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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Photos by Mary Korr

NATIONAL HEAD START
President Ron Herndon makes an impassioned plea at the R.I. Statehouse.

Voices rise up against budget cuts

Mothers, children, should not be on the chopping block, RI Kids Count's Burke says

By MARY KORR
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — The symbols were stark in their simplicity at a Head Start rally April 10 at the Statehouse: 400 small chairs, scratched and worn, for the 400 Head Start slots the proposed state budget would chop.

Tots with paper dolls on popsicle sticks marched. "Save

See VOICES, Page 9

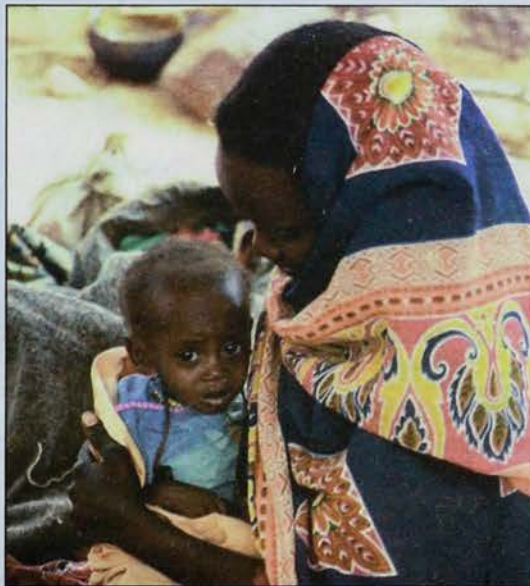
Kristof: Keep pressure on Darfur

Columnist lauds students for activism

By MARY KORR
mkorr@jfri.org

A GAIN AND again, Darfur draws Nicholas D. Kristof back. "I can't get these people out of my mind," he says in an interview April 2 before the Human Rights Film Festival at Brown, where he was keynote speaker.

See KRISTOF, Page 8



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER huddle together in Darfur.

Transitions at JCDS

Changes in leadership to bring new head of school, board president

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Day School announced April 11 the planned departure of Head of School Dani Steiner as well as current board President Alan Harlam, transitions that caught many parents by surprise.

Two meetings were held with parents April 14 and April 15 to discuss these changes and answer questions. (See "JCDS meets with parents to discuss head of school's departure," Page 15.)

See JCDS, Page 14

New home for Hillel at URI

Fain family donates \$1 million in honor of Norman M. Fain

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

KINGSTON — "The Jewish connection continues," said Amy Olson, executive director of Hillel at the University

See HILLEL, Page 10



\$1 MILLION GIFT FOR HILLEL. From left: URI Hillel's Executive Director Amy Olson, Jonathan and Rosalie Fain, Barbara Sokoloff, president of URI Hillel's Board of Directors, and URI President Robert L. Carothers at the presentation of the Fain family's \$1 million grant to Hillel.

In this story, the question is answered at Passover



AUTHOR MARK BINDER'S new work, "The Council of Wise Women," will debut as part of a new book page being introduced May 2 in *The Voice & Herald*. Excerpts will appear both in the printed version of *The Voice & Herald* and on our web site, JVHRI.org.

In Chelm, no question is too foolish to ask

By MARK BINDER
Special To *The Voice & Herald*

A BRAHAM and Adam are identical twins — born in the village of Chelm and confused from birth. So, when did Abraham and Adam Schlemiel begin to realize that they weren't the same person in two identi-

cal bodies? On the surface it seems like a foolish question (although in Chelm no question is considered too foolish to be asked), but from the time of their birth the twins themselves hadn't been too sure.

They were identical in every way. Their eyes, their lips, their ears, even the moles on their left elbows were in exactly the same place. They ate the

same food, wore interchangeable clothes, and slept in the same crib because the moment their father tried to separate them they began to scream.

Not even their mother could tell them apart. When they were babies, she tried to keep Abraham on the left and Adam on the right.

That might have worked, except Rebecca Schlemiel had an impossible time telling right from left. She'd set them down, turn around for a moment,

Reprinted from *The Brothers Schlemiel*, © 2008, by Mark Binder, published by *The Jewish Publication Society* with permission of the publisher.

See QUESTION, Page 27

Jews inject Darfur into Olympic torch protest

JCPA urges Bush to boycott Olympic opening ceremonies

By DAN PINE

Special to The Voice & Herald

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) – Tibet was on the minds and signs of most of the thousands of demonstrators who turned out to protest Chinese human rights abuses as the Olympic torch passed through San Francisco on its way to Beijing.

But for about 100 green-shirted activists, including several Jewish luminaries, it was an opportunity for the Save Darfur Coalition to speak out against China's complicity in the ongoing mass killings in Sudan.

Among those in the crowd April 9 with something to say about Darfur were novelist Michael Chabon and

Ruth Messinger, the president of the New York-based American Jewish World Service.

"It's extraordinary that all the groups that have concerns about the human rights policies of China are together in a city with a great tradition of protest to bring the message," Messinger said. "You can't have an Olympics in a country that violates human rights of people all over the world unless you tell that country to change its policies."

In New York, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs urged

President Bush to boycott the opening ceremonies scheduled for Aug. 8. "The legacy and intent of the Olympic games is to promote peace and national pride through friendly athletic competition," said JCPA's chair Andrea Weinstein. "In the spirit of the Olympics, China's close relationship with Sudanese President Al Bashir puts it in a unique position to help end the genocide in Darfur."

COMPLICIT

Messinger said China is complicit in the ongoing slaughter because it is the biggest supplier of munitions to the Sudanese government and buys most of its imported oil from Sudan.

Agents of the Sudanese government are responsible for the death and displacement of millions of

Darfuris, she said.

"China has become an enabler of this genocide,"

"China has become an enabler of this genocide."

Ruth Messinger

Messinger added.

For four years, Messinger's organization has supported multiple projects in Darfur and Chad, from health clinics to maternity labs to rape counselors.

With their banners and balloons the Darfur protesters – including about a dozen Darfuri refugees – made their way to Embarcadero Plaza, just north of Market Street, to join hundreds of chanting pro-Tibet protesters lining police barricades along the torch route.

Film actress Maria Bello ("A

History of Violence") stood with them. She became active in the Darfur movement because of her Holocaust education in college.

"I became obsessed with the idea of genocide and how people could let this happen," she said. "I felt from then on we were all complicit in World War II, and now we're complicit in genocide in Darfur by not speaking up. It's my duty as a human being to do

so."

Rabbi Lee Bycel, the executive director of the Western region of AJWS, has been active in the Darfur movement for years and frequently travels to the region. He marked two of the past three Yom Kippur holidays in Chad refugee camps.

"I always tell people I meet there that I work with a Jewish organization, and everyone hugs

me and says 'we love the Jewish people,'" said Bycel, referring to the Muslims of north-central Africa. "People in a refugee camp see a white face, and then they know the world cares."

Chabon, a Berkeley novelist, says he has long been an ardent admirer of both the Olympic Games and Chinese culture. But he couldn't give China a pass on its abuses.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

For Greater Rhode Island

April 18	Passover	7:10
April 19	Passover	8:16
April 20	Passover	8:17
April 25	Passover	7:18
April 26	Passover	8:24
May 2		7:26



QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We use the word genocide for what is happening in Darfur, we are good at supplying relief aid, but five years into the genocide it feels so incredibly inadequate."

Nicholas Kristof

SEE Page 1

IN THIS ISSUE:

Large family seders at a rented hall with the Gilstein family.

SEE Page 26

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

Temple Beth-El in Fall River celebrates its 80th anniversary

Charting a Course for Investors in the Micro-Cap Stock Market



The members of Eliot-Rose Asset Management wish our friends and clients a Happy Passover



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Daniel's Gourmet Kosher Catering has new owners

Chef Rose Forrest will take over the business in July

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

THE NAME IS STAYING the same, but Daniel's Gourmet Kosher Catering has new owners: Chef Rose Forrest and her business partner, Idan Terezi, who will officially take over the catering business around the first week in July.

Daniel "Dani" Alon will be going back to Israel, where he intends to work with one of the best-known caterers in Tel Aviv, with plans to open his own catering business in Ashkelon.

For Alon, it was important to leave his catering business, which he established in 2002, in very good hands. "I had three different offers to buy the business, but I chose Rose, because I

JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS


feel very comfortable with her continuing my catering business," Daniel said. "I know her style, she is a great chef with good taste, and she is very experienced with kosher cooking."

According to Alon, Forrest has often worked with him in his kitchen over the last few years.

Forrest, who worked for five years as the catering chef at Brown University and currently serves as the regional supervisor for Aramark, says that she will be keeping much of the same menu, working out of the same location on Camp Street in Providence. The phone number will remain the same


DANIEL

GOURMET KOSHER CATERING INC



Chef Dani Alon

CHEF DANI ALON plans to return to Israel and set up a catering business there.



NEW OWNER CHEF ROSE FORREST wants to build upon Alon's great relationship in the community.

"I think Dani has established a great relationship with the community; I plan to build upon that."

Chef Rose Forrest

(401-726-0197), but Forrest plans to add a 1-800 number. "I think Dani has

established a great relationship with the community; I plan to build on that."

Model Seder in Warwick

CANTOR STEVEN W. DRESS of Temple Israel in Sharon, Mass., led the 25th annual Community "Model" Seder, April 11, at Temple Torat Yisrael. More than 130 seniors were invited, as well as Cranston residents and temple members. Also attending were associates of the Jewish Community

Center, Jewish Family Services, Fogarty Housing, the Association for Retarded Citizens and the Eleanor Slater Hospital, each of whom brought a contingent of their membership.

The program was held under the leadership of Ronda French, director of the Meal Sight Kosher Lunch Program.



Photos by Frank Belsky

MORE THAN 100 ATTENDED the community model seder, where they were served a wonderful meal, including matzah ball soup.

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE EDITORA new kind of
book clubBY RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

IN OUR MAY 2nd edition, *The Voice & Herald* will be launching an exciting new book page. It will feature an excerpt from local Jewish author Mark Binder's brand new work in progress, a series of stories, "The Sisterhood Council."

The excerpt will also be published simultaneously on our newly redesigned web site, JVHRI.org, where it will be updated every week with a new, adventurous chapter. The work is "unfinished"; Binder will be sending us new chapters each week, in the best tradition of Charles Dickens.

In the May 18th edition, we will publish an excerpt from the upcoming novel by *The Voice & Herald* columnist John Clayton; it will be also published simultaneously on our web site.

And, in the May 30th edition, we are planning to publish an excerpt from the upcoming novel by local Jewish novelist and screenwriter, Jon Land; it, too, will be available on our web site.

The book pages will also contain an up-to-date calendar of book readings and signings, as well as book reviews and interviews.

There are some who have asked why, in the midst of deepening recession, at a time when the newspaper industry continues to hemorrhage circulation and advertising income, would we want to commit resources to a book page, when the current trend seems to be against reading?

The answers are straightforward: by publishing excerpts from Jewish authors both in print and on the web, it creates an exciting dynamic that will drive readers back and forth between the web site and the newspaper.

It provides *The Voice & Herald* with the ongoing opportunity to feature the work of local Jewish authors, which will certainly grow to include a diverse variety of many different authors and voices.

It creates additional opportunities for the newspaper to capture new sources of advertising revenue, both in the print edition and on the web site.

Most importantly, it provides a distinctive way to enable our Jewish community to interact and engage in dialogue and conversation, which strengthens our connections to each other.

So far, there have been very favorable responses – by both advertisers and readers – to the improvements and changes in *The Voice & Herald* during the last five months.

How will the saga of the book pages turn out? I don't know for sure, but I'm optimistic. The new book page will be an iterative journey, much like the new stories of Mark Binder.

So, consider this an official invitation to join our new Jewish book club at *The Voice & Herald*. And, if you want to support its success, please consider becoming a *Voice & Herald* patron and make a generous donation, using the envelope inserted in this week's edition.

A MAJORITY OF ONE
Only in Israel – music hath charms

OF THE CELEBRATORY writings heralding the 60th birthday of the State of Israel, there has been no end. Cover stories in *The Atlantic* and *The Economist*, to name but two widely read magazines; special anniversary sections in every Jewish newspaper,

Yehuda
Lev

long articles in the press and extensive coverage on TV and radio, and endless comment on the significance of it all.

By your leave, this observer will not join the host of historians who have detailed the facts of 1948; the battles won and lost, the roster

of casualties and the decisions that made Israel's survival possible. As one of the few still present who participated in Israel's first years, albeit in a very minor role, I prefer to remember an incident that has not, to my knowledge, appeared in any of the history books.

Fresh off the boat from New York and light years removed from the Cornell campus where I had been recruited to serve in the *Haganah*, I spent a week in a military camp taken over from the departed British before I was assigned to a combat unit and placed on a truck, with perhaps 20 other English-speaking volunteers bound for the Eastern Galilee. On our way we picked up an artillery piece which only later did I learn had been taken off a World War I memorial in Haifa. Together with a second truckload of so-called Anglo-Saxons and

a similar military relic, we formed the first Israeli artillery unit ever to appear in northern Israel. There was, of course, no ammunition available for our antediluvian hardware, a problem that didn't seem to concern anyone.

We arrived at our destination together with the dawn, and were instructed to dig foxholes for protection against the Syrian artillery (updated by one World War) posted on the Golan Heights. The rocky soil was impervious to our shovels, so what passed for foxholes might have, under the most dire of circumstances, been suitable as miceholes. But there was

of field glasses to report on what, if anything, we hit. Recalling my days as a B-17 radio operator, I volunteered for the task and went down into the kibbutz trenches to begin my new military career.

On my very first night, trying to get some sleep in the trench, I felt someone walking over me and awoke to find that every third person in the trench was being called back into the kibbutz. An hour or so later they returned and the person to their left went. One more hour passed before they returned and the final third, including your well-chilled observer, crept back along the trench to a small underground circular dugout from where no light shown to advertise its presence to any Syrian observer equipped with field glasses.

Inside the dugout, seated on an earthen bench lit by a single candle, was a young woman soldier and placed before her was a wind-up phonograph and a box of 78 rpm shellac records. I hardly needed to hear its first four hushed notes to realize that I was listening to the Beethoven Violin Concerto, courtesy of Israel's version of the USO.

Sixty years later, my ears have shut down and I can no longer listen to music, but I still hear in memory soloist Zino Francescatti and the Columbia Symphony Orchestra. All these years later, my reaction is unchanged. Then I wept unashamedly. Now my eyes mist up even as I write these words.

Yehuda Lev can be reached at yehuda@cox.net.

"Fresh off the boat from New York and light years removed from the Cornell campus where I had been recruited to serve in the *Haganah*..."

ammunition that was prepared during the night in the workshops of Ayelet Hashachar, the kibbutz we were to defend against Syrian attack.

We were assigned our duties. Since my American Air Force training had been as a radio operator on a B-17, I had no skills as an artilleryman, and I was assigned to a task for which it is very difficult to obtain life insurance, carrying the live ammunition from its location well in our rear to the guns themselves. Two nervous days of this followed and then suddenly everything changed.

We had no way of effectively determining how accurate our shelling was and it was decided to send one of us into the front trenches with a telephone and a pair

Response from a self-proclaimed 'tree-hugger'

BY SAM ANDORSKY, M.D.
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

I HAVE NEVER written a letter to an editor before, and I no longer live in Providence, but Debbie Spivak's recent letter was so absurd I felt an overwhelming need to say something. (If it came a week later, I would have assumed it was a Purim spoof.) In her letter, she implies large Orthodox families are putting us and our environment at "peril" by adding to overpopulation. She also throws in the jibe that they "flaunt responsible parenting."

I am not Orthodox (but could be labeled traditional Conservative) and my wife and I do not anticipate having more than three children. Further, I happen to be a staunch environmentalist (recycle, compost, used flushable diapers for our son, light our house only with CFUs, get electricity from a wind farm, getting an energy audit performed on our house, and of course carpool in our Prius.) Even with that background as a non-Orthodox

"tree-hugger", I was both offended by her diatribe against large Orthodox families and shocked at her ignorance of environmental issues, Jewish survival/continuity issues, and the interplay between the two.

While Spivak is correct that we are all interconnected on this planet and every one of our actions has an impact, she does not seem to grasp the concept of local vs. global environmental issues. For example, water conservation, while always important, is far more crucial in the Negev than it is in Maine. Likewise, in terms of overpopulation, if we were to say the world is overrun with animals and it turns out the main problem is a densely deer-populated area of woodland, we do not expect the few

Panda bears in China to rise to the challenge and stop procreating. And while we're on China,

VIEWPOINT

"It's not a wise idea for the small group of people in this world who actually care about overpopulation to take themselves out of the gene pool."

if China is the most densely populated and smog-ridden

country, we don't blame the Amish family of 10 in Pennsylvania riding their horse-

drawn buggy.

I hope Spivak is aware of the impact the Holocaust had on Jewish population numbers in the world as well as the current worrisome demographic trends of our people's numbers diminishing. With Jews making up a fraction of one percent of the world population, I hardly think the Jewish community, let alone the smaller Orthodox subset (and let alone four families in Providence) is to blame.

The fact that our small sliver

of the population contributes disproportionately to science, medicine, law, business, entertainment (and of course, Nobel Prizes) would indicate that our tiny group probably shouldn't be the one to voluntarily self-contract.

Her letter does at least indirectly illustrate a classic paradox in environmental thinking. Take the following three statements: 1) the world's population is stretching our resources; 2) we should slow down population growth; 3) we should alter the way we live and develop better technologies so that however many people there are on earth have a minimal impact. The paradox lies in that the people who best recognize these three basic facts and are sensitive to the plight of our environment are the ones who want to "do their part" and limit the number of children they have. Meanwhile, those people who couldn't care less about the environment procreate at will. This situation would deplete an essential resource in a few generations:

See HUGGER, Facing Page

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

A diversity of egalitarian thoughts on Passover

PASSOVER LOOMS. The dishes and pots and glasses and utensils have been *schlepped* from storage to cabinet, replacing their everyday equivalents which were simultaneously *schlepped* from cabinet to storage until the holiday is over and we can eat bagels again.

So, it's time to ask (yet again) what the holiday, the holy day, is all about. It has some unusual



Josh Stein

rules; what is kosher this week won't be next week. On the other hand, things permitted during Passover can be done anytime

(except for the slouching. My mother never let me slouch at meals. "Reclining, Mom," I said to her, "I'm reclining, not slouching." It did me no good.)

To the rabbis of antiquity telling the story of the Exodus speaks of the miracles of God

in the liberation of his people. More modern, nearly contemporary secular Jews saw the story as one of liberation only. The miracles? Well, maybe. But the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto who chose Passover in 1943 to make their last stand, were not expecting a miracle; they were hoping for nothing more than that a few might escape while the rest died with at least a remnant of dignity.

To me Passover is, or ought to be, the Jewish equivalent of the first Monday in September or May first. It's Jewish Labor Day, a celebration of the triumph of the downtrodden worker. Oppressed beyond endurance, our ancestors overcame to become the role models to Negro slaves in the antebellum South. Both communities, Hebrews and Africans, were exploited labor, both sought relief from God or man, whoever arrived first.

But while our table groans under the weight of the food

placed on it; as we drink the final intoxicating drop from the fourth cup of wine; as we open the door for Elijah to join our celebrations, scant attention will be paid to what is in the dark, beyond that door. Two weeks ago the newspapers reported that 80,000 American jobs had been lost in the month of March, the most in five years, the third straight month of

Thai workers in the fields. *Sic transit gloria Zion*. Does the Jew of Israel no longer believe in the nobility of labor?

Is the Jew of Israel interested only in the bottom line?

Has Thatcherism and Reaganism spread so far?

It seems the sad truth. Of whom do Americans who send jobs to China or exploit cheap labor here think when they point to the matzah and pronounce, "This is the bread of affliction? We were slaves in Egypt..."

When we invite people to our table, "All who are hungry come and eat," we offer matzah, the bread of affliction, the bread of poverty. It's what we eat as well so that there is no difference between what we serve ourselves and those in want. We are all equal on Passover, the rich the poor, all of us are descended from slaves eating the food of slaves on the threshold of liberty.

If we are to think of Passover as though we were in fact slaves, as the *Haggadah* enjoins, then it's

obvious that Passover is the story of the redemption of oppressed labor. Their burden was heavy, their lives miserable, like the sweatshop workers so many of our grandparents were at the turn of the previous century.

At our house we read excerpts of the original text of Exodus (something the rabbis apparently thought unnecessary or distracting, as they didn't include that in the service) and we sing of liberation, "We Shall Overcome," and "Solidarity Forever." Always, we conclude by singing the song of modern liberation, "*Hatikvah*", to me the hope not only of Zionists to recreate a Jewish homeland, but the hope that Jews will not forget that from which we emerged, an oppressed people yearning to be free, the tired, the poor of the age of miracles then, of the post-Holocaust world now. It was as workers of the field that Jews recreated Israel. Now that's work for foreigners?

Josh Stein can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.

"It's Jewish Labor Day, a celebration of the triumph of the downtrodden worker."

losses. Some, I suppose, may be replaced by those whose labor can be purchased at sub-standard wages.

In Israel there is a *kibbutz* near Eilat which may reflect current practices. The well-educated Israelis work up north in business, and give their net salary to the *kibbutz* which then uses the money in part to employ

NOT ALONE

Freedom and obligation: Choices for life

BY THE TIME this issue goes to press, my daughter, my oldest child, will have reached the age of Bat Mitzvah. I would never, of course, steal from the speech she is preparing to



Alan Krinsky

mark our celebration of this event. But perhaps I will borrow from the remarks I plan to make. (Though I will leave out of print the childhood anecdotes I will tell and which will, no doubt, embarrass her in front of relatives and friends!)

My daughter was born on the eleventh of Nissan, only days before the onset of the Passover holiday and the seders. And so my thoughts turn to transitions: the emergence of the children of Israel from slavery to freedom, and the emancipation of my daughter from childhood into adulthood.

The puzzle, in both cases, is that the movement is described as one towards or into freedom, yet the condition of freedom, whether for nation or individual, is one of increased obligations. How is it possible that we become freer as we incur greater obligations?

One solution to the puzzle is that total freedom is not freedom at all. That is, when we have no restrictions or obligations upon

ourselves, we enter into a state of chaos.

Imagine, for example, if chess had no rules. Or, baseball. If no particular move or play was right or wrong, if we made up the rules as we played. Perhaps one could argue that this is freedom, but it is also anarchy, and the contests would become meaningless as games of chess or baseball.

In the end, the condition of total freedom is one in which we become enslaved to our whims or desires or appetites.

Freedom, or at least productive freedom, is only possible within a framework, a context that gives our choices and our lives meaning.

Increasingly, I have come to view our purpose in this world, whether as individuals or as communities, as striving to realize our potentials. (There are sources within Judaism to support such a notion, that we will be judged not in comparison to others but according to what we were capable of doing, but I will leave this for another discussion.) If we are to attempt to fulfill our potentials, whatever they may be, we require the opportunities or the freedom to do so. These would include such necessities as nourishment and physical safety, but also education and other sorts of guidance.

One way to look at the *mitzvot* of Judaism is as a framework or a structure for helping us to fulfill our potentials. And, in this light,

perhaps we can understand a thing or two about the two events on my mind, the exodus from Egypt and my daughter's coming of age.

Both events, after all, are movements towards obligations. The children of Israel traveled to Sinai where they received the Torah and its 613 *mitzvot*. Likewise, the Bat or Bar Mitzvah – literally the daughter or the son of the Mitzvah – becomes newly responsible for the *mitzvot* of the Torah. Just as the Torah was necessary for the new nation of Israel to help us realize our potential, so does it provide a foundation for the new Jewish adult.

The Torah invites us to choose life. This freedom to choose life

is not truly within the grasp of a child, who is seemingly free. This crucial choice is only available to the individual who reaches the age of maturity and becomes obligated in *mitzvot*.

Yet, I believe, there is a second, critical insight to be found here. We tend, especially in the American context, to think of freedom as a fundamentally individual endeavor. However, the giving and receiving of the Torah at Sinai was done with the entire people. Perhaps we can learn from this that freedom and obligation are dimensions of communal life as well as individual life.

With this in mind, perhaps we then ought to understand that the movement towards freedom and

the opportunity to fulfill one's potential on the part of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is in an important sense a communal event. Not only or even primarily the celebration, but the entire web of relationships and mutual obligations and support.

As we celebrate our liberation this Passover and as my family celebrates my daughter's becoming a Bat Mitzvah, we can contemplate and elaborate upon our obligations – to ourselves, to others, to the community, and I would say to God – and how these obligations actually enrich our freedom and help us chase after our potentials.

Alan Krinsky can be contacted at adkrinsky@netzerocom

HUGGER: on population and the environment

From Previous Page

that of concerned citizens. In other words, it's not a wise idea for the small group of people in this world who actually care about overpopulation to take themselves out of the gene pool. Those are just the sort of people we need. Who else will help clean up our planet in the next generation?

Environmentalists should have and raise more environmentalist kids. And Jews should have and raise more

Jewish kids. Ideally, raising a child as a Jew would imply he or she was being raised to care for the environment. The lessons of *Ba'al Tashbit* (not wasting/conserving resources) are entrenched deeply in our tradition.

Even if the Kollel families are not hard-core "tree huggers" – I would posit that: 1) raising morally sensitive children with Jewish values who are not caught up in the hyper-materialism of the rest of

our country is a good thing (as opposed to the "irresponsible parenting" Spivak sees through some warped lens), and 2) if you actually do a socio-environmental analysis of a typical Orthodox family you will probably come to the conclusion that they have a much smaller "carbon footprint" than others.

Dr. Andorsky is a 2005 graduate of Brown Medical School.

The income gap between rich and poor widens in Rhode Island

What does it mean for our Jewish obligation to uplift the poor

By IRIS J. LAV

Special to The Voice & Herald

THE EVER-WIDENING income gaps between rich households and middle-class and poor households should be a source of great concern. When economic



Iris J. Lav

growth is not broadly shared, and when workers' declining or stagnating incomes fall increasingly short of what they need to support their families, it harms both our economy and our political system. It also contradicts the Jewish obligation to uplift the poor and help them attain a foothold in society.

The 12th century sage Rambam taught us that the highest form of charity is to set a person up in business or employment and allow him to earn a livelihood. Arguably, this implies that people who

work will be able to meet their family's basic needs. But stagnant or declining wages over much of the last two decades call that into question. And the current economic downturn may leave low- and middle-income workers even further behind through a combination of slow wage growth and accelerating inflation.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has just issued a major study showing that despite the past several years of economic growth, average incomes have fallen by 2.5 percent since the late 1990s for those in the bottom fifth of the income scale and have nearly stagnated for those in the middle fifth – even as incomes climbed 9 percent for those in the top fifth. (All figures have been adjusted for inflation.)

Since the late 1980s, income inequality has grown in 37 states, especially in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Alabama, and New York. In Connecticut, the lowest-income residents have seen their incomes drop by 17 percent or more than \$4,400, while incomes in the middle fifth have stagnated.

Meanwhile, the incomes of the top fifth have grown by \$52,000, a robust 45 percent. The incomes of the bottom fifth have not grown in Rhode Island while incomes among the top fifth have climbed by a healthy 44 percent.

The result is a disturbingly wide gap between families at the top and the bottom of the income scale. In New York,

the shift from manufacturing jobs to lower-wage service jobs, the decline in the minimum wage, the weakening of unions, and immigration.

Some of these causes are beyond policymakers' control. Nevertheless, states – and citizens – can push back against growing income inequality.

In most states, for example, lower-income people pay a

larger share of their income in taxes than other households do. Changing that dynamic can narrow income disparities.

Other helpful policies include

adopting a state minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum wage and indexing it for inflation so it doesn't erode over time. States also can provide a range of supports that help lower-income households get and keep jobs, including child care, transportation, and health insurance. Improving unemployment insurance, which now helps only a fraction of workers who have lost their jobs, is particularly important in the current weak economy.

In addition, as states look for ways to balance their budgets during this downturn, they

should examine proposals through the lens of income distribution. Is your state proposing to worsen income disparities by raising taxes that fall most heavily on the poor, or by cutting programs such as health care, child care, and education? Or alternatively, is it asking those who have benefited most from recent economic growth to make the largest contribution to solving budget problems by raising taxes modestly on those with higher incomes?

Jewish tradition has always recognized that income disparities will exist, but also laid down obligations to help those who do not have enough. When the broad trends in our economy and a number of government policies push down rather than raise up those at the bottom, and when some families fall farther and farther behind the common standard of living, we have to question whether we are meeting those obligations.

Iris J. Lav is deputy director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C.

The Center's new report on state income disparities may be found at www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfj.htm.

"Jewish tradition has always recognized that income disparities will exist, but also laid down obligations to help those who do not have enough."

the top fifth of families have incomes nine times as great as the bottom fifth, and the top 5 percent of families have incomes 15 times as great as the bottom fifth. In Rhode Island, Illinois, New Jersey, and Florida, incomes among the top fifth are seven and a half times as great as incomes among the bottom fifth.

Several factors have contributed to these large and growing income gaps. The biggest is the erosion of wages for the 70 percent of workers with less than a college education. This erosion reflects forces such as globaliza-

The measure of a just society

Our most vulnerable citizens are at risk from drastic cuts in the state budget

By SANDRA ROSENBERG AND RABBI JAMES B. ROSENBERG

Special to The Voice & Herald

RECENTLY, four distinguished Rhode Islanders outlined plans for what we must do to support our most vulnerable citizens in the face of a looming budgetary crisis, responding to drastic cuts in services in the proposed Governor's budget.

Participating in a panel discussion March 3 at the Jewish Community Center in Providence were Linda Katz, Co-Founder and Policy Director of The Poverty Institute, Jill Beckwith, Policy Analyst at Kids Count, Rabbi Alan Flam, Associate Chaplain at Brown University and President of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, and Laura Silberfarb, a board member of the Rhode Island Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. In addition, the mayor of

Providence, David Cicilline, and state representative, Edith H. Ajello, addressed the audience of about 50 individuals.

All of the four panelists underscored the fact that Gov. Carcieri's budget cuts will have a disproportionately negative effect on our disabled and upon those children and families who are unable to meet their basic needs without continued assistance. All citizens of Rhode Island must realize that welfare spending has declined dramatically and that spending on cash assistance is less than one percent of the state budget. Cash assistance in Rhode Island has already declined by 77 percent since 1997, and case loads have declined by 50 percent. Cash assistance benefits in Rhode Island are the second lowest in New England.

Under the proposed changes to the Family Independence Plan, 3,400 children in 1,600 hundred families will lose

benefits. If the 60 month lifetime limit is reduced to 24 months, by July 2009, more than 5,000 families involving 10,000 children will have their cases closed permanently.

Under the rollbacks to RItE Care, 7,400 parents will lose health insurance. These devas-

the capital gains tax back to 5 percent from the recently set fee or 1.7 percent.

The loss of revenue as a result of keeping the capital gains tax at this low rate is projected at \$39 million for FY 2009; 80 percent of the benefit is to 7,650 people earning more than \$200,000.

Others suggested expanding our sales tax to include not only goods but also services – an important consideration as we move more towards a service-

based economy.

For example, today if you purchase a rug in Rhode Island, your must pay a sales tax; however, should you choose to have that very same rug cleaned at the very same store, you pay no sales tax whatsoever.

Yet another possibility to enhance state revenues would be to reconsider the wisdom of the alternative flat tax. The loss of revenue from the alternative flat tax when added to the loss of revenue from the capital gains

"The budget cuts will have a disproportionately negative effect on our disabled and upon those children and families who are unable to meet their basic needs without continued assistance."

tating blows to our most needy children and families will be further compounded if the proposal to eliminate funding for Head Start remains on the table.

What is to be done? Several speakers at the March 3 forum pointed out that balancing our state budget requires that we not only reduce expenditures but also that we find ways to increase our revenue. Some suggested that it would be appropriate under our current circumstances to raise

tax will cost the state more than \$62 million in the coming year.

Given the budgetary crisis that Rhode Island is facing, our elected leaders and our citizenry at large need to devote time to thinking outside the box; business as usual will not work during these days of fiscal turmoil.

Everybody in the room recognized that we have entered into a period of extremely challenging fiscal realities. Nevertheless, it is unconscionable for us to balance our state's budget by making our poor even poorer. The measure of a just society is its willingness and its ability to lift up those who are most in need. We Rhode Islanders ought to demand not just a balanced budget but rather a balance that is just.

Sandra Rosenberg is the cochair of an advocacy project of the Rhode Island Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. Rabbi James B. Rosenberg is the rabbi emeritus of Temple Haborim in Barrington.

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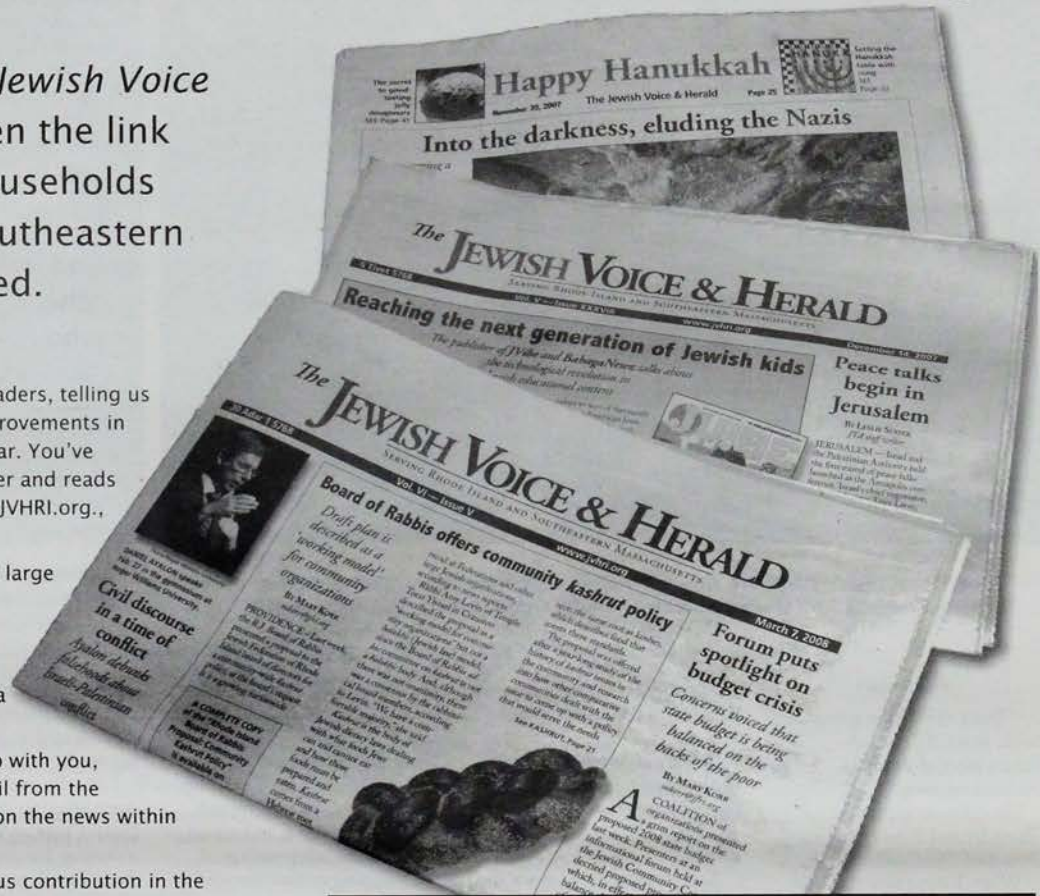
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Photo by Mary Korr

BROWN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, from left, Anjana Joshi, Trisha Pande, Cash McCracken, Carly Edelstein and Scott Warren welcomed Nicholas Kristof to Brown University April 2.

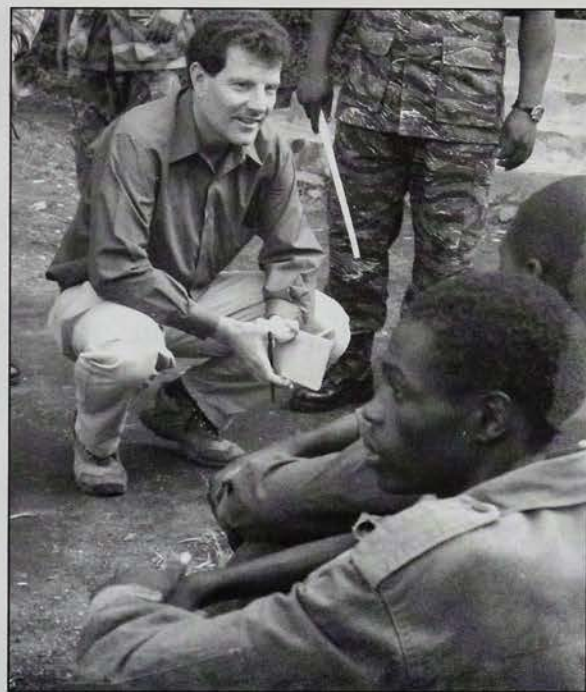


Photo by Will Okun

Kristof interviewing a prisoner of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

KRISTOF: Darfur is not an 'insoluble' problem

From Page 1

"That's why I keep going back, to see if I can galvanize more of an international response."

His columns appear on Thursday and Sunday in *The New York Times* and on his blog.

When Kristof won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize, his second, the judges described his work as "graphic, deeply reported columns that, at personal risk, focused attention on genocide in Darfur."

He has been to Darfur eight times, with notebook, pen and camera. "It has been said you can make people care about one person, rather than the millions," he said.

And so, he writes his stories, on the killing fields, one family, one person, one tree at a time. He recalls his first trip four years ago.

"I went to an oasis in northern Sudan on the Chad border; 30,000 people had just arrived. The Janjaweed (Arab militia) guarded the wells. I did what a reporter does. I went from tree to tree to talk to families, huddled under them for shade, fear in their eyes, some with eyes gouged out. At the fourth tree, there were two small girls alone under it, with no one to look after them. The older one, 6, told me the Janjaweed had killed their parents. She walked across the desert with the baby slung on her back. And in every direction, as far as I could see, there

were refugees. The brutality and the scale of it then hit home to me."

In Darfur, he adds, "you see the worst of humanity yet the most inspiring altruisms. Whenever I leave Darfur, I see such courage."

And so, he returns, again and again.

Senior Carly Edelstein invited Kristof to Brown — she even sent

has "changed the way I see the world and my place in it," she said.

She wants to pass that passion on before she graduates in May. Hundreds of students turned out to hear Kristof, and attend a fund-raiser afterwards, and the planning committee was jubilant.

As we speak in a room next to Sayles Hall, Brown junior

Mugabe government for "violation of the journalism laws." He was released on bail the following week.

Later, Kristof spoke to students after the showing of "The Devil Came on Horseback," a riveting documentary about Brian Steidle, an American observer in the African Union who was the first to photograph the atrocities in Darfur and sub-

the fall to complete a documentary filmed on his last trip.

He lauded students, saying "when national values are at stake, it is the students who lead."

He could have been speaking about Warren and the students in Brown's Darfur Action Network, who successfully lobbied Brown to divest from companies doing business with Sudan, as well as the city of Providence and the state.

Kristof criticized American presidents for turning a blind eye to genocides of the 20th century, Woodrow Wilson for the 1915 Armenian genocide, FDR during the Holocaust and Clinton during the Rwandan genocide.

He asked the question, "How have we done in response to the last four years?"

"We've done OK. We use the word genocide for what is happening in Darfur, we are good at supplying relief aid, but five years into the genocide it feels so incredibly inadequate."

He sees two paths towards a solution: "Putting pressure on the Chinese government to suspend arms transfer to Sudan. This is not impossible. And, there needs to be a tremendous diplomatic effort on the part of the EU, Arab countries."

The ongoing risks, he stressed, are that the conflict will spill over to Chad, which it has already done to some extent, the Central African Republic, and Niger. In addition, the civil war between the North and South in Sudan could reignite.



"We've done OK. We use the word genocide for what is happening in Darfur, we are good at supplying relief aid, but five years into the genocide it feels so incredibly inadequate."

Nicholas Kristof

a car to pick him up at the Westchester home he shares with his wife and three children. His wife is Sheryl WuDunn, who was a *Times* columnist when the couple shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for their coverage of the Tiananmen Square democracy struggle in China.

It took Edelstein a year to get enough sponsors to support Kristof's visit. Becoming involved in social justice issues at Brown/RISD Hillel as *Tzedek* chair and through the film festival during her years at Brown

Scott Warren comes up to Kristof and asks him if he has heard that a *Times* reporter has been arrested in Zimbabwe. (Warren is national head of the student anti-genocide coalition for Darfur, STAND. His father is chief political officer in Zimbabwe.)

"No," Kristof answers. "It must be my friend Barry (Bearak). *The Times* has been running his stories without a byline."

He quickly checks the *Times* website, which confirms that Bearak had been arrested by the

sequently publish them through Kristof.

Kristof's message was somewhat hopeful.

"Darfur is not an insoluble problem. We need to keep up the pressure on China."

He uses Mia Farrow as an example of someone who has made a difference. "She has done more to get U.N. peacekeepers into Sudan by putting pressure on China and the upcoming Olympics (which Farrow has dubbed the 'genocide' Olympics) than Condi Rice."

Kristof will return to Sudan in

VOICES: Speaking up for the unheard child

From Page 1

Head Start!" "Save Head Start!" they cried. And when the rally was over, the dolls, as fragile as these children's educational choices, were placed in the mailboxes of the governor and the legislators, to toss or to keep.

The children's chorus is part of the symphony of communal voices that have risen up to decry state budget proposals that would cut health care, child care, as well as educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor.

Donna Harley is a Head Start parent from Cranston, who now volunteers on the national Head Start board. "I was every statistic you could imagine. I was on food stamps, unemployed, with five kids from a couple of different fathers. I was an alcoholic. I tried to take my life and my unborn child's. I was hospitalized, was treated for severe depression.

"And while I was in the hospital, my sisters took my 5-year-old twins to Head Start. When I got out of the hospital, I went to Head Start in my nightgown. They didn't mention anything about the nightgown but talked to me. And, that was the beginning. They taught me, and it took a few years, that I had the ability to make decisions, to take



CHAIRS IN FRONT OF THE STATEHOUSE rally for Head Start April 10. Each of the 400 symbolized a cut in education for a poor child.

responsibility, to work. Without them, I would not be here."

Her children clung to her legs as she spoke, waving their little paper dolls.

JEWISH VOICES

"Be a voice for the unheard child," urged Laura Silberfarb at a meeting of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) held April 9. It is the name of a new NCJW initiative to advocate for the critical needs of poor children and families in the state.

The Head Start program is at the top of the list, said Sandy Rosenberg, who coordinated the platform with Silberfarb.

"We know it is a difficult

year, and we have to be realistic given the budget deficit. But not by putting poor mothers and children on the chopping block," said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, executive director of Rhode Island Kids Count, who spoke at the meeting and also at the

"If these 400 slots are cut, where will these children go? They will go nowhere. Nowhere."

Elizabeth Burke Bryant

rally. "If these 400 slots are cut, where will these children go? They will go nowhere. Nowhere." She stressed the importance of



Photos by Mary Korr

AT THE THE NATIONAL COUNCIL of Jewish Women's April 9 meeting, the keynote speaker was Elizabeth Burke Bryant, center, of RI Kids Count, shown speaking to Kathy Lambert. At left, Laura Silberfarb, and, right, Sandy Rosenberg, who are coordinating a new initiative, "Be the Voice of the Unheard Child."

the interfaith community efforts. "Hearing from the religious communities is so important; it's another level of reminder legislators take seriously."

Silberfarb said one of the NCJW's next action is to organize an NCJW visit to the Statehouse. Letters were posted that evening from NCJW members to legislators, urging them to "to look at all revenue sources on the table."

"We have the data and moral outrage on our side," said Bryant.

Ron Herndon, president of the National Head Start Association, came to Rhode Island on April 10. His home state of Oregon is increasing Head Start's budget. He said a "Conservative Republican" businessman, who sits on the state citizen's crime commission, understood the value of Head Start — "that it makes dollars and sense," Herndon said. He successfully lobbied the business community, the state legislature and the governor, who passed and signed legislation to not only fully fund Head Start this year, but to add an additional \$39 million to state spending for the program over several years.

See BUDGET, Page 11

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HILLEL: Building a strong Jewish student community at URI

From Page 1

of Rhode Island, describing the importance of the \$1 million gift by the Fain family to help build the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center on the URI campus. "We are not only building a facility, but building our future leaders," she said, describing the role of Hillel, which currently serves about 1,200 students.

The event had the feel of a large Jewish family gathering as more than 100 guests crowded into the URI Alumni Center April 9 to celebrate the announcement of \$1 million gift to URI Hillel from the Norman and Rosalie Fain Family Foundation in memory of Norman Fain, who received his undergraduate degree from URI in 1936 and an Honorary Doctor of Business degree in 1967.

Fain, who was the former head of the Apex department stores and Teknor Apex, is remembered for his generous philanthropy. Upon his death in 2003, *The Providence Journal* wrote: "Rhode Island could use many more Norman Fains. ... It will be as a philanthropist that Mr. Fain will be most remembered. The scope of his generosity was immense."

"My father would have been delighted," said Jonathan Fain, who said the gift was honoring



Left: URI Hillel Student President Jessica Wolchok thanks Rosalie Fain for her support. Right: Plans for the new Norman M. Fain Hillel Center for Jewish life on the Kingston campus.



his father's commitment and generosity. "We see this as a fitting tribute to our father and an opportunity to invest in the future of the Jewish community," he said.

Rabbi Herb Tobin, senior consultant from International Hillel, spoke of the importance of providing a place on campus for students to explore and celebrate their Jewish identity.

"No other investment can provide better returns," he said. According to Tobin, there are currently 35 ongoing campaigns

to build new Hillel facilities on campus, and he shared greetings from Edgar Bronfman, a

"We see this as a fitting tribute to our father and an opportunity to invest in the future of the Jewish community."

Jonathan Fain

leading Jewish philanthropist, who is a driving force in Hillel's efforts to build new facilities. "Edgar Bronfman told me he is

planning to come to the University of Rhode Island during the next academic year," Tobin said, hinting at a possible additional donation.

The new 7,400 square-foot Center will be built in the renovated and re-designed former Alpha Epsilon Pi Jewish Fraternity house, which is in the heart of URI's "Freshman Village." It is envisioned as a central meeting point where students can celebrate Jewish life, explore Jewish and universal

issues, build life-long friendships, and enrich their personal growth.

According to the plans, the new Hillel Center will provide: multi-purpose lounges for programs or casual get-togethers; a kosher kitchen and dining space that will offer an appropriate setting for festive Shabbat and holiday dinners, Passover seders, and campus/community events; a Beit Knesset, a place of gathering for Shabbat and holiday services that can also be used for lectures, films, and discussions.

See HILLEL, Page 11

*Ask the questions
Tell the story
Drink the wine
Find the afikomen*

*Wishing you and your family a joyous celebration of traditions as we honor the freedom of our people
— and all people —
this Passover*



HILLEL: Community celebrates new URI Fain Center

From Page 10

Further, the Center will also feature a patio that will be home to the campus Sukkah and provide outdoor social space; a library/computer lab that will house Hillel's collection of books of Jewish interest; and a reception area, complete with an information kiosk and coffee bar, that will allow students and guests to be warmly welcomed.

The fundraising effort for

the \$4 million is being conducted by Lawrence Sadwin, URI Hillel's new development director. According to Sadwin, \$3 million will be dedicated to the design and construction of the new Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, and \$1 million will be used to create a permanent endowment to support ongoing building operations and maintenance.

"Hillel has been a part of the URI family for many

years. It helps build a strong sense of community for our students and guides them toward roles as active citizens in our nation. Hillel creates leaders; young people able to lead in the global village and the world marketplace. I am so grateful to the Fain family for their commitment to Jewish students and to all the students of URI," said URI President Robert L. Carothers.

BUDGET:

Protecting women and children

From Page 9

"Why? Because Head Start works," said Herndon. "It is the best investment a state can make. It reduces crime. It puts poor children on a par with their peers. I am here to tell the governor of Rhode Island to listen to [Federal Reserve Chairman] Ben Bernanke, who said last week, 'the best investment in the economy is early childhood education.'"

Susan Dickstein, from the Bradley Early Childhood Clinical Research Center, said the data is absolutely clear that programs like Head Start prepare children in poverty for developmental learning success which persists over time. She described Head Start as a "preventive program for high-risk children. The question to ask," she said, "is not does Head Start work? But, how can we not afford to fund it in light of the evidence?"

Jorge Elorza, now an assistant professor of law at Roger Williams University, got his academic start in Head Start. "I remember one of my great sources of pride when I was 3 feet tall and 4 years old - it was my Head Start graduation photo, in cap and gown, my mother hung in our living room."

He said the proposed budget "further distances ourselves from the poor, and marginalizes them in the worst neighborhoods." He added a Brookings Institute Report shows high wealth and high poverty neighborhoods are on the rise across America, with middle-class neighborhoods dropping. "This budget will only make matter worse. In face of all the evidence to the contrary, we are taking away skilled workers needed in the new economy we must have for a healthy and strong state."

Happy & Healthy Holidays

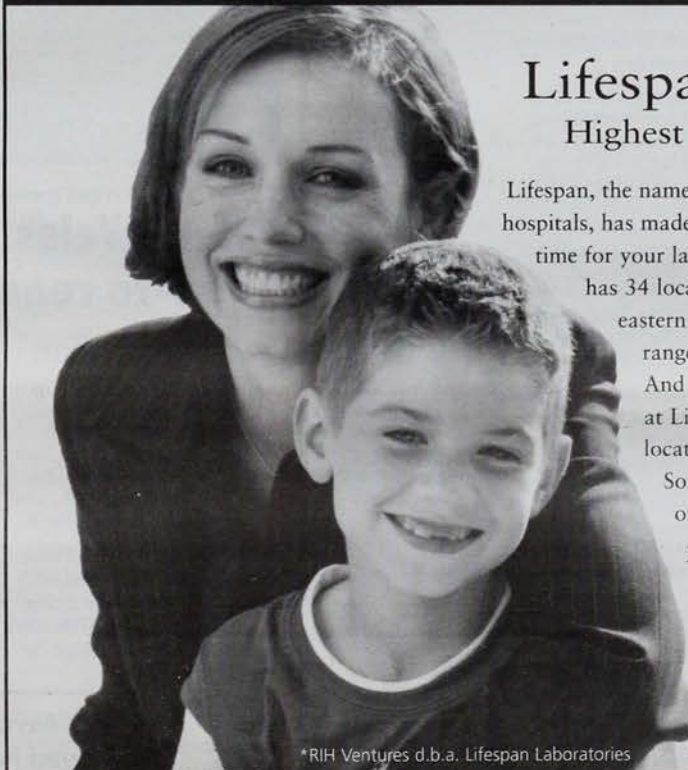
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The 2008-09 Officers and Board of the Women's Alliance of JFRI also will be installed at the Annual Meeting.

2008-09 Proposed Slate of Women's Alliance Officers and Board of Directors

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Karen Triedman
Alison Walter
Miriam Esta Weiner



Photo by Pat Zacks

HERB WEISS and his chocolate lab, Murray.

Herb Weiss, Pawtucket's go-to renaissance guy

Economic affairs official is bullish on Pawtucket arts district

BY NANCY KIRSCH

Special to The Voice & Herald

PAWTUCKET – Herb Weiss, Pawtucket's economic and cultural affairs officer, is an ardent, energetic cheerleader for the city's renaissance. The city's slogan is

now 'Rhode Island's Creative Community,' thanks in part to Weiss's championing art as a powerful economic engine for the city's growth and development

Pawtucket is transforming abandoned mill buildings that bear witness to Rhode Island's manufacturing history into thriving communities for artists and others who relish urban living.

"In the late 1990s, we took [the framework of] Providence's legislation, and created mixed-use projects with manufacturing and studios," said Weiss. "Pawtucket's success is due to Mayor James Doyle, an early and enthusiastic supporter of the arts."

Mayor Doyle, Director of Planning and Develop-

ment Michael Cassidy and Weiss' own non-bureaucratic approach have attracted newcomers to the city and persuaded developers to rehab so many abandoned properties.

"As artists started to discover Pawtucket, we realized that we should deal with them as with any other business," Weiss said.

Artists looking for space can now access a database of properties for sale or lease; connect with realtor Len Lavoie, who special-

izes in artists and mill projects; and learn about other local arts vendors in the Artist Resource Directory.

"Our hard work getting the word out about all that Paw-

tucket has to offer is paying off," said Weiss. "Lavoie has signed 400 to 500 leases for arts studios since we began. We're 10 minutes from Providence, 45 minutes from Boston and five minutes from the South Attleboro commuter rail. Our rental rates of six to seven dollars a square foot, including heat, are less than either Providence or Boston rates for comparable properties."

Income tax incentives and sales tax exemptions in our arts district

"The Mayor has always viewed Pawtucket as the David between the two Goliaths – Boston and Providence."

Herb Weiss

Jewish News Briefs



Photo: Thaer Ganaim/PPO/BPH Images

FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER and his wife, Rosalyn, lay a wreath at the grave of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during their visit to the West Bank town of Ramallah on Tuesday.

Pope to offer Passover greetings

VATICAN CITY: Pope Benedict XVI, who is visiting New York and Washington this week, has both a public and a private itinerary. The public schedule takes him to tens of thousands of Roman Catholics who will participate with him in religious services in vast arenas. Two of his privately scheduled meetings will be with much smaller numbers of Jewish Americans. The Pope will step inside an American synagogue for the first time to meet with a group of schoolchildren at Park East Synagogue in Manhattan. Later he will meet privately with Jewish representatives at an interfaith gathering in Washington to offer a personal greeting for Passover. (*NEW YORK TIMES*)

Carter stirs up controversy

JERUSALEM: Travel is much in the air. Former U. S. President Jimmy Carter is in the Middle East this week, visiting, among others, most of Israel's leaders. Most but not all. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni suddenly developed scheduling problems when they heard that Carter would also be meeting with Khaled Meshaal, a Hamas leader in Damascus. And Israeli president Shimon Peres gave Carter a stern lecture, telling him that by visiting with Meshaal he has done much damage to Israel and to the peace process. All three of the leading candidates for the American presidency have asked Carter not to meet with Meshaal, as has the State Department. At

last word the meeting was still on. (JTA)

Blue and white mosque

A-TAIBE, ISRAEL: Residents of this Israeli-Arab village have painted their mosque blue and white, the national colors of Israel, in honor of the state's 60th anniversary, taking place next month, thus breaking with many Israeli Arabs who have declared they will boycott the national celebrations. "We are citizens of the State of Israel" said one village elder to a reporter. "For us religion encourages us to bring nations together. The goal is simple; co-existence. A Jew who comes here should not feel that the place is hostile, but like home." A-Taibe has approximately 2,000 residents and reports excellent relations with nearby Jewish communities. (JTA)

Gefilte fish: the new sushi?

NEW YORK: The question before the house is: With four questions waiting to be asked at the Seder table this weekend, is there room for a fifth? To wit: Is gefilte fish the new sushi? The answer is No. But. The *New York Times'* Peter Applebome surveyed the kosher food industry and discovered that while gefilte fish is the Edsel of the seder plate in that it will never become a snack food, other kosher products are doing very well. The kosher market, now \$14 billion a year, has added 14,000 new products in the past five years and there are now 86,000 kosher-certified products on the shelves of America's supermarkets. (*NEW YORK TIMES*)

— Compiled by Yehuda Lev

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Happy
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of
The Jewish
Voice & Herald

We extend our warm wishes for a joyous Passover.



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- Pablo Casals

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Photo by Richard Asino

OUTGOING JCDS HEAD OF SCHOOL Dani Steiner and incoming Board President Bruce Wolpert.

JCDS: New interim and permanent head of school sought

From Page 1

The changes are a result of actions taken by the JCDS board at an April 2 meeting. Parents were informed of the actions in a letter sent the following week.

Bruce Wolpert, the incoming board president, spoke forcefully in an interview about the board's vision of excellence: "We believe that Jewish day school education is a unique education that cannot be matched by any other educational institution in this state," he said.

"Our goal," Wolpert said, "is a school of excellence; we believe the value structure that a Jewish day school gives a child will last a lifetime."

Wolpert and Dani Steiner, the outgoing head of school at JCDS who will be departing June 30, met with *The Voice & Herald* this week to discuss the changes in leadership at the school.

Wolpert is reprising his role as president of the school board; he served twice before, once in 2001-2004, when it was the Alperin Schechter Day School, and again in 2005-2006, after it had become JCDS. Wolpert, a lifelong member of the community, has two children, now 19 and 22, who graduated from the school.

Wolpert praised the financial support from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, which, he said, has provided \$1.5 million to JCDS over the last few years.

Reflecting the community decision to place a high priority on non-denominational Jewish

day school education, JFRI has committed nearly \$2 million over seven years, beginning in 2005, to seed the establishment and development of JCDS, according to Stephen Silberfarb, JFRI's executive vice president and CEO. The funds are tied to financial and enrollment performance measures, he said.

"We look forward to continuing our supportive partnership with JCDS. Our commitment to the school — parents, faculty, staff and above all the kids — is as strong as ever. We are directing resources to assist the school to make this transition a success and realize our community vision in the near future," said Silberfarb.

TRANSITIONS AT JCDS

The leadership changes, Wolpert said, reflect the board's desire to achieve "not only educational excellence, but also the administrative excellence to achieve these goals."

Wolpert acknowledged that the process of change can be "difficult and imperfect."

A search committee is being assembled to look for both an interim head of school and a permanent head of school, Wolpert said. He expects the members of the committee to be announced after Passover. "Parents, teachers, community members and administrators will all have a position on the committee," he said.

"The board's vision," Wolpert reiterated, "is of a school that

See SCHOOL, Page 28

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JCDS meets with parents to discuss head of school's departure

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF

PROVIDENCE – The recent announcement of the departure of Dani Steiner as head of the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS), caught many parents, teachers and staff by surprise.

Parents were informed of Steiner's departure, which will be effective June 30, by a recent letter from the JCDS board. In addition, Alan Harlam the current board president, also announced that he would be leaving.

To allay anxieties and answer questions from the school community, the board held two parent meetings this week. On Monday evening, April 14, about 45 parents attended. Steiner opened the meeting by saying, "We are a few days before the first seder. In the Jewish tradition, *Pesach* is the time we talk about change and renewal."

He thanked parents for their support, and asked them to focus on two things: "What is good for the school?" and "What is good for our children? If this is a good school for your kids, I would encourage you not to take your kids out of school – I am saying this as an educator.

"We are close to formalizing plans for next year, teachers have already signed their contracts, there will be exciting things happening here," Steiner reassured them.

The bottom line, Steiner

said, is to "pray for the success of the school we created, and build on the good foundation we have achieved."

Longtime board member Bruce Wolpert, the president-designate, spoke. "One of the most important things I want to say to you tonight is that the board values everyone's opinion, at all times. We have received a lot of e-mails, both pro and con, and we want to respond to every e-mail."

He apologized for any communication miscues with parents and other constituents

over the past month regarding the changes taking place at the school and said that will improve. "We will be providing you with e-mails about what is going on," he said, and

added there will be future parent meetings to provide updates on the search for an interim head, as well as monthly meetings with teachers and administrators.

He said the school is not changing its educational philosophy – "a dual curriculum is what makes this school so great. It gives students an intellectual discipline that is unmatched in any school in this state, private or public. Teaching values are absolutely para-

mount as kids grow older, I've seen this in my kids," he said.

Wolpert said the search for an interim head of school has begun, with a committee chaired by Gloria Feibish, board vice president, and that a promising interim candidate is coming to the school next week for preliminary discussions. Feibish spent two full days last week at the national Partners for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) conference held in Boston, talking to consultants,

the origin of this action?"

Wolpert answered there was no one specific event. "The board processed various issues and deliberated for lengthy sessions and, with respect to Dani, I don't want to enumerate every point publicly."

Wolpert said that the board made the best judgment it could. "It's not a perfect system. We had a very difficult month in making this decision."

Board member Hope Hirsch expressed the struggle of the

board in arriving at its decision, meeting for two lengthy discussions, and taking the views of parents into consideration.

Wolpert said there were 14 out of 15 board members present when the

vote was taken, but said the breakdown of the voting itself was confidential information.

Another parent said day schools all over are in trouble and wondered if Rhode Island has the demographics to support the school. "I hope the board is realistic in its expectations," she said.

The current enrollment at JCDS is 150 students.

Parent Josh Karlin said the school is run by a board of directors, and was confident it fully thought through difficult issues. "I appreciate someone making these hard decisions."

Seth Shulman identified himself as a parent new to the school, and said his child was happy and seemed to be flourishing, but added, "I want to understand what values are important here. I want to understand how these decisions are being made. I don't feel like I have a sense of that."

There seemed to be a common denominator among all the remarks: everyone wants to focus on what is best for the school and the students and to build on its successes.

"Our kids will be all right," most parents agreed.

"What is not changing is the school's educational philosophy – a dual curriculum is what makes this school so great."

**Bruce Wolpert,
incoming JCDS board president**

and going to search seminars.

Parent Oded Galor, who expressed strong support for Steiner, asked: "What was

From Schechter to JCDS

IN 2002, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) formed a day school task force, which, after a year of study, recommended exploring a cross-denominational Jewish community day school. The Partnership, then the long-range planning arm of JFRI, formed a community

day school committee in 2004 chaired by Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer.

In 2005, JFRI allocated \$425,000 to the school for start-up costs, and the school was incorporated and changed its name from the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) to the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS).

In 2006, Dani Steiner, from Israel, was chosen to head JCDS. That year, JFRI awarded the school \$1.2 M over a six-year period based on measurable progress in advancing financial and enrollment goals.

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Restoring a Jewish cemetery in Belarus

Newport native returns to Belarus on a mission of memory

BY AARON GINSBURG
Special to the Voice & Herald

MY FATHER was born in Dokshitsy, a small town now in Belarus, and immigrated to Newport, R.I., where I grew up, in 1921. In 1942, the entire Jewish population of Dokshitsy — 3,000 men, women and children — was taken to a pit across from the cemetery and murdered. This heinous act took place in three "actions" during Passover, on Lag B'Omer and at the end of May. In 1965, the government destroyed the Jewish cemetery and turned it into a park. Today, there are no Jews in Dokshitsy.

In December 2005, the local authorities in Dokshitsy wrote a letter seeking help to restore the Jewish cemetery: "We would like to discuss with you the methods of resolving this situation in the best way so that all our actions do not seem to be blasphemy regarding the buried and also we would like to correct a mistake that was done many years ago."

I was in the right place at the right time. I had long been interested in history and Jewish history, and more recently in my family history. I believe that the message of Judaism is about respecting each other. This extends to respecting those who preceded us. So I was ready to respond to the surprisingly friendly message from Belarus.

Joining with others, I created The Friends of Jewish Dokshitsy, Inc., and sought out descendants to help the citizens of Dokshitsy save their and our Jewish history.

Last October the authorities in Dokshitsy sent a letter to me. They reiterated: "Dokshitsy Regional Magistrate considers it is necessary to preserve the remnants of the Jewish Cemetery: to beautify the place, to install a memorial... We hope for your support and understanding in the intention to create a Memorial to the hundreds of Jewish citizens of Dokshitsy."

On its own initiative and without receiving any assistance, the town of Dokshitsy recently re-erected over 100 tombstones in the cemetery. The tombstones had been buried under a road from 1965 to 2005. With the help of donations from all over the world, a fence will be



HIKE OF THE STUDENTS and graduates of the "Hebrew School" in Parafianov (six miles from Dokshitsy), July 2, 1933. Most of the people in this picture died less than 10 years later in the Holocaust.

Photos courtesy of Aaron Ginsburg



Aaron Ginsburg grew up in Newport, where a number of families have roots in Belarus.

erected, the cemetery will be landscaped, and monuments will memorialize the Jews buried there. At the site of the Holocaust massacres, a monument will be erected that states that among those killed were more than 3,000 Jewish residents. The current monument calls the victims "Soviet citizens."

My daughter Rebecca and I will be in Dokshitsy with friends and family from the United States, Israel, South Africa, and Moscow on May 23, 2008 (Lag

B'Omer) to remember its Jewish community. Together we will recite the *Kaddish* at the newly restored cemetery and at the site of the *Shoah* massacres across the street. Among those present will be my cousin Mark Izeman. Mark's parents are Henry and Paula (Adelson) Izeman of Barrington.

Soon after the rededication, The Friends of Jewish Dokshitsy will landscape the site of a Holocaust massacre in nearby Parafianov, and participate in the local

historical museum, including a memorial wall with hundreds of names of the Holocaust victims. The wall will be left unfinished in memory of the thousands of victims whose names are lost.

Growing up in Newport, I didn't understand what a special experience it was being in a transplanted *shtetl*. In addition to my family, many other families from Dokshitsy immigrated to Newport. Among the Newport families from Dokshitsy were

See CEMETERY, Facing Page

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CEMETERY:

A Belarus cemetery rises from the ashes

From Previous Page

Kusnitz, Adelson, Friedman, Teitz, Ginsburg, Rosoff, and Shapiro. Other large concentrations of Dokshitzers went to Brooklyn, Waterbury, Conn.; Sheboygan, Wis.; Cleveland and Memphis.

Although the Holocaust took place almost 70 years ago, to me it retains its immediacy. My father's first cousin, Shmuel Markman, a Holocaust survivor who I met a year ago in Israel, wrote in the Dokshitsy-Parafianov *Yizkor* book, "I want to write the names of my brothers and sisters and their families here, perhaps some of them survived." He then listed 50 people whom he undoubtedly knew that did not survive. He also submitted a total of 70 names to Yad Vashem. And these are just the relatives



ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE and without receiving any assistance, the town of Dokshitsy recently re-erected over 100 tombstones in the cemetery. The tombstones had been buried under a road from 1965 to 2005.

"Dokshitsy Regional Magistrate considers it necessary to preserve the remnants of the Jewish Cemetery."

whose names I know.

To learn more about Jewish Dokshitsy including pictures of the current condition of the cemetery, instructions for making contributions to overcome 67 years of neglect, and

how to be at the re-dedication in May, visit <http://www.jewishdokshitsy.org/> or contact me at info@jewishdokshitsy.org or call me at my home in Sharon, Mass., at 508-682-3115.



A READING from 'The White Rose' at Temple Emanu-El

Performances of 'The White Rose' draw more than 2,500 students

Holocaust Through the Arts program will also feature student essays on 'resistance'

MORE THAN 2,500 students from 15 schools across Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts viewed performances of "The White Rose" as part of the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island's "Holocaust Through the Arts" program, chaired by

Gloria and Martin Feibish.

The high schools serving as host for the performances included: Westerly, Chariho Regional, Toll Gate, Moses Brown, Smithfield, and Rogers. A performance was also held at Temple Emanu-El.

As a second part to the program, using the theme of "resistance," students from the 15 schools will be writing poetry, essays, short stories and creating art projects. The winning entries will be displayed at the Warwick Mall Food Court, with an awards ceremony on June 1.



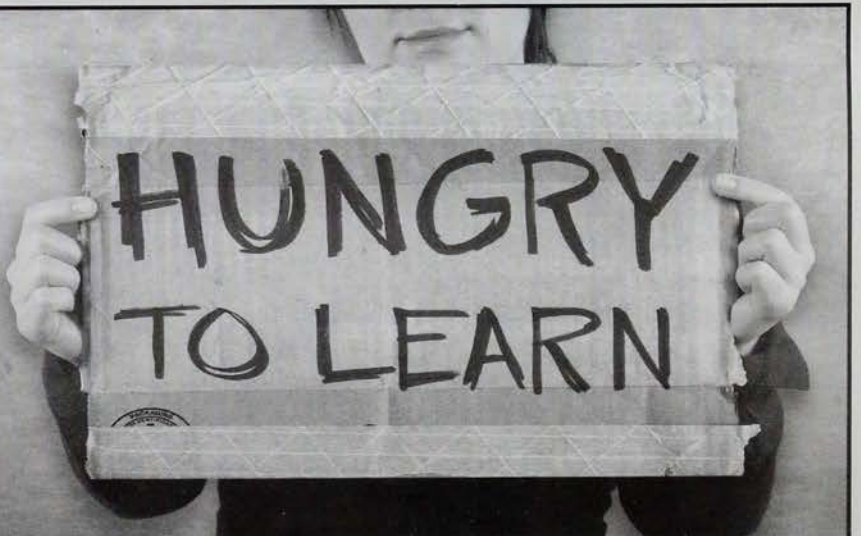
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In 1948, Israelis leaders faced prodigious task: build a state and fight a war

Ben Gurion united fighting factions – Irgun, Palmach and Lehi – into one force

BY YEHUDA LEV
yehudal@cox.net

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1948, was sunny and warm in Tel Aviv, and there was dancing in the streets over the events of the previous afternoon, when the members of the Yishuv's Governing Council signed Israel's Declaration of Independence. It was a brief ceremony; the signers wanted to arrive home before Shabbat. Not all of them were present; those from Jerusalem, for example, were trapped inside the city by the siege imposed by Transjordan's Arab Legion.

Cairo was equally sunny and equally joyous that spring day. The Egyptian Prime Minister led his country into war against the infant Jewish State, promising a massacre of its 650,000 Jews by the combined strengths of 1.2 million Palestinian Arabs and millions of Arabs in adjoining states and North Africa, who together would return Palestine to its rightful owners and end this latest intrusion of alien Western ways into the Arab Middle East.



THE FRONT PAGES from *The Palestine Post* and *The New York Times* from May 15, 1948.

In Haifa the Union Jack was lowered as the last of the British administrators and soldiers boarded ship and sailed for Blighty.

In Washington, President Truman wasted no time in granting *de facto* recognition to Israel while the Soviet Union trumped his election year ace by extending *de jure* recognition.

And, in Tel Aviv, the lovely weather turned ugly when the tranquil Shabbat morning was shaken first by the roar of Egyptian aircraft overhead and then

by the dropping of their bombs upon the hapless city. Some civilians died, a small fraction of the 1,600 Jews who perished in Israel's War of Independence.

The tasks facing the leaders of the new state were prodigious. The partition of Palestine had given them 55 percent of an already small country, most of that consisting of the Negev desert, which was intended for settlement by the hundreds of thousands of Jews waiting to enter from European and Muslim countries. It was an

elongated and thin territory, presenting extended front lines and long lines of supply to face the invading armies of Egypt, Transjordan, Syria and Lebanon, alongside units from other Arab states.

Jerusalem was already isolated, and the Haganah required time to morph into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). But there was little time and mistakes were made, lives were lost as the process of state-creation during war proved more difficult than expected. Because the need

for soldiers was so great, some immigrants actually went into battle the day after arrival without training or orientation.

Israel's War of Independence did not begin on May 15, 1948, but on November 30, 1947, the day after the partition resolution was voted upon by the U. N.'s General Assembly. By evening there took place Palestinian guerilla attacks on Jewish buses and villages throughout the land; serious fighting began in

See ISRAEL, Page 37

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Let My People Go

House arrest, economic persecution, and daily intimidation could not stop Soviet Jews from realizing their dream of aliyah.

BY MARK H. LEVINE
Babaganewz Editor

WITH REPORTING
BY ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Yelena Dubiansky scribbled a warning on the yellow notepad she kept at all times on the kitchen table: "We can't talk about the Hebrew class in this apartment; it's bugged!" For emphasis, the 42-year-old former political science teacher underlined the words "it's bugged" and added an exclamation point.

THE WALLS HAVE EARS

Her guest, a young Jewish professional from Cleveland, Ohio, read the note and stopped talking mid-sentence. *How stupid of me*, he thought. *Security is the first thing they explained during my briefing.* Before he left on his mission to Moscow, Jeremy Halperin had met with Soviet Jewry activists who warned him that the KGB—the Soviet Union's notorious secret police—were watching each of the refuseniks he would meet during his ten-day trip. His itinerary included bringing *siddurim* (prayer books) and Hebrew grammar books to Moscow's veteran refuseniks, like Yelena, who had been refused permission to immigrate to Israel for at least a dozen years.

Yelena took Jeremy's arm and led him into the dimly lit hallway. For the first time, he noticed the gray paint peeling off the walls and the threadbare carpet on the floor. *How did I miss these things when I arrived?* he wondered. *I must have been really nervous.* But his security lapse inside the apartment awakened Jeremy to everything around him, including the dangers Yelena faced. *I won't*

slip up again, he promised himself. *There's too much at stake.*

"Let's walk and talk," Yelena said, smiling warmly.

"I'm sorry. I hope I didn't put you in danger."

"It's okay, Jeremy. I've lived with Big Brother watching me for 12 years, ever since I applied for an exit visa in '76. But it's a new experience for you; don't worry."

"Thanks," he said, relieved. "And by the way," he added, hoping some good news would make up for his mistake, "I brought you a new map of Israel."

"Sh-h-h," Yelena cautioned. "Even these walls have ears."

A LIFE IN REFUSAL

As they walked among the birch trees that lined the street outside her apartment, Jeremy listened to Yelena describe her life in refusal. "It's a vicious circle," she sighed. "I apply for a job, even a low-level job, and then the authorities come and tell my boss I'm a refusenik. Soon, I'm fired and looking for work again. This is the plight of all refuseniks, not just me." She told Jeremy how her apartment had been searched twice, and how she and others had been placed under house arrest to prevent them from attending human rights demonstrations. "I can tell you that I don't remember a time when I haven't been frightened," Yelena confessed, "especially because I don't know what they could do to me. Some refuseniks, like Anatoly Sharansky and Yuli Edelstein, were imprisoned in the Gulag."

ALIYAH, AT LAST

Her tale made Jeremy wonder: *Would I stay Jewish in the face of government persecution?* The cold March wind matched his mood and stung his face. He was thankful when Yelena suggested they return home for tea.

They heard the kettle whistling before they opened the door, and Yelena's daughter, Ina, greeted them with good news.

"Mama, OVIR called. They said we're approved!"

"What? Are you sure? Maybe it's a mistake, a-a-a-trick."

"No, Mama; it's official. A clerk called here...from the Office of Visas and Registration. We're going to start a new life in Israel, Mama."

The two women hugged each other tightly, and then, they remembered Jeremy and hugged him too.

"Let's call everybody," Yelena said, wiping tears from her face. But suddenly, as if her world had collapsed around her, she cried aloud: "My family—my mom, my sister, my brother—what if I never see them again?"

"You will, Mama. You will, I promise."

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The next several days passed in a blur. Yelena, her husband, and Ina hurriedly prepared to leave the Soviet Union.

"Remember, two suitcases—nothing more," Yelena scolded her daughter. "We don't want to give the authorities any excuses to take us off the plane."

"They wouldn't dare,

This article is based on a true story. The character of Jeremy is fictional and represents the multitude of North American Jews who secretly met with Yelena.

would they, Mama?"

"They did with a few people, so leave nothing to chance."

Friends came to their apartment to wish them well and drink *l'chayim*. Jeremy, who had left to continue his meetings, returned the day Yelena departed. They said good-bye in her kitchen. To Yelena's delight, he pulled a yellow notepad from his pocket.

"Write me often!" he wrote. For emphasis, he underlined "often" and added an exclamation point.

Yelena laughed. It was a deep, unrestrained laugh of joy.

They left the darkness of the Soviet Union aboard a Russian plane, which took them to Vienna, Austria. From there, they boarded an El Al flight

(Right) As a young refusenik, Yelena was an outspoken member of Jewish Women Against Refusal.

April 8, 1995

Dear Jeremy,

Shalom aleichem! I write you on the seventh anniversary of my aliyah. I'm happy and feel at home here. Although, like all Israelis, I want my country to be better, to be smarter. During the last five years, more than a million Jews came here from Russia. Finding them homes and jobs was difficult, but I threw myself into that task because someone helped me when I was a new immigrant, and helping others is how we say thank you. I hope you will visit me soon. You can leave your yellow notepad at home!

B'shalom,
Yelena Dubiansky

BABAGANEWZ

This story is excerpted from "Israel's Spirit@60 1968-2008," a special edition of Babaganewz Magazine in honor of Israel@60. Babaganewz is an award winning publication for Jewish students in 4th-7th grades. For more exciting Israel@60 content, visit babaganewz.com.

to Israel, where reporters and friends greeted them at the airport. Before the first question could be asked, a child pushed his way through the crowd and handed Ina a box of strawberries. "Look, Mama," she laughed. "It's only April, but we've got strawberries."



(Above) Yelena today at her home in Rehovot

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY 1968-2008

1969	1973	1978	1981	1984	1987	1993	1995	2005	2007
Golda Meir becomes first female prime minister in Israel; 18 families in Soviet Union ask U.N. and Israel to help them immigrate to the Jewish state.	Egypt and Syria launch surprise attacks on Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year.	Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat meet at Camp David and agree on historic peace treaty, which is signed in 1979.	Israel destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor; Golan Law is passed, giving Israel sovereignty over Golan Heights.	Operation Moses secretly brings approximately 7,000 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel. The operation is revealed in early 1985.	Palestinian terrorism erupts in Gaza Strip and West Bank, launching what becomes known as the Intifada; notable "refuseniks," including Ida Nudel, are released by Soviet Union; first heart transplant is performed in Israel.	Yitzhak Rabin signs the Oslo Accords, granting Palestinians limited autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank.	Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish radical.	Israel evacuates Gaza; Robert Aumann wins Nobel Prize in economics, joining fellow Israeli laureates of the 21st century, Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko (chemistry, 2004), and Daniel Kahneman (economics, 2002).	Hamas, a radical Islamic terrorist organization, overthrows the Palestinian Authority in Gaza Strip and launches rockets daily into Israel.



Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

JEWISH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY

April 18

Real Estate Insight

Local real estate expert Sally Lapidès will answer questions about the current real estate market

WHEN: 2 p.m.

WHERE: Brightview Commons, 57 Grande Ville Court, South Kingstown

MORE INFO: 789-8777

SUNDAY

April 20

Community Seder

WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin, Mass.

MORE INFO: 508-528-5337

Community Seder

WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, Cranston

COST: \$20 adults, \$14 children ages 10-11, \$11, children ages 6-9, \$5, children 5 and under

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Community Seder

Passover Seder for the community. No cost, bring your own main course and something to share. Reservations required.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Habonim, 165

New Meadow Road, Barrington

MORE INFO: For information and reservations call the temple at 245-6536

TUESDAY

April 22

Men's Seder

Haggadah-based exploration of contemporary men's issues

WHERE: Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard St., Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m.

COST: \$25

MORE INFO: Call 331-6070

THURSDAY

April 24

Mark Binder

Book signing by local author of his new book, "The Brothers Schlemiel."

WHERE: Books on the Square, Wayland Square, Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

April 25

Open House

Friday School will hold an open house for parents, prospective

students

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence

WHEN: 3:30 - 5:45 p.m.

MORE INFO: Call (508) 648-9516 or e-mail Aplawson2@aol.com

K'Tantan Shabbat

Worship for families with young children, toddlers-first grade.

WHERE: Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

WHEN: 6 p.m.

MORE INFO: Call 331-6070

SUNDAY

April 27

Mark Binder

Book signing by local author of his new book, "The Brothers Schlemiel"

WHERE: Barrington Books, Barrington Shopping Center, off Rte. 114

WHEN: 2 p.m.

Sisterhood Book Group

Important Jewish women in biblical history. Lilah, A Forbidden Love, A People's Destiny by Marek Halter. All are welcome

WHEN: 9:30- 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington, RI

MORE INFO: Call the temple at 245-6536

MONDAY

April 28

Field of Flags

Hillel will create a field of flags to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

WHERE: Hammerschlag Mall, University of Rhode Island campus

WHEN: 9 a.m., flag planting begins

MORE INFO: (401) 874-2740

WEDNESDAY

April 30

Yom HaShoah

Interfaith Holocaust memorial service, with focus on kinder transport children

WHERE: Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-1616

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust memorial service

WHERE: Torat Yisrael 330 Park Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 5:30 p.m.

Brown/RISD Hillel annual meeting

Voice & Herald columnist and Brown Professor Alan Zuckerman to speak

WHERE: Hillel House, 80 Brown

St., Providence

WHEN: 5:30 — 6:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

May 2

Yom HaShoah

Reflections on Darfur, Scott Warren, director of STAND

WHERE: Cong. Agudas Achim, 901 No. Main St. Attleboro.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. (preceded by family service, 5:45 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m.)

MORE INFO: (508) 222-2243

Simchat shabbat

Service for young families, dinner and interactive kid-friendly service

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 5:45 p.m.

COST: \$10 per family, RSVP to 785-1800 by April 29.

Scholar-in-residence

Rabbi Dennis Ross will speak on stem cell research

WHERE: Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: Call 245-6536

See CALENDAR, Page 30

Who is honored? One who honors everyone. — AVOT 4.1



TRIBUTES
DUE
APRIL 23

Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer will soon end his long rabbinic tenure at Temple Emanu-El in order to pursue teaching and educational consulting. His presence at Emanu-El and throughout the whole community has invigorated and enriched both our spiritual and cultural life.

Add your voice in expressing your respect for Rabbi Kaunfer with your submission to a special tribute journal. Proceeds from the journal will enable us to establish a dedicated endowment fund at Emanu-El in Rabbi Kaunfer's honor as a permanent legacy to the ideals for which he stands.

For more details about the journal and the June 1st tribute event at Temple Emanu-El, call the Temple at 331-1616 or visit our website at www.teprov.org.

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Israel@60 Calendar

MONDAY

April 28

Free Israel Movie Night
"Jellyfish," and discussion with author and filmmaker, Etgar Keret.

WHERE: Brown-RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence

WHEN: 8 p.m.

MORE INFO: www.brownhillel.org.

SATURDAY

May 3

Life in the IDF
A special shabbat morning service

WHEN: 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

MORE INFO: Call 463-7944 or e-mail cantorrick@templeam david.org.

SUNDAY

May 4

Personal Reminiscences on Israel
Journalist and Voice & Herald columnist Yehuda Lev shares stories from the earliest days of Israel. Presented by Hadassah.

WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

MORE INFO: E-mail wbs24@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY

May 7

Emunotes
The singing troupe, Emunotes, from the Emunah Center, a residential and day facility for at-risk teens, will provide an evening of Israeli dancing and singing.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: call 861-8800, or e-mail or ssuls@jccri.org.



THE EMUNOTES, a teen singing troupe from the Afula/Gilboa region, will perform on Wednesday, May 7, at 8 p.m. at the JCCRI.

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- Contact Jacob, at jbrier@jccri.org or 401.861.8800 ext.124, for more information or to get on the guest list.
- Only \$18 in advance (\$20 at the door)
*First 50 registrants receive a gift bag



This event was made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. GesherCity RI is funded by an allocation from the JFRI and is housed at the JCCRI

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On the sweet side: Kugels, cookies from Fishbein

By MARYLYN GRAFF
mgrafl@jfri.org

THIS RECIPE, from Susie Fishbein's "Passover by Design," would make a good side dish for roast chicken, or, in a pinch, could serve as an afternoon snack with tea for unexpected company or as a dessert.

CRANBERRY PINEAPPLE KUGEL

PARVE INGREDIENTS:

Cranberry base

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 4 cups matzah farfel
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 (16 oz.) can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup orange juice

PINEAPPLE TOPPING:

- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup potato starch
- 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained)

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350. Heavily spray a 10-inch springform pan with nonstick spray. Place the farfel into a large strainer or colander, wet under running water and drain.

In a large bowl mix farfel, sugar, cinnamon, cranberry sauce, oil and

orange juice. Combine with a wooden spoon and press into the prepared pan.

In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs and sugar. Add the oil, potato starch and pineapple, pour over the cranberry base.

Bake, uncovered, for 50 minutes. Run a knife or spatula around the edge to loosen the kugel. (12 servings)

JELLY THUMBPRINT COOKIES

makes 30 cookies
Dairy or parve
A change from the ubiquitous Passover macaroons

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or parve margarine
- 3 large egg yolks
- Zest of 1 large lemon
- 1 1/4 cups matzah cake meal
- 3/4 cups potato starch
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- sugar
- Jam, flavor of your choice

Method:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Cover two cookie sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream the butter or margarine and sugar until fluffy. Add the egg yolks and beat in the lemon zest.

Sprinkle in the cake meal, potato starch and salt. Blend well.

Place about 1/2 cup sugar into a small bowl. Drop rounded tablespoons of dough into the sugar. Shake the bowl so the dough is coated with sugar. Re-form into balls and drop onto the cookie sheet. Leave room between cookies for spreading. When sheet is full, use your thumb to make an indentation in the center of each cookie. Fill each with about 1/4 tsp. jam. (Susie says you can also use a few chocolate chips on each.)

Bake for 12 minutes. Cool completely and use a thin-bladed spatula to remove cookies.

(Note: If you don't have parchment paper, you can spray a cookie sheet with vegetable oil.)



JELLY THUMBPRINT COOKIES would be fun to make with the smaller chefs in the house.



Photos Passover by Design

CRANBERRY PINEAPPLE KUGEL is sweet accompaniment for dinner or a snack with tea.

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Elliott Fishbein

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PBS chef Jeff Nathan weighs in on matzah balls

The great debate: sinkers vs. floaters

By ROBYN DOLGIN
Special to the Voice & Herald

CHEF Jeffrey Nathan is amply qualified to settle a culinary debate that surfaces at the seder table annually. It is called the great matzah ball question: Which is better, sinkers or floaters?

Nathan does not wish to engage in a matzah ball face-off, but his credentials reign supreme as the first kosher gourmet chef to host a national PBS television show, *New Jewish Cuisine*. But he concedes that nothing is actually written in stone about the age-old matzah ball.

So which is better? Nathan, for all his culinary sophistication, defers to his *Bubbe* (grandmother) who wasn't just someone who fiddled in the kitchen, but a family matriarch who infused in him a love for the art of cooking. It seems *Bubbe* turned out a dumpling that hearkened back to the family's ancestral days in the *shtetls* of Eastern Europe: the classic featherweight floater. As history tells it, the *knaidl* (Yiddish for dumpling) first appeared on the seder menu in the early (repeat early) Middle

Ages in Germany. Still, some things don't change. In fact, Nathan asks rhetorically: "Why change something that is so easy to make and so delicious to eat?" Not to put too fine a point on it, Nathan adds, "I don't understand why some cooks try to change a tried-and-true recipe. Why make fancy substitutions like using seltzer instead of water?" Really! This from a chef who took the classic *haroset* recipe of diced apples, ground nuts and wine and elevated it to an art form, with a mango-date inspired version that led one PBS viewer to gush "to die for." Hyperbole aside, Nathan observed wryly that "just because *haroset* is supposed to remind us of the bricks and mortars of Jewish enslavement, it doesn't have to look like mud."

In fact, Nathan has shaped a career by pioneering makeovers of kosher classics, now hard to recognize as the Passover (flourless) banana cake



Photo by Alan Richardson

JEFF NATHAN in the kitchen of his restaurant, Abigail's, in New York City.

"Nathan has shaped a career by pioneering makeovers of kosher classics."

with strawberry marsala compote or matzah Napoleon with white chocolate mousse. (For a more exotic list see the menu at Nathan's kosher restaurant,

Abigail's in New York). It's these recipes that made his book, *Adventures in Jewish Cooking*, a bestseller. And yet Nathan holds fast to the traditional *knaidl* recipe: eggs, matzah meal and fat — either chicken or oil — and seasonings. He is even unabashed in pointing home cooks in the direction of kosher instant mixes (Manischewitz and Streichers) that are practically an American-Jewish institution. "They are very, very good. The directions are so simple. There is very little room for mistakes," he says.

How can you improve on perfection? In this case Nathan offers two tips for enhancing, not altering, the recipe he grew to appreciate during his formative years in Queens, New York. He allows the mixed ingredients to refrigerate an additional hour and then simmers, not boils, the matzah balls for 15 to 20 minutes with the lid on the pot. He does not wish to get into a matzah-ball face off

and adds one suggestion to produce a pleasing, dense version: substitute whole-wheat matzah for matzah meal.

That leaves one question afloat: Is bigger better? Or is this trend simply another sign of the fattening of America? Nathan admits the evolution of the matzah ball reflects the unprecedented abundance enjoyed by Jews today, and increased size is one more indicator of the good life experienced by Jews in America. But, in a word, Nathan says, "No," two medium-size balls are just as delicious as one behemoth mouthful.

Meanwhile, more redux recipes keep coming down the pike, and it's clear you don't have to be Jewish to love matzah balls. Some American chefs are throwing tradition out the window, along with the chicken fat, and whipping up low-fat matzah balls (no oil and whipped egg whites), as well as making exotic dumplings with ingredients our impoverished ancestors in the ghettos of Europe had never dreamed of: powdered ginger, ground almonds and Middle Eastern seasonings of cumin, turmeric and saffron.

Nathan has nothing against these versions and even says he's

See NATHAN, Facing Page

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Potenza shares Pesach recipes

Dishes inspired by his love of Jewish-Italian cooking

LOCAL and international chef/ restaurateur Walter Potenza is very interested and knowledgeable about the history of the Jews in Italy and Jewish-Italian cooking and collects recipes, which he kindly shares with us. Here are some dishes for the rest of the week during Passover.

MATZAH, TURKEY AND VEGETABLE SAVORY TORTE

Serves 6-8

"A Sephardic layered savory pie; every Sephardim in Italy makes a different one depending on the area. Used on Passover, but can be a great alternative for using up leftovers. It can also be made with chicken or veal."

Ingredients:

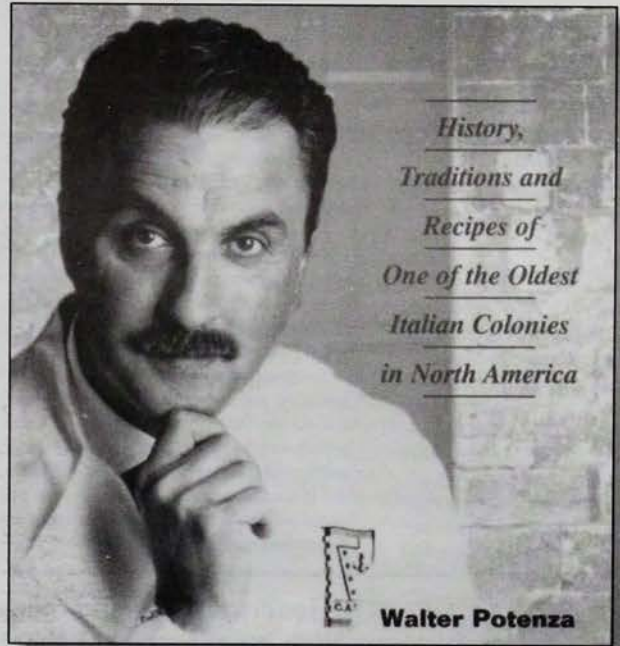
- 6 Tblsps. extra virgin olive oil or more as needed
- 2 cups white onions, minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced

- 1 lb. white mushrooms
- 6 leaves white Swiss chard or fresh spinach, julienned
- 1 lb. (2 cups) fresh cooked turkey, coarsely chopped, poached if not already cooked
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup fresh flat leaf parsley, chopped
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- pinch of fresh thyme, finely chopped
- 6 matzahs, soaked in 1 cup chicken broth or more as needed
- 6 asparagus spears, tender part, cut into 1/2- to 1-inch pieces
- 2 hardboiled eggs, shelled and cubed.

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 F.
- 1) In a large skillet heat olive oil for three minutes over medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic until soft and translucent, about five minutes.
- 2) Add the mushrooms, cook for three minutes, add the chard or spinach and blend well.
- 3) Allow mixture to release liquid, which will take about

- 10 minutes. Transfer to a mixing bowl.
- 4) If turkey is uncooked, poach in one cup of chicken broth for four minutes. Strain, reserve broth and allow to cool while adding the turkey, parsley and eggs to the vegetable mixture. Season to taste with the salt and pepper and combine well.
- 5) In a separate bowl mix the pre-cut hard-boiled eggs and asparagus together and lightly season with salt and thyme. Reserve for later use.
- 6) Break matzahs into good-size pieces and dip into the cooled stock until well moistened but not falling apart.
- 7) Stir 1 tsp. potato starch into reserved broth, bring to a boil and cook until thickened. Blend into the turkey mixture.
- 8) Brush olive oil over the



Walter Potenza

NATHAN: Great Matzah ball debate

From Previous Page

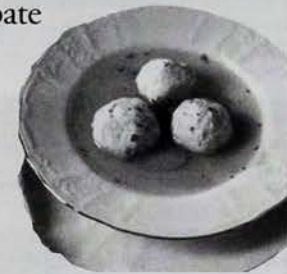
"guilty" of making a dense matzah ball, which he prefers to think of as more of an hors d'oeuvre - in the class of a gnocchi, where he can go wild with pressed garlic, potatoes, flour, parmesan cheese, etc.

Being a practical chef, Nathan has struck that fine balance between upholding tradition and knowing when to veer off the culinary course established by our ancestors. Initially

Nathan says his *Bubbe* instilled in him a passion for cooking and taught him what Jewish food is really all about.

That translates to mean it doesn't matter whether Nathan is following in his

ancestors' footsteps or paving new in-roads as a kosher gourmet, he views the culi-



nary arts as one more way "to celebrate Jewish life." Robyn Dolgin is a former reporter for the USA Today owned newspaper, *The Desert Sun in Palm Springs*. Today she works as a freelance writer and most enjoys covering business and off-the-beaten track feature articles. She lives with her husband in Santa Monica, California.

"That leaves one question afloat: Is bigger better? Or is this trend simply another sign of the fattening of America?"

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inside of a 14-inch terra-cotta oven pot or a baking dish.

9) Lay pieces of matzah in one layer to fit in terra cotta pot or baking dish. Spread half of the turkey mixture over and top with another layer of matzah. Spread on rest of turkey mixture and top with rest of matzah. Brush rest of olive oil over matzah and top with asparagus, hard-boiled egg and thyme mixture, spreading evenly.

10) Bake for 15-20 minutes until nicely browned and crispy on top. Cool 10 minutes and serve.

TONNO FRESCO IN AGRODOLCE
(Fresh tuna with sweet and sour sauce)

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup raisins
- 4 tuna steaks, 8 oz. each
- 1/4 cup potato starch or matzah meal
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, minced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup pine nuts

- 1 Tblsp. salted capers, rinsed
- 1/3 cup green olives
- 1 lb. tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Preparation:

Soak the raisins in water to cover for 30 minutes, drain. Heat oil in a large frying pan. Dredge the tuna steaks in starch or matzah meal. Shake off the excess and season with salt and pepper. Fry in a single layer until golden on both sides, turning once. Remove to a terra cotta casserole or a baking dish.

Add the onion, garlic, pine nuts, capers, olives and raisins to the oil in the pan. Cook until the onion is wilted and aromatic, about five minutes. Drain off excess oil.

Stir in the tomatoes, salt and pepper, bring to a boil, cover and cook for 10 minutes. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Spoon the tomato sauce over fish, add the bay leaves and bake for 15 minutes. Serve hot.

Large family seders at a rented hall

Remembering when more than 60 members of the Gilstein 'tribe' celebrated Passover together

By BARBARA REFFKIN
breffkin@jfri.org

GROWING UP, it never occurred to me that my family's Passover traditions were unique. In fact, it wasn't until later in life when I spoke with friends about their traditions, that I realized just how different mine really were.

My maternal grandparents, like many others of their generation, immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. I grew up hearing my grandfather's tales of escape from the Russian army, and how he was able to send for his wife and son shortly after he arrived in America. My grand-

parents worked hard and raised seven children. And, when all of their children began starting families of their own, the elders began to call "family meetings" in an effort to keep their growing family together.

The "Gilstein Family Circle" met each month. I remember these meetings as being a mix of "family business" and comedy. I can still see the oversized can of lox and mounds of bagels, and I can still hear laughing, arguing, and joking. But what stands out most is the attention to the business at hand.

A sample agenda consisted of dues, minutes, the "sunshine

committee," voting, and planning the family picnic, Hanukkah party, or seder. This tradition was passed down to us grandchildren, and for many years, we held the "cousins club," where the six youngest played cards, took minutes and dues, laughed, and were generally goofy.

As our family continued to grow, we outgrew the space in my aunt's basement where our seders were first held. We rented halls to accommodate the more than 60 people who attended the seder.

Everyone would cook their specialty, and on the day of seder, the women (consisting of my grandmother's generation, my aunts, and the grandchildren – if it was a weekend or school vacation) would meet early in the morning at the rented hall,

be "talent shows" at which my uncle would entertain us with his dummy, "Rusty Ruggles."

The grandchildren would play their instruments of the year, or sing and dance. The audience's responses ranged from clapping and enjoying a performance, to good-natured teasing. Once, when one cousin took the stage with his clarinet, another cousin disrupted the show by urging the audience to "throw him a fish!"

So there we were: three generations of Gilsteins. My grandparents were steadfast in their commitment to keep our family together. As a teenager, I can remember visiting my grandfather in the hospital after one of his many heart attacks (too much chicken fat!) One of his sons happened to call and suggest

that they skip the family meeting that month. Without missing a beat, my grandfather vehemently rejected that proposal. As the years went by (more than 30) my

"Our seders represented much more than a ceremony and meal. It represented a family – unique in these times – making a point of maintaining the tradition of being together."

with a change of clothes and food to prepare for the meal.

There would be non-stop cooking, setting tables, and, oh yes, lots of "kibitzing." As the years went by, we acquired linens and place settings that were used only on Passover – needless to say, we had the system down pat.

The elder men ran the seder when I was young, and it remained that way for many years – until the grandchildren dared to express women's rights and requested to take part in the ritual. And, to top that off, we demanded that the men help with clean-up!

For the "entertainment" portion of the seder, there would

mother's generation took on the responsibility of maintaining our family's close relationship. As my generation began working and starting our own families, the seders became more and more difficult to arrange – as most of "the women" were working outside of the home.

Our seders represented much more than a ceremony and meal. It represented a family – unique in these times – making a point of maintaining the tradition of being together. I am so fortunate to have grown up with cousins (there are 10 of

See TRADITION. Page 44



THE COUSINS' CLUB of the Gilstein tribe at a Seder during the 1960s.



THE ELDER BROTHERS AND SISTER of the Gilsteins. From left, Irving, Harry, Sarah and Aaron Gilstein.




HYMIE RICHMOND, right, presents a traditional bottle of schnapps to Aaron Gilstein, the family patriarch, at the family seder in 1967.

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QUESTION: With twins, who reads the Four Questions?

From Page 1

Schlemiel was 12 hours younger than Abraham — and therefore only he was entitled to ask the questions.

About a week before Passover, the arguments began.

"I think that I should say the four questions," said one boy.

"Me too," replied his brother.

"You think I should say them?" said the first. "Good!"

"No," answered the second. "I think I should say them."

"But I'm Adam!"

"I thought you were Abraham."

"You're Abraham."

"No, I'm Adam!"

It was the first time that they actually came to blows. Their mother hurried over to pull them apart.

"Abraham, Adam, stop that!" she said.

"I'm Adam!" both boys shouted simultaneously.

"You're Adam?"

Rebecca asked the boy on her left. He nodded.

"What about you?"

she asked the other.

"Are you Adam?"

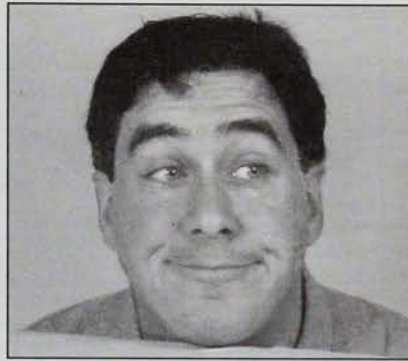
This boy nodded as well.

"Then where is Abraham?" Rebecca Schlemiel shouted in a panic.

"I've lost my oldest child!"

Anywhere else such a reaction would have brought healing laughter into the room. In Chelm, however, such remarks are taken seriously. A search party was organized, and it was only after Adam and Adam had gone to bed that Jacob and Rebecca Schlemiel were relieved to count two sleeping boys instead of just one.

And the next morning, the search parties went out again as



Mark Binder, author and storyteller

both boys denied being Abraham. This wasn't just malicious mischief. The truth was that neither boy was certain who he was.

On one level, they had always heard their names spoken together as "Abrahamadam." On another level, they had sometimes answered to the

little bit of elbow room at the table. Still, Rebecca and Jacob thought that it was best if the twins were separated on opposite sides of the table, to prevent kicks, elbows, and pinches from disrupting the service.

For his part, Jacob hoped that Rebecca's newest nephew, Moishe, who was by all reports a "remarkable and intelligent boy," would be able to recite the questions and thus avoid the impending conflict.

Unfortunately, even if the boy was a one-year-old linguistic genius, Moishe was fast asleep in his mother's arms.

Rebecca was worried for a different reason. If both boys really thought that they were Adam, then might they not both grow up as Adam? Then what would happen to her oldest son, Abraham? Would he simply vanish as if he had never existed?

The early blessings and songs went smoothly. Hands were washed, wine was drunk, and the tale of the Exodus from Egypt began to unfold.

Grandfather Shmuel, as the leader of the service, was seriously considering skipping the Four Questions entirely. The last thing that he wanted was a long and drawn-out argument

that made dinner come even later. He came to the page in the Haggadah and said, "Let's speed this up a bit and move along to . . . OUCH!"

Grandmother Esther had kicked him under the table. He looked at her, she stared him down, and he said, "All right. Fine. Who's going to read the Four Questions?"

All eyes turned to the twins.

"Maybe they both can read them together," said Grandmother Ruth.

"Or take turns," added Grandmother Esther.

"No!" both boys stood up.

"Only one. The youngest reads the Four Questions."

Grandfather Shmuel rubbed his forehead and closed his eyes. Oy!

He felt a headache coming on.

The room fell quiet. No one dared even to breathe. The two brothers looked at each other across the table, their faces carved in impassive stone. The candles flickered. The roast in the oven grew drier.

And then . . . without them saying a word to each other, it was decided.

Abraham sat down, and Adam remained standing.

They looked at each other again. A feeling of sadness filled

their eyes with tears.

Abraham nodded at his brother, and in a voice sweet enough for two, Adam began to chant the Hebrew, "Mah nishtannah ha-lailah hazeh. . ."

In his seat, Abraham mouthed the words, but his voice was silent.

Mark Binder is an author, a storyteller and a former editor of The Rhode Island Jewish Herald. His novel, The Brothers Schlemiel, has just been released and is available at Books on the Square, Barrington Books, and A Novel Idea.

"The room fell quiet. No one dared even to breathe. The two brothers looked at each other across the table, their faces carved in impassive stone. The candles flickered. The roast in the oven grew drier."

individual names whimsically and indiscriminately. If Grandmother Esther offered Adam a treat, both shot forward, but if Grandfather Shmuel had a chore for Adam, neither responded. And sometimes, when neither punishment nor reward was offered, whichever boy was closest replied.

Even when they talked it was often simultaneous, both boys speaking like a Greek chorus, or with one finishing the other's sentence, as if they knew each other's thoughts completely. It

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'Big Tent Judaism' focus of Community Leadership Council talk

Paul Golin from Jewish Outreach Institute leads discussion

By NANCY SLACK
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Imagine what might happen if we thought of the Jewish organizations we are involved with as being large tents, with colorful, inviting tops, but no sides. There would be lots of people and happenings going on. And, everyone could

see us. Everyone could come in. How might that increase our welcome to those who may want to learn more and visit with us, but are not now becoming more engaged in what we do? What can we do to change our behavior to better open our tents?

Such was the topic of "Big Tent Judaism" that was discussed as part of the RI Community Leadership Council program held at the Jewish Community Center this week, which sought to help organization leaders improve their community outreach efforts.

With more than 50 leaders

representing a variety of community organizations, and synagogues in attendance, it was obvious that this was a group of people with more than your usual level of success and experience at outreach. At first the topic seemed rather basic: "We've been talking about this for 20 years, but we don't do it," said one participant.

"Community outreach is important for every organization to do a better job of if they want to grow and expand, but it is particularly difficult and increasingly important for Jewish groups," said Paul Golin, the associate

executive director of The Jewish Outreach Institute, based in New York City. The Institute offers training in community outreach for Jewish organizations, and is the lead group in the Big Tent Judaism coalition.

"Outreach is about giving it away. It's a long-term investment," said Golin, who presented a chart which classified "newcomers" into engaged, unengaged, affiliated and unaffiliated.

Affiliated, he explained, is most often defined as the ideal of success. These are the people who "write the check."

People can fall into any one of these categories – they may be very involved, in the case of the engaged, yet do not affiliate, or contribute. Conversely, they may be major contributors, or affiliated, yet not at all engaged – i.e., you see them only during High Holy days in temple.

Ideally, organizations should seek to have people be both engaged and affiliated, Golin said; he suggested this path is a continuum, and success starts with how we cultivate that first step a newcomer takes, and how we move them along that continuum, or lose them completely if we don't manage the process well.

Golin pointed out to the group that while we may think the engaged and affiliated person is the majority, "we, in this room, who are most likely both of those

things – and we are the minority." Golin made the case for a designated community outreach coordinator for every organization.

Breaking into the Jewish community, Golin said, "can be very difficult." As one participant shared, "When I first moved back to Rhode Island, I started going to everything – every event I read about that was happening in the Jewish community, I'd go. Eventually, somebody talked to me! It wasn't easy, no."

By a show of hands, nearly 100 percent of the room had been on trips to Israel, and there was considerable acknowledgement that this is one way to gain new friends and meet people within the Jewish community, often establishing lifelong friendships.

Golin stressed the very basic step of one's first encounter with an organization – usually a phone call. "Who answers the phone at your organization? Are they pleasant? Do they offer unique information about your group?"

He then engaged the attendees in writing a brief, and unique mission statement about their organization. "Laminate it, and put it by the phone, so people who have that very first interaction can read from it if someone seems like a new person. This basic step can make or break someone coming to your group, or going elsewhere."

SCHOOL: In pursuit of excellence

From Page 14

compete directly with the best of the private and public schools in Rhode Island."

Steiner said that it was the "right thing to do now, to move on."

He listed many of the educational achievements during the last two years at the school – not as his own personal accomplishments, but rather as achievements by parents, by faculty, by the board and, most of all, by the students.

These included the educational approach of "the whole child," the rewriting of the math curriculum and the improvement of the general curriculum,

enlarged classrooms, hiring 10 new teachers, creating the new positions of middle-school and lower-school coordinators, as well as the ongoing process of rewriting the school's handbook.

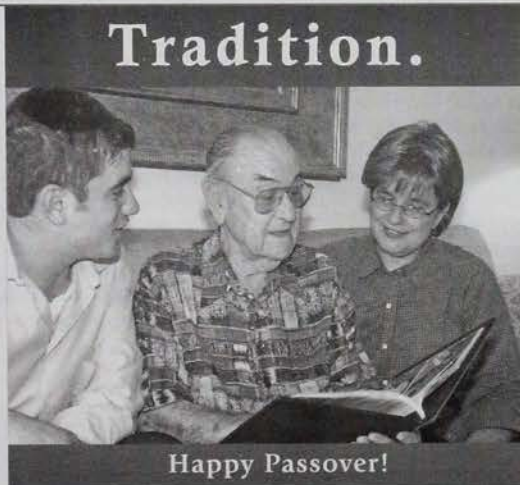
"All of these things," Steiner said, "couldn't be done without the extraordinary help from the board, the RI Bureau of Jewish Education, and the faculty and staff at the school." The transitions, he continued, "are not about legacies, they are about new, good beginnings – achieving the excellence that we want as a school."

Getting to the next stage, Steiner said, will involve more marketing and outreach to the

community. "A lot of people just don't know how excellent the school is."

When asked about his future plans, Steiner joked: "If I were offered the position of Prime Minister of Israel, I would consider it. And, I would call you, so *The Voice & Herald* would have the exclusive."

Wolpert said that more communication would be going out to parents, to donors and to the Jewish community about future plans for JCDS. "We're also going to set up more meetings where people can ask questions," he said, as a follow-up to the two sessions held with parents earlier this week.



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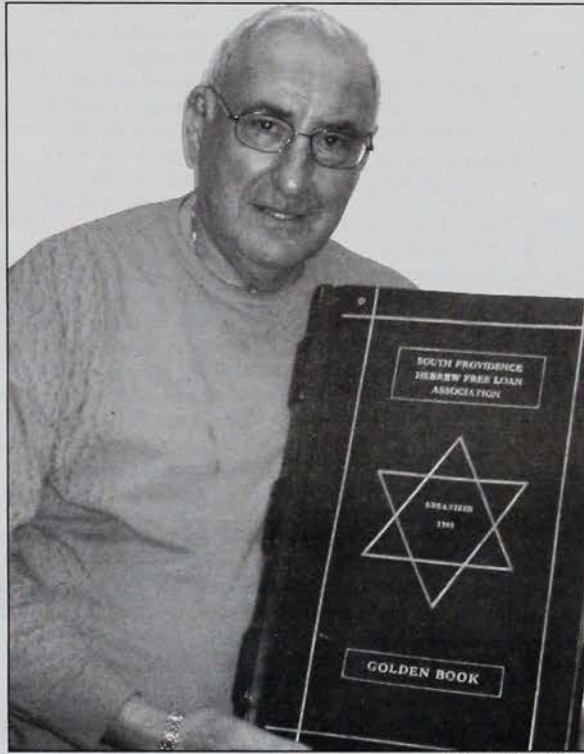
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More than 100 years of helping Jews

South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association offers interest-free loans

By PENNY SCHWARTZ
Special to *The Voice & Herald*



Photos by Richard Asinof

CARL LEVCOWITZ holds the commemorative book of historical documents from the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, which was founded on March 5, 1905.

Wallock and Carl Levcowitz, the part-time director and only staff member, are proud of the group's heritage and eager to attract new borrowers who may not be aware of the group.

In a conversation with *The Voice & Herald*, Wallock and Levcowitz are proud of the organization's history and the continuing service the group

crunch when banks and other lenders are tightening eligibility.

As with the other Hebrew Free Loan associations, all a potential borrower has to do to qualify is become a member, have two co-signers and the ability to pay back the interest-free loan with one year.

Membership dues are \$5/year. Loans, which range from \$600 to \$3,000, must be paid back monthly over a twelve-month time period. "We don't ask what they need the money for," Wallock said.

Levcowitz is reluctant to give out specific numbers of the value of their organization but says they currently have about 25 to 30 loans outstanding to individuals. The group invests heavily in Israel bonds, Wallock and Levcowitz boast proudly.

Every year, for the past 30 years, Barbara Sock has been borrowing money from the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association. She recalls the circumstances of her first loan as a time when her financial situation was very tight and she needed a loan to pay bills. Her uncle told her about the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association.

"You don't have to go through the third-degree. It's meant so much to know that the help is there. It's too bad more people are not aware of it."

Barbara Sock

provides to Jewish Rhode Island residents in need.

They stress the informality of the borrowing process and the fact that they have a staffed office in a convenient location with parking.

He and Wallock know some of the officers from the Providence and Pawtucket Hebrew free loan associations but say they are not seriously entertaining any ideas of merging the groups at this time.

The informality and ease with which someone can qualify for a loan stands in stark contrast to today's uncertain economic times and well-publicized credit

IN THE LATE 1960s, when it was time for Stephen Rappoport to attend Boston University, he and his twin brother needed money to pay for books. His father turned to a familiar and trusted organization for help.

Rappoport and his brother each received \$600, a loan his father borrowed from the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association. The loan stood out from others they might have qualified for. It was interest-free.

Now, 40 years later, Rappoport, a successful trial attorney for 34 years in Providence, knows the value of that loan.

"Without that it would have been impossible to buy the books we needed," Rappoport tells *The Voice & Herald*. "I never forgot their charity to us."

The South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association is the largest of three similar groups in Rhode Island, founded at the turn of the last century and continuing to operate with its goal of helping Jewish residents of Rhode Island in times of personal financial need.

The group was founded on March 5, 1905, at a meeting at Bazar's Hall on Willard Avenue.

The minutes of the meeting, chaired by Simon Wolk, note that after a "long discussion, it was decided that the Jews of South Providence organize their own Gemilath Chesed Association. Louis M. Grant was elected its first chairman.

At its first meeting, \$824 was loaned to the new group, with the largest contribution, of \$100 made by Aaron Weitman, with others contribution between \$25 and \$75.

They got right to business. The next night, on March 6, according to minutes reproduced in a commemorative 50th anniversary program, the new officers met and made loans to outsiders for a total of \$425.

"Our mission is to keep this going," says Herman Wallock, the group's president for the last six years. Sitting in the small but comfortable office located on Reservoir Avenue in Providence,

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JEWISH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

From Page 20

SATURDAY

May 3

Scholar-in-residence

Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Dennis Ross, discussing Martin Buber

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

MORE INFO: Call 245-6536

SUNDAY

May 4

Mitzvah Day

WHERE: Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard St., Providence

WHEN: 8:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Mitzvah Morning

Fourth annual community service day.

WHERE: Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 No. Main St., Attleboro

WHEN: 8 a.m.

MORE INFO: (508) 222-2243; www.agudasachim.org

Community Blintz Brunch

WHERE: Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown

WHEN: Seatings at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

COST: Adults \$8,

MORE INFO: call (401) 885-6073 or hscheff@cox.net

Sisterhood book review

"People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave, Cranston

WHEN: 10 a.m.

MORE INFO: 785-1800, or e-mail Stephanie@toratysisrael.org

Ellen Loeb: a woman of valor

A passion for swimming, teaching, friends and family

BY MARYLYN GRAFF
mgraft@jfri.org

TO BEGIN his moving eulogy for his long-time friend and congregant, Ellen Loeb, James Rosenberg, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Habonim in Barrington, quoted Robert Frost's "Acquainted with the Night." And indeed, Ellen Loeb must have been acquainted with many nights during her long debilitating illness.

Through it all, she remained independent, living in her own home, keeping up with her teaching as long as she possibly could, even shopping alone

at the supermarket in her motorized wheelchair.

She was especially dedicated to Temple Habonim and its religious school, where she taught for many years. Rabbi Rosenberg spoke of teaching with her over a period of years, a six-week class on human sexuality to ninth- and tenth-graders, and how she was able to communicate this delicate subject to them in a frank and open way. She also taught Sunday school to third-graders, especially enjoying that age group.

She earned her doctorate in nutrition and went on to the study and teaching of human sexuality and a variety of higher education courses in Rhode Island. She made learning and imparting her knowledge her life's work. Intellectual

curiosity was her hallmark.

With all that, she raised her three children with love and care and was blessed with five grandchildren.

She loved to swim, and actually managed to clock 1,000 miles at the Barrington "Y," lap by lap over a period of years. She also soaked up the sun at Barrington Beach.

She never forgot a friend. Many years ago she was ill on Passover and a friend did her holiday food marketing. Every year since, she has made it a point to phone that person to wish her a happy Passover.

Ellen Loeb left a legacy that touched and inspired so many lives with her knowledge, courage and dignity.

With thanks to Rabbi Jim Rosenberg for his input to this article.

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Decoding medical terminology (painlessly)

It's Latin, Greek to practitioners

THE MANY WORDS of medicine, whether scribbled illegibly on a prescription pad, dictated as progress notes for a patient's record or spoken to a patient – tend to be dismaying, confusing even intimidating to non-physicians. Indeed, Tema Gouse, a



Stanley Aronson M.D.

regular columnist for this paper, recently wrote: "...most of us do not understand the medical lingo, let alone how to spell it." In truth, many a patient has pleaded:

"Please, doctor, could you explain that in plain, simple English?"

Actually, the vocabulary of medicine has the logical advantage of being globally uniform: The same technical terminology is employed by physicians – whether they practice in Borneo, Belgium or Barrington.

These technical words, often polysyllabic, are virtually all derived from Classical Latin or Greek, with a standard set of prefixes and suffixes readily

understood by physicians in all nations. Without this universally standardized nomenclature – for diseases, anatomic parts, symptoms and pharmacological preparations – transnational medicine would be reduced to a chaotic cacophony of dozens of non-interchangeable languages. While English is now the conversational language of medicine [as well as for its standard textbooks] the technical terms remain steadfastly in Latin and Greek.

And thus a physician, let's say from Uzbekistan, may encounter a word unknown to him [for example, hypercholesterolemia]. Yet he can still figure out its approximate meaning based solely upon his rudimentary knowledge of Latin and Greek. Thus, hyper- means "more than or increased"; chole- means something derived from or pertaining to bile; -sterol means a complex fatty substance with a certain chemical configuration; and -emia means that its content within the blood stream is increased.

But not all words are derived from Greek or Latin. Some come from non-Mediterranean language sources, particularly names of certain medicinal herbs, tropical diseases and the insect vectors of these diseases.

The Arabic language has also contributed a modest number of medical terms since Muslim physicians dominated academic medicine during the late medieval centuries.

Caffeine carries a Latin suffix [-eine] but its root comes from the Arabic, qahwah, meaning coffee. It is derived from an earlier Turkish word, kahveh which in turn is said to be named for the Ethiopian district of Kaffa

"Caffeine carries a Latin suffix [-eine] but its root comes from the Arabic, qahwah, meaning coffee. It is derived from an earlier Turkish word, kahveh which in turn is said to be named for the Ethiopian district of Kaffa..."

from whence some of the earliest coffee beans were harvested.

Many common technical terms beginning with the prefix, -al, are of Arabic origin and are equivalent to the English word, "the." Alcohol, for example, is derived from al-khol. The word, alchemy, stems from the Arabic, al-kimia, meaning a chemical transformation. And the word, alkali is taken from the Arabic

al-qaliy, meaning the residual ash from heating certain plants.

Other commonly used medical terms such as talc, senna, syrup, camphor, benzoin and borax are all derived from Middle Eastern languages, particularly Persian. Curiously, very few Hebrew words have survived to be included in a contemporary medical vocabulary.

The Indian hemp plant, Cannabis sativa, in Arabic is called hashish, meaning dried hay. Hashish, also called Marijuana [MaryJane], is made from pulverizing the dried flowering tips of the plant. Eating, and later smoking hashish seems to have originated in the Hindu Kush region of northern India and spread later to the Middle East. In the 12th century, a militant sect of Islam called Ismaili, arose in Syria and Persia. This secret fraternal order actively warred against various Crusader colonies in the region, and their alleged use of hashish with its psychoactive effects, in combat, led to them being called hashishim [the origin of the word, assassin.]

The word, elixir, a clear, sweetened, often alcoholic preparation used as an oral medication, also comes from the Arabic, al-iksir, describ-

ing the dry powders that Arabic physicians mixed with alcohol to form their famous elixirs. [Not all words beginning with al- are necessarily of Arabic origin. Words such as albumen [egg white] or albino are derived from the Latin, albus, meaning white.]

None of these assignments to older languages of origin are clearcut. The Arabic root, iksir [which forms the word elixir] is traced back to an earlier Greek root, xero-, also meaning dry that appears in currently used words such as Xeroxing [literally, dry printing.] A word such as cholera, for example, is directly derived from the Latin, cholera [meaning anger], which in turn comes from the Greek, chole, meaning bile or yellowish green. And this, in turn, is traced back to an Iranian word, azar, also meaning bile. And this, too, is traceable to the still more ancient Avestic languages of Asia.

Tema Gouse wisely concludes by advising her readers that they demand that their health provider explain all of these medical words [for diagnoses and medications] until they are fully understood.

Dr. Aronson can be reached by e-mail: smamd@cox.net.

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Making matzah – all you ‘knead’ to know

Kids learn the art of matzah from Rabbi Yossi Laufer

By FRANK BELSKY
Special to the Voice & Herald

WARWICK – If you wish to make your own matzah before Passover, you’ve got time. It only takes 18 minutes, according to Rabbi Yossi Laufer, director of the West Bay Chabad Chai Center in Warwick.

The rabbi can tell you how – or you can ask one of 30 Rhode Island toddlers who learned the technique from the rabbi last Sunday at Temple Am David. It was the fourth time this year that the rabbi brought his Model Matzah Bakery to a learning center but the first time he addressed a class of infants to five-year-olds.

The occasion was the weekly meeting of a class called Shalom Friends, founded by Sharon Sock and Jennifer Thaler in 2002. At first, they had no idea that theirs was the only program of its kind locally. Eventually, they learned that theirs is the only one like it in the world. In 2005, Shalom Friends won the Solomon Schechter Gold Award for excellence in Jewish Family Educational Programming from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

More recently, Sock, Cantor



RABBI LAUFER shows Eden Samara how to rub off the chaff.

Richard Perlman, the spiritual leader of Temple Am David, and a committee representing Shalom Families, were invited to meet with leaders of Boston’s Jewish community. According to Sock, they expressed keen interest in adopting the methods, teaching aids and philosophy of Shalom Families.

Thaler offered a reason why the program excites interest. “My eight- and 10-year-old daughters continue to listen to the CDs, created by Sock, and designed to highlight the lesson of the day and provide a catchy musical melody that children can understand.”

Thaler offered a personal

insight. “I’m from the Midwest. Our family belonged to a Reform synagogue but Judaica played no role in my childhood. Then, when I came to Rhode Island, I was amazed by how much I didn’t

“Only a few know where matzah comes from. Now these kids will never forget.”

Michael Bleiwas, Providence

know. Now I’m aware that this predicament is not uncommon.”
Meanwhile, the quickly moving Rabbi Laufer main-



TEMPLE AM DAVID families participated in the Model Matzah Factory last Sunday.

tained the Shalom Families level of enthusiasm: “Three thousand years ago,” he told them, “the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt. Suddenly they were told they could go

but they had to rush. “Since there wasn’t enough time to prepare traditional meals for their trip out to the desert, they learned to make a cracker-like flat bread they called matzah or “unleavened bread.”

Meanwhile, he handed two wheat stalks to each child, constantly moving, explaining or joking. He showed them how to harvest wheat by breaking the stem from the

top of the stalk. The children followed his lead. Next, they rubbed the wheat with their fingers, threshing out kernels. Michael Bleiwas, an Orthodox Jew from Providence, was impressed. “Only a few know where matzah comes from. Now these kids will never forget.”

To learn more about Shalom Families, visit their Web site at www.shalomfriends.org or email info@shalomfriends.org. Likewise, to become one of hundreds learning with Rabbi Laufer, email rabbi@rabbiwarwick.com.

Frank Belsky is a freelance journalist and Pawtucket resident.

Read a good book lately?

The Community Service Committee of the Women’s Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is holding a

Book Drive

To benefit several agencies, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters

New and gently-used recent children’s and adults’ books may be donated now through the end of May.

Please drop off books at any of the following locations:

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Photos courtesy of Temple Sinai

TEA TIME AT SINAI

TEMPLE SINAI IN CRANSTON held its fourth annual intergenerational tea March 30th. Above, Julia Stanger of East Greenwich and Ella Glucksman of Cranston were a tea two-some. Below, Mia Gershon of Cranston, surrounded by three other generations in her family: great-grandmother Harriett Koslow, grandmother Linda Gershon, and mother Melissa Gershon. More than 60 joined together to enjoy tea and refreshments, as well as the music of the SuKaDa Trio.

Friday School plans open house

PROVIDENCE — The Friday School, a cooperatively run Jewish school for children K-7 is hosting an open house on Friday, April 25 at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove Ave. Guests are invited to drop in any time during school hours from 3:30-5:45 p.m.

Parents who are looking for alternatives for their child's Jewish education are invited to visit and learn about the program.

The Friday School offers a one-day per week alternative with classes in Hebrew, Jewish history, culture and ethics. The program features family Shabbat and holiday celebrations. Families from all backgrounds and beliefs are welcome.

At the open house, parents and children will be able to sit in on classes, meet the teachers and families, learn about the curriculum and approach, participate in and experience what makes

the Friday School special. For more information, contact Education Director Annette Lawson at (508) 648-9516 or Aplawson2@aol.com or www.thefridayschool.org.

Am David plans seder

WARWICK — Temple Am David of Warwick is holding a second-night Passover seder hosted by Temple Am David's spiritual leader, Hazzan Richard Perlman, Hazzan Ivan Perlman and Paul Finstein, on Sun., April 20 at 6 p.m.

There will be a kosher catered traditional Passover meal with your choice of chicken, or salmon primavera. A seder plate will be provided for

each table. It will be catered by Accounting For Taste. The cost is \$40 per adult, \$25 per child (12 and under). Call for information for children under 4. Family tables are available. For table reservations contact the Temple office, at 463-7944. Seating is limited.

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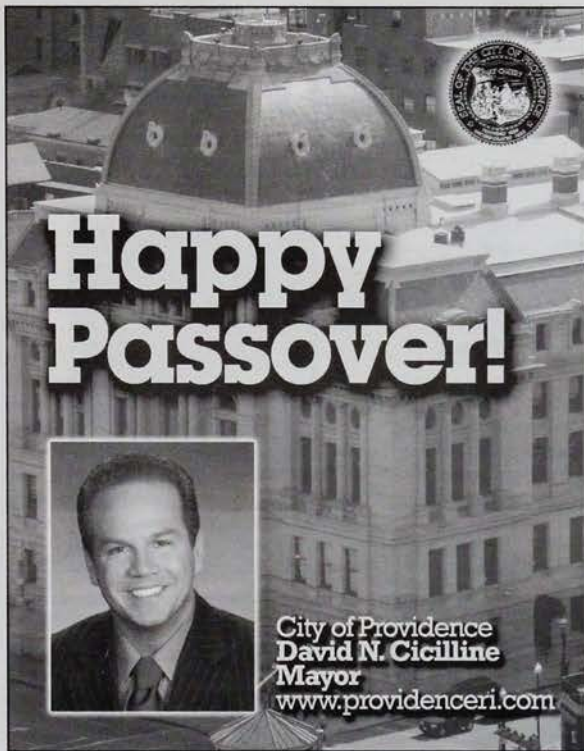
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Emanu-El's USY winning girls' volleyball team

Emanu-El's USY girls' volleyball team wins title

PROVIDENCE — For the first time in its history, the Providence USY girls' volleyball team, based at Temple Emanu-El, captured the New England regional championship by defeating the Peabody A USY team in the finals held on Sunday, March 23, at the Gann Academy in Waltham, Mass.

The Providence USY team, consisting of students from seventh through twelfth grades, includes: Eya Jablow, Brennan Johnson, Jaren Johnson, Cara Kaplan, Dena Kaye-Phillips, Michaela Miller, Mary Rothenich,

Sarah Schneider, and Ianna Wasser, who was tapped MVP in the championship game. Dr. Bruce Phillips was the volunteer coach for the team for the first time this year.

As several girls will be graduating, the team is looking for new players for next year. Any girl in seventh through twelfth grade who is a member of USY (though not necessarily a member of Temple Emanu-El) should contact Miriam Abrams-Stark at 331-1616 to join the team. Prior volleyball skill is not necessary.

Rabbi Ross to speak at Habonim

Ethical perspectives on stem-cell research presented

BARRINGTON — Temple Habonim of Barrington will welcome Rabbi Dennis Ross as Scholar-in-Residence during the first weekend in May.

Following the family intergenerational service on Fri., May 2, at about 7 p.m., Rabbi Ross will begin his presentation "Religious Perspectives on Stem Cell Research." He will speak of the compelling medical, ethical and religious support for this field of medicine, which affects people with spinal cord and serious burn injuries, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and other life-threatening and life-altering conditions.

On Sat., May 3, at 10:30 a.m. at Shabbat morning worship service, Rabbi Ross will speak on "Spirituality in our relationships from the teachings of Martin Buber," in which he will describe the I-Thou relationship and spiritual opportunities in the daily give-and-take between people.

Ross is a rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Worcester, Mass. He is also director of concerned Clergy of Choice for the Education Fund of Family Planning Advocates of New York State.

He has written for several prominent publications and has released his books through Jewish Lights Publishing.



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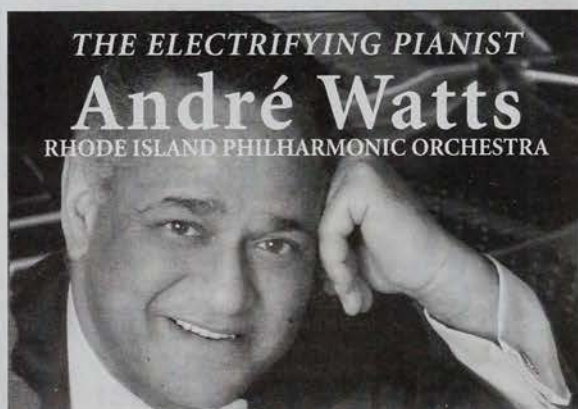
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Emanu-El consecrates third-graders

PROVIDENCE — Third-graders at Temple Emanu-El's religious school were consecrated on March 8, *Pekudi Shabbat Shekalim*.

This ceremony marks the children's official welcome to Jewish learning, family and community, as the students and their families participated in the Shabbat morning service in the main sanctuary. Teachers Yardena Winkler and Susan Yardeni prepared the children for this milestone event.

Consecration requires tremendous commitment and preparation by the children, their families and teach-



WIMPELS, A DECORATED CLOTH for binding the Torah, are traditionally made when a baby is born. These wimpels were on display at Temple Emanu-El during the third-grade class consecration.

ers. Each family has made a wimpel, which is a beautifully decorated cloth for binding the Torah, traditionally made when a baby is born. The wimpel is often designed to include the child's Hebrew name, date of birth, and other

symbols that are important to the child and family. At Temple Emanu-El, wimpels are wrapped around the Torah at the child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The wimpels were on display in the Bohnen Vestry.



Edith H. Ajello
State Representative

*Wishes All
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Emanu-El holds family program on end of life

PROVIDENCE — The end-of-life family program, part of the Temple Emanu-El religious school's fifth-grade lifecycle curriculum, was held recently.

A film was shown and the children and their parents discussed the various Jewish funeral rituals, including preparation and burial, shiva, mourning and kaddish.

Each family composed an ethical will, a document containing the family's most important beliefs, offering guidance and comfort after death to those they loved.



Photo by Susan Bromberg

ISRAELI SINGER PERFORMS

David Broza, the well known Israeli singer - song writer - guitarist performed on Sunday night, March 30th, in an event sponsored by the New Jewish Academy of Worcester. The event took place at the restored Mechanic's Hall in downtown Worcester. In attendance were, from left, Howie Bromberg, David Broza, and Young Emissaries Hadas Naky and Anna Esilovich.



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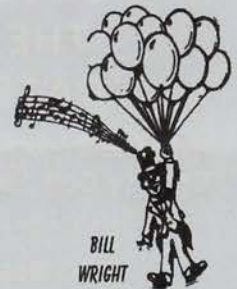
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Miriam Women to honor Baxt

She will be recognized at annual meeting May 21

PROVIDENCE — The Miriam Hospital Women's Association has selected Gussie Baxt to be the recipient of its 25th annual recognition award at the 11th annual meeting on Wednesday, May 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk.

About 60 years ago, Baxt joined the Association and began the volunteer work that she continues to do to this day. Over the years, she has served

as Association treasurer, worked at the information desk greeting visitors and new patients, raised funds for the equipment events, addressed invitations, and helped to plan the hospital galas. She speaks of the tremendous satisfaction she has felt throughout her participation. Today, Baxt is an active member of the board.

The committee chair for the meeting is Tina Odessa. Committee members are Mary Kitzes, Estelle Klemer, Lenore Leach, Roberta Loebenberg, Terry Lieberman, Barbara Rosen, Harriet Samors, Lillian Zarum, Morrisa



Gussie Baxt

Zwetchkenbaum and co-presidents Melissa Baker and Renee Vogel. All are welcome to attend. For information and reservations, contact the Association at 793-2520.

Encounter Point film will air at JCC

PROVIDENCE — Encounter Point, the award-winning documentary about ordinary heroes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, will play at the Jewish Community Center on May 4 at 3 p.m.

The film won the 2006 San Francisco International Film

Festival "Audience Award for Best Documentary," played opening night at the 2006 Vancouver Film Festival; ranked among the top-five picks at the 2006 Hot Docs Film Festival; and has been an "Official Selection" at numerous film festivals

around the world, including the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival.

The Rhode Island chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace is sponsoring the performance.

BJE plans annual meeting May 15

PROVIDENCE — On Thursday, May 15, the Bureau of Jewish Education will hold its 57th annual meeting at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave. The meeting will be chaired by Janet Goldman.

Among events of that evening will be installation of new officers and board, and recognition of Israel travelers.

The proposed slate for the coming year is: President, Sharon Gaines; vice presidents, Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow, James Pious, Giumy Esther Weiner; treasurer, Guy Bermel; associate treasurer,

Lisa Davis; secretary, Arlene Rogol and associate secretary, Randi Beranbaum.

For additional information, contact Wendy Joering at 331-0956, ext. 179, or www.bjeri.org

Hillel plans memorial field of flags

KINGSTON — In commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, Yom HaShoah, Hillel will display a field of flags on the Hammerschlag Mall at the URI Kingston campus (the walkway between the Multicultural Center and the library) from April 28-May 1.

Nearly 2,400 small flags will be planted, representing 5,000 victims of the Holocaust. Eighty

additional flags will represent the 400,000 victims of the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

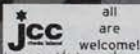
The planting of the flags will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 28. The flags will be removed at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 1 following a brief commemorative ceremony. For more information, contact Hillel at 874-2740 or Hillel@uri.hillel.org.

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ISRAEL: Rallying from near disaster to survive as a state

From Page 18

the Galilee and Central Israel, involving Haganah forces and Palestinian guerillas. From January until May the Haganah captured the Arab cities of Acre, Nazareth, Jaffa and Tiberias. On May 15, the Arab armies joined the war.

Both sides had to cope with serious problems. The Arab armies never coordinated their assaults on Israel, so that when Israel attacked the advancing Egyptians in the south, the Syrians sat on their hands in the north. The Arab Legion excepted, the Arab armies were poorly led, poorly trained and poorly equipped.

The Jews also had their problems, including the Irgun and the Lehi, two extremist militant groups. The Irgun, a right-wing opposition group in the shadow government of the Yishuv, specialized in blowing up Arab marketplaces and other such acts of terror. The Lehi, a much smaller band, dealt largely in assassinations, including, on a Jerusalem street, that of the U.N. mediator in Palestine, Swedish diplomat Count Folke Bernadotte.

Matters came to a head in July when Menachem Begin, head of the Irgun, tried to smuggle arms and immigrants to his units aboard a converted landing craft, the Altalena, which was set afire offshore by units of the IDF. A number of Irgun soldiers and some of the new immigrants died in the action.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, took advantage of this clash to disband both the Irgun and Lehi units and compel their incorporation into

the IDF. He did away with the Palmach as well, which, under a separate command, formed the shock troops of the Haganah and had close connections with the left-wing kibbutz movement. Both Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, commander of the Lehi, became prime ministers of Israel in later years.

One of the important factors enabling Israel to survive is that its military was staffed with thousands of young men and women who had shared considerable combat experience in the British army during World War II.

The Yishuv had prepared for this eventuality for decades and its followers supported their leaders. The Palestinian Arabs, on the contrary, saw their leaders flee the country in February and March and spend the war in neighboring Arab states or even further away. In addition, the Palestinians did not conceive of themselves as a nation in the Western sense; their self-identification usually began with their extended family, then their tribe and then their religion.

During the fighting both before and after independence, the Israelis rallied from near-disaster. By the time truce negotiations between Israel and some of the Arab states began in February 1949, Israel was in control of 80 percent of pre-war Palestine. Jerusalem was linked to the rest of the country by a narrow corridor.

TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER

The population, thanks to immigration, tripled in three years, the borders seemed secure, the economy, while straitened, was functioning, food rationing kept hunger from the door, and industry and agriculture,

while struggling to keep up with the expanding population's needs, were producing the goods required to enable the state to survive.

Ben-Gurion made another attempt to end division within Israel when he came to an agreement with the Orthodox Jewish leadership regarding military service by Orthodox young men enrolled in yeshivas, devoting their lives to the study of Jewish texts and supported by their families or, in some instances, by the state.

In Israel both men and women are subject to military service, and the Orthodox leaders demanded that Orthodox women and yeshiva students be exempted. At the time, the numbers of men involved were several hundred; today, the numbers include thousands of young men who are viewed by many within the secular population as living off the state but not contributing to its defense. The division has caused much hard feeling within Israel and among some Diaspora communities.

It took 52 years for the Zionists to realize their dream of a Jewish state in Palestine, and another two years to secure it. Sixty years later, no one can say that it is still secure; it has existential enemies in the neighborhood and millions of Muslims throughout the world who align themselves with the Palestinians. But Israel is at peace with Egypt and Jordan, and it has the backing, at least for now, of the United States and Western Europe.

Sixty years ago few would have believed this possible. Maybe, in the Middle East at least, the Age of Miracles is not yet over.

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ARTS: Pawtucket's new district has created affordable loft living

From Page 12

help us market our city as an artists' community, Weiss said. When Riverfront Lofts was an empty manufacturing building, the owner paid \$17,000 a year in property taxes. Now, the city gets \$250,000 in property taxes, and those residents register their cars, shop, and support community organizations, he said.

"We don't want to become a SoHo, where artists come and change a neighborhood, but are forced out by higher rents," insisted Weiss. "We want to integrate artists into our community, and customer service is a big part of that. The Mayor has always viewed Pawtucket as the David between the two Goliaths - Boston and Providence."

Responding to a question about downtown's bleak appearance, Weiss acknowledged that the transition and rebuilding take time. An increased density in population in Pawtucket's



Photo by Sal Mancini

EXTERIOR of Riverfront Lofts in Pawtucket.

historic downtown is just beginning to happen, he said.

"Bailey Lofts - formerly the Parkin Yarn Mill that was vacant for 20 years - has 25 occupied live/work condos, and Riverfront Lofts has residents in 57 condos. Those projects have brought more than 100 people to the downtown area. When the Slater Cotton Mill project

is completed (hopefully in late fall), there'll be another 250 or so people living in market rental rate apartments within a five minute walk to downtown. The Union Wadding project, whose first phase is underway, will ultimately create another 245 condos by 2010, bringing hundreds of people into downtown," he said.

See PAWTUCKET, Page 41

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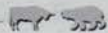
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D'var Torah How is this seder different?

*Seder customs from
 around the world*

BY LESLI KOPPELMAN ROSS
Special to The Voice & Herald

THE SEDER has spawned countless customs around the world, some centuries old and some created in the past few years. The following article surveys some of these traditions, excerpted from *Celebrate! The Complete Jewish Holiday Handbook* (Jason Aronson Inc). Reprinted with permission of the publisher.

THE SEDER PLATE

In North African Jewish communities and in India, it was customary to pass the *K'arab* [seder plate] over the heads of everyone at the table in a circular motion, encompassing all gathered in the historic experience.

AFIKOMAN AND ACTING OUT

Many communities added dramatizations to their Exodus re-enactments, usually of a Jew departing Egypt and wandering in exile expecting redemption.

Prior to the start of the seder in Djerba, Tunisia, young people come to pay their respects to the rabbi, some carrying sacks and staffs resting on their shoulders, hobo style. It used to be customary that when the middle matzah was broken during the service, a member of each household would be sent to neighbors to predict the messiah's arrival.

In some Sephardic communities, the cloth-wrapped afikoman was tied to the shoulder of a child, who left the company and then reappeared knocking at the door, in the ensuing scripted dialogue,

he identified himself as an Israelite on his way to Jerusalem carrying matzah. On entering the room, he looked at the specially arranged table and asked "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

Sometimes an adult walked around with the afikoman on his shoulder, as though it was bread carried on his back. One of the most elaborate of such ceremonies was dramatized in the Caucasus. The rabbi paced, like our ancestors leaving Egypt, with "their kneading troughs bound up in their clothes on their shoulders" (Exodus 12:34). The young men chose one person to portray a fugitive dressed in rags, carrying the standard props. When he showed up at the door from Jerusalem to announce the coming redemption, the others did not readily believe him, until he cried, was invited in, and amid joyous celebration, answered questions about life in the Holy Land.

In Morocco, the enactment came at the end of the meal, when the participants quoted, "So you shall eat it: your loins girded..." (Exodus 12:11). Dramatizations extended to the synagogue also, where in some places in Eastern Europe, water was sprinkled on the floor during *Shirah* [reading about the parting of the Sea of Reeds in the Torah] on the seventh day. The people in the congregation took off their shoes to dip their toes into the water to experience the sea.

From the custom in Kurdistan of binding a *ketubah* (Jewish marriage contract) to the bride's arm, the practice developed of tying the afikoman to the arm of a son the parents hoped would marry, wishing that the symbolic act would lead in the coming

year to his binding a *ketubah* on his new bride's arm.

Other folk beliefs surround the symbolic piece of matzah. In Asia, Iran, North Africa, and Greece, Jews kept a piece of the afikoman in their pockets or houses for good luck during the year, sometimes making a small hole in it so it could be hung like an amulet. Keeping the remains of the afikoman in rice, flour, and salt was thought by the Jews of Kurdistan to protect them against the depletion of these staples.

The Moroccans in particular believed this matzah had the power to safeguard them during ocean travel, and would throw it into the water to calm it in a storm. (They based the superstition on a verse from Psalms [54:9], whose first letters in Hebrew spell the word matzah.) Some believed that if kept for seven years, it could stop floods. Others attributed to it the capacity to stop fire and, when held in hand, to protect a woman and infant during childbirth.

CULINARY CUSTOMS

Some Moroccan families would not eat black olives for the entire month of Nisan. They believed the fruit caused forgetfulness, and Nisan was the month in which the Jews were commanded to remember the Exodus. Calling the evening of seder *Leil (Night) a/- Rosh* (of the Heads), they customarily ate sheep heads in remembrance of the paschal sacrifice.

Lesli Koppelman Ross is a writer and artist whose works have appeared nationally. She has devoted much of her time to the causes of Ethiopian Jewry and Jewish education.

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Obituaries

Robert J. Clark, Jr., 87

WARWICK — Robert J. Clark, Jr., 87, died April 3. Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., a son of the late James and Ella (Coffey) Clark, he had lived in Warwick for 18 years, previously residing in Pawtucket.

He was a World War II Navy veteran serving in the European theatre.

Mr. Clark was a member of Touro Fraternal Association and a former member of Temple Beth-El.



He leaves a son, Stephen Clark of Lincoln; a daughter, Linda Polner and her husband Barry of Atlanta, Ga.; and two grandchildren, Scott and Jayson.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3004, Warwick, R.I., 02886.

Gladycy Davis

WARWICK — Gladycy Davis died April 11. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Nathan and Rebecca (Goldsmith) Davis.

She was an honors graduate of Pembroke College. She had lived in Warwick since 1976, previously living in Providence.

She was a supervising social worker for the State of Rhode Island.

Ms. Davis was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael, a life member of the Women's Association of Miriam Hospital and the former Jewish Home for the Aged. She was a member of Hadassah and the Council of Jewish Women.

She was an avid bridge and mah jongg player and enjoyed travel.

She leaves a brother, Judge Louis Davis of Kansas City, Mo.; two sisters, Ruth Gershman and Miriam Feinstein, both of Warwick, and many nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Dinah Sholovitz and Sylvia Kirshenbaum.

Contributions may be

made to a favorite charity.

Jack Faust, 95

PAWTUCKET — Jack Faust, 95, died on Shabbat, April 5. He was the husband of the late Rachel (Hollander) Faust. Born in Poland, a son of the late Raphael and Regina (Gruen) Zughaft, he had lived in Pawtucket for over 50 years. Mr. Faust worked for the former Collyer Wire for more than 20 years.

He was a life member of Congregation Ohave Sholam, a member of Gemilath Chesed, a volunteer for many years at the former Jewish Home for the Aged. He served as a translator for many Russian immigrants. Of eight children, he was the only Holocaust survivor.

He leaves two daughters, Sabina Faust and her husband Peter Kirby of Australia; and Regina Schild and her husband Irving of Providence; and three grandchildren, Raphael, Rachael and Ari.

Contributions may be made to Holocaust Education and Resource Center of R.I., 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I., 02906.

Alan Michael Gilstein, 64

PROVIDENCE — Alan Michael Gilstein, 64, died April 1. He was the husband of Suzanne (Bograd) Gilstein for 43 years.

Mr. Gilstein was a graduate of Bryant University and a founding partner of Piccerelli, Gilstein & Company, LLP, one of Rhode Island's leading accounting firms.

He was a tireless community advocate, guided by his personal mission to make the community a better place.

He was a member of The Miriam Hospital Board of Trustees since 1978, where he made a profound impact by giving so generously of his intellect, time and resources. He served as the chair of The Miriam Hospital Board of Trustees and was



the current chair of its Foundation.

In 2007 he was given one of the hospital's highest honors by being named The Miriam Person of the Year. He advanced the hospital in countless ways by serving on most of its committees and playing a key role in its current capital campaign. He was a founding member of the Lifespan Board of Directors and co-chaired Lifespan's cardiac campaign.

Besides his deep passion for The Miriam Hospital, Alan proudly served as vice chair and treasurer of the R.I. Airport Corporation while they were building the current terminal. He took great pride that the project came in under budget and on time. He had the honor of being named a R.I. Commodore and was a member of the Providence Mutual Fire Board of Directors. He also served as the treasurer of the Newport International Film Festival and was involved with Trinity Square Repertory Theatre and Planned Parenthood of R.I. He was a past trustee of Temple Beth-El. He was also a member of the University Club and Ledgemont Country Club.

Mr. Gilstein was a leader in the accounting profession. He was named one of the best tax practitioners in R.I. by *Money Magazine*. He was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the R.I. Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Rhode Island Estate Planning Council. He was responsible for putting the smiley face (this is the amount you overpaid) and frown faces (this is the amount you owe) on the R.I. individual tax return form, the only state with this designation.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his parents, Benjamin and Lillian (Krakowsky) of Warwick and his beloved children, Adam of Warwick; and Debbi and her husband Jordan Jaffe of Providence. He was the adoring grandfather of Jacob Bernard Jaffe. He also leaves two brothers, Barry and his wife Roberta and Andrew and his wife Sharon, all of Warwick, and two sisters-in-law, Marilyn Bell of Vestal, N.Y. and Joyce Bograd of

Boulder, Colo. He is also survived by six nieces and three nephews.

Contributions may be sent to The Alan and Suzanne Gilstein Nursing Symposium Fund, The Miriam Hospital Foundation, Box H, Providence, R.I., 02901.

Herman Greenberg, 83

PROVIDENCE — Herman "Hank" Greenberg, 83, died April 2. Born in Providence, a son of the late Benjamin and Sarah (Sandler) Greenberg, he was a World War II Army veteran serving in the European, African and Middle Eastern theatres.

Mr. Greenberg, a retired pharmacist, was a member of the Jewish War Veterans and Temple Torat Yisrael.

He leaves a son, Jeffrey Tod Greenberg of Pawtucket; a daughter, Linda Susan Killian of Wilmington, N.C.; a nephew, Henry Flink and seven grandchildren. He was the father of the late Howard Elliot Greenberg and brother of the late Sondra Flink.

Contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, 222 Richmond St., Suite 204, Providence, R.I., 02903.

Ellen A. Loeb

BARRINGTON — Ellen A. Loeb, Ph.D., died April 3. Born in Beuthen, Germany, the daughter of the late Herbert and Hanna (deLevie) Angres; Dr. Loeb lived in Barrington for 40 years.

She was a professor at Roger Williams University for 20 years and taught at URI, RIC and Bryant University as well. She also taught religious school at Temple Haborim in Barrington for nearly 20 years.

She was an active swimmer at the Barrington YMCA and loved the beach.

Dr. Loeb leaves three daughters, Barbara Bernstein of Madison, Wis.; Nancy Loeb of Davis, Cal.; and Victoria Loeb Ziss of Merion, Pa.; a brother, Cmdr. Fred Angres, USN Ret. of San Diego, Cal.; and five grandchildren.

Burial was in Forest Chapel

Cemetery, Barrington.

Ruth I. Passman, 96

WARWICK — Ruth I. Passman, 96, died April 9. She was the wife of the late Carl Passman. Born in Germany, a daughter of the late Richard and Erna (Sussman) Oberlander, she had lived in Warwick for four years, previously living in Providence and Pawtucket.

She was the owner of Durable Braided Rug Co., Pawtucket, for 40 years, retiring in 1983.

Ms. Passman was a Holocaust survivor.

She was a former member of Congregation Ohave Sholam and its Sisterhood and Hadassah. She was a member of the Cranston Senior Guild and the former Majestic Senior Guild as well as a member of RI Selfhelp.

She leaves a son, Richard Passman and his wife Jane of Shorewood, Wis.; and two grandchildren, Elana and Joshua.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Arthur H. Pivnick, 84

WEST WARWICK — Arthur H. Pivnick, 84, died April 6. He was the husband of Mildred (Factoroff) Pivnick. They were married for 58 years. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late Martin and Sarah (Schneider) Pivnick, he had lived in West Warwick for more than 20 years.

He was an insurance salesman for John Hancock, retiring in 1983. Mr. Pivnick was a graduate of Bryant College. He was an avid sportsman, enjoying golf, tennis and skiing. He also liked to travel.

He leaves a daughter, Heidi Bomengen and her husband Richard of Killington, Vt. He was the brother of the late Harold and Marvin Pivnick.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Ethel Sackin

WARWICK — Ethel Sackin died April 8. Born in Providence, See OBITUARIES, FACING PAGE

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Obituaries

From Previous Page

she was a daughter of the late Samuel M. and Gertrude (Finckelstein) Sackin. She had lived in Warwick for 26 years.

She worked as a retail salesperson for the former Outlet Company, Providence, retiring 30 years ago.

She leaves a nephew, Robert Stern and his wife, Teresa; and a niece, Sharon Stern. She was the sister of the late Robert and Leo Sackin and Hannah Stern. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation or a favorite charity.

Kaye B. Srago

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. — Kaye B. Srago died March 19. She was the wife of the late Jack Srago.

She served as a Navy nurse during World War II, then became a registered nurse after the war. After graduating from Trenton State College, she worked as a school nurse in Cherry Hill, N.J., and in Rockville Centre. After retiring she pursued an interest in nutrition.

An ardent Zionist and supporter of Jewish groups and charities, she was chairman of the education committee for Hadassah in Nassau County.

She leaves three sons, William Srago, his wife, Pat and their daughters Rebecca and Cara, of Marlton, N.J.; Michael Srago and his wife Glenda Hobbs of Baltimore; and Larry Srago of Long Beach, N.Y.; a daughter, Roanne Srago Licht, her husband Richard, former lieutenant governor of Rhode Island, and their children, Jaclyn and Jacob.

Contributions may be made to Hadassah, Attn: Miriam Levy, 50 West 58th St. New York, N.Y., 10019.

Harold B. Werner, 87

MIDDLETOWN — Harold Benjamin Werner, 87, a lifelong resident of Newport, died April 1. He was the owner of Potter & Company, Newport, the city's oldest continuously operating family-owned clothing store.

Born Sept. 11, 1920, he was the son of the late Herman Werner and Virginia Engel Werner. His father founded Potter & Company in 1906, opening its doors as a men's haberdashery the following year. Mr. Werner was a 1938 graduate of Rogers High School and graduated from the State College of Rhode Island, now the University of Rhode Island.

He was a member of Touro Synagogue and Temple Shalom. He supported many civic organizations and institutions, including Newport Hospital, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Newport Boys & Girls Club, the Potter League for Animals, and the Preservation Society of Newport County.

He was the brother of the late Florence Tobak Goldberg and Jack Werner. He is survived by a nephew, James Werner Tobak of Providence; three nieces, Helen Tobak Weisman of Newport, Carolyn Werner of Waltham, Mass., and Anne Goldberg Navarro of Jackson, N.J.; four great-nephews, one great-niece and two great-great nephews.

Burial was in The Jewish Cemetery, Farewell Street, Newport.

Contributions may be made to the Robert Potter League for Animals, the Preservation Society of Newport County or Newport Hospital.



Alan Gilstein's credo: Do the right thing

Long-time community advocate left the world a better place

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

ALAN GILSTEIN, a tireless community advocate who served as both chair of The Miriam Hospital Board of Trustees and The Miriam Hospital Foundation, died April 1, 2008, after a 19-month struggle with cancer.

"My father really cared about the community," his daughter, Debbi Gilstein Jaffe, said. "He left the world a better place than he found it. He was incredibly giving of his time and resources — with our family, with the community, and with anyone he came in contact with."

His wife, Suzanne Gilstein, said that "Alan lived by the credo: do the right thing. We were married for 43 years; we were pretty young when we got married," she continued. "We grew up together; we were a team."

"Alan was so happy to be a grandfather," she continued, talking about Jacob Jaffe, Debbi's son, now 14 months old.

Gilstein was a founding partner of Piccerelli, Gilstein &

Company, LLP, one of Rhode Island's leading accounting firms. He was named one of the best accountants in Rhode Island by *Money Magazine*.

"He was a consummate gentleman," said Jay Strauss, who served with Gilstein on the board of The Miriam Hospital. "He was a good listener; I would always listen attentively to him. Alan was extremely well-versed in all matters dealing with financing and the hospital," he said.

The passion for Miriam Hospital was very much a family tradition; Suzanne Gilstein worked as a nurse at the hospital, and she also served as co-president of the Women's Association. In addition, she established the "navigator" program for breast cancer patients.

In turn, both of his children, Adam and Debbi, also currently work at The Miriam Hospital.

According to Suzanne Gilstein, "some of the happiest moments were those that we shared on our boat in Narragansett Bay. We summered in



Suzanne and Alan Gilstein.

Newport for 22 years."

Mel Alperin, a close personal friend, said: "We spent many pleasant hours on Narragansett Bay together. In every sense, Alan was one of those who cared deeply about *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. He exhibited a great concern and care about the Rhode Island community. I will miss him a great deal personally, and so will the community."

The Gilsteins believed it was very important to keep the link alive from Jewish generation to Jewish generation, and they were very generous in supporting the Jewish community in Rhode Island.

PAWTUCKET: Creative arts as an economic engine

deals together," explained Scott Davis in a phone interview. "We wanted a large space, with parking, and near the highway to attract traffic and get good visibility. When we couldn't find that kind of space in Providence, we worked with Herb and others in Pawtucket. They were great in helping expedite our opening and addressing our needs with signage and other issues."

While Davis is eager to see more businesses relocate in Pawtucket, he fears that another

antiques mall could over saturate the area. "It'd be great, though, to see some boutique antique shops, stores, and restaurants," Davis said. "When people come to our antique mall, they want to visit other antique stores and go out to eat; I generally send them to Federal Hill. We have artists but no art galleries."

REINVENTING ITSELF

Pawtucket has become a case study of how a mill town can reinvent itself, said Weiss, who has spoken to art groups

and civic officials in New York City, Philadelphia, New Bedford, and other towns to explain Pawtucket's renaissance. Indeed, the city has received favorable press from such regional and national media outlets as *The Boston Globe*, *Providence Business News*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The New York Times*.

What the next few years will bring is anyone's guess, but Weiss' vision for the city is clear. He dreams of more antique

stores, more people living in the downtown area who support restaurants, services, and retail stores, and more opportunities for art groups such as Stone Soup, the Gamm Theater, and Mixed Magic Theater.

"When people ask: 'what should we do tonight or next weekend?' I want them to think of Pawtucket as the place to go."

Nancy Kirsch, a freelance writer and consultant, lives in Providence. She can be reached at nkirsch@cox.net

From Page 37

ANTIQUe DISTRICT A POSSIBILITY

Weiss and his colleagues envision an antiques district to help "power" the creative arts economic engine now driving Pawtucket. Late last fall, East Siders Scott and Rae Davis established Rhode Island Antiques Mall in Pawtucket, offering antique lovers a wide array of shopping opportunities.

"Herb [Weiss] is a little bulldog, he's unrelenting in putting

LOANS: When the interest is all about helping people

From Page 29

Sock recalls that as a young woman it was hard to get a loan from a bank. Her parents were struggling, her brothers were in college and she was trying to help out with her family's finances but got overextended.

"It meant an awful lot to me at the time," she says.

Nowadays, Sock, who works

as a medical biller, uses the loans to help pay for vacation or at times to help pay unexpected bills. The process is informal and supportive. "You don't have to go through the third-degree," she says compared with more formal bank loans. "It's meant so much to know that the help is there. It's too bad more

people are not aware of it."

Donations are often made by family members in memory of relatives, who at one time borrowed from the group, or bequeaths in wills from past borrowers, Levcovitz explains. Another source of funds is the annual raffle, with a modest ticket price of \$5. Many people

send in more, Levcovitz says.

Rappoport is among those who has remained a steady supporter. He is most impressed by the personal response he receives for his contributions, something he says makes the group stand out from other charities and causes he has supported over the years including many Jewish groups.

"I always received a personal thank you call from a board member," he recalls. "It made me feel good and I felt good that I was helping out," he says.

For more information, contact the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, 400 Reservoir Ave., 781-1949.

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HAPPY PASSOVER!**

We are read everywhere

Where in the world will we go next?



ANTARCTICA

TRUDY KATZ sent in this photo taken of her on a cruise to South America and Antarctica from Feb. 19 to March 6.



SINGAPORE

This photograph was taken in March 2008 at the Maghain Aboth Synagogue and Jacob Ballas Centre in Singapore during a recent visit by Marion F. Winkler of Cranston. Marion was visiting five hospitals as an invited expert in nutrition and critical care by the Ministry of Health in Singapore. She is a registered dietitian in the Department of Surgery at Rhode Island Hospital.



GREECE

JOSH STEIN notes he is not davening at the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, Greece.

THE NEWSPAPER invites readers to take along a copy of the Voice & Herald on their next trip and send us a photo.

Photos can be emailed to voiceherald@jfri.org, with "We are read everywhere" in the subject line. Or, send to JV&H at 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I., 02906.

We have now been to:

- Antartica
- Africa: Tanzania
- Canada: Quebec City
- Caribbean: Aruba, Cruises, Bonaire, St. Thomas, Caymen Islands
- Russia: Moscow
- Turkey: Istanbul
- Austria: Vienna;
- Croatia: Dubrovnik;
- Czech Republic: Prague;
- France: Paris,
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary: Budapest;
- Iceland: Reykjavik;
- Italy: Rome, Tuscany;
- Poland: Warsaw;
- Ukraine: Kharikov
- Cambodia: Angkor Wat
- China: Beijing, The Great Wall
- India: Taj Mahal, Mumbai
- Japan: Okinawa
- Laos
- Nepal
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Thailand: Bangkok, Sukothai
- Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City
- Egypt: Luxor
- Israel: Tiberias, Jerusalem
- Jordan
- Argentina: Buenos Aires
- Brazil
- Colombia: Bogota
- Peru: Chiclayo
- United States:
- Alaska
- Arizona: Scottsdale, Phoenix, The Grand Canyon
- Hawaii
- Washington: Mt. Rainier
- Florida: All over
- California: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Tiburon

Engagements



Charles Jacob "CJ" Cohen and Stephanie Markoff

Ronald C. Markoff announces the engagement of his daughter, **Stephanie Danielle**, also the daughter of

the late Lynn Carol Markoff, to **Charles Jacob "CJ" Cohen**, the son of **Deborah Kravette Cohen** and the late **David Cohen** of Rockville Maryland. The future bride, a graduate of George Washington University and the Sotheby's Institute of Art, in New York City, currently works in the education department at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The future bridegroom, a graduate of Hobart and William Smith College in New York, is an investigator with United States Investigation Services. The couple will be married on Aug. 31 at Temple Emanu-El.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Phillips of Warwick announce the engagement of their son, **Michael Phillips** to **Sara Cohen**, daughter of **Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Cohen** of Cherry Hill, N.J.

The future bride received her bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and is a graduate student completing her master's degree in speech language pathology at LaSalle University.

The future bridegroom received his bachelor's degree from Brandeis University and law degree from Villanova University. He is an associate in the litigation department of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell and Hippel, LLP in Philadelphia.



Sara Cohen and Michael Phillips

Birth

Isabel Alice Vann was born March 25 to **Karin Zell** and **Eric Vann** of San Diego, Cal. Her older sister is **Sasha Eve**, age two.

Grandparents are **Howard and Linda Zell** of Scottsdale, Arizona, formerly of Kingston, R.I., and **Rick and Nancie Vann** of La Jolla, Cal.

People

Classical High distinguished alumnus

JUDGE BRUCE SELYA, a graduate of Classical High School, class of 1951, will be



Judge Bruce Selya

honored at the Distinguished Alumni awards dinner on April 30 at the Providence Marriott. Judge Selya's career on the bench began in 1982, when President Reagan named him to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. He soon developed a reputation for learned written opinions,

which he freely traces back to his education at Classical. Four years later, President Reagan named him to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, where he continues to serve.

He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard, magna cum laude, in 1955 and his law degree from Harvard, cum laude, in 1958.

He has served as Chief Justice of the First Circuit, as well as on a number of national panels and commissions. Judge Selya has also contributed his time to education at various law schools, and on the board of Bryant College. He also has been a prominent leader at Rhode Island Hospital, ultimately becoming the founding chairman of Lifespan.

Newman wins ice cream award

BARRY E. NEWMAN of Warwick Ice Cream has been named Silver Spoon salesman of the year by the American Chef's Association, a national award presented to the person who has done the most for the frozen dessert industry, in the frozen ice cream cake and pie category. He has initiated a new line of products that have received awards for qual-

ity, design and sales appeal, and has helped to raise the quality of all products in the line. In addition he has brought the plant up to kosher standards.



Featuring a PJ Library story time, music, art project and snack. All are welcome to attend!

Temple Emanu-El Religious School Kindergarten Open House

Sunday, May 4, 2008
9:45 - 11:00 am.

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In the Kindergarten Room

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or smarold@teprov.org



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TRADITION: Keeping the family together



BARBARA REFFKIN, right, attends family seder with Nga, a Vietnamese refugee in 1981.

From Page 26

us) who know each other so well. We miss this closeness, and regret the years that have flown by. But most of all, we regret that our children do not have the same family dynamic that we did.

We have not had a Gilstein family seder for many years now. Actually, this year, we attempted to arrange one, but our schedules would not allow for it.

Recently, my cousin passed on. He is the

first loss of the grandchildren. During his *shiva*, the cousins made plans to organize a family reunion, and we are happy because two of the great grandchildren have agreed to round up the others of their generation. His death is our reminder of the importance of family, and of the special bond that we share. Being so close to Passover, we couldn't help but remember, with fondness and wonderful memories, the Gilstein family circle seders.

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Make yourself or someone you love a Life Member of Hadassah any time between February 1st, 2008 and May 31st, 2008, and tell us, in 60 words or less, what Life Membership in Hadassah means to you, and you may be eligible to win a Hadassah Mission to Israel for two (includes roundtrip airfare from NY and hotel)!

One essay will be selected and the winner will be announced at the 2008 National Convention in Los Angeles.

Submit your written essay along with payment for Life Membership and Life Membership enrollment form by May 31, 2008 to:

Hadassah

Attn: Life Membership, Essay Contest

340 Main Street - Suite 869

Worcester, MA 01608

Please direct all questions to lifemembership@hadassah.org or 212-303-7402.

Contest Rules and Eligibility

- Entrants must be at least 18 years old and reside within the 50 United States
- National Board members and employees of Hadassah are ineligible to enter
- All submissions must be received by May 31, 2008
- All submissions must be written in English and must be 60 words or less
- All submissions will become the property of and all rights in the submissions shall be deemed granted to and owned by Hadassah, and will bind the entrant to the rules and terms of participation
- By submitting an essay, each entrant grants Hadassah the right to use their name in all publicity and marketing materials (including Hadassah's website) relating to the essay or essay contest
- Hadassah reserves the right to disqualify any entrant for inappropriate content and/or failure to follow the contest rules
- Hadassah reserves the right to cancel this contest and/or modify the prize awarded at any time and without notice
- By submitting an essay, each entrant certifies that their essay is original, authored solely by them, and does not infringe upon the rights of any third parties
- Void outside the 50 United States and where prohibited
- Prize may be taxable to the extent required by law
- Submissions are only complete if they contain the following sentence: "By submitting this essay, I agree to be bound by the rules and terms of participation in the Hadassah Life Membership Contest" (such sentence will be exclusive of the 60 word limit)