anderson began distributing the Heroes of Faith Awards. The first George Dickson Kenney Stewardship Award was presented posthumously to Kenney’s family in his behalf. Hébert W. Bolles posthumously received the lifetime achievement award named for him and Dr. Marian Styles-McClintock also received a Bolles Lifetime Achievement Award.

Swami Yogatmananda was recognized as the Interfaith awardee and the Community and Faith Service Awards were presented to Kathleen M. McKeon and Kathleen Taylor. Susan Adler and Linda Katz were recognized as previous recipients of that award. During Rev. Anderson’s acknowledgement of Kathleen Taylor, the West Valley Inn’s intercom blared to one of the venue’s catering managers, “Shorty, the bread is here!” The Reverend, with timing worthy of a Borscht Belt comic, delivered the well-received punchline, “The bread is here, but is the wine?”

The 2013 Faith Leader of the Year, Rabbi Amy Levin of Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich, President of the Greater Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, was introduced and praised by Anderson, her long-



Rev. Don Anderson, Rabbi Amy Levin, Rev. Betsy Garland

PHOTOS | ARTHUR C. NORMAN



Jewish Alliance Board Chair Sharon Gaines, Alliance President and CEO Jeffrey Savit and Providence Mayor Angel Taveras shared some pre-event pleasantries.

AWARDS | 37



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FROM PAGE 36 **AWARDS**

time friend and co-traveler to Israel – along with Iman Farid Ansari. (See “It’s no joke: A rabbi, a minister and an imam travel together to Israel” The Jewish Voice, April 26, 2013.)

RISCC’s formal introduction of Rabbi Levin read, in part, “Not only is Rabbi Levin interested in supporting rabbis and faith communities in envisioning and achieving goals, she is a founding member of Voices of Faith where she has been collaborating with Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, and other clergy to establish a new interfaith organization. Rabbi Levin has served congregations in the United States and Israel and works to bring these communities together. She has been an instructor of Talmud and Jewish Law in Jerusalem and is widely respected as a member of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards in the Rabbinical Assembly. She is also on the cutting edge of using technology as a tool for community building, education, and communication.”

Rabbi Levin’s humble acceptance remarks exemplified the sports adage that “there is no ‘I’ in team” and to those who know the rabbi were not surprised that she credited other individuals, groups and organizations for the fine work they do that makes her work so meaningful. (The complete text of Rabbi Levin’s remarks

can be found on page 39.)

Maxine Richman, the first Interfaith Hero awardee in 2010 and a member of the Interfaith Coalition Steering Committee, said of Rabbi Levin, “Rabbi Levin is an integral part of the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty. We are so proud that she has been chosen Faith Leader of the Year by the RISCC. We celebrate her extraordinary accomplishments of bringing people of other faiths together to foster better understanding of each other.”

“Rabbi Levin exemplifies the spirit of the Hero of Faith Award,” offered Marty Cooper, CRC director for the Jewish Alliance. “The rabbi’s hard work and dedication on the numerous committees she participates in is an excellent example of how to bring our communities together.”

Rabbi Andrew Klein was one of several Partners in Faith award winners. Klein’s award was sponsored by the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty; the RISCC’s introduction informed the gathered guests that “Since Rabbi Klein came to Temple Habonim in Barrington six and one-half years ago, he has made fostering interfaith relations a significant part of his pulpit ... Last June at Temple Habonim, Rabbi Klein welcomed The Prism of Praise



Rev. Don Anderson, Maxine Richman, Rabbi Andrew Klein, Rev. Betsy Garland

ARTHUR C. NORMAN

Community Gospel Choir, a multicultural, ethnically diverse Christian choir and the Temple’s Ruach Singers for an evening of interfaith harmony. Rabbi Klein is currently the president of the Barrington Interfaith Clergy Association.”

Although Rabbi Klein did not address the assemblage at the ceremony, he offered these comments to The Jewish Voice: “I feel honored and humbled to be receiving this award. I don’t believe there is anything more important than helping people learn to

appreciate the similarities we all share and respect the differences between us. Dr. Kristen Standahl called upon all of us to engender a healthy ‘holy envy’ for what we admire in one another’s traditions. I believe that’s an ideal for us all to strive to attain.”

Jewish Alliance President and CEO spoke for our entire community when he saluted

both rabbis. “Mazal tov to both Rabbi Levin and Rabbi Klein for receiving these lovely, important, well-deserved honors. Both Amy and Andy shine brightly upon their respective synagogues and, quite simply, upon our entire Rhode Island Jewish community. They are, indeed, ‘Heroes’ to us all.”

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FROM PAGE 37 **REMARKS****The complete text of Rabbi Amy Levin's remarks upon receiving the 2013 Faith Leader of the Year Award by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches:**

When I was a little girl in East Orange, New Jersey, I was often chased home by kids [from] a local parochial school chased me through the alleys in our neighborhood and called me "dirty Jew." When I was a young mother living in Jerusalem, I had rocks thrown at me from the Arab village across the road as I parked my car one night early on in the intifada years. I was not a promising candidate for interfaith leadership. The proximity of Christians and Muslims was more threatening than reassuring.

Jews engaged in the study of the Torah and rabbinic literature don't sit in concentrated isolation in a library – we sit across the table from a chaver, from a study partner, and we examine, debate, argue, pos-

tulate, explore – the premise is that two heads are better than one. The premise is that one person, no matter how brilliant, just cannot bring out all the depth of meaning of a text alone. We each need a study partner to challenge us, teach us, show us paths we'd never be able to discover on our own.

Indeed, the premise is that where two people come together to study Torah, the shechinah, God's most imminent nurturing presence, draws even nearer.

I can tell you that the collaborative effort I have engaged in with Reverend Don Anderson, Imam Farid Ansari, Reverend Betsy Garland and so many other inspiring faith leaders in our state has been a journey of exploration, personal growth that has led to spiritual fulfillment. I have learned from and been inspired by my chaverim, my partners. These people have shown me paths I never would have discovered on my own.

The actions for which I am being honored this morning mean a tremendous amount to me and I am proud to be standing before you as the recipient of this year's Rhode Island State Council of Churches Faith Leader of the Year Award. Reverend Mercedes and Bishop Wolf and



ARTHUR C. NORMAN

Reverend Balark, whose ranks I join today, the previous recipients of this award, are each visionary and inspired leaders. The leadership of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches has taken an extraordinary step by bestowing this most respected award on a churchless rabbi. Members of my terrific – and patient – congregation, Temple Torat Yisrael of East Greenwich, are here today to support me and to express our

congregation's appreciation for this recognition.

There is another whole delegation of leaders from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island who are also here in support and appreciation – the significance of this award is not lost on any of us – and is, indeed, treasured by all of us. None of my actions, none of my achievements have been attained by sitting in concentrated isolation in my study – trying to build

bridges between faith communities in a unilateral process is like clapping with one hand. It can't be done.

Getting an award for the work I've done with my partners in faiths makes me a little nervous – because somehow the bestowing of an award feels like a summing up. But I don't feel done with any of this; we have way too many more journeys to take together. There are still so many mistaken assumptions waiting to be blasted, so many barriers of wariness to lower, so many infinitely rich bridges of trust to build.

The conviction that real faith creates a safe space for mutual respect and reciprocal learning fuels this journey. I first sat down at those tentative breakfasts with Reverend Anderson and Imam Ansari in the hope that we might demonstrate in some small way that real faith fosters peace. We've achieved much more than I had ever hoped with my chaverim, my partners in faith. When we come together to live the principles of all our faiths, the shechinah, God's most imminent, nurturing presence, draws near and blesses our joint enterprise. Let's keep that shechinah very busy!

FROM PAGE 26 **AUTHOR**

**Q.** Love the recent titles: "The Kommandant's Girl," "The Diplomat's Wife" and "The Ambassador's Daughter" Are you going to keep going with this pattern? What's up next?

**A.** "The Kommandant's Girl"

was my first book, then "The Diplomat's Wife" and we made the most recent one, "The Ambassador's Daughter," similar because they are part of a series. Titles are always a complicated mix of what I come up with, alternatives the publisher

may like and reaction by bookstores and others in the business. I have two publications coming out next year. The first is the "Grand Central" anthology in July and I'm beyond excited about that. My next novel will be out in September – it's called "The Winter Guest" and it is the story of twin Polish sisters

who are struggling to raise their three younger siblings during the war. One of the sisters finds a downed American paratrooper wounded in the woods. It is a book that goes very much to the heart of the war and will appeal to readers who liked "The Kommandant's Girl."

**Q.** I am always interested in the research for a novel – mostly field research. What was the process for "The Ambassador's Daughter"?

**A.** Research varies for each book. For "The Kommandant's Girl," I'd just come back from years of living in Poland so it was somewhat instinctive. For "The Ambassador's Daughter," I had written my masters thesis at Cambridge on the Paris Peace Conference so I loved the era, but the research was harder – combination of books, Internet, maps, periodicals, photos, etc. There are always mistakes no matter how hard I try and always readers ready to tell me about them!

The Pam Jenoff presentation is Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 7:00 p.m. at Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown St., Seekonk, Mass., and follows the Lion of Judah dinner at 5:00 p.m. It is free with a minimum donation of \$118 to the Jewish Alliance, or \$54 for first-time donors. Desert reception and book signing to follow the presentation.

For more information, contact Danielle Germanowski at 421-4111, ext. 109.

Robin Kall Homonoff hosted Reading With Robin on WHJJ 920 AM for just over ten years. She is currently hosting author events around the state as well as keeping up with all book related events on her blog [www.robin kall.com](http://www.robin kall.com).

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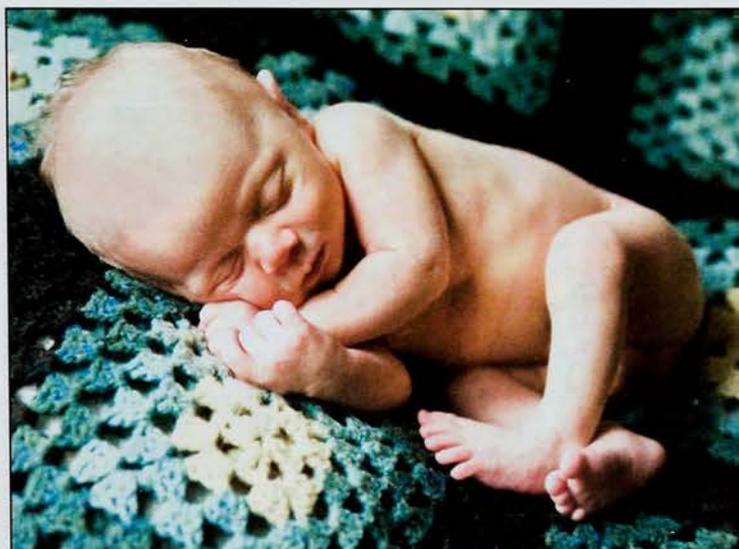
- Dr. Todd Handel

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**BIRTH** – BOULDER, Colo. – Nancy and Terry Fitzgerald announce the birth of their son, Asher on Sept. 29. He is the grandson of Karen and Ira Asher of West Kingston.



Sabrina Brotons

**HOMECOMING QUEEN**

**KINGSTON** – Sabrina Brotons hails from The Bronx, N.Y.; she is a senior at URI studying public relations and political science. She's been involved in URI Hillel since freshman year and is now Co-President with Lily Nieto. Sabrina has helped plan numerous educational activities that focus on Jewish identity and culture, including last year's Holocaust Remembrance Week.

Asked about being named URI Homecoming Queen this year, she said, "Coming to URI from a small Jewish day school with a graduating class of 50 students, I never thought Homecoming Courts existed."

While honored to be named Queen, Sabrina added, "I'm even happier to represent URI Hillel and the Jewish community."



Mel and Pat (holding Jewish Voice) Blake, Bernice and Dick Kumins at the Holocaust Memorial in Odessa, Ukraine. An expanded article of their Viking River Cruise, "Footsteps of the Cossacks," along the Dnieper River from Odessa to Kiev will appear in the November 22 issue of *The Jewish Voice*.

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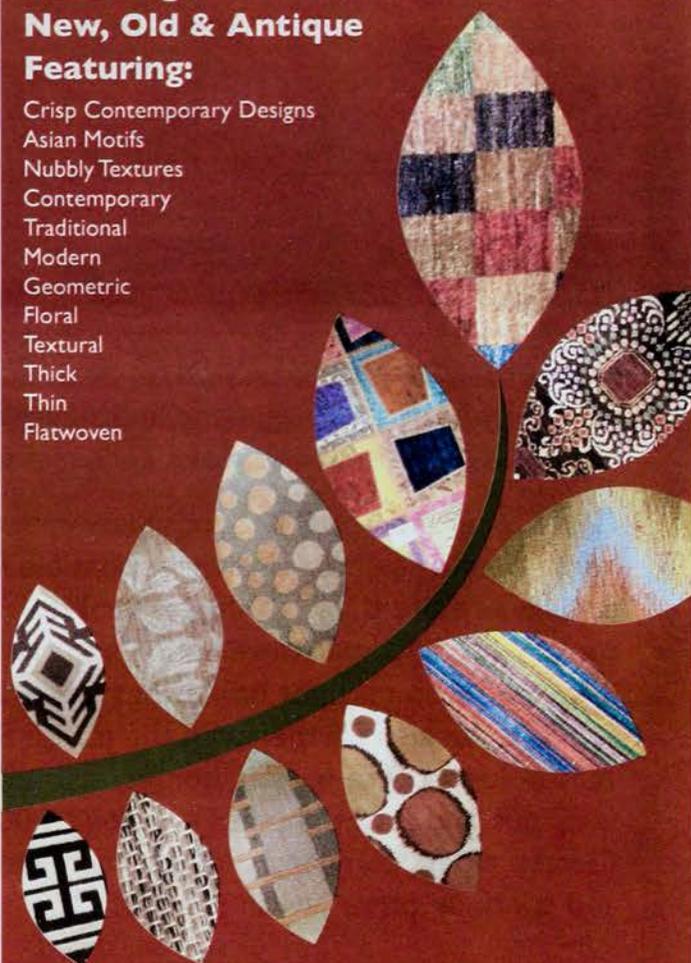
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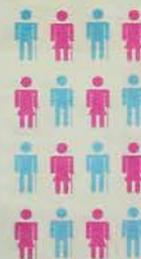
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*offering critical  
social support  
to those that  
need it most*



*more than 160  
people received  
food and a sense  
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*with your help,  
we can do more.*