

# the JEWISH VOICE

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 Serving Rhode Island and  
 Southeastern Massachusetts  
 3 Tevet 5774 | December 6, 2013



Sharon Gaines, left, Amanda Isenberg and Jeff Padwa, event co-chairs, and Susan Leach DeBlasio

## Sunday proves to be super, thanks to Rhode Islanders answering the call

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN

PROVIDENCE – The phenomenon of “Thanksgivikkah” has come and gone but was not lost at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island on November 24 for Super Sunday.

Rhode Island answered the call to help ensure a strong Jewish future. More than 75 volunteers gathered to raise \$121,224 to propel the 2014 Annual Campaign past the \$2 million mark. The volunteers thanked donors for their past support and were able to reach out, engage

and bring many more people into the community. With the Thanksgiving and Hanukkah overlap, the community was reminded to give back, thus creating a communal atmosphere.

The day began with a busy morning, as many volunteers showed up representing many of the agencies and synagogues in the community. Babysitting was available all day and children’s activities kept families busy. Continuing the annual tradition, religious school and

SUPER | 16, 17

## Netanyahu: Deal with Iran a ‘historic mistake,’ Israel not bound by it

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling an interim deal with Iran on its nuclear program a “historic mistake,” said Israel “has the right and the obligation to defend itself by itself against any threat.”

“What was agreed to last night (Nov. 24) in Geneva is not a historic agreement, it is a historic mistake,” Netanyahu said Sunday at the beginning of the regular Cabinet meeting, several hours

after the agreement was announced. “Today the world has become much more dangerous because the most dangerous regime in the world took a significant step to getting the most dangerous weapon in the world.”

President Obama was reportedly scheduled to call Netanyahu on Sunday to discuss the deal, under which Iran will freeze some nuclear activity in exchange for some



**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**  
Israel's Prime Minister

MISTAKE | 28

## Women celebrate the power of Jewish philanthropy

Women’s Alliance speaker, Pam Jenoff, draws a crowd at Ledgemont

BY TRINE LUSTIG

There was palpable energy in the room when international best-selling author, Pam Jenoff, spoke to more than 100 women at the Women’s Alliance Campaign Celebration on November 20 at Ledgemont Country Club. Lezli Pious, event chair, said, “the Women’s Alliance is a place for women of all ages and all walks of life to come together through the bond of philanthropy. It is exciting to socialize with people who share the same values. Tonight we celebrate the power of women in our community.”

Before the main presentation, Wendy Joering, Community Concierge for the Jewish Alliance, spoke about her experience helping Jews in the community who have nowhere else to turn. She read a letter from a 70-year-old woman who is a child of Holocaust survivors, has health issues and is out of work. She is behind on her bills and writes how her situation is new for her. She receives food from the Kosher food pantry but feels disconnected from the Jewish community and looks to the Jewish



ALISA KOTLER-BERKOWITZ  
Speaker Pam Jenoff

WOMEN | 14

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**FIRST PERSON**

**Biking across America with a purpose**

*Hazon spreads word of healthy clean, green living*

**BY ILAN LEVINE**

Special to The Jewish Voice

In a car, you see the world but you aren't touching it. When it rains, you roll up your windows and flick on the wipers. When it is too cold or too hot, you turn on the seat warmer or use the AC. When the speed limit drops because of a small town, you groan, and when you're bored, you turn on the radio. Driving is typical.

But no day was typical on my cross-country bike tour; every day was drastically different. The weather, the road, the people, the elevation and topography were always chang-

ing around me and I felt everything. I felt the rain when it hit me in the face. I smelled the gasoline when I biked on the interstate in Montana and I smelled the fresh cow manure when I biked through farms. I met a Jewish man in his 50s who, with the happiest smile on his face, told me that he had his bar mitzvah just last year. And I also met a man who thought Washington, D.C., was a fictional place on television. I hurt when I peddled up the Cascades and the Rockies and felt relieved when the speed limit dropped for a small town. Some days

were painful and some days were relaxing, but everyday was rewarding. I experienced my surroundings every inch of the way.

**"We ... did not only tackle mountains - we tackled world problems"**

This past summer, I spent nine weeks on the bike. I traveled through 14 states - over 3,500 miles - and averaged about 67 miles a day. However, this was by no means a solo

trip. Seven other cross-country riders and I biked with Hazon. Hazon is the largest Jewish environmental organization in North America. We biked to promote alternative transportation and to promote healthy eating habits with natural foods. We spent nine weeks building up a little community and sharing it with everyone we met. We, as a small pluralistic Jewish community, did not only tackle mountains - we tackled world problems.

On this Jewish bike trip

**BIKING | 12**

**THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE**  
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## A Wider Bridge

LGBTQ Jews visit Israel

BY ARTHUR SLEPIAN  
Special to The Jewish Voice

Just a few weeks ago, 22 LGBTQ Jews from around the world, current and future community leaders, joined A Wider Bridge on our third annual LGBTQ journey to Israel, and these were among the many powerful words participants used to describe the experience.

Our group was young, yet inter-generational and global. One participant, Enzi, from Minneapolis, said, "I didn't come on the trip expecting to fall in love with Israel, but I did." Our diversity was enriched by our transgender participants and by Jews from all streams of Jewish practice and observance.

We traveled to the desert, climbed Masada, and swam in the Dead Sea. We explored the boulevards of Tel Aviv, learning the history of the city that gave birth to the modern state of Israel. We traveled to a kibbutz in the far northern reaches of the country, and ended in Jerusalem, where we walked the narrow streets of the Old City and we prayed, danced, sang and cried at the Western Wall.

All along this 10-day trip, participants got to see first-hand the diversity and richness of LGBTQ life in Israel. We met



with LGBTQ political leaders, and with the leaders of the most prominent LGBTQ organizations in the country, focused on areas such as LGBT rights, education, social services, transgender empowerment, teens and parents, religious acceptance and culture.

We had an evening with LGBTQ musical performers, and an evening of short films, meeting with up and coming LGBT film directors. We had a book reading with a leading gay Is-

raeli author, and we experienced the fun LGBT nightlife of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We met with many young, out and proud LGBT community members, and we met Mordechai and Ariel, two men in their 80s, who have been living together as partners in Jerusalem for 55 years. One message was clear throughout the trip: there is a place for us in Israel, and we can help to make a difference.

Together, we created community. We told each other our sto-

ries, discussed our experiences and formed bonds of friendship that still connect us. If there was a common theme in our stories, it was a desire to be whole, to be our queer selves and our Jewish selves together, with pride in all of it. And a sense of great joy that we could find a taste of this wholeness in Israel, our people's homeland, with a new community of friends.

I think three years qualify this trip as a tradition and we hope many of you will join us in

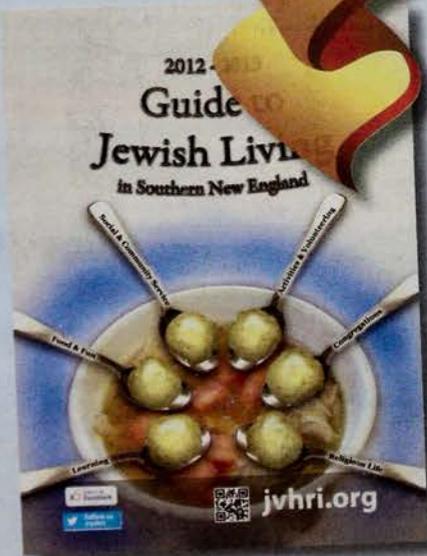
2014. Dates and details coming soon!

As Hanukkah approaches, A Wider Bridge rededicates itself to the work of bringing LGBT Jews closer to Israel, and bringing our global LGBTQ Jewish communities closer together. May the lights of the season illuminate our path.

Arthur Slepian (arthur@awiderbridge.org) is Executive Director of A Wider Bridge.

## NEW PUBLICATION DATE

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# Jews and the Philippines

*Disaster relief is latest chapter*

BY LEE KOSSIN

Special to The Jewish Voice

Much of Tacloban on Leyte Island in the Philippines was destroyed when it was hit by Typhoon Haiyan in early November. The death toll will probably never be exactly known but it is now more than 6,000 with another 23,000 people injured. The worldwide response has already been tremendous but, of course, more is needed.

Israel, as it always does when a disaster strikes somewhere in the world, has sent a team from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to evaluate the situation. They have set up a field hospital staffed by officer physicians. Magen David Adom is also working with the International Red Cross in offering help in the stricken country.

Of course, as humans, we are always moved to help those struck by disaster. Jewish values of *tikkun olam* inspire us in particular to respond to disaster of this type. Furthermore, the role the Philippines played in saving Jews during



The IDF selected Bogo, a small village on the northern island of Mactan in the Philippines, to establish its emergency response center. Bogo was hard hit by the devastation but it hadn't attracted as much attention as other towns.

cape to Manila."

The refugees from the Holocaust joined a community that began in 1870 when three brothers escaping the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian war settled there. Over time, there was a multi-ethnic Jewish population of about fifty when the Americans took over the Islands and the population grew to about 500.

The first wave of Jewish war immigrants actually arrived from Shanghai after the Japanese took control of China. Those thirty families were joined by the 1,300 refugees from Europe between 1937 and 1941. The Japanese entered Manila in 1941 and interned all "enemy alien" civilians. Ironically, the Japanese did not distinguish between German Jews and non-Jews so those refugees were not interned while the American Jews who lived in the Philippines and had worked to save the European Jews were interned. Since the war, many of the Jews have left the Philippines and the current Jewish population is a community of 500 people.

This group has recently been joined by Philip Goldberg, who is the latest American Ambassa-

sador to the Philippines. His confirmation was accelerated so that the United States could have an Ambassador there to



Ambassador to the Philippines, Phillip Goldberg

deal with American assistance (The last ambassador ended his post on Oct. 16.)

The Philippine/Jewish connection can be honored by donating to disaster relief at [urj.org](http://urj.org).

Lee Kossin ([lkossin@yahoo.com](mailto:lkossin@yahoo.com)) is an artist residing in Providence.

Editor's note: See companion article on page 18.



the Holocaust is often forgotten, or generally unknown.

A documentary called "Rescue in the Philippines: Refugee from the Holocaust" was shown last April on many PBS channels. It is the story of more than 1,300 Jews who were saved by immigrating to the Philippines with the aid of the country's first president Manuel Quezon. (Quezon actually allowed for the emigration of 10,000 Jews, but events stopped the realization of that number). Filipinos and Quezon are honored by a monument located in Rishon Lezion Memorial Park just outside Tel Aviv. You can read about the Jews escape and resettlement in Frank Ephraim's book "Es-

It is important to me to support The Jewish Voice & Herald. I think this is an extraordinary paper. I look forward to every issue. It's full of interesting articles and surprises!

Ken Schoen of Schoen Books  
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## Battle of the Bravest

*A focus on a fighter*

BY HUNTER MILLER

Special to The Jewish Voice

HARTFORD, Conn. – All people face hardships in life; whether it's getting a bad grade on a test, fighting with a close friend, or even having the pizza man put too much pepperoni on the pizza. To a hero, these problems don't count as hardships. An example of a true hardship for a hero is something much more serious, dangerous, scary and threatening. One of the greatest, of course, is cancer.

Sadly, when many people hear the word cancer, they associate it with death. Sadly yes, people do pass away from this evil, dangerous disease, but just as many people fight and fight every day to live and be able to tell their grandchildren, "I survived." A hero knows that no task sent to him/her will be easy. That is why through all of the vomiting, depression, curiosity of why such a terrible thing has happened to them, they fight through.

Heroes don't give up because they know that each time they walk into that hospital room or one more piece of hair falls out in the shower it is one step closer to survival.

Noises can be a great thing: at the beach, hearing the ice cream truck or a favorite song.

### FIRST PERSON

Or noises can be the indicator that your whole entire world is going to be flipped upside down. You always see kids getting upset after a low score on a quiz, but that is truly nothing to be shocked at or angry about, compared to when the noise heard by you was a diagnosis of one of the deadliest, scariest diseases known to man with no official cure. Hearing the phone ring with the doctor on the other end with the results can be an

**"As a hero, it is important to remember other people have it worse."**

example of a noise that will turn your world upside down and make your world go dark in horror and shock.

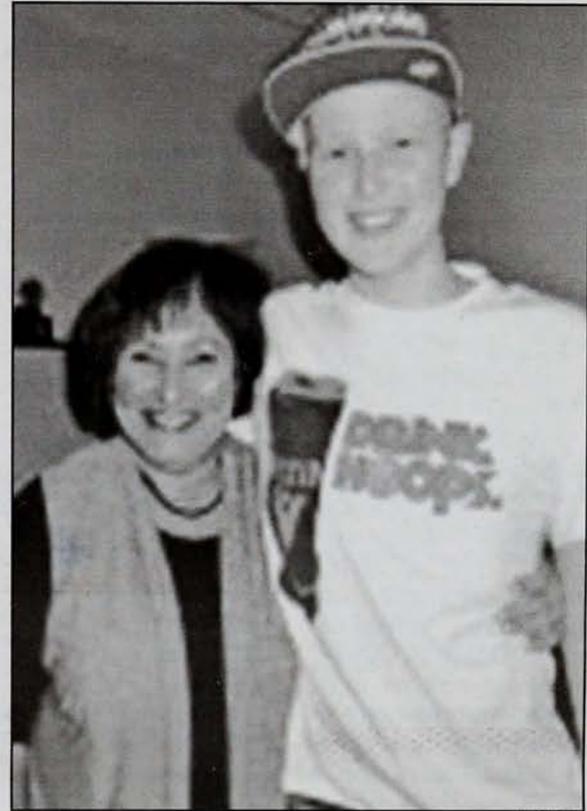
Although at first, shock and anger are usually what hits your body full speed, like a cannonball, you gain strength through the fear and grow determination to fight, because losing is not an option.

Being diagnosed with can-

cer can feel like the end of the world. As a hero, it is important to remember that other people have it worse. As a hero, you need to help people facing the same battle as you because they are, most likely, just as frightened or angry. By simply telling them that everything is going to be okay, they will look up to you as a true hero since you helped them during such a difficult, heart wrenching time.

Cancer, being such a scary thing in life, affects so many people, making their lives one big fight for survival or, in other words, one big hardship. It is not only the person with cancer who is being a hero by fighting for his/her life, but it is also a hardship for those around the person, giving the support that is so needed. With all of this being said, deep down, everyone has the ability to be a hero – it's just up to each one to stand up, be brave, fight, support and show it.

**Editor's note:** Hunter Miller, 14, is a student of Ann Koenig's at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut. He recently completed his last round of in-patient treatment at the Hospital, and is looking forward to spending time with family and friends.



Ann Koenig and Hunter Miller

ANN KOENIG

## Kosher Food Pantry is here to help

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN

anorman@jewishallianceci.org

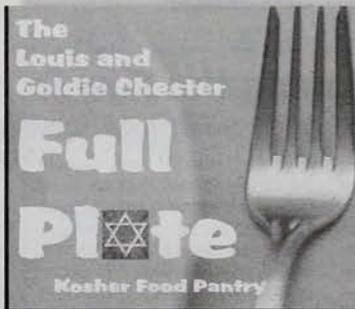
PROVIDENCE – One of the areas of concern for providers of assistance is that people in the community who are truly in need are still ashamed to ask for help. If you know of any members of the community, especially shut-ins, who need food, the Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry can deliver the food, which might make it easier for those requiring assistance.

The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dedicated teams of volunteers shop for and package the food, clean the storage shelves, and deliver bags of food to those in need but are unable to get to the Kosher food bank by themselves. Volunteers also work in the pantry to directly assist walk-ins with supplies or additional services.

Through their strong association with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSARI) sponsored an 8-week cooking class series that focused on nutritional meal prepara-

tion. Pantry clients who participated learned the food pyramid



as well as the nutritional values and daily allowances of the food

they receive from the pantry. They were also taught how to make specific meals using items from the pantry.

The pantry regularly collaborates with synagogues throughout Rhode Island for annual food drives, particularly during the High Holy Days and many maintain food collection boxes and collect canned goods for them all year. JSARI has also established a partnership with Ferri Middle School in Johnston. In 2012, students collected canned tuna fish for the Kosher food

pantry to encourage protein intake. This school year, they are collecting oatmeal. Students become invested in the pantry and the work they do through ongoing conversations and field trips to the pantry to encourage volunteer work, service learning projects and the importance of giving back.

**The Chester Pantry** is a partner agency with the Jewish Alliance. They are located at Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, 100 Niantic Avenue, Providence. Contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org for further information.

## the JEWISH VOICE

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## The Jewish Voice Readership Survey

### Objectives:

We've put together a five-minute survey to learn more about how people read The Jewish Voice. We'll close the survey on December 15, 2013.

This survey will help us understand:

- The demographics of The Jewish Voice readership
- How frequently the publication is read
- Your preferred format for reading The Jewish Voice

### Survey:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey. Individual survey answers will be tabulated and no individual information or household data will be disclosed. Please do not complete the survey more than once. In addition to appearing here in the paper, the survey is also available online.

Go to [www.jewishallianceri.org](http://www.jewishallianceri.org) or [www.jvhri.org](http://www.jvhri.org) and click on the "The Jewish

Voice survey link". It is also available on the Alliance Facebook Page and GrapeVine. If you fill it out in print, please return it to:

### Gail Putnam

Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

If you are filling out the survey in print, please begin here! If you need more space, please complete your answers legibly on an attached piece of paper.

Thank you.

### 1. Gender

- Male  
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### 2. Age

- Under 25  
 25-34  
 35-44  
 45-54  
 55-64  
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### 3. What is your zip code?

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 We are read

### 7. What topics would you like to see MORE coverage of? Please specify:

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### 8. How often would you like to see The Jewish Voice published?

- Every two weeks  
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### 9. How would you rate the value of The Jewish Voice as a resource to you?

- Very valuable  
 Valuable  
 Not valuable  
 Unsure

### 10. What other web/social media outlets do you use/follow for community events and news?

- Synagogue communications  
 Jewish agency websites  
 GrapeVine  
 Facebook  
 Twitter  
 Other

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

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## Overdoing the Pew Report?

*Brown Academics Emphasize the Survey's Limitations*

BY JOHN LANDRY

"Is the Sky Falling?" was the title of a panel discussion at Brown University on the findings of the recent Pew Research Center survey of U.S. Jews. The findings have generated enormous attention in the media in recent weeks. But the four academics who presented on November 14 found a bit of Chicken Little in the question.

Part of the problem is that, as Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island President and CEO Jeffrey Savit pointed out in the last issue of "The Jewish Voice," the report largely affirms what smaller surveys have already seen. But Calvin Goldscheider, a retired sociologist long prominent in Jewish demography, pointed out that we probably wouldn't have believed the report if it had said anything much different. That's because these kinds of surveys are inherently difficult to carry out.

First off is the low response rate for telephone surveys of this kind: only 15 percent of people answer the phone and agree to interviews. We also have no directly comparable past survey to show change over time, as previous research used questionnaires with often quite different wording. A deeper problem, as emphasized by Daniel Vaca from the religious studies department, is that questions about religious identity are hard for people to answer in any case.

To add concreteness to the questions, these and other questionnaires use categories based on traditional Protestant notions of a sharp tension between religious and secular life. But these categories have never worked well for Jews, and Professor Vaca said they don't even work so well for Protestants anymore as religious expression has become more varied and individualistic.

Lila Berman, a guest expert

in Jewish history from Temple University, added that we have to be wary of the agenda behind surveys. In the 19th century, European Jewish communities encouraged surveys in order to show their participation and

**"Religious meaning is a more powerful force than the sociological patterns."**

presence in their home countries, while Americans in the assimilationist 1930s sought them in order to know what was "normal." People tend to use surveys to press their own concerns, so it can be hard to see the underlying reality the surveys are trying to suggest.

As if to counter those who see the report as a crisis in American Judaism, Professor Goldscheider and others drew on other research to emphasize the underlying strength of communities today. Families are much

better connected now than they were a century ago, when the children of immigrants often wanted little to do with their parents' ways. So children are highly likely to adopt their parents' practices and social networks, work in the same professions and live in the same neighborhoods.

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, a Ph.D. student of Goldscheider's but the only non-academic on the panel (he directs research for the Jewish Federations of North America), urged people to focus on behaviors, not attitudes that are hard to express over the phone. On that note, he pointed out that Jews involved in synagogues tend also to be more involved in Jewish secular institutions, so the divide is not between religious and secularist but between engaged and non-engaged. He said the Pew Report will still be useful for researchers, but mainly in the more technical details of the findings, and not in the highly

publicized big generalizations.

While the panelists focused on scholarly questions, the event had been promoted throughout the local community and the hundred-plus in attendance included many non-academics. Their questions included several on religion, including one student who took Dr. Kotler-Berkowitz's point a step further. Religious identity is hard to express, he argued but, at the end of the day, religious meaning is a more powerful force than the sociological patterns the panelists emphasized. Yet meaning is even harder to discuss than identity – especially presently with Jews experimenting with many kinds of spiritual practices. Surveys like the Pew Report are therefore likely to be even less useful in the future – a conclusion that everyone could agree with.

**Editor's note:** John Landry ([jlrandry@verizon.net](mailto:jlrandry@verizon.net)) is a member of The Jewish Voice editorial board.

## Finding a Way out of the Pit

PARASHAT VAYIGASH  
Genesis 44:18-47:27

BY RABBI ALAN FLAM

If you have ever suffered grief after a loss – and many of us have – you know how debilitating it can be. In the Torah portion *Vayigash* we see Jacob as a father who has lost a child and is devastated. Jacob appears to be so fixated on the imagined death of his favorite son, Joseph, that it affects every decision he makes, even decades after the loss.

We, the readers, know that Jacob was still alive. His brothers sold him into slavery and, rather than reveal the truth, they allowed their father to believe that he was dead. As a slave, Joseph suffered a series of setbacks and redemptions that eventually led him to greatness. He became the viceroy to Pharaoh in faraway Egypt.

But Jacob did not know about any of that and it was of no help to his grief. It actually may have made matters worse.

Rabbinic tradition puts great emphasis on the intensity of Jacob's inconsolable grief. There is a teaching that says that it is God's compassion that allows people to gradually release themselves from the memory of people who have died. However, Jacob could not be comforted because Joseph was not really dead and, therefore, he could not be forgotten. Jacob's pain remained as intense as it was in the first moment after he heard of Joseph's death (B. Soferim 43b).

The grief in this story is not limited to Jacob; it impacts his entire family. We see how each of Jacob's sons, including Joseph, responds to grief.

The Torah portion begins with Judah, who was still un-

aware of his brother Joseph's true identity, giving an impassioned speech. He pleaded for the release of Benjamin. In the speech, Joseph heard his brother's true repentance for selling him into slavery. Judah told the viceroy of their father's debilitating grief after the loss of his favorite son and how the loss of another favorite son would kill him. Joseph could not contain himself any longer. He cried out, "I am Joseph! Does my father still live?" (Genesis 45:3).

Grief and loss pervade the story. On the one hand, there was the pain of the brothers as they re-experienced the trauma and guilt of losing Joseph. For Joseph, there was the agonizing grief of losing his entire family and not being able to reveal himself to them after so many years. Most of all, there was the unquenchable grief of Jacob, the man who could never forget the loss of his favorite child.

The story forces us to wonder about the nature of grief, sorrow and sadness. Loss is a necessary part of life, so grief, too, must be part of our existence. But Jacob's torment was beyond ordinary grief. We know of such grief. We know of people who experience such profound and long-lasting grief that it seems to prevent them from ever knowing joy again.

Judaism has something to say about such grief. In Jewish tradition, grief is not a sin. Yet, there is recognition that even the most terrible sin is not as soul-wrenching as unrestrained grief. Deep and long-lasting sadness is dangerous and a person is urged to avoid it as one would avoid walking near an abyss.

In Hasidic teachings, which emphasize the importance of joy and avoiding sadness, the masters say that a Jew "must

always be filled with joy." Yet, there is recognition that this is not always an easy thing to achieve, especially in the face of grief.

Today, we generally think about prolonged and deep grief as a sign of depression. It is an illness that affects a person's capacity to feel hope. When we are depressed, our ability to imagine a positive future is compromised and we feel incapable of taking any

"In Jewish tradition grief is not a sin."

action to make our situation better.

Yet, as an illness, depression can be treated. There are things that we can do to find our way back toward joy when we are depressed. In helping people who are depressed, I generally recommend that they seek counseling from a qualified professional. I also suggest that they do simple things that can help them re-discover hope.

Laughing, singing, dancing, meditating, praying, walking outside, painting, writing and planning for the future are all things that I have seen people do to help themselves out of the hopelessness of depression. Most of all, I have found that, when depressed, people do things to help others; it

helps them to renew their own capacity to find joy in their own lives.

The Joseph story comes to its climax in this Torah portion with the revelation of Joseph to his brothers and Joseph's reunification with his father. The separation and loss that led to grief came to an end, but the aftereffects of grief remained.

Joseph's brothers continued to be wary that their brother would seek revenge against them after their father's death. Joseph, too, seemed to have a permanent emotional separation from his brothers. Before his death, Jacob offered blessings to his sons that reflected the bitterness of his years of grief. We are reminded that the acute pain of grief can be comforted, but it never can be fully healed.

I know that many people struggle silently with grief. I know that there are times when depression seems like a bottomless pit from which there is no exit. The story of Joseph can feel like a betrayal to people who know that they, unlike Jacob and Joseph, will never again see the people they miss.

Yet, the story can be a reminder that we can take action to emerge from sorrow. Joseph and his brothers found a way to heal the pain of their separation. Jacob did renew his life. He embraced his grandsons and saw the light

of their father's eyes within them.

We can seize our lives and become our own champions. We can find ways to take simple steps toward new hope.

Rabbi Alan Flam (alan\_flam@brown.edu) is Director of Advising and Community Collaborations Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University.



### Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

Dec. 6 .....	3:57
Dec. 13 .....	3:57
Dec. 20 .....	3:59
Dec. 27 .....	4:03



Alliance JCC

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Jewish Alliance  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

The Alliance JCC ECC is a program of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

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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 Jan. 2

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

Friday | Dec. 6

**Kasher Senior Café Hanukkah Party.** Music by The Providence Civic Orchestra of Senior Citizens; Flu clinic by VNA of RI. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$3 suggested donation. Elaine or Neal at 861-8800 ext. 107

**Shabbat Chai Shabbat Alive.** Interactive service followed by dinner. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 5:45 p.m. – snacks and drinks; 6 p.m. – service; 7 p.m. – dinner. bjmayor@teprov.org or http://www.teprov.org/shabbat\_alive

Saturday | Dec. 7

**Family First Shabbat Morning Service.** Educational, interactive service led by Rabbi Elan Babchuck intended for families of all ages, followed by lunch. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 10:30 a.m. ebabchuck@teprov.org or http://www.teprov.org/Shabbat-Family-First

**Goods and Services Auction at Sinai.** Items include week in Hilton Head, 3 nights at Disney's Wyndham Lake Resort, sports memorabilia. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Sandy at 944-1121

**"Hava Nagila (The Movie)"** Israeli buffet, the movie, and Israeli dancing to live klezmer music. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. \$20. 331-1616

Sunday | Dec. 8

**Day of Learning at Beth Shalom.** Speakers Rabbi Barry Dolinger, Rabbi Mark Dratch, Executive Director of the Rabbinical Council of America, and Rabbi Yosef Szendro. Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. officebethshalom@yahoo.com

**Israeli journalist at Emanu-EL** Akiva Eldar speaks on current Mid-East peace

negotiations, sponsored by J Street RI. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 7:30 p.m. rhodeisland@jstreet.org

Tuesday | Dec. 10

**Tai Chi at EPOCH.** Tai Chi classes for local seniors taught by Bob McManus. EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. 10 a.m. 273-6565

Wednesday | Dec. 11

**Learn About Camp JORI.** Camp JORI Winter Office, Jewish Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 9 – 10 a.m. campjori@gmail.com or 861-8800 x. 124 or rachel@campjori.com

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

**Pianist Connie Giso at EPOCH.** EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. 4 p.m. 273-6565

Thursday | Dec. 12

**Thursdays Together.** Outdoor story time and crafts for children ages 0 – 4. Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. 10 – 11 a.m. info@jcdsri.org

**Program on Child Safety.** Alan J. Robinson of Project ALERT (America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team) speaks on "Measures to Prevent your Child from Being A Statistic." No one under the age of 18 may attend. Jewish Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Michelle Cicchitelli at 421-4111 ext. 170 or mcicchitelli@jewishallianc-eri.org

Saturday | Dec. 14

**Remembrance Celebration.** Chaplain Charbel Semaan of Beacon Hospice leads ceremony to offer support, encouragement and closure to those who suffered loss of a loved one. EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. 11 a.m. - noon. 273-6565

Sunday | Dec. 15

**Blood Drive.** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 9 a.m. – Noon. 942-8350

**Blood Drive and Flu/Pneumonia Shot Clinic.** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. 9 a.m. – Noon. RabbiPerlman@cox.net

**Temple Torat Yisrael Men's Club Speaker Event.** Coffee and dessert with guest speaker Florence Markoff, RI Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 9:30 a.m. 885-6600 or www.toratysrael.org

**Shalom Friends.** Music and movement class for children from birth to 5 years of age, and their families Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. 10 – 11 a.m. RabbiPerlman@cox.net



A taste of tradition; a connection to culture

South County Hebrew School views "Fiddler"

BY SHELLEY PARNESS  
Special to The Jewish Voice

Thanks to the funding from The Gertrude Solomon Education Fund and the organizational skills of Sheri Snow, South County Hebrew School Chairperson, SCHS students were treated to a theatrical adventure. They attended the matinee performance of the classic musical "Fiddler on the Roof," on October 27, presented by The Community Players of Pawtucket.

Students loved the music, marveled at the cultural and historical events depicted and felt their Jewish connection to "Tradition." Bobbi Lefo-

kowitz, who was there with her adult daughter, Sheri, and one of her grandchildren, could not say enough about how wonderful the play was for her on so many levels. She said this was a longtime favorite play of hers, and her daughter remembered as a child how her mother played the music at home nonstop. Bobbi said that Tevya was superb and could have done those "biddy biddy bom boms' on Broadway!"

Elyssa Axelrod, who attended with her grandmother, Ethel Axelrod, said she had heard from her grandmother about the kind of things they

saw in the play that happened to her relatives, but seeing this play made what she had heard very real. She said her grandmother really liked it too, but she cried during the play as it touched her memories of relatives long gone.

Shelley Parness is the corresponding secretary and a member of the ritual committee at Congregation Beth David, a Conservative synagogue in Narragansett, and a teacher in the South County Hebrew School

For more information on Congregation Beth David, call 789-3437 or visit cbdiri.org.



Child Safety: What you need to know

Approximately 2,000 children are reported missing each day—that's one child every 37 seconds. In 35 seconds, your child could be abducted by an experienced pedophile.

Help protect your child from becoming a part of these alarming statistics by attending this program on child safety.

Thursday, December 12, 2013 | 6:30 - 9:30pm  
Alliance JCC | 401 Elm Grove Avenue, Providence  
Must be at least 18 years old to attend



Parents and caregivers will be provided with the tools to prevent child abduction, kidnapping, and sexual exploitation as well as the safe use of technology (PCs and cell phones). Alan J. Robinson will dispel common safety myths, while providing skills parents, educators, and police can teach children to help prevent them from becoming a victim. All participants will receive an education packet with valuable safety references, including an age-appropriate skills chart.

Alan J. Robinson is a representative of Project ALERT (America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team), a division of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, funded by the Department of Justice and the Adam Walsh Foundation.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Michelle Cicchitelli at 401.421.4111 ext. 178 or mcicchitelli@jewishallianc-eri.org.



401 Elm Grove Avenue | Providence, RI 02906 | 401.421.4111 | jewishallianc-eri.org

CALENDAR | 9

Calendar Submissions

Calendar items for our Dec. 20 GENERATIONS/FAMILY HEROES issue must be received by Dec. 11.

Calendar items for our Jan. 3 Health & Wellness issue must be received by Dec. 19.

Send all calendar items to anorman@jewishallianc-eri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."

## December 23 is deadline for enrolling in health benefit exchange

**BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN**  
 anorman@jewishallianceri.org  
**PROVIDENCE** – HealthSource RI, Rhode Island's health benefits exchange, reminds all Rhode Islanders that December 23 is the deadline to enroll in an insurance plan for individuals and families who want health insurance coverage to begin on January 1, 2014.

The Dec. 23 deadline reflects the federal government's one-week extension of the original deadline for enrollment. HealthSource RI will soon launch new print, online, television and radio advertising

focused on getting the word out about the Dec. 23 deadline.

For coverage to begin for individuals and families on January 1, a plan must be selected and the first month's premium must be paid. To be able to more easily explore options and rates, have the following information on hand as you shop:

- Last year's tax form/tax information
- Social Security numbers/immigration documents
- Employer Identification Number (EIN): Ask your manager or refer to your W-2 form.
- Information about any

health insurance you currently have

- Names of any current doctors you want to keep.

Many Rhode Islanders who purchase insurance through HealthSource RI will qualify for tax credits to help make monthly premiums more affordable. These tax credits, potentially available to individuals making up to \$45,960 a year and families of four making up to \$94,200 a year, are applied immediately to reduce the monthly premium, not as an end-of-year tax refund. Depending on income and family size, some Rhode Islanders may

substance abuse treatment services, prescription drugs, rehabilitative services, laboratory services, chronic disease management and pediatric services.

All plans offered through HealthSource RI also cover (with no co-payment or deductible) blood pressure screenings, breast cancer screenings and mammograms, cervical cancer screenings (Pap tests), cholesterol screenings, colorectal cancer screenings, depression screenings, obesity screening and counseling, and adult immunizations, such as flu shots, Hepatitis A and B, and pneumonia vaccines.

HealthSource RI. The open enrollment period for individuals and families ends on March 31, 2014; Medicaid-eligible individuals may enroll throughout the year.

For small employers, HealthSource RI has 16 different plans available from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island and UnitedHealthcare, as well as dental plans. Small employers may purchase coverage for their employees – including offering Full Employee Choice, which lets the employer pick a base plan while allowing employees to choose from any of

### FROM PAGE 8 CALENDAR

#### Monday | Dec. 16

**Harmony Heritage at EPOCH.** Pawtucket-based women's a cappella chorus performs standards, gospel songs, contemporary music. EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. 2:30 p.m. 273-6565

**Israeli Culture Through Film.** "White Panther" hosted by Israeli Emissary Matan Graff. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm-grove Avenue, Providence. 7 – 9 p.m. \$5; JCC members - \$3. Erin Moseley at 421-4111 ext. 108 or emoseley@jewishallianceri.org.

#### Tuesday | Dec. 17

**Tai Chi at EPOCH.** Tai Chi classes for local seniors taught by Bob McManus. EPOCH Senior Living, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. 10 a.m. 273-6565

**Temple Torat Yisrael's Lunch & Learn.** Topic: "Is Genetically Modified Food Kosher?" Participants order from the menu and Rabbi Amy Levin leads the discussion. T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Road, East Greenwich. Noon – 1:30 p.m. 885-6600

#### Wednesday | Dec. 18

**Lunch & Learn at Agudas Achim.** Bring a non-meat lunch; coffee and cookies provided. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, MA 12:30 p.m. 508-222-2243

#### Thursday | Dec. 19

**"Noodle" at Leisure Club.** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence. 10 a.m. – noon. Miriam Abrams-Stark at 331-1616 ext. 14 or miriam@teprov.org

**Adoption Options Informational Meeting.** Free informational session for those considering adoption and interested in hearing about available options.

Licensed adoption workers provide information and answer questions. Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence. 6 – 7 p.m. Peg Boyle at peg@jfsri.org

**Financial Workshop Series:** Basic Financial Planning. Session facilitated by Dan Gamm covers important basic information from college planning to retirement funds, and helps new parents understand the financial necessities throughout a child's life. Jewish Alliance of Greater RI, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence. 7 – 8 p.m. Erin Moseley at 421-4111 ext. 108 or emoseley@jewishallianceri.org

#### Friday | Dec. 20

**Shalom Friends.** Music and movement for children ages 0-5. Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. 10 – 11 a.m. info@jcdsri.org

#### Tuesday | Dec. 24

**Agudas Achim Hosts Red Cross Blood Drive** Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, MA. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. office@agudasma.org or http://www.agudasma.org. 1-800 RED CROSS (733-2767) or www.redcross-blood.org to make an appointment

#### Wednesday | Dec. 25

**Agudas Achim Annual Volunteer Event at Sturdy Memorial Hospital.** Complimentary morning coffee/snack and lunch for all volunteers. Sturdy Memorial Hospital, 211 Park St., Attleboro, M. David London at 401-383-1268 or londondavid@aol.com; Ina and Howard Novinsky at (508) 285-9408 or howardnovinsky@comcast.net



qualify for low-cost or no-cost insurance coverage.

HealthSource RI offers 12 different health insurance plans for individuals and families from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, as well as dental plans. All plans cover doctor visits, emergency services, hospitalizations, maternity and newborn care, mental health and

All HealthSource RI plans cover the same essential health benefits; plans differ in how enrollees share costs such as deductibles, co-insurance and co-payments. If you have a pre-existing medical condition, you can't be denied coverage or charged a higher premium.

During its first month in operation, nearly 4,500 Rhode Islanders enrolled in health insurance plans through

HealthSource RI's 16 small employer plans – at their regular annual renewal date throughout the calendar year.

**For more information** about HealthSource RI, visit healthsourceeri.com or call 1-855-840-4774 or visit the HealthSource RI Contact Center at 70 Royal Little Drive in Providence to compare plans and enroll in the plan that's right for you.

## Unhappy anniversary

Some anniversaries are celebrated with fanfare and flourish. One that comes to mind is the 250th anniversary of Touro Synagogue in Newport,



**INTERIM  
EXECUTIVE  
EDITOR**

ARTHUR C.  
NORMAN

America's oldest Jewish house of worship. In addition to the annual August ceremonial reading of George Washington's 1790 letter to — then, Hebrew Congregation of Newport — Congregation Jeshuat Israel which affirms that those

who fled religious persecution in Europe would find more than mere religious tolerance in our new nation — they would find religious freedom, many events have already been held and some are still to come.

In July, the Newport Music Festival held a concert at the synagogue featuring Czech cellist Jiri Barta. In August, several hundred members of the congregation and guests celebrated at the rebuilt Malbone Castle (see the Jewish Voice, Aug. 30); Washington dined at the original Malbone during his historic 1790 visit.

Later in August, the 350th anniversary of the granting of Rhode Island's original charter by England's King Charles II was memorialized at Touro.

A Dec. 1 Hanukkah party at Touro was the backdrop for the rededication of the synagogue and, as of this writing, the party concludes with a Klezmer workshop and concert, free and open to the public.

Temple Beth Shalom, of Milford, Mass., a spring chicken by Touro standards, celebrated its centennial in November (see this issue of The Voice). Among the 120 participants were current congregants and children and grandchildren of some of the original founders of the synagogue — then named Solomon's Temple. Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch, reminisced about times, teachers and temple events of the past, and then slipped on their dancing shoes to swing and sway to the sometimes reverent, but often rowdy music of the in-

ternationally known klezmer band, Ezekiel's Wheels, who initially plied their craft by playing in Boston's subway stations.

Other anniversaries are distinguished by more somber notes. This year is the 75th remembrance of

*Kristillnacht*, the November 9, 1938 "Night of Broken Glass," the onset of the organized German pogroms against the Jews. The Nov. 8 issue of The Voice shares survivor Alice Goldstein's recollections of the horror of that time. She is a treasure, dedicating her time and talent to speak at colleges and community centers to help younger generations learn of the evil that man can do to man — and to not forget.

Ask anyone in their late 50s or older where they were, what they were doing and perhaps even what they were wearing at about 1:00 p.m., 50 years ago, on November 23, 1963. That time is indelibly seared into the memories of most Americans — President Kennedy assassinated! An eternal flame burns at Arlington National Cemetery — a spectral mirror to the suddenly extinguished flame of Camelot and the end, some say, of an age of innocence for our country.

There's another anniversary to mention. No festivities. No fireworks. No parades, no speeches, no hoopla. Jonathan Pollard, a former United States Navy intelligence analyst has quietly begun his 29th year of a life sentence in prison, a few months shy of half his entire life, convicted of spying for Israel. He is the only American in U.S. history to be meted out a life sentence for spying on behalf of an American ally.

Judges and U.S. Appellate Courts have hindered Pollard's attorneys' ability to appeal his sentence or plead for his parole. Although they possess the necessary clearance to view classified documents, they have been denied that right. Alan Dershowitz claims that Pollard's life sentence is more severe than the average sentence given to those convicted of spying for the Soviet Union or other enemies of the U.S.

*Genug es genug!*

Suhad Babaa is an intelligent and articulate young woman, bursting with a passion to make this world a better place. She is currently Director of Programming for Just Vision (justvision.org), based in Washington, D.C., as well as in New York and East Jerusalem.

According to its promotional literature, the organization "supports Palestinians and Israelis who pursue freedom, dignity, security and peace using nonviolent means. We tell these under-reported stories through award-winning films, multimedia and public education campaigns."

I have seen three of Just Vision's films — Encounter Point, Budrus, and My Neighborhood; each of them is a work of art, a work of social conscience, and an effective vehicle for putting a human face on Israelis and Palestinians who are working towards ending the occupation through non-violent means.

Babaa came to Rhode Island's capital city to speak at Providence College at the invitation of Ruth Ben-Artzi, assistant professor of political science at P.C. Following her major presentation, Babaa made herself available to other students as well as to religious leaders in the Rhode Island community.

I had the opportunity to meet with Suhad — I never used her surname during our time together — this past October 23 at the Starbucks on Thayer Street just off the Brown campus. Over the course of nearly two hours that Wednesday after-

## A Vision of Hope

noon, we had the opportunity to share our perspectives, at times congruent and at times divergent.

During the course of our face-to-face dialogue and in follow-up phone calls and email exchanges, I came to gain some insight into Suhad's biography. In a recent email, she wrote: "Suhad was raised in a Los Angeles suburb in a multi-ethnic and multi-faith household; her father from Tulkarem in what is today Occupied Palestinian Territory and her mother is from Seoul, South Korea. When September 11 took place, Suhad began to question how the public understood her iden-

*"If we abandon our deepest hopes, we abandon our future."*

ties, and why they were being understood as such. From that moment on, she knew that she would devote herself to working on issues of social justice and human rights." Working in Just Vision, then, is thoroughly consistent with Suhad's background and aspirations.

It seems to me that Just Vision, along with similar organizations, is trying to build trust among people who are inherently distrustful of each other. The root of this distrust is fear, the fear of being obliterated. Large numbers of Palestinians view the State of Israel and its powerful army as an amoral Goliath bent upon crushing their national aspirations and their essential human rights. At the same time, large numbers of Israelis and their American Jewish supporters, still haunted by the Holocaust, believe that the Palestinians, given the opportunity, would

not hesitate to drive them into the sea.

Though I often wonder if the heroic efforts of a few can overcome the fear and distrust of the many, if it is ever possible to turn enemies into friends, I continue to hope for an eventual reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. One member of our local Jewish community is forever criticizing my allegedly naive advocacy for a two-state solution; as he puts it: "The Arabs want us dead, and still you want to sing Kumbaya." to which I respond, if we abandon our deepest hopes, we abandon our future.

During our conversations, Suhad has acknowledged that an enduring peace that ends the occupation and the conflict at large will require structural political, social and economic initiatives on a scale far beyond the capacity of Just Vision. Nevertheless, she remains convinced that her work with Just Vision plays a significant role in shifting the discourse by showing Israelis and Palestinians who — all too often ignored by the mainstream media — are working towards full freedom, dignity and equality for both peoples.

It is unlikely that Suhad Baaba has ever heard of Rabbi Tarfon, who lived about 1,900 years ago. However, I suspect that she would concur wholeheartedly with his expression of measured hopefulness: "It is not required of us that we finish the task, but neither are we free to stop working on it." (Pirkei Avot.2.21)

**James B. Rosenberg** (rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org) is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington.

### IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

### LETTER

#### *Re: Reader opines on U.S. — Iran nuke pact*

Though the temporary deal with Iran that freezes any development of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium while also allowing more inspections is obviously a good step, there is a diverse coalition out to sabotage it. This includes the relentless Obama-haters who for extreme partisan or even racist reasons oppose everything he does.

It also includes those who want to provoke a US-Iran war, perhaps for ideological or geo-

political reasons, or perhaps to profit from it by selling weapons, services, or by the inevitable spike in energy prices that would result.

There are also those who think there is political gain in bluster and aggressive talk. The Jewish-American community should be on guard against this since we are one of their targets. While there is little to lose in seeking a deal with Iran over the next six months, the alternative of another mideast

war is one we cannot afford, and all the people in the Middle East would be at risk of considerable devastation if one were to erupt. Diplomacy deserves our support!

**Barry Schiller**  
North Providence

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Schiller is a member of the Jewish Alliance Community Relations Council's Israel Task Force.

### 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).

LETTERS

*Re: Transgender author featured at Alliance JCC presentation (Nov. 22)*

The Jewish Alliance should be commended for bringing Joy Ladin to speak to the Jewish Community. The Jewish Voice should be commended for putting her story on its front page. We may be all different but we are all Jews in God's eyes.

**Jerry Elkins**  
Seekonk, Mass.

*Re: The Jewish Voice*

I agree, by the way, with Dr. Stan [Aronson] that The Voice is lookin' good!

**Mike Fink**

**Editor's note:** Mike Fink writes a regular column for The Jewish Voice.

*Re: Every soul is special (Nov. 22)*

"Every soul is special" is a beautiful piece. Thank you!

**Robert Sweet**

*Re: A non-profit offers thanks*

Growing up, my family taught me that I should never take anything or anyone for granted. They also taught me that businesses should maintain a sense of responsibility toward its community. Our South County non-profit organization is grateful for the support of all our local businesses.

At this time, the members of Congregation Beth David of Narragansett wish to publicly thank James LeDonne, general manager of Amalfi Catering for his gracious and generous support of our events. He exemplifies the true meaning of quality service with excellence and lives by an incredible altruistic commitment to his responsibility when it comes to community involvement.

We have used Amalfi Catering for multiple fundraising and religious events for the past 12 years. Whether the event was for 30 or 300, the attention to detail and service was always excellent. I personally have attended business and social events that he has overseen as well, and the same high standards were met at both types of venues.

We, at Congregation Beth David, cannot thank James LeDonne enough for his continued support.

**Shelley Parness**

**Editor's note:** Shelley Parness is corresponding secretary and a member the ritual committee of Congregation Beth David.

ONLINE COMMENTS

*Re: Transgender author featured at Alliance JCC presentation (Nov. 22)*

Prof. Ladin works at an institution that represents the most liberal form of orthodox Judaism and still she isn't wanted there but tolerated. Yet she is changing their view one student at a time. Yet while modern orthodox is becoming more tolerant it appears the more traditional is getting less tolerant and more fearful of change. I have been in these worlds and the world outside. I choose the one outside because here I can write this and not be afraid.

**Amy Green**

*Re: A Report from the JFNA General Assembly in Jerusalem (Nov. 22)*

Thanks for reporting on the General Assembly. Could you please say more about the new paradigm of engagement? Does this mean the Alliance will no longer focus on content, meaning, or social connection, but be open to any way of engaging people? Can you give us examples of what the Alliance is likely to do differently under the new paradigm? Or does the new paradigm mainly mean a greater urgency to experimentation?

**John Landry**

**Editor's note:** John Landry is a member of The Jewish Voice editorial board.

Grappling with Pew at the G.A

BY BEN SALES

JERUSALEM (JTA) - When it's held in Israel once every five years, the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly aims to focus on challenges and opportunities facing the Jewish state. In large part, this year was no exception.

Israel's president, prime minister and other prominent politicians addressed the crowd. Sessions covered Israel's foreign and domestic agenda, from Iran's nuclear program to Israel's marriage laws to the aftermath of the 2011 social protests. The conference culminated with a walk to the Western Wall.

But a funny thing happened on the way to Jerusalem. The release of the Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Jews gave conference delegates a comprehensive picture of Jewish life in America, a set of sometimes troubling statistics and plenty to talk about.

Hanging over the delegates' heads were two questions that have obsessed the Jewish community since the study was released last month: What does it mean? And what do we do about it?

Answers came in sessions before and during the conference, and in speeches by JFNA CEO Jerry Silverman and Chairman Richard Siegal. Taken together, they recommended greater accessibility to communal resources and programs such as preschool and camp, combined with a focus on developing personal connections between community leaders and young

Jews.

"The fact that we act collectively, that is our brand," Silverman said at a plenary Monday. "Not just the things we do, but the fact that we do them together. Let's never forget that. Let's never be so passionate about a single cause that we forget that our real cause is community."

Silverman lamented the high cost of Jewish education and called for Jewish preschool to be free, as well as for a major expansion of the Jewish summer camp network.

Federations, Silverman said, need to do a better job of engaging the "low-hanging branches" of alumni from large programs like the free 10-day Birthright trip to Israel. He recommended establishing a one-on-one mentoring program between community leaders and young Jews.

Silverman also advocated making better use of technology and announced plans for the creation of an encyclopedic website within a year to share communal best practices and pool data. He reiterated his call for Birthright to make more of its data available to communities nationwide, a process that Birthright says was already underway.

"Half of our young population has been exposed to Israel and yet we don't follow up," Silverman said Monday. "We could change the face of Jewish communal life one relationship at a time."

Siegal called for the creation of "Jewish development zones" where large communi-

ties each would have a summer camp, high-quality Jewish day schools, increased youth programming and leadership training opportunities.

Panel sessions preceding the G.A. focused less on policy solutions and more on what principles should guide the Jewish community in responding to a lack of communal connection among young Jews. A two-day summit on formulating a plan to strengthen the connection between Israel and Diaspora Jewish communities ahead of the G.A. emphasized the value of immersive experiences for North American Jews in Israel and with Israelis.

"The Jewish identity of Jews around the world has weakened," the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Harel Locker, said at the summit's opening session. "This shift is opening a gap between the Jews of the Diaspora and Israel, especially among the younger generation."

Speaking Sunday at a Global Jewish Peoplehood Roundtable sponsored by the UJA-Federation of New York, Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies Executive Vice President Gil Preuss said that federations should focus on giving young Jews meaningful, substantive Jewish experiences instead of aiming to attract the maximum number of participants to programs.

"What does it mean to be Jewish, to be part of the Jewish people?" he said. "If you focus on content, you'll get numbers."

Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital teetering near financial collapse

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem is on the brink of financial collapse, The Jewish Daily Forward reported. The hospital is facing a \$300 million deficit, including \$80 million accrued in the last year, according to the newspaper.

Efforts by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America to save the medical

center have resulted in a break with the hospital leadership in Israel. The organization has not been able to increase its funding for daily operations of the hospital, the Forward reported, and cash-flow problems caused hospital employees to receive only a partial salary in November.

Last year, during the Hadassah organization's 100th anniversary celebrations, the group dedicated a state-of-the-art hospital tower fully funded by the organization through a national campaign. The tower is not yet fully operational, however, requiring another \$45 million to reach that level.

The four Israeli members of the Hadassah hospital board resigned in October after they were excluded from negotiations with the Israeli government over government funding of the hospital. American representatives of the organization comprise 51 percent of the hospital board and can control its decisions, according to the Forward.

The American Hadassah organization has faced financial difficulties resulting from the world economic downturn and fallout from the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme.

WE HAVE A VOICE ... YOU HAVE A VOICE

You have a voice ... and The Jewish Voice wants to hear it. This paper is only as vibrant and robust as our readers make it, with kudos, comments, criticisms and other contributions such as: online comments, letters to the editor and op-ed submissions.

Letters to the editor: 250 words or fewer and must be signed. Op-ed essays: 500 - 800 words and must be signed. Send to anorman@jewishallianceri.org, subject line: OPINIONS. Questions? Call Arthur Norman at 421-4111, ext. 168.

Errata (Nov. 22)

In Rabbi James B. Rosenberg's column, "In my Father's Court," part of Isaac Bashevis Singer's Dec. 1978 Nobel Prize lecture quote was omitted. The full quote is:

"The storyteller and poet of our times, as in any other time, must be an entertainer of the spirit in the full sense of the word, not just a preacher of social or political ideals. There is no paradise for bored readers and no excuse for tedious literature that does not intrigue the reader, uplift him, give him the joy and escape that true art always grants."

In the story "My Rabbi Ovadia," the Hebrew wording was reversed. It is correct in the online version.

## Seasonal Affective Disorder

*Many causes, many treatments*

NICOLE JELLINEK, LICSW

Seasonal Affective Disorder (also called SAD) is a type of depression that regularly occurs in fall and winter and lifts in the spring and summer; if you experience SAD, you may find yourself feeling sluggish, unmotivated or "blue" as the fall progresses.

Symptoms of SAD may include depressed mood, hopelessness, anxiety, loss of energy, social withdrawal, oversleeping, loss of interest in activities that once brought pleasure, appetite changes, weight gain and difficulty concentrating. Often symptoms start out as mild and progress to become more severe as the season goes on.

It's unclear exactly why SAD occurs in different individuals. Many mental health conditions are related to age, genetics or your body's individual chemical makeup, and it is likely that SAD occurs in individuals related to these variables as well. SAD is also likely related to changes in the amount of daylight during different times of the year, and that reduced sunlight may affect individual circadian rhythm (which regulates the sleep-awake cycle), melatonin levels (which affect sleep and mood), or serotonin levels (which affect mood). It also appears that women are more likely to be diagnosed with SAD but that men's symptoms are likely to be more severe, living further away from the equator increases the prevalence of SAD and, if you have a family member with SAD, you are more likely to have it yourself.

Depending on the severity of your symptoms, you may need to speak with a therapist or psychiatrist for treatment. The good news is that SAD is treatable. Since a likely cause

is decreased sunlight, lightbox therapy is a common treatment that has few side effects. Additional treatments may include medication and psychotherapy. Appropriate consultation and treatment with a doctor or therapist will help you monitor your symptoms and avoid the onset or severity of SAD symptoms in the future. If SAD is left untreated, as with other types of depression, the symptoms can worsen and lead to social withdrawal, problems at school or work, substance abuse, or suicidal thoughts or behavior. In addition, those who find alternative medicine helpful may benefit from consultation with an acupuncturist, herbalist or practitioner of mind-body medicine.

There are also ways to make changes on a daily basis to manage symptoms of SAD at home: open blinds and drapes or sit by a sunny window to make your daily environment brighter; spend time outdoors, even if it's cloudy; and exercise regularly, indoors or out. Make time for socialization and being with supportive friends and family. Take care of yourself: eat healthfully, get enough sleep and don't manage symptoms of distress with alcohol or non-prescribed drugs. Regularly practice techniques for stress management, including meditation, yoga or other activities that you know are soothing.

If you think you or a family member may be suffering from SAD or depression, ask for help. Often people reach out to their primary medical doctor. Nicole Jellinek ([nicole@jfsri.org](mailto:nicole@jfsri.org)) can also be reached at 338-8301.

Jewish Family Service also offers assessment and counseling services. Please call 331-1244 to speak to someone and set up an appointment.

## Considering Adoption?

*Adoption Options offers free informational meetings*

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
[anorman@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:anorman@jewishallianceri.org)

PROVIDENCE – Adoption Options is holding a free informational session for those considering adoption and are interested in hearing about available options. Licensed adoption workers will be available to provide information and answer questions.

In Rhode Island, the next meeting is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 959 North Main Street in Providence on December 19.

Adoption Options, a non-secular, non-profit, comprehensive

adoption program of Jewish Family Service, works with prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and people who have been adopted. The agency is licensed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with offices in Attleboro and Providence. The agency's work with all members of the adoption triad is focused on helping individuals to understand their options and make the most informed choices for their future.

For more information, please contact Peg Boyle at 331-5437 or visit [AdoptionOptions.org](http://AdoptionOptions.org).

## Milford synagogue turns 100

BY MORRIS YAFFE AND CLARE YAFFE

MILFORD, Mass. – Temple Beth Shalom of Milford, Mass., located on 55 Pine Street recently celebrated their centennial anniversary with 120 people in attendance. Attendees were representing the current members as well as children and grandchildren of the original members of the shul.

On Nov. 23, 1905, Jewish families in Milford met and decided that there was a need for a synagogue and, on April 14, 1912, raised \$4,000. The cornerstone of the synagogue was laid on Jan. 19, 1913 with a huge ceremony led by Rabbi Eichler of Boston. The honor of laying the corner stone went to George Rosen.

The synagogue's dedication took place on July 20, 1913; Rabbi Nathan Flecher was the first rabbi of Solomon's Temple (original name).

The first reference to Temple Beth Shalom was on Sept. 21, 1921. On Nov. 14, 1924, the Temple raised \$1,500 to purchase a home, later converted into a community house where social gatherings and Hebrew School was held. The original mortgage was burned on Nov. 23, 1924.

In 1952, the community center had a few rooms added and



MORRIS YAFFE

the Rosenfeld Hebrew School was dedicated. The community also purchased a parsonage for the Rabbi that year.

In 1983, due to demographics, Temple Beth Shalom changed from an Orthodox to a Conservative form of worship and in 1988 the Parsonage was sold.

On Nov. 3, 2013, we gathered to celebrate the centennial of Temple Beth Shalom. Rabbi Sol Goodman, our Rabbi since 1990, led the attendees in prayers. After a delicious catered brunch by Tova's Catering of Norton, Dr. Richard Heller gave a brief overview of the 100-year history. Speeches were given by Morris "Moe"

Yaffe, co-chairperson, Senator Richard Moore and Representative John Fernandes. Past President Roberta Miller gave a talk generally related to the 75th remembrance of the Temple and specifically read Edna Mael's thoughts, a beloved Hebrew teacher and friend to all.

Attendees spoke of their memories of growing up in the shul – tears and laughter filled the hall.

**Editor's note:** Co-chairpersons were Moe and Clare Yaffe assisted by Dr. Richard Heller, Valerie Sideman, Earl Pearlman and Warren Heller. More activities are being planned for the rest of the celebration year.

## FROM PAGE 2 BIKING

there was one thing that was just as important as a bike – Shabbat. Shabbat was literally a day of rest. It was a day to reflect on our past week and a day to look at what was in store for the next week. And it was also a day to spread our message – sustainability, Judaism and the environment – a message that I shared with all those communities that opened their doors and took us in. Now I wish to share this message with you.

What is sustainability? This word is so often thrown around but hardly ever understood. All the way back in the Talmudic era Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel had a debate over humanity. They argued whether humanity was good for the world. After much quarrel, they concluded that we are here already so we might as well try to make the most of it.

Making the most of life would be to fulfill a mission. Looking back in Beresheit, God created the whole world before he created us. The common interpretation of that order is to explain that God was preparing the world so that it would be ready for us. This may be so, but I would like to offer an additional point. The Torah states

that we were made in God's image. Perhaps this means that the world was prepared for us, not just for our use, but also for our role. Perhaps our role – in God's image – is to protect his creation. Maybe we are here as caretakers, not just as takers.

That lesson, that additional interpretation, which does not contradict the original one, is what I took with me on the ride. This is the message that I shared in all those Jewish communities that opened their doors for us. That is what sustainability is, our role as caretakers.

Most importantly, I do not wish for you to think that I connected Judaism to the environment. Finding a connection is finding a similarity between two separate things. Judaism and our relationship to the environment are one and the same. We were a Jewish community biking across America and we were really experiencing our surroundings. It was treating our Jewish obligation and our role as caretakers as one and the same. On the other hand, being Jewish and not caring for the planet is like driving across America in a car. It is broken separation.

I do not want to leave you

wishing how wonderful it would be if you, too, could bike across America and maybe even feel that connection. Yes, I am young. I am only 20. But my youth was not why I was able to do it. I was the youngest cross-country rider. The oldest rider was 66, and there were others in their 60s as well. I, along with the other riders, was able to do it by conquering one mountain at a time and because of the hospitality of Jewish communities along the way.

So you can do it too. You can feel the rain. You can zoom down the Cascades after struggling to the top. You can watch the wheat in the fields dance in the wind and you can dance, too. You can smell the fresh air. You can meet amazing people. You can fix the separation that our interpretation has created. You can experience it all. My word of advice is to just keep counting down the miles until Shabbos!

**Editor's note:** Ilan Levine ([ilanlevine93@gmail.com](mailto:ilanlevine93@gmail.com)) is a member of the class of 2016 of Union College.

## Take part in a groundbreaking Alzheimer's study

*Dr. Snyder's quest to slow the disease*

BY IRINA MISSIURO

IMissiuoro@jewishalliance.org  
Peter J. Snyder's CV boasts such institutions as Michigan State University and Long Island Jewish Medical Center of Albert Einstein College of Medicine – and those are just the colleges he attended. He also has taught at The University of Connecticut, Yale School of Medicine and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where he currently works as professor of neurology, in addition to being the chief research officer for The Lifespan hospital system. Why should you care about this man's accomplishments? He can make a significant contribution to Alzheimer's research – with your help.

For the past fifteen years, Snyder has been immersed in developing novel treatments for Alzheimer's disease. During that time, scientists have begun to understand the biology of the disease more clearly than ever. And it's a timely shift since, according to Snyder, we desperately need apt therapeutics to slow the progression of the disease.

Every day, 10,000 people reach the age of 65 in the United States; the imminent repercussions of the aging baby boom generation require attention. Snyder thinks that, if scientists don't come up with some answers soon, we will hit a crisis point in a couple of decades. To slow Al-

zheimer's, doctors need to intervene before the patient's quality of life has been impaired. It's crucial that the disease is aggressively treated at this point because, by the time the symptoms present themselves, it is too late.

### BUSINESS PROFILE

It's hard for doctors to figure out who will best benefit from taking experimental drugs, testing in the clinic or even receiving the therapy once it's approved by the FDA unless they can first determine who the high-risk individuals are – after all, these people are not expressing any symptoms. The goal is to find a way of identifying real risk and vulnerability and, ultimately, to make the discovery of new therapeutics easier and faster.

Any new therapy will not be for everybody – in addition to being expensive, it will carry some risks and side effects.

*"The public health implications could be really huge."*

Snyder is guardedly optimistic that, within the next decade, a drug will slow progression of Alzheimer's. He undercuts that expectation by pointing out that, when the new therapy



*Professor Peter J. Snyder, Ph.D., Vice President of Research for the Lifespan Hospital System.*

becomes available, doctors will still be faced with the problem of being unsure whom to treat if they want to intervene early enough in the disease. Enter his study.

Snyder is enrolling people who are still healthy but have at least one parent who has had Alzheimer's disease and are beginning to exhibit subtle changes – their memory or ability to learn and recall new information is altering more than what is typical for their age. With their help, Snyder is creating a cognitive stress test to identify people who are going to start showing the Alzheimer's symptoms in 15 or so years.

Accomplishing that goal requires stressing the system to see the signal that predicts risk. To increase the sensitivity of his cognitive test, he is using a low dose of a very safe drug called Scopolamine that's often administered for nausea and sea sickness. A tiny injection of it changes the person's chemical system in the brain for a couple of hours, after which it completely wears off. During that time, people who are at true risk will have more of a response to the drug. Snyder measures the subjects' reaction by looking at the scans of their brains and at the genetic material from saliva. If he is success-

ful, he promises that "the public health implications could be really huge."

What else is huge is the power of this common drug. Scopolamine is generic medicine that costs less than a dollar per dose. Snyder can create a diagnostic test that can be used anywhere in the world to predict risk without accumulating massive expenses. Anticipating difficulties third-world countries might encounter due to lack of pricey equipment, Snyder employs the sophisticated technology of the U.S. to create a much less expensive and easier point of care technique – a stress test that can be done in an outpatient office with a nurse, predicting what a CAT scan would show.

Snyder and his team analyzed a small portion of their preliminary data to make sure that they weren't wasting their volunteers' time. Much to their delight, the researchers found that the data looks highly promising. Right now, to prove that their technique really works, he is looking for more subjects – thirty older adults who have concerns about their memory and first-degree relatives with Alzheimer's. He asks that those who are interested in helping with the research contact Christine Getter, Senior Clinical Research Associate, at 444-4464 or cgetter@lifespan.org.

Snyder says that older people often struggle in silence due

STUDY | 24

### Program Spotlight:

# J-Fitness

at the Alliance JCC

get healthy | stay fit | live better



If you haven't been into J-Fitness lately you might not recognize it.

We've transformed our fitness center into a vibrant and energizing place for anyone to get healthy, stay fit, and live better. You'll notice new paint and flooring, updated equipment, and new machines such as the Cybex Multi Jungle Gym which takes the place of 3 different machines. And the transformation has only just begun!

These upgrades will make working out at J-Fitness more comfortable and effective as well as open up space for our new group training classes.

J-Fitness Certified Personal Trainers are available to answer any questions that you have regarding our new upgrades and equipment.

For more information visit [jewishallianceri.org](http://jewishallianceri.org) or contact Carlene Barth at 401.421.4111 ext. 210 or [cbarth@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:cbarth@jewishallianceri.org).



**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence RI 02906



Doris Feinberg, Lezli Pious, event chair, and Linn Freedman

PHOTOS | ALISA KOTLER-BERKOWITZ



Dana Padula, Sharon Nostramo and Jill Saint



Jackie Salett Orent, Jessica Engle and Wendy Joering



Randi-Beth Beranbaum and Stacy Emanuel

Alliance for help.

Joering explained that since receiving this plea for help, she has connected Sylvia to a case worker at Jewish Family Service, arranged to have her home cleaned free of charge and invited her to several Alliance events. She has also found a financial planner who is helping her pro bono. A recent thank you note from Sylvia showed her to be in better spirits. She said she feels better, knowing that the Jewish community is supportive of her during her difficult time. Joering noted that "this is just one story that

illustrates how it takes a village to make a difference, and the partnerships of all our agencies is critical to our success."

Alliance Board Chair Sharon Gaines told the audience, "We are here because we have a shared commitment to *tikkun olam* - to repairing the world, in large ways and small, every day. And through the Alliance, we can all find something to be passionate about".

Pam Jenoff spoke about how her experience as a junior diplomat in the mid-1990s in Krakow, Poland, shaped her writing. This was a time when Poland

had just emerged from years of

**"We are here because we have a shared commitment to *tikkun olam* - to repairing the world ..."**

communism and was trying to come to terms with WW II issues that had remained unresolved for decades. As a young

single woman in a foreign country, Jenoff sought out the rabbi of the Jewish community and soon became a fixture in synagogue and at Friday night dinners. It was not a surprise when Jenoff was asked to oversee "Jewish Relations" as part of her job. One of her memorable experiences in Poland was participating in efforts that led to the Restitution Act, which returned lost property to the Jews of Poland.

However, it was also a challenge to live in such close proximity to the ashes of the Holocaust. Although she did

not personally experience anti-Semitism, Jenoff passed several concentration camps during her daily commute, and met survivors on a regular basis. Seeing the remnants of a vibrant population of 3 million Jews, now numbering only about 8,000, had a profound impact on her life and her books.

Jenoff was amazed to learn of a strong uprising in Krakow, very close to her home. Through diligent research and five years of rejections from publishers, she finally published "The



Past presidents and campaign chairs sponsored the Lion of Judah Dinner. Pictured above are: Janet Zurier, left, Linn Freedman, Susan Froehlich, Doris Feinberg, Judy Levitt, Mitzi Berkelhammer, Susan Leach DeBlasio, Sharon Gaines and Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow. Not pictured are: Ellie Elbaum, Bonnie Steinberg Jennis, Bea Ross, Myrna Rosen, Mindy Wachtenheim.

FROM PAGE 14 **WOMEN**

Kommandant's Girl," the story of a Jewish woman who escapes from the Krakow Ghetto and joins the resistance. Jenoff explained that, as a historical writer, she struggled with the balance between history and fiction. There were times when she took liberties with history in order to move the plot forward. For example, she shortened the Krakow book version of the ghetto experience from 18

months to only six weeks. The audience was fascinated by Jenoff's experience in Poland and her proficiency as an author and mother of three young children. Jenoff called herself a "short-burst" writer who only needs 30 minutes to make progress on a book. Prior to the main event, 45 women gathered for the Lion of Judah Dinner, for donors who contribute at least \$5,000

per year to the Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign. LOJ Chair Mitzi Berkelhammer thanked the past presidents and campaign chairs of the Women's Alliance, Women's Division, and the Business and Professional Women's Affiliate for sponsoring the dinner and invited them to join her for *hamotzi*. Berkelhammer noted "The Lion of Judah program is the most successful development vehicle of all time. It is a symbol of today's Jewish woman's strength, a

symbol of our caring about the organized Jewish world and a symbol of our financial power." Lion of Judah Campaign Chair Susan Froehlich recognized nine new Lion of Judah level donors since the event last year and thanked the women for their commitment to a vibrant Jewish community. Vice Chair of Financial Resource Development Susan Leach DeBlasio said about the evening, "The women here tonight come from all over the

state of Rhode Island and participate at all different stages of our lives, but we are connected by the thread that runs through all we do: *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh L'Zeh* - all Jews are responsible for each other - and for the world in which we live." For more information about the Women's Alliance, contact Trine Lustig, Senior Development Officer, at [trinelustig@comcast.net](mailto:trinelustig@comcast.net) or 421-4111, ext 223.

**Young and elderly celebrate the lights of Hanukkah**

On December 3, Temple Am David students went to Tamarisk Assisted Living in Warwick to light Hanukkah candles. Cantor Rick Perlman officiated.



PHOTOS | JEANINE SILVERSMITH





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PHOTOS | JEANIE SILVERSMITH





**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

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

**We're a place to socialize  
And a place for social justice**

**We're a place to celebrate the good times  
And a place to seek help in uncertain times**

**We're a place with a supportive early childhood center  
And a place that supports Jewish children worldwide**

**We're a place to lift weights  
And a place to lift your spirits**

**We're a place to strengthen literacy  
And a place to share your story**

**We're a place to learn to swim  
And a place to immerse yourself in arts & culture**

**We're a place for seniors to gather for a meal  
And a place that caters to their dignity**

**We're a place that raises funds  
And a place that invests in Jewish peoplehood**

**We're a place to explore and celebrate your  
Jewish identity  
And a place that welcome all ages, faiths and  
backgrounds**

For nearly 70 years, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island has been making our community stronger, more engaging, and more vibrant. Only the Jewish Alliance is able to look across the entire community to see where the needs and opportunities are greatest and then bring the people and resources together to address these priorities.

The Alliance works with community partners to deliver more than 300 programs and services worldwide that build a healthy, strong Jewish community that is committed to social justice and experiencing Jewish life together.

401 Elmgrove Avenue | Providence, RI 02906 | 401.421.4111

## SUPER SUNDAY



PHOTOS | GREG GERMANOWSKI

*Executive Director of Brown/RISD Hillel, Marshall Einhorn,  
and Development Officer of Brown/RISD Hillel, Arielle Angell*



*Jewish Community Day School  
Head of School Adam Tilove*



*Temple Habonim President,  
Leslie Lorber*



*Super Sunday Co-Chair Amanda Isenberg with her husband, Jeremy,  
and their children, Sophie, Caleb and Lily*



Super Sunday Co-Chairs Jeff Padwa and Amanda Isenberg



PHOTOS | GREG GERMANOWSKI

Deb Skolnick Einhorn and her daughter Elana



Rabbi Dr. Marc Mandel, Senior Rabbi of Touro Synagogue, with his wife Jackie and son Carmi



Women's Community Campaign Division Chair Maybeth Lichaa

**SUPER SUNDAY**



Bernice Salzberg



David Isenberg

**FROM PAGE 1 SUPER**

Jewish day school students brought in *tzedakah* boxes filled with coins, contributing \$70 to the overall total dollars raised. Dick Silverman, a seasoned Super Sunday volunteer and co-chair of the Men's Community Campaign, enjoyed making his phone calls. "It was such an honor working on Su-

per Sunday, making calls for a great cause. It is important to remember that regardless how much someone gives, we should be aware that it is important to that donor." Silverman has volunteered at many of the Alliance's other phonathons throughout the year. Super Sunday was chaired

this year by Jewish Family Service President, Amanda Isenberg, and Jewish Seniors Agency President, Jeffrey Padwa. The two agency heads came together to create a cohesive bond among the different agencies and synagogues, leading the day to a great success. "I am proud of our community's efforts on Super Sunday, knowing that virtually every Jewish agency and organization came together to make calls, and the community responded by contributing generously," said Padwa. "By working together, we showed ourselves again that we have the compassion and capacity to take care of our friends and neighbors who are in need. Congratulations to us." Isenberg agreed, saying, "I feel fortunate to have been part of such a successful community-wide fundraising

event. It was inspiring to see people from all branches of our community coming together for a joint cause. Thank you to everyone who participated by planning Super Sunday, making calls, contributing to the Annual Campaign and supporting the event in general. It definitely takes a village!" The 2014 Annual Campaign Chair, Susan Leach DeBlasio, echoed the chairs' sentiments. "Co-chairs Amanda Isenberg and Jeffrey Padwa and our many volunteers were inspirational, generating incredible community spirit and proving once again that we are stronger together. Our Alliance staff were organized, prepared and unflappable, providing the volunteers with campaign materials and information and snacks effortlessly throughout the day. Thanks so much to

those who called and those who generously answered the call to make this Super Sunday a great success." Overall, Super Sunday was a great success, demonstrating the strength of a community, unifying agencies, synagogues and families alike, and making a difference in our community and abroad, one phone call at a time. For more information about the 2014 Annual Campaign, the Jewish Alliance, or to make your gift by phone, contact Michele Gallagher at [mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:mgallagher@jewishallianceri.org) or 421-4111, ext. 165. You can also make your gift to the 2014 Annual Campaign online at [jewishallianceri.org](http://jewishallianceri.org).

## Manila as a safe haven for European Jews

*President Quezon's rescue effort*

**BY IRINA MISSIURO**  
IMissiuoro@jewishallianceri.org

If anyone ever faults you for playing poker, tell them this story. It happened in the 1930s in the Philippines. The Frieder brothers – Alex, Philip, Herbert and Morris – wanted to cut costs by relocating their cigar business from Manhattan to Manila in 1918. In 1937, when German Jews were forced to evacuate from Shanghai to Manila due to conflict between Japanese and Chinese troops, Philip Frieder headed The Jewish Refugee Committee, which was organized to aid their settlement.

One night, the brothers decided to recruit their fellow poker players to create a haven for persecuted Jews. The fact that their circle included Paul V. McNutt, the American High Commissioner for the Philippines, Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower, the aide to General Douglas MacArthur, Philippines' Field Marshall, and Manuel L. Quezon, the president of the Philippine Commonwealth, facilitated the effort. McNutt persuaded the United States State Department to grant Jews visas for entry to Manila; Eisenhower planned Jewish settlement in Mindanao; and President Quezon separated truth from propaganda for cabinet members. With their efforts, more than 1,300 Jews settled in the Philippines. One of them was Frank

Ephraim, whose book "Escape to Manila: From Nazi Tyranny to Japanese Terror," sheds light on the ordeal.

Unfortunately, even Manila eventually proved unsafe. In December 1941, the Japanese entered the city, which housed roughly 2,500 Jews. Terror abounded and many Jews were placed in internment camps. People lost their homes and businesses. Those who chose to disobey faced torture and death. Temple Emil and Bachrach Hall, both named after Emil Bachrach – the first American Jew who settled in the country and became a philanthropist – were destroyed. During the three years that Japan occupied Manila, the city was so obliterated that it was the second most devastated capital city during World War II after Warsaw. In addition to the destruction, the Japanese forces are responsible for the deaths of about 70 Jews.

Interested in a personal account of the events, The Jewish Voice spoke with a witness, Jenny Spater, who saw Alan H. Gill's article, "Jews and the Philippines inextricably



*President Quezon's monument "Open Doors," designed in June 2009 by Filipino artist Junyee*

linked," (Jewish Voice Nov. 22) and called the paper. During that conversation, Spater kindly agreed to share her story.

Spater is a lucky person. While most of us have only one birth, she boasts two. Born in Manila in 1931, she underwent a rebirth that followed a near-death experience. During the Japanese occupation of the city, she hid in the place she calls "Little Switzerland," a spot in the mountains, with her family. While she was there, she

became ill with malaria and was treated by Dr. Handel, a Jewish doctor from Germany, whom she credits with saving her life. She said he himself was surprised that he was able to restore her health because she was in a terrible state.

Dr. Handel was not the only European Jew in Manila who won Spater's respect. She speaks highly of the entire emigrant population, saying that many refugees prospered in their newly adopted country, opening large department stores, establishing factories and improving the operations of the city. The Filipino population was extremely welcoming to the new members of their community. Spater does not recall any instances of ostracism or anti-Semitism. She thinks that such kind treatment was in part due to President Quezon's total acceptance of the Jewish people. Calling him "a very smart man," Spater says that he inspired others to follow his lead.

A Sephardic Jew, Spater is a child of an Egyptian mother and a Turkish father. Her parents met in the Philippines after their families had arranged their marriage. When the war ended, they were left

with few choices. Unlike the Filipinos, the family couldn't buy a house since they were not citizens. Their rental home and all of their belongings were destroyed. As did many others, they decided to try their luck in Israel.

They emigrated in 1949 because they "wanted to experience life in the new country." The family lived in Israel for two and a half years, deciding to leave after the death of Spater's father. They returned to Manila, where they stayed for eight more years before immigrating to the U.S. Upon arrival, Spater was able to work for her old employer, a textile manufacturer, who had an office in New York. Just as President Quezon welcomed the Jewish people to Manila, the Big Apple, the most populous city in the U.S., welcomed Spater to our country. Not to be outdone by Lady Liberty, who stands tall to welcome all Americans – old and new – President Quezon now has his own monument. In June 2009, "Open Doors," a monument designed by Filipino artist Junyee, was unveiled at the Holocaust Memorial Park in Rishon LeZion.

**Editor's note:** see companion article on page 4.

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## Erica Denhoff runs to help others

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
anorman@jewishallianceri.org

Erica Denhoff, the daughter of Joseph and Amy Abramson-Denhoff grew up in Wickford and was a student in North Kings-town public schools. She attended South County Hebrew School from 2nd through 7th grade and became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth David in Narragansett. She grew up volunteering through the Hebrew school, North Kingstown schools, Girl Scouts and with her family. "Leading a healthy and active life was always of great importance," Denhoff said, "and in high school, I worked hard at sports and was recruited for track and field by the University of Pennsylvania. One of the main reasons why I wanted to go there was the high number of Jewish students."

The Jewish Voice interviewed Erica Denhoff; excerpts of the interview follow:

**Q. What else attracted you to Penn?**

A. At Penn, I would have all the benefits of an Ivy League education and Division I athletics, with the added element of being able to further explore Judaism. I greatly enjoyed my freshman year, but I could not find my niche in the Jewish community. There was something special about making Jewish friends with shared interests and values, but I felt that something was missing. I had mandatory track and field practice on Friday evenings, which meant that I couldn't attend Friday night services and dinner. I also had practice on Saturday mornings. Also, when I went to "Jewish" events there was an "in crowd" and I never fit in with that because I was not a Shabbat regular.

**Q. How did you manage to fit Judaism into your hectic schedule?**

A. At the start of my sophomore year, a senior on the varsity swimming team started an official Hillel organization called "Jewish Student Ath-

letes." I became a member and was asked to be the co-chair and recruit members and organize events. This filled in what was missing for me because we organized Shabbat dinners held at a later time, after practices were over. We also had religious gatherings at times that would accommodate our varsity athletics schedules.

It was also a nice social outlet since many of us felt ostracized in some Jewish organizations on campus because we weren't Shabbat regulars. For one of our events, we hosted a speech and dinner with Ethan Zohn, who is Jewish and a former professional soccer player and winner of [the TV show] "Survivor: Africa" who used his winnings from Survivor to start Grassroots Soccer, an organization that uses soccer to raise money and awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention in African youth.

He spoke with us about *tikkun olam* and using sports as an avenue to help repair the ills in the world. I took his story to heart and was

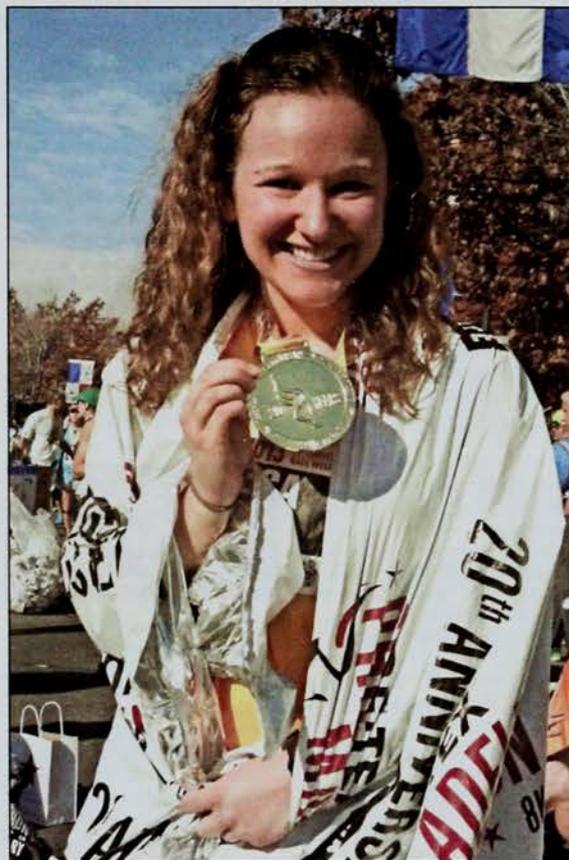
very inspired to use track and field as a means to bring healing to the world. During my junior and senior years, I was the chair of Jewish Student Athletes and I incorporated a community service element into the group. For example, we organized athletic clothing, shoes and gear donation boxes that were given to the children and teenagers in impoverished West Philadelphia, which bordered our campus. Incorporation of sports into *tikkun olam* became a main priority in my life.

**Q. What brought you back to New England after graduation from Penn?**

A. I moved to Brookline, Mass., in July 2008 to start a job at Boston Children's Hospital in the department of cardiology. As a clinical research coordinator, my responsibilities included recruiting and enrolling children and managing the day-to-day operations of clinical research trials for

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**"I would love to see the Jewish community come together to engage in more health promoting activities."**



JOSEPH DENHOFF

Erica Denhoff with her Boston Marathon medal

children at increased risk of developing coronary heart disease at a young age.

In December 2012, I started

working as a clinical research specialist in the Clinical Research Center at Boston Children's Hospital. In my current

position, I manage clinical trials for different departments in the hospital. In May 2013, I graduated from the Boston University School of Public Health with a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology.

Outside of work, I became a power yoga instructor and teach yoga to adolescents and their parents enrolled in the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program at Boston Children's Hospital. I regularly attend religious services and events in Brookline and I volunteer at the kosher food pantry, which has many healthy food options and also serves families with special dietary needs. I am a proponent of healthy eating especially with the relationship between peak athletic performance and proper nutrition.

**Q. After college, were you able to continue sports at a high level?**

A. In September 2011, my commitment to using sports as a way to spread *tikkun olam* was reignited when I joined the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team to run the Boston Marathon and raise funds for the Claudia Adams Barr Program for Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber. I also did this as a way to honor my paternal grandfather, Dr. Eric Denhoff, who died from cancer in 1982, before I was born. He was a pediatric neurologist but also a former standout,

ERICA | 28



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## Sample New England favorites at 2 Pauls' City Grille

*Paul Shire's version of American comfort food*

BY IRINA MISSIURO

IMissiuoro@jewishallianceri.org  
Paul Shire, the Executive Chef of 2 Pauls' City Grille, was a miserable computer scientist. Sitting behind a desk and writing code, all he could think about was getting out. He'd reminisce about the cooking jobs he'd taken to make some

### BUSINESS PROFILE

extra cash and wish that his day job provided at least an inkling of the enjoyment he'd felt while preparing meals, a craft he picked up from watching his grandmother make Lebanese food.

Shire would think fondly of the days when, as a fifteen-year-old, he worked as a dishwasher for Eliot and Anita Solomon, owners of Lloyd's, the East Side restaurant he describes as "a classic Jewish delicatessen." It was that atmosphere of family, shared bread and camaraderie that he lacked in his nine-to-five profession; it was what ultimately drew him back into the food business.

Along with Anthony Sallemme, he opened DownCity Diner to rave reviews from patrons and critics alike. He describes those years as being very difficult. Novel restaura-

teur, Shire used to change the menu every week. He says that the self-imposed requirement was an unnecessary challenge since it meant constant experimentation with fresh ideas, a concept that didn't always work well in practice. Shire shares one particularly draining experience that he regretted. On the night a new show opened at the nearby Providence Performing Arts Center, DownCity offered a newly created baked dish that consisted of seven layers such as potatoes, salmon and roasted peppers. After the premiere of this chef d'oeuvre, Shire was forced to take it off the menu immediately following its unveiling. He explains that the assembly of the multi-layered masterpiece took too long since hungry theatergoers had limited amount of time to spare before their show started.

By the time he opened 2 Pauls', Shire was an experienced chef, having run such well-known and well-regarded area gems as Oak and the ROI. During his years cooking for discerning crowds, he has learned to stick to a seasonal menu and to prepare some items, such as sauces, ahead of time. That doesn't mean, though, that you will not get the freshest possible ingredients in your selections at 2 Pauls'. Shire attests to

buying locally whenever he can and receiving fresh seafood and produce every day, and fresh meats every other day. He concedes that it's hard to do, but says that it's worth the trouble because he is a believer in great quality and because "people can tell the difference." In fact, Shire is so dedicated to making 2 Pauls' the ultimate comfort food destination that he chose to remove himself from being involved with the ROI, finding he couldn't give his all to both restaurants. He says, "2 Pauls' is my home and that's where I cook."

**"2 Pauls' is my home and that's where I cook."**

Recently, the restaurant introduced their fall and winter menu. Not to worry, Shire's famous meatloaf dish is still on it; he says he can't take it off the menu because people request it whenever he opens up a new restaurant. The dish fits nicely with the rest of their offerings, which he describes as fare "that's going to fill you up" and remind you of your mom's cooking. In Shire's case, tasting his dishes evokes memories of his famous aunt's delectable

cuisine. Shire cites Lydia Shire, along with Jasper White, her past co-chef and business partner at the renowned kitchens of the Copley Plaza, the Parker House and the Bostonian, as his culinary idols. In addition, Shire names Anthony Bourdain and Julia Child, whom he met a couple of times while learning the tricks of the trade from his aunt, as his "all-time favorites."

This season particularly appeals to Shire because he loves slow-cooked foods that lend comfort to strong appetites cold weather enhances. In addition to braising, his preferred cooking method is grilling as it reminds him of his childhood. Shire says, "Growing up, my dad always had something on the grill." Not a picky eater, Shire likes everything. When pressed to choose a favorite dish, he goes with a baked rib eye steak with mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus. In a pinch, he'll also settle for a grilled lamb chop or a shish kebab, a dish he perfected while heading the kitchen at Andreas. Shire shares that he's still quite friendly with the restaurant's owners, but glad to have a place of his own to mold. He reveals, "Even though it's hard getting a restaurant off the ground, it's still rewarding to know that

it's something you've created. Whether you win or lose, you can express yourself how you want to."

And Shire does express himself. Someone who enjoys music, he brings that pleasure to his patrons. While at the ROI, he used to listen to jazz in the evenings. Now, Shire is offering karaoke on Friday nights and acoustic guitar on Saturdays. The entertainment is not intrusive, Shire assures. People who want to have an intimate candlelit meal can do so. Around 9:00 p.m., as the dinner crowd begins to taper off, the restaurant begins to cater to a younger scene.

Another way Shire puts his signature on 2 Pauls' is by offering traditional comfort food. While he tries to stay away from chasing culinary trends, Shire still creates innovative dishes such as his recommended braised short rib with porcini mushrooms that's served with loosely made ravioli and winter vegetables. A meat guy who won't say no to swordfish and salmon, Shire presents multiple seafood items on the menu; after all, we do live in Rhode Island - he might as well take advantage of the ocean's bounty. Shire names salmon with mushroom risotto, along

FAVORITES | 21

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**Susan DeMaio, September 2009**

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## Paul Shire's potato latke recipe

### INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 lbs. yukon gold potatoes  
1 large sweet onion  
1/4 cup panko breadcrumbs  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 tablespoon flour  
peanut oil to fry

### PROCEDURE

Peel and grate potatoes and place in bowl of cold water to prevent browning.

Grate onion and set aside.

Put potato in cheesecloth and squeeze dry.

Place in a mixing bowl and add panko, eggs, flour, salt and pepper to taste.

Heat oil in skillet to 360 degrees.

Scoop one latke at a time, squeezing dry before placing in hot oil.

Fry until golden brown, flipping half way through.

Place on paper towel to remove excess oil.

Transfer to plate and serve with sour cream or apple sauce.



## Jamie Geller's peanut pretzel oatmeal cookies

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – With the unique convergence of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah this year, the season of sharing is upon us in a special way. And for something else special, the naturally shareable bite-sized candy brand, GOLDENBERG'S PEANUT CHEW, has teamed up with "Joy of Kosher" to offer some delicious new recipes for consumers to share at get-togethers!

The sweet and kosher recipes featuring GOLDENBERG'S PEANUT CHEWS were created by "Joy of Kosher" Chef Jamie Geller to celebrate holidays. "After 96 years, it's exciting to see the delicious taste of GOLDENBERG'S PEANUT CHEWS reintroduced with these great recipes. The entertaining ideas that Jamie Geller and Joy of Kosher created are sure to become new favorites to share with families and friends," says Bob Zender, Marketing Manager for GOLDENBERG'S PEANUT CHEWS.

### PEANUT CHEWS and Pretzel Oatmeal Cookies

Prep Time : 15 min  
Cook Time : 10 min  
Servings 24

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup butter or coconut oil

1/2 cup packed light brown sugar  
1/3 cup white sugar  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup quick-cooking oats  
1 cup finely chopped pretzels  
2 cups chopped GOLDENBERG'S PEANUT CHEWS – about 2 dozen small ones (hint: freeze four 2 ounce bars, then break the brittle candy with a rolling pin while in the package)

### PROCEDURE

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, cream together the butter (or coconut oil), brown sugar, and white sugar until smooth.

Beat in eggs one at a time, then stir in vanilla.

In another bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt; stir into the creamed mixture until just blended.

Mix in the oats, pretzels, and PEANUT CHEWS. Scoop heaping spoonfuls 2 inches apart onto a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.



## Good Eating from EPOCH

The folks at EPOCH on Blackstone Boulevard are lucky to have amazing culinary talent in our community. Their award winning chef Vinny Messina shares a trendy twist to an old fashioned dessert, Pumpkin Tiramisu.

### Pumpkin Tiramisu

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp. bourbon  
1/4 cup brewed espresso  
1/4 cup pumpkin liquor  
1 package of ladyfingers  
1/2 cup of granulated sugar  
1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin puree  
1/2 cup dark brown sugar  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. ginger  
1/4 tsp. freshly ground nutmeg  
1 3/4 cup mascarpone cheese  
1 3/4 cup heavy cream  
2 tsp. cocoa powder

1/2 cup amaretto cookies, crushed for garnish

#### DIRECTIONS:

In a very small saucepan, combine the bourbon with granulated sugar and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and add espresso and pumpkin liquor. Line a baking sheet with ladyfingers dunked in bourbon espresso mixture.

In a large bowl combine pumpkin puree, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg and whisk together. Add the mascarpone and cream using an electric mixer; beat on medium until it peaks. Spread mixture on ladyfingers. Make three layers, topping with mascarpone cheese. Garnish with amaretto cookie crumbles.

## FROM PAGE 20 FAVORITES

with baked cod filet and an exotic-sounding appetizer, Shrimp Mozambique, as their best sellers.

While all of these dishes sound mouth-watering, Shire admits that cooking great food is no longer enough as a recipe for success. Everything has changed from his beginning days as a restaurateur. He says that, to promote a restaurant, it used to be sufficient to be featured in a newspaper article, but now marketing requires numerous ingredients, including social media and internet advertising. While at ROI, he appeared on the Rhode Show to share his recipe for polenta fries (now listed under "Starters" in the 2 Pauls' menu).

The most obvious transformation is the city itself. Shire says that the first element that jumps out about Providence is the amount of restaurant competition. Another challenge he faces is the economy. He explains that many have cut their disposable income that includes dining out and entertainment expenses. He has to be very competitive with his pricing because people are spending less money on luxury items now.

2 Pauls' menu lists various specials, including half-price, happy-hour appetizers; three-

course dinner for two with a bottle of wine for \$45; and five-dollar burgers. To sum it up, Shire says, "Everybody's got some kind of a gimmick these days." If by gimmick he means easy-going atmosphere and generously sized portions, I'm sold. If you, too, would like to lounge at the bar while sampling fish and chips on a Friday, I'll buy you a cup of chowder. Okay, you caught me – it's complimentary

that day.

**Editor's note:** This is one of a series of profiles of local businesses, some of which advertise in The Jewish Voice.

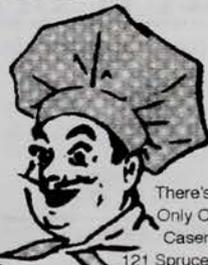
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Susie Adler

## Party at To Life Center Adult Day Services

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
anorman@jewishallianceri.org  
Susie Adler, activity programmer for Jewish Eldercare of R.I., a division of Jewish Seniors Agency, leads a Hanukkah party at the To Life Center Adult Day Services. The participants enjoyed latkes, games and the tradition of lighting the menorah.

For more information about the To Life Center please contact Susan Adler at 351-2440 or at sadler-jeri@jsari.org.

**Editor's note:** Susan Adler is 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.

## Considering Adoption?

*Adoption Options offers free informational meetings*

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
anorman@jewishallianceri.org

PROVIDENCE – Adoption Options is holding a free informational session for those considering adoption and are interested in hearing about available options. Licensed adoption workers will be available to provide information and answer questions.

In Rhode Island, the next meeting is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 959 North Main Street in Providence on December 19.

Adoption Options, a non-sectarian, non-profit, comprehensive adoption program of Jewish Family Service, works with prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and people who have been adopted. The agency is licensed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with offices in Attleboro and Providence. The agency's work with all members of the adoption triad

is focused on helping individuals to understand their options and make the most informed choices for their future.

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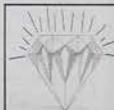
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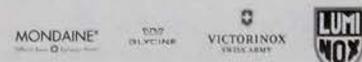


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## Reviewing the Coloring Book of Life

Things are rarely black and white – except, of course, when the color of a specific object needs to be defined; and then such words as black and white lose any of their metaphorical potential; they become mere adjectives.

Language is rarely minimally descriptive, and words born to provide a narrowly defined meaning often assume newly assigned values. Consider the word, **white**. Somewhere between the white, as an objective color, and the white as a synonym of an unsullied character, lies a world of complex lexical pathways, nuances, presumptions, whispered racisms and biased value judgments.

The Latin word for white, *candida*, has evolved into a number of English terms with current meanings faithful to the original sense of the word; and still other meanings somewhat removed from the original intent of merely describing a color. The yeast infection that causes thrush in infants, cervicitis in adult women and disseminated infection in immuno-compromised adults is given the ge-

nus name, *Candida*, denoting its whitish character; and its principal pathogenic species, *Candida albicans* reinforces the whitishness of colonies of the organism (Latin, *albicare*, also meaning white.)

The Latin root, *candida*, has given rise to yet other words. Exemplary citizens of classical Rome were distinguished by their right to wear white togas (*candidata*) and, hence, were candidates for high office.

Candidness, as a human quality, demands an openness, a lack of artifice, a love of truth. Both Voltaire and Shaw chose the name *Candide* (or *Candida*) for their most enduring, most disingenuous fictional characters. Admittedly, candor – the resolute enemy of the art of diplomacy – can at times be an obnoxious trait.

As a metaphorical color, white tends to define nobility, peace and virtue. Matthew speaks of “raiment white as snow.” Shakespeare also talks of the purity of spirit “as white as driven snow.” And other than the white plague (tuberculosis) and candidiasis, there are few medical ailments that rely upon whiteness as their defining character.

In general, then, the color white is inextricably joined with angels, innocence, purity, virgins, candor, doves, new brides, morning clouds, uprightness and uncontaminated snow.

Black, on the other hand,

tends to depict shadowy, malign things that often operate beyond the precincts of law. We readily encounter such terms as blackmail, black market, blackguard and blackball. When it comes to qualifying words for human disease, there is little parity between black and white. Thus we have phrases such as blackout (in the alcoholic), black jack (an older term for cholera), black rot, Black Death

“When a word or phrase conveys more than its intended meaning, the result is mere ambiguity.”

(bubonic plague), blackwater fever (a mortal form of malaria), black tongue (pellagra), black leg (gangrene) and blackheads (facial pimples.)

The verb for defaming someone – *denigrate* – means to blacken (Latin, *niger*, meaning blackness). Are there no black-hued things in nature that deserve to be transformed into positive poetic metaphors? Are not Rembrandt’s etchings, the printed word and the blessed night also black?

James Baldwin, the African-American writer, once noted: “It is a great shock at the age of five or six to find that in a world of cowboys, you are the sole Indian.” It was not out of whimsy

that many, in defense, have then adopted the phrase: “Black is beautiful.”

When appraising the many interpretive ways in which black and white have infiltrated the English vocabulary, it becomes an inescapable truth that we are confronting a form of semantic racism.

Words may begin their shelf lives as value-free terms with unambiguous definitions but rarely does this blissful neutrality persist. Over the years, many words will absorb some measure of the prevailing judgments and biases of those who use the language. And while the root word had not initially intended a “coloring,” in time

it may nonetheless reflection societal perceptions or misperceptions.

When a word or phrase conveys more than its intended meaning, the result is mere ambiguity. But when the conscious intent of the word is additionally burdened with a disparaging aftertaste, the message then becomes contaminated. In the marketplace of freely exchanged ideas, undercurrent insinuations are difficult to overcome. There can be, indeed, a tyranny of words.

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



OF SCIENCE & SOCIETY

STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D.

### FROM PAGE 13 STUDY

to shame. During one-on-one interviews, many reveal that they have figured out strategies to work around the changes they’re struggling with. They are aware that they are less efficient and hide their problems, which are more than just age-related issues. Even their spouses are frequently unable to discern subtle transformations. Despite their normal outward appearance, these individuals are self-conscious – their ordeal is affecting their self-perception and their ego, often resulting in depression. Because very little help is available for them right now, many of Snyder’s subjects fly in to Providence on their own funding from various states.

Their data will lead to new treatment trials after Snyder identifies how to rationally select people for them. He is most interested in the trials of immunotherapies – drugs that boost the immune response and block the formation of a toxic protein in the brain that’s linked to the disease. He estimates that a vaccine, which slows the progression of the disease, will become available within the next ten years. While scientists now know that they have to intervene before the onset of the symptoms, they can’t accurately test an actual drug that’s supposed to slow down the disease

without being sure that they are testing the right subjects – otherwise, they run the risk of having a failed trial because they tested on the wrong subjects, not because the drug was not working. This is precisely the type of huge mistake Snyder is trying to avoid.

To identify subjects, Snyder and his team often use a hidden-maze learning test that’s administered on an iPad. Subjects use a stylus (pen) to tap their way through the maze that’s hidden under a 10x10 grid of squares. Even though they don’t see the maze, they learn whether they are right or wrong every time they make a move and tap a square. If they are right, they stay on the path and look for their way out of the maze. If they are wrong, they have to go back and try a different way. The test measures the subjects’ ability to create and hold in their memory a maze and use it, from trial to trial, to get through the maze effectively. Snyder is thankful to all the people for their efforts: “We do compensate people for their time, but they’re giving a lot more to us than we’re giving back. We appreciate it tremendously.”

**Editor’s note:** This is one of a series of profiles of local businesses, some of which advertise in The Jewish Voice.

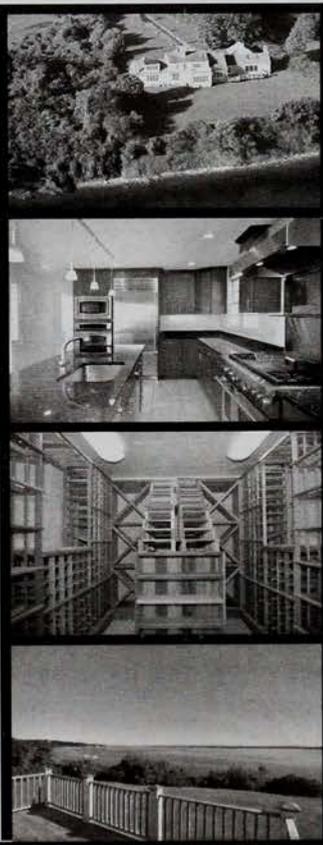


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My eldest aunt had been, in the womb, a twin: I wonder if she was seeking her other, vanished, half, all through her 90 years and more and beyond.



**SKETCHBOOK**

MIKE FINK

Minnie first appeared in Providence when she was – oh, my! –fifty! She stood on our front steps for a photograph, proudly posing upon platform high heel sandals, with rhinestones glittering all around, as though she were on stage, or following the fad created by Joan Crawford.

As the first-born, she did her share of bossing her sisters and her baby brother, but without much real authority. They were somehow more savvy, more with-it, than she was. Her intelligence had everything to do with her fashion sense. That was her highest personal attainment and claim to fame. She not only purchased a truly fine wardrobe, but she could also design and sew like a Canadian, a Montreal version of Edith Head in Hollywood. She made a grand entrance at fancy affairs among the boulevard hotels like our own Duchess of Windsor.

Minnie had one daughter, a quiet, serene, elegant, delicate beauty! My mother kept a snapshot of her niece in her purse, proud of the Cohen tradition of chic and of grace.

Once, indeed, my aunt Minnie caught me by surprise. I was a student in France, in a university town called "Tours," where the chateaux were lit up in the evenings to show off the romantic Loire valley of love among the aristocracy. Well, I was just riding my bicycle among my humble errands, when I got a telegram ... or was it a "pneumatique"?



COURTESY | MIKE FINK

Minnie, 1945

It was an invitation from Minnie and her husband Izzy to meet them at a first-class hotel on the right bank in Paris and from there to join them for a gala dinner evening at the renowned Moulin Rouge in Pigalle!

How could I refuse? I took a train, and then the subway, and smiled at the incongruity of we three making our way among the naughty cobbled alleyways to the notorious – but by now touristy – Moulin Rouge. It was a luxurious strip club that brought me back to the old bars of Central Falls

**Minnie and Moe**

– the F.E.I. club and the Blue Moon: our mini- Las Vegas of the 1940s.

As I dimly recall in a blur, there were nude dances in the show, but our table was at a respectable distance, and I had to squint to see the stage spectacle.

Whew! Back in Montreal in the years that followed, we always brought up that absurd evening, at which I could show off my good, non-Quebec, French accent, while Minnie could show off her expensive outfits. We had that in common, our pride and taste for bits of glittery ostentation. Give us our moment!

Of the family past, Minnie had more information than anyone up over the Canadian border but I got only a few quick hints. I knew we had relatives in Toronto. There were a few cousins in Israel. Her father had been a manager on a farm in Rumania, but her mother from Bucharest had inspired their daughters to look into the mirror both literally and figuratively, and to listen deeply to classical music. Vague, spotty references, mostly.

I think Minnie actually liked my architect brother Chick more than she appreciated me. He at least built something, instead of just talking big words and nice phrases. Also, he was the age of Minnie's pretty daughter – how about a match, eh? Nevertheless, Minnie opened her door and table to

me, my friends and fellow travelers, always with warm hospitality, hoping that Montreal might hold some memorable cafes or boutiques. Upon her final days in the hospital, my brother and I visited her, and he spoke to her admiringly, flatteringly, and aptly, giving her full credit for adding a dimension of class and charm to our clan. He spoke softly and gently to our mother's oldest sibling. I was touched by his tact.

I have a postscript about my light sketch of Minnie. Her youngest sibling and the only boy was Moe, whose special gift lay in telling a good joke. He would lead up to the punchline slowly, with an artist's patient pace, delaying with delicious malice the guffaw, which

*"Minnie – by no means in any sense an "intellectual" – created and founded a line of scholars, writers and doctors."*

he could deliver with great accents, French, or Yiddish, or British. "He would wake up in the middle of the night, laughing at his own latest story," boasted his wife, my aunt Florence. (Which is the name of my mother-in-law and my first granddaughter.)

I file these footnotes to point out how a family album can be stopped from the flow of time and change and arranged like a collage within a frame. Minnie, who believed in putting a good face upon everything; Moe, who preferred to laugh at the time to come or the time passed, and we American nephews who took it all in. Minnie's charming daughter – her name is Rhoda – had a daughter who graduated from Brown University and sent her own son and daughter to her alma mater. So Minnie – by no means an "intellectual" in any sense – created and founded a line of scholars, writers and doctors, who have lived in Providence, served on the board of trustees of the Brown Medical School, and tied a bow or a knot between the branches and among the roots of our family.

My father's name was Moe, like my uncle's. Once his generation of peers had passed, uncle Moe changed his name from Moe to "Henry," abandoned Canada altogether, moved to Florida, where he invited everyone to visit and celebrate with him. L'chaim to life in the future but Zachor to the realms of memory! Our Providence university seems to have taken in and absorbed the clan from Canada: it's part of the mystical, the magical, the Hasidic, transcendence of our landscape.

Mike Fink (Mfink33@aol.com) teaches at RISD.

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Fern Chertok, researcher at the Steinhardt Social Research Institute of Brandeis University, will discuss her recent report "Living on the Edge: Economic Insecurity among Jewish Households in Greater Rhode Island." A copy of the report is available at [jewishallianceri.org](http://jewishallianceri.org).



**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND  
[jewishallianceri.org](http://jewishallianceri.org)

**Samuel Cooperman, 95**

LINCOLN – Samuel Cooperman, died November 30. He was the husband of the late Gertrude (Krevolin) Cooperman. Born in New York, N.Y., he was a son of the late Benjamin and Fannie (Priluck) Cooperman.



He was an Army Veteran of WW II. He graduated from Bryant College and then worked as a Supervisor Supply Clerk at Quonset Point for over 30 years before retiring. After retirement he worked at the DMV for 5 years and for Araserv at The Providence Civic Center for 20 years. He was a member of Temple Beth-El, Palestine Shrine Temple, Mason Overseas Lodge #40 and Touro Fraternal Association.

He is survived by his daughter, Jane Beth Petrarca and her husband, Robert, and granddaughter, Marisa Kara Petrarca. He was the brother of Jean Plushner and the late Betty Fischer, Rose Brown, Mary Schiffman and Gussie Shefkowitz.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 417005 Boston, MA 02241-7005.

**Arik Einstein, 74**

TEL AVIV, Israel – Legendary Israeli singer Arik Einstein died November 26 at Sourasky

Medical Center.

Einstein is considered one of the greatest Israeli rock musicians. Among his most famous songs are "Ani Ve'ata" (Me and You), "Sa Le'at" (Drive Slowly), and "Yesh Li Ahava" (I Have Love).

He was a wonderful singer and a wonderful person," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

**Wendy L. (Levins) Feller, 65**

PROVIDENCE – Wendy L. (Levins) Feller died November 22. She was the wife of Dr. Edward Feller. Born in Philadelphia, a daughter of the late Max and Juliet (Rosenberg) Levins, she had been a resident of Providence since 1978. She was a graduate of Penn State University, received her Master's Degree from Boston College and studied drama at Rhode Island College.

She was an actress principally with Looking Glass Theater and loved performing for children. She was active in local and regional theater and was particularly renowned for her wit. She was a member of the Actors Equity Association and was a member of Temple Beth-El.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children, Dr. Alexander Feller of New York City and Sophie Claire Feller of Philadelphia; and her sister, Diane L. Spector of Philadelphia.

Contributions may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215.

**Frieda Goodman, 102**

CANTON, Mass. – Frieda Goodman, formerly of Pawtucket and Providence, died November 28 at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Milton, Mass. She was the wife of the late Jacob Goodman. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Ada (Zinn) Feldman, she had lived in Canton for 20 years. She was a member of Temple Beth-El.

She was the mother of Louis Goodman and his wife Phebe of Newtonville, Mass., and Robert Goodman and his wife Rae Jean of Annapolis, Md.; sister of the late Eleanor Horvitz; grandmother of Jonathan, Rebecca, Sarah and Albert; great grandmother of Henry, Charlotte, David and Andy. Contributions may be made to Hebrew Senior Life, 120 Centre St., Roslindale, MA 02131.

**Lenore Charlotte Gross, 77**

MANDEVILLE, La. – Lenore Charlotte Gross died November 30. Born March 16, 1936 in Providence, Rhode Island, to the late Benny Snyder and Gertrude Gersh Snyder, she was a longtime resident of Cranston and Madison, Ala. She was a lifetime member of B'nai B'rith Women's Organization and a longtime member of Temple B'nai Shalom of Huntsville, Ala.

She is survived by her hus-



band Paul B. Gross, children Fred Gross (Yvonne), Teri Gross (Michael Hertzig) and Beth Gross-Santos, grandchildren Erica, Jacob, Jamie, Samantha, Remi and Miles, and sister Shirley Shapiro.

Contributions may be made to either the National Parkinson Foundation (parkinson.org) or to the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Foundation (cflfoundation.org).

**Nancy Krauss Hymes, 65**

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Nancy Krauss Hymes died Nov. 7 after a long and courageous fight with cancer. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Edwin and Eunice Krauss and moved with her family to Providence when she was an infant. She graduated from Lincoln School, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Goucher College in Baltimore, Md., and a masters degree in counseling and pupil personnel from Columbia University in New York City.

She worked for two years in the counseling department at Brooklyn Community College before moving to Washington, D.C., where she was the assistant director of admissions at Georgetown Dental School.

She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Robert W. "Skip" Hymes; her son Michael and his wife Holly; her daughter Laurie and her brother Robert Krauss and his wife Margie.

Contributions may be made to [metavivor.org/Donate](http://metavivor.org/Donate).

**Gladys Kaplan, 80**

CRANSTON – Gladys Kaplan died Wednesday, December 4, at Cherry Hill Manor, Johnston. She was the beloved wife of the late Jerome Kaplan. Born in Fall River, Mass., a daughter of the late Louis and Pauline (Cohen) Grossman, she had lived in Cranston since 1961. She was the meal site coordinator for Jewish Family Service. She was a member of Temple Sinai and past president of its Sisterhood.

She was the mother of Paula Kaplan of St. Paul, Minn., Steven Kaplan and his wife Gail, Lisa Horovitz, and Benjamin Kaplan and his wife Rachel, all of Cranston. She was the sister of Judith Bilsky of Tiverton, Renee Lipson of Fall River, Mass., and grandmother of Matthew, Jacob, Joshua and Madelyn. Funeral services will be held Friday, Dec. 6, at 10:00 a.m. at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Shiva will be observed at her late residence, 27 Hollins Drive, Cranston, Sunday 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai.

**Jay Evan Kaufman, 48**

COVENTRY – Jay Evan Kaufman died Nov. 29 at Kent County Hospital. He was the husband of Donna Kalin Kaufman for 15 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of Sandra D. Oster of Barrington and Denis Kaufman of Florida and stepson of the late Rich-

OBITUARIES 127

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FROM PAGE 26 **OBITUARIES**

ard M. Oster. He was a resident of Coventry for 10 years, previously living in Barrington. He worked for many years for Cookson Electronics and most recently as an independent consultant.

He was a graduate of Barrington High School, attended Clemson University where he was a member of the football team and was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island. Besides his many business interests, he enjoyed golf as a member of Ledgemont Country Club and was a licensed pilot. He loved planes and European cars, all forms of physical fitness and weightlifting.

He is survived by his wife and his sons, Joshua and Samuel, his sisters and brothers-in-law: Stephanie and Robert Wilmarth of Barrington, Allison and William Dessel of Barrington, Roberta and Noah Sachs of Richmond, Va., and Sasha Oster of Santa Rosa, Calif., and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions may be made to Hasbro Children's Hospital, 593 Eddy St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Robert Lipson, 90**

FALL RIVER - Robert Lipson died December 1. He was the husband of Renee (Grossman) Lipson. Born in Providence, a son of the late Hyman and Bertha (Kranin) Lipshitz, he was a lifelong resident of Fall River. He was the owner of Bertha's Bakery in Fall River until its closing in 1996. He served in the US Army during WW II

and was a member of the Jewish War Veterans. He was a former president and current board member of

Adas Israel. He was a member of Temple Beth El and a board member of the Fall River Jewish Home.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Robin D. Vrba of New York City, Bruce J. Lipson of Fall River, Gary N. Lipson and his wife Laura of White Plains, N.Y., and Karin P. Martel of Trumbull, Conn.; his brother, Albert Lipson of Cherry Hill, N.J.; his sister, Vivian Pepper of Jerusalem, Israel; and his grandchildren, Samuel, Max and Dean. He was the grandfather of the late Zachary Lipson and the brother of the late Israel and Sanford Lipson.

Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

**Larisa Reider, 82**

PROVIDENCE - Larisa Reider, of Bethany Home, died December 2. She was the wife of Robert Reider of Cranston. Born in Odessa, Ukraine, a daughter of the late David and Maria (Murachver) Kleyman, she lived in Cranston for 21 years before moving to Providence.

She was a physician in the former Soviet Union. In the United States, she was a head nurse at the former Jewish Home for the Aged in Providence for eight years, retiring in 1986. She was a member of Temple Beth-El. She was the mother of Igor Reider and his wife Sylvie of Angers, France and the late Irena Goldgaber and mother-in-law of Sergey Goldgaber of Providence. She was the sister of Yury Kleyman of Pawtucket, grandmother of Faena, Debbie and David and great grandmother of Isabelle. Contributions may be made to Bethany Home, 111 South Angel St., Providence, RI 02906.

**Ronald H. Richter, 65**

WARWICK - Ronald H. Richter died December 2 at Philip Hultar Inpatient Center, Prov-

idence. He was the husband of the late Susan (Cohen) Richter. Born in Providence, a son of the late Herbert and Evelyn (Goldfine) Richter, he had lived in Cranston most of his life before recently moving to Warwick.

He was a New England territory manager for Lafayette Interior Fashions for many years. He was a 1970 graduate of Roger Williams College and was a member of Redwood Lodge of the Masons, Touro Fraternal Association and Temple Torat Yisrael. He volunteered at Rhode Island Hospital in the E.R. and coached Little League in Coventry for 5 years.

He is survived by his son Jason of Warwick, his brother Andrew of Texas and brother-in-law Dean Cohen and his wife, Stephanie of Chuluota, Fla. He was the son-in-law of Betty Cohen of Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818 or Home & Hospice Care of RI, 1085 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904.

**Gerald Robinson, 88**

BARRINGTON - Gerald Robinson died November 29 after a long illness. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Joseph and Lena (Parness) Robinson.



He was a real estate proprietor and a Navy Veteran of WW II.

He is survived by his sister Annette Myerson and his nephew Steven B. Myerson, both of Barrington.

**Carolyn Ruth Swift, 85**

PROVIDENCE - Professor Carolyn Ruth Swift, Professor Emerita of English and Women's Studies at Rhode Island College, died November 17 at Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island. She obtained her undergraduate degree in 1948 from the University of Chicago. She earned her M.A. at Columbia University in English

Literature in 1950 and taught high school at Rosemary Hall in Greenwich, Conn., Prospect Hill School in New Haven, and the public schools of Swansea, Mass., and Cranston before joining the faculty of Rhode Island College, after receiving her doctorate in English at Brown University in 1973.

She retired from teaching at Rhode Island College in 1995, but she continued teaching and studying at the Cambridge Adult Education Center, Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, and the Brown Community for Learning in Retirement.

A political activist who, throughout her life, sought to increase the civil rights of minority groups, Dr. Swift was a founder and twice chairperson of the Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union and a member of its board. She was a member of the Rhode Island Congress of Racial Equality. A member of Senior Action in a Gay Environment, she worked for the civil rights of lesbians and gays. As a member of the Gray Panthers, the Rhode Island Senior Agenda, and the Massachusetts Senior Action Council, she also frequently lobbied at the Rhode Island and Massachusetts State Houses for the passage of laws that would procure health care and housing for the elderly.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El of Providence, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Jewish Historical Society of Rhode Island, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, the Modern Language Association, the Shakespeare Association of America, the Rhode Island Recorder Society, the Fox Point Citizen's Association, and the Rhode

Island Women's Journal Writing Collective with which she had shared her journal writing since 1980. Her journals are now part of the Schlesinger Library collection at Harvard University.

Professor Swift grew up in Bloomfield, N.J., the daughter of the late Max and Gertrude Bovit Swift and currently resided in Providence. She was the sister of the late Richard N. Swift. Her marriage of 28 years to John W. Lenz ended in 1979. She is survived by her life partner of 31 years, Edith A. Kur, her son Dr. Peter S. Lenz and his wife Carol Ann of Salt Lake City, Utah and her son Thomas M. Lenz of Weston, Mass. She is also survived by her stepchildren, Richard Gurspan and Deborah Petrarca, Nina Carmel, Paul Gurspan, Deb Korzec, and Pamela Ewings, and by three grandchildren, David O. Lenz and Meredith J. Lenz, both of Salt Lake City, and Ruby Carmel of Lincoln, Mass.

Contributions may be made to the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Rhode Island, 128 Dorrance St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Rosalie (Lewis) Tanzer, 88**

PROVIDENCE - Rosalie (Lewis) Tanzer died November 19. She was the wife of the late Philip Tanzer. Born in Cambridge, Mass and formerly of Swampscott, Mass, she was the daughter of the late Philip and Mary (Shriber) Lewis.

She is survived by her brother, Milton "Sonny" Lewis and his wife Reva.

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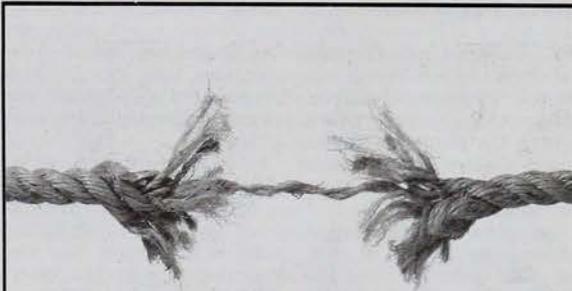
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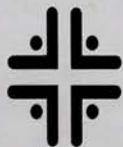
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## FROM PAGE 1 MISTAKE

sanctions relief.

The United States and five other world powers signed the deal late Saturday night with Iran.

"Iran is committed to Israel's destruction, and Israel has the right and the obligation to defend itself by itself against any threat," Netanyahu said. "Israel is not obligated by this agreement. I want to make clear we will not allow Iran to obtain military nuclear capability."

According to a White House statement, Iran will stop enriching uranium to 20 percent, but will be able to continue enriching to 5 percent. Iran will neutralize its existing stockpiles of 20 percent enriched uranium and will not install or build any new centrifuges, except to replace damaged machines.

Five percent is well below the enrichment level needed for weaponization. But Netanyahu has warned that allowing Iran to continue enriching uranium even at low levels brings it too close to a breakout capacity for nuclear weapons.

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman called the agreement "a new reality in the whole Middle East," and "the Iranians' greatest victory" during an interview Sunday morning with Israel Radio in the hours after the agreement was announced.

In terms of the possibility of

an Israeli military strike on Iranian nuclear sites, Lieberman said, "As always, all options are on the table."

He said Israel would look to other allies in deciding how to deal with Iran.

"Israel must look into new directions in addition to the U.S.," he said. "We must take responsibility regardless of the stance of the Americans or of others. We must make our own independent decisions."

Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni told Ynet, "This is a ter-

**"Iran is committed to Israel's destruction and Israel has the right and obligation to defend itself."**

rible deal that will threaten not only us but the entire world." Livni, the lead negotiator in talks with the Palestinians, said Israel must work with the United States and other allies to make sure the final deal offers better terms.

Naftali Bennett, chairman of the Jewish Home party and a government minister, also came out against the deal.

"If a nuclear suitcase blows up five years from now in New York or Madrid, it will be because of the deal that was signed this morning," he said

in a statement posted on Facebook. "Israel," he added, "will not be committed to a deal that endangers its very existence."

Iranian officials reportedly welcomed the agreement, saying it confirmed the country's right to enrich uranium and that "all plots hatched by the Zionist regime to stop the nuclear agreement have failed," the state-owned Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Israeli President Shimon Peres said in a statement: "The success or failure of the deal will be judged by results, not by words. I would like to say to the Iranian people, you are not our enemies and we are not yours. There is a possibility to solve this issue diplomatically. It is in your hands. Reject terrorism. Stop the nuclear program. Stop the development of long-range missiles. Israel like others in the international community prefers a diplomatic solution."

Knesset lawmaker Isaac Herzog, the newly elected chairman of the opposition Labor Party, said "the deal that was struck between the world powers and Iran is a fact and Israel must adjust itself to the new situation."

"Netanyahu must do everything in order to fix the damage that was caused from the public clash with the U.S. and return to an intimate relationship with President Obama and other world leaders," he said.

## FROM PAGE 19 ERICA

all-conference, varsity football player in college.

**Q. Was your grandfather's death a motivator for you?**

**A.** I wanted to turn this negative into a positive. I completed the 2012 Boston Marathon and raised nearly \$7,000 for cancer research. With my training and recipe blog, I hope to educate and inspire others to be happy and to lead a healthy lifestyle. As a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team, I feel I have the opportunity and platform to educate and inspire others to incorporate physical activity into a busy life. If I can encourage one person to increase physical activity, then blogging is worth it.

**Q. Where do you see yourself in the future?**

**A.** I want to continue to use athletics as a way to spread *tikkun olam* by being a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team. I want to use my MPH degree to become a project manager for FDA regulated drug and device trials for either children or adults. I want to help change the belief that today's professionals are too busy to enjoy athletics.

In particular, I feel that the

Jewish community is a great source of bonding that can be either health promoting or health harming. I would love to see the Jewish community come together to engage in more health promoting activities such as walking groups or lessons in traditional Jewish cooking with a healthy twist. These meals can be donated to people in need of freshly cooked, healthy meals.

**Q. You mention that you're a member of the Dana Farber Marathon Challenge Team. Did you compete this year?**

**A.** I ran the 2013 Boston Marathon but was stopped at mile 24 (due to the terror bombing at the finish line) and raised \$5,432 for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. I've competed in two half-marathon races since then and am registered for the 2014 Boston Marathon, which will be in April. This year, I'll be raising money for the Jimmy Fund ... I am running the Boston Marathon two days after returning from Jerusalem for Pesach.

**Q. Speaking of Pesach, have you stayed connected to Judaism?**

**A.** I continue to volunteer at

Family Table, the largest Kosher food pantry in New England. It's run by Jewish Family and Child Services. Since then, I've joined Jewish Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Boston as a volunteer with the Friend2Friend program. I am matched with an adult with mild disabilities. It is a great program!

I am also involved with religious, learning and social activities at the Chai Center, a Chabad affiliate in my town of Brookline. The Chai Center has a group called "JMed," which is a group of Jewish young professionals in the medical field. I just helped organize an event that connected more than 50 young adults in the medical profession for an evening of networking, dinner and a speaker who taught us about Medicine in the Holocaust.

**Follow Erica Denhoff's Boston Marathon training blog at [EricaDenhoff.com](http://EricaDenhoff.com) Help support cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute: [rundfmc.org/2013/EricaD](http://rundfmc.org/2013/EricaD)**

## From Providence's East Side to western Massachusetts

BY ARTHUR C. NORMAN  
anorman@jewishallianceri.org

Providence's Josh Breindel, now leading his congregation at Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield, Mass., was recently interviewed by The Jewish Voice. Excerpts of that interview follow:

**Q. First, a little about your Rhode Island roots. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school – both secular and religious?**

**A.** I went to Moses Brown (my mom still teaches Classics there!) from 1st through 12th grade. I served as Jewish rep for the student body on the Religious Life Committee board in High School. I attended Temple Emanu-El Hebrew school for several years – I have the warmest of memories of [the late] Lea Eliash and Mrs. (Varda) Lev.

I received private tutoring with Chabad for my bar mitzvah ceremony. I hung out with my parents at Friday Group through Brown Hillel (my dad was a grad student there) for many happy years.

**Q. Did you belong to any Jewish organizations here?**

**A.** None beyond the ones listed above ... though I did go to quite a few BBYO events as a guest with friends. And, of course, we were members of the JCC for many years ... happy memories of programs, games and social time at the gym and pool!

**Q. What was your college experience?**

**A.** I attended Brandeis University and graduated in 1997. I was very active in Hillel and its theatre group ... and helped found Manginah (Hebrew for melody, Manginah is Brandeis' a capella singing group).

**Q. Did you participate in any trips to Israel?**

**A.** I didn't go until later in life. I went to Israel as part of a Combined Jewish Philanthropies solidarity trip in 2001. I traveled to Israel again while in seminary in 2007.

**Q. When and how did you catch the "religious service bug"?**

**A.** After graduation from college, I was looking for a religious community and started teaching at Temple Shir Tikvah in Winchester, Mass. I discovered that not only did I really enjoy teaching, I had a talent for it. Teaching, and later serving as the Assistant Director of Education, helped bring me in to the core of the community. I loved feeling that I was helping people to fall in love with Judaism ... My youth group students, oddly, were my real inspiration to enter the rabbinate. They kinda bullied me into it.

**Q. So, what are you doing now?**

**A.** After receiving a Masters in Jewish Studies and another in Jewish Education, I entered



the rabbinics program at Hebrew College. I'm currently serving as rabbi for Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield, Mass. I just completed a two-year term as President of the Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations – the first rabbi to hold that post. I teach throughout Berkshire County and serve as an area resource for Judaism and spiritual topics. And I'm married with two young kids – that definitely qualifies for "what I'm doing now."

**Q. What's the best lesson you've ever learned or advice you've ever received?**

**A.** "Love your neighbor as

yourself," that's the essence of the Torah; all the rest is commentary – go study! (paraphrasing Rabbi Hillel)

**Q. The best you've given?**

**A. Take a breath before answering – it's calming and reminds me to be patient.**

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

**A.** Providence – and Little Rhody – helped shape me; wherever I go, I'll always take its hills and buildings with me. Its Jewish community inspired me to find ways to appreciate the many ways in which Judaism can be practiced. I've found great blessings when I've in-

vested in Jewish communities – often when I've least expected it!

**Rabbi Josh Breindel** can be reached at (rabbijosh@ansheamunim.org).

**Editor's Note:** The article is one of an occasional series of stories of young Rhode Islanders who have left Rhode Island and continue to serve the larger Jewish communal world. If you are or if you know of a person with a similar experience, please contact Arthur Norman at anorman@jewishallianceri.org or at 421-4111, ext.168.



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Milton Stanzler circa 1961

Archival image courtesy of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.



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IRA FLEISHER

Michael Penn, Junior Vice Commander, left, and Ira Fleisher, Senior Vice Commander, Jewish War Veterans, Department of RI

Once again, Synagogues throughout Rhode Island took time to honor their veterans during Shabbat services on Nov 8 or 9. Tamarisk Assisted Living held a ceremony on Veteran's Day honoring those veterans who currently call Tamarisk home and those veterans who had previously passed away. The Jewish War Veterans were honored to take part in this program.



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** - Bella Aron celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and family at Shalom Apartments in Warwick. She is the mother of Richard Aron, Ronna Schaffer, and Jay Aron; grandmother of Tara and Elana Schaffer, Elizabeth Gruenbaum and Abraham Aron; and great grandmother of Michael Gruenbaum and Max Crisafulli.

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**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Last year's Annual Campaign

\$1,065,056 donor dollars helped support experiencing Judaism

including

- Capacity-building programs for 200 educators in 16 schools
- 25 Incentive grants for first-time campers

fostering a long-term connection to Jewish life



more than 1,500 Brown RISD Hillel & URI Hillel students experienced Shabbat programs, arts & culture, and community

with your help, we can do more.