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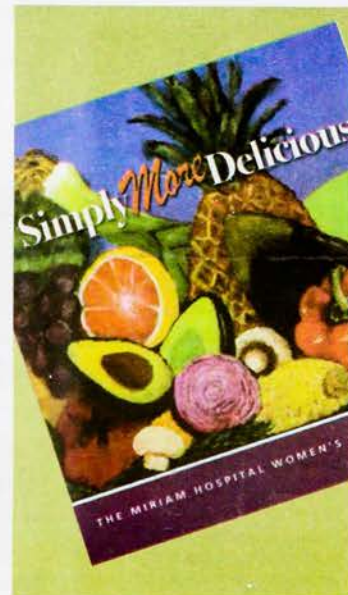
AN ARROW ANTI-MISSILE missile is launched from a testing ground on April 7 in central Israel. The Defense Ministry confirmed the successful test of the anti-missile system designed to protect the country from attack by Iran.



Photo courtesy of Rabbi Scheinerman

## Blessing of the sun

ON APRIL 8, MORE THAN 150 men, women and children joined together on the Brown rugby field for the celebration of Birkas Hachama, the blessing of the sun, which occurs once every 28 years, when the sun arrives at the exact location where it was at creation. Rabbi Eliezer Gibber Rosh Yeshiva of the New England Rabbinical College led the reciting of the blessing.



THE MIRIAM'S WOMEN'S Association releases new cookbook, history-rich and loaded with contemporary recipes. See COOKBOOK, Page 18

## Israel puts the focus on Iran

Israeli analyst meets with editorial board at Providence Journal

BY RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

THE WEEK that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took the helm of the Israeli government, Dr. Zvi Shtauber was in Providence, sitting down with the full editorial board of *The Providence Journal*, discussing not so much Israel but Iran.

At the gathering were reported to be the full complement of *The Providence Journal's* editorial writers – including

See IRAN, Page 10

**URGENT: We need your help!**

*The Voice & Herald asks its patrons to step up to the plate*

See Page 36

## Freedom, slavery, and spies: a Jewish Civil War tale

Dara Horn's latest novel resonates with today's polarized world

BY RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

IN DARA HORN'S NEW NOVEL, *All Other Nights*, Jacob Rappaport, the son of a Jewish New York City merchant – and a Union spy – finds himself at a seder at the New Orleans home of his mother's sister. His mission is to poison his uncle, who, it turns out, is a Confederate spy with plans to assassinate Abraham Lincoln.

At the seder, Judah Benjamin turns up as an honored guest. Benjamin, who is Jewish, is Jefferson Davis' closest advisor, and serves as the Confederacy's Secretary of State.

Thus, the table is set for a remarkable story of Jewish life during the American Civil War.

Horn's book, her third novel, has all the attributes of a great read – it is a page-turner, filled with dramatic episodes and memorable characters, and it delves into stories about American Jewish history that have rarely been told. For instance, did you know that



IN ALL OTHER NIGHTS, novelist Dara Horn has written a remarkable story of Jewish life during the American Civil War.

General Ulysses S. Grant issued an order evicting Jews from conquered areas of the South, forcing them to leave their homes within 24 hours? The order, issued Dec. 17, 1862, was rescinded three weeks later by President Lincoln, after a Jewish delegation from Paducah, Ky., met with him, asking to be able to return to their homes.

Horn's latest work also illuminates, with great prescience, our current

political schism. Our nation, as it was leading up to the Civil War, has grown increasingly polarized, she said, making it difficult today to even "have a conversation or dialogue about politics, Israel, or current events."

"It's become a matter of passion and personal attack," Horn said, both within the Jewish community and in the outside world.

"Every historical novel is really about the time in which it is written, rather than the time it is written about," she said, in a recent interview with *The Voice & Herald*, the first she had given about the book.

In her novel, the great conflicts of the Civil War – slavery vs. freedom, state's rights and secession vs. the Union and the Constitution, and the collision of two economies – the feudal South vs. the industrial North – serve as the horns of dilemma for Horn's characters

The brutal landscape of the Civil War – with all of its misery and destruction – becomes the dramatic stage for a Jewish spy vs. spy struggle, filled with intimate betrayals and family secrets. Much as today's political figures, Horn's characters are seemingly bound up by their own tragic intransigence.

See HORN, Page 14

# When questions abound in the classroom, everyone learns

## Israeli student teacher from Pardes Educators Program comes to JCDS

BY ELIANA SELTZER  
Special to The Voice & Herald  
"According to the Mishnah, how many cups of wine are we supposed to drink on Passover?"

"What did the 12 spies see when they got to the land of Canaan?"

"How do I pronounce your last name?"

PROVIDENCE – These are just some of the questions that greeted David Riemenschneider when he arrived from Israel at the Jewish Community Day School on March 9.

Riemenschneider, or "Mr. R.," as the students fondly call him, is in his first year of the Pardes Educators Program, which is a program based out of Jerusalem.

Students in the Educators Program split their time between taking virtual courses at Hebrew College and studying traditional Jewish texts in a *Bet Midrash* (a house of study).

At the end of two years, they graduate with a Master's Degree in Jewish Education

and a certificate from Pardes in Advanced Jewish Learning. This program, which is in its eighth year, is training future Jewish educators of North America.

A big part of the program is for students to come to America for four weeks and apply their theoretical knowledge to the classroom.

Mr. R. had the opportunity to observe the culture and the classes at JCDS for a week, which included our wonderful celebration of Purim.

He sat in on lessons, followed a student around for the day, and learned as much as he could about the students and the community.

**"Having had the chance to mentor a student-teacher, I have come to appreciate even more the craft that is teaching."**

Then, for the next three weeks, Mr. R. took on the task of teaching the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. He got to teach text, give homework, craft activities and even give a quiz and a project to his students. Although the time was short, Mr. R. had the chance to really get the feel

for what it is like to be a full-time Judaics teacher.

### FROM STUDENT TO MENTOR

This was a unique opportunity for me. Four years ago, I was a student in the educators program: I was learning in Israel, taking classes at Pardes, and at the end of my year, I came to New York to

do my own student teaching. Now, the tables have turned: I was David's mentor throughout the process of student teaching.

David would turn to me when he had questions about how to plan a lesson: what were the goals of the unit, how to reach all of the students in the class and how to create assignments that would engage all of the learners.

We discussed the importance of discovery-based learning and



STUDENT TEACHER David Riemenschneider, right, with JCDS students Daniel Katz, left, and Nuriyah Coke.

crafted lessons that allowed students to make connections on their own. We reflected after every lesson about what went well and what could have gone better.

Most importantly, we created a supportive relationship in which it was OK to try out different models and styles of teaching.

Having had the chance to mentor a student teacher, I have come to appreciate even more the craft that is teaching. As an evolving and growing teacher

myself, I know that one of the most important parts of teaching is to be able to be self-reflective and always open to improvement. I have greatly valued the fact that the teacher community at JCDS is filled with educators who reflect on their practice and push one another to be even better.

*Eliana Seltzer is the wife of Rabbi Joel Seltzer of Temple Emanu-El in Providence.*



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**CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES**

**For Greater Rhode Island**

April 17	7:09
April 24	7:17
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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

**"In the end the Red Sox won Kaddish was recited, the tulips are coming up. Spring is in the air. Let us rejoice."**

Josh Stein  
See Page 5

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**WHAT'S COOKING**

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**INTERVIEW WITH JONATHAN SARNA**

## LETTERS FROM CAMP JORI

## The evolution of Rhode Island's Jewish orphanage into a Jewish camp

Judith Stollerman  
recalls her parents'  
stewardship

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles detailing the history of Camp JORI, in advance of its centennial celebration on Sunday, May 31, at Temple Beth-El in Providence.*

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

IT'S BEEN MORE than 60 years since Judith Stollerman recited the Camp JORI cheer she remembered, but she recalled it with remarkable ease:

*We welcome you to JORI,  
We're mighty glad you're here  
We'll send the earth reverberating  
With a mighty cheer, rab rab*

*We'll sing you in,  
we'll sing you out  
To you we'll give a mighty shout  
Hail, hail, the gang's all her  
And we welcome you to J-O-R-I!*

Stollerman, who was born in 1934, literally grew up with the orphanage and camp; her father was the superintendent of what was then known as the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, and she and her sisters were part of the "family" of children who called JORI home. Her mother later served as the camp's director, after World War II, when her father went on to serve as superintendent of The Miriam Hospital. "My father raised the money — \$750,000 — for the hospital," she said.

As Stollerman recalled, many of the children who came to live at the orphanage were from families whose parents, because of the Depression, couldn't properly take care of their chil-



EVERY DAY AT CAMP JORI, the flag was raised and lowered. The girl on the right, with long hair, and with her back to the photographer, is Judith Stollerman, the daughter of the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island's superintendent in the 1930s and 1940s, Maurice Stollerman.

dren. "There were some whole families there — a family of four, a family a six, another family of four brothers," she said.

The camping part of the orphanage evolved when Stollerman's father, decided to create a place where the children could escape the city during the summer. Two lakefront houses served as the initial camp.

"The camp was a very special place for me — I speak from my own experience, because I had parents, and so it was a little different for me," she recalled.

For Stollerman, patriotism was one of the most important values she came away with from her experiences. "Every morning and night, we raised the flag. Every night was taps. During the war (World War II), we had a big victory garden," she said.

"My favorite food was corn on the cob. We had a very good cook, Mrs. Babe Fine, who worked at both the orphanage and the summer camp."

Athletics, Stollerman remembered, were an important part of the camping experience. "I loved to play softball. I was a very good pitcher," she said. "We used to walk to the beach, which was about a mile from the camp."

One of the more lasting outcomes of the orphanage and the camp is the fact that Stollerman and her two sisters all became involved with the helping professions. "I'm a psychoanalyst, my sister in Boston is a psychotherapist, and my younger sister is a therapist in California. We all ended up doing the same thing."

Education, she continued, was a big thing for her father;

he made sure that the children living at the orphanage had art lessons, music lessons and Hebrew lessons. Many went on to pursue college degrees.

"My father was a lawyer by training, he wasn't a social worker. He wrote a book about child guidance, based on his experiences at the orphanage, which came out in 1938," Stollerman recalled.

Stollerman told a story about how her father became fast friends with Father Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town in Nebraska. "My father was very taken with the movie, which starred Spencer Tracy, and he went out to Nebraska to meet with Father Flanagan. In turn, Father Flanagan was the keynote speaker when my father was honored here in Providence,"

she said. "The movie still gives me goose bumps when I see it."

Stollerman recalled many of the individuals who lived at the orphanage, including a family of four brothers. "Ben Weiss, an artist, went to the Rhode Island School of Design; his brother, Jake, went to Brown University," she said. "Another resident, Saul Barber, went to Yale, where he became a professor."

After the war, Stollerman said, the focus of the camp became different. "It was no longer a place for children who lived at the orphanage; it became a camp where unprivileged Jewish children could go."

Stollerman said she got in contact with Rob Stolzman, the new president of Camp JORI, because she had seen the photograph of the flag ceremony that was being used to highlight the camp's centennial. Stollerman realized that a large part of the history of Camp JORI and the orphanage was missing, many of which were things that she carried in her head. "I have some 16 mm films that I'm having transferred to digital format," she said.

Among her best memories were the large seders that were held at the orphanage, which included any number of dignitaries in addition to the residents and her family, such as Walter Sundlun, the father of former Gov. Bruce Sundlun, and the former superintendent of the Providence schools.

The camaraderie was what Stollerman remembered best. "We were all friends, we were all family. Nobody was in trouble, there was no lying, no acting out, we all got along very well," she said. "One young girl," she recalled, "lived with us after the orphanage closed. So many of us have remained friends to this day."

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Photo/White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA reads from the Haggadah at the first seder led by a President in the White House.

## Ethnicity and transparency

RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

LAST PURIM, I penned a *spiel* in *The Voice & Herald*, as parody, that included an item that then-presidential candidate Barack Obama had converted to Judaism, citing his roots with the biblical General Barak.

For months afterwards, we received phone calls and e-mails, asking us to verify whether this was true; the item had apparently gone viral on the Internet.

It turns out, according to a well-researched story which appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, that the Jewish connection is on Michelle Obama's side: her uncle, Rabbi Capers Funnye, is the chief rabbi of the Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago, one of the largest black synagogues in America.

Even more remarkable, perhaps, for the first time in the 233-year history of the United States, President Barack Obama hosted a seder in the White House. *Chag Sameach*.

That should be welcome news to many who, misled by spurious Internet claims that President Obama was an intolerant Muslim, questioned his religious beliefs. Alas, to this day, there are many who still refuse to believe the truth, and claim that President Obama is a Muslim, captive to their own mistaken dogma and political orthodoxy.

Today, anyone can post a blog, what *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof calls "The Daily Me," or respond with vituperative comments to newspaper articles online. Standards of journalism or civil discourse, much like in talk radio, do not apply.

Even Congress has gotten into the act: one member recently claimed – absurdly – that there were "17 socialists" in Congress, a throwback to the worst days of McCarthyism.

Just as worrisome, perhaps, is the manner in which private contractors can make decisions for government based on their own definitions of "ethnicity."

For years, *The Voice & Herald* was one of many newspapers that pub-

See TRANSPARENCY, Page 33

## IT SEEMS TO ME 'Another explanation': The rabbis' two most important words

*Inoculating ourselves against disease of uniform thinking*

IN HIS MARCH 19 column in *The New York Times*, Nicholas Kristof writes: "There's pretty good evidence that we generally don't truly want good information – but rather information that confirms our prejudices. We may believe intellectually

in the clash of opinions, but, in practice, we like to embed ourselves in the reassuring womb of an echo chamber."

The context of Kristof's comment is a column in which he rues the slow – or not so slow – demise of tra-



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

ditional newspapers as more and more individuals seek to have their deeply held opinions reinforced by bloggers with whom they are in 100 percent agreement.

Kristof argues that such polarization of opinion breeds the kind of self-satisfied intolerance that is destroying our American polity; he goes on to quote Bill Bishop, the author of *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart*: "The nation grows more politically segregated – and the benefit that ought to come with having a variety of opinions is lost to the righteousness that is the special entitlement of homogeneous groups."

We Jews come from a tradition that ought to inoculate us – at least to some degree – from this disease of uniform thinking. To this very day, we are a people who appear

to thrive on argument, disagreement, and controversy. You know the adage: two Jews, three opinions.

Our Jewish tradition is rooted in the proposition that all of us are duty-bound to stand up for what we believe is right and just, even if this should lead us to argue with God. We find in the very first book of our Torah the story of Abraham arguing with God over the fate of the twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" (*Genesis* 18.25)

Similarly, nearly all of the 42 chapters of the *Book of Job* concern one man's defiant demand that

the truth; nevertheless, a decent respect for our human limitations coupled with some degree of intellectual humility should remind us that "The Truth" is always beyond our grasp. That is to say, there is always a *davar acher*, another explanation.

### THE WISDOM OF TALMUD

For a period of close to 10 years I had the great privilege and honor of studying Talmud with Rabbi Saul Leeman on an almost weekly basis. What I came to realize through our studies is that the rabbis whose voices are recorded in our Talmud were far more interested in the *process* of the discussion than in the final outcome of the debate.

Often, after weeks during which Rabbi Leeman and I wrestled with complex and abstruse Talmudic arguments, the text would bring us to a tantalizing and frustrating non-decision. The debate would be brought to a close with: "Rabbi Joshua says... but the sages maintain that..."

Sometimes, after arduous give and take by a number of sages across the *Blatt Gemorah*, the page of Talmud, and across the generations as well, the argument ends with a succinct and totally indecisive *taku*, which is Aramaic for "let it stand." Or – more wistfully – *TAKU*, the acronym for "let Elijah the Tishbite come and resolve these conundrums."

We have just completed our celebration of Passover, which our rabbis call *z'man cheyru'teynu*, the time of our liberation. What can be more liberating for our closed minds than the rabbinic insistence that there is always a *davar acher*, always another explanation? *Davar acher*, two words that usher into our winter minds the fresh breath of spring.

Rabbi James Rosenberg can be reached at [rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org](mailto:rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org).

**"What can be more liberating for our closed minds than the rabbinic insistence that there is always a *davar acher*, always another explanation?"**

God treat him in a just manner.

When we take even a cursory look at our post-biblical tradition, we find that, for our rabbis, controversy is the breath of life. Again and again, after staking out a position in Jewish lore, *Aggadab*, or Jewish law, *Halachab*, the rabbis qualify their viewpoint with the words "*davar acher*, another explanation."

To my way of thinking, these are the two most important words in the entire rabbinic lexicon: *davar acher*, another explanation, and then often another and yet another. These two simple words affirm that, for our rabbis, of old truth is an ongoing process of discovery rather than a destination that we can eventually reach.

Yes, we aspire to attain the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but

## Letter to the Editor

### *Voice & Herald* coverage makes me proud

I HAVE VERY MUCH appreciated all of *The Voice & Herald* pieces on immigration. When Richard Shein and I first started talking about the issue last year in relation to Ana de Pina, the Hope High School valedictorian, who was having problems with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, I never dreamed that *The Voice & Herald* would take the whole issue up in such a compassionate and thorough manner.

Your coverage makes me very proud to be a member of the Jewish community here in Rhode Island, a community whose compassion extends outside its borders.

I've just signed the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) petition; I would never have known about it and the work that HIAS is doing if it



Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany on the SS St. Louis, which was turned away from Cuba and the United States in 1939.

weren't for your article ("Families speak out about living in shadow of deportation," *The Voice & Herald*, March 20).

Thank you so much.

Carole Marshall  
Pawtucket

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

Opening day at Fenway: Reciting Kaddish, a win for the Red Sox

Columnist observes the laws of Judaism yet wonders why

**O**N THE DAY before Passover, I said Kaddish in memory of my father. This is not unusual, I say Kaddish in his memory every day, morning, afternoon and evening. It was the setting that was peculiar. On opening day I was at Fenway Park with my friend Sam, and I did a hasty count. We were two. There were at least three

Jewish ball players on the field, that was five; we knew of two Jewish executives of the Red Sox we assumed were on site, seven. Three short. But then I looked at the throng before me and surely, I told myself, of the 37,000+ other people in the ball park, three of them must be Jewish. So, during the seventh inning stretch, after singing "God Bless America," while everyone else warbled

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game," I said Kaddish. Saying Kaddish doesn't bring my father back to life, and certainly not to health, and I don't actually believe in the efficacy of prayer to begin with, so I wonder why I arrange my daily schedule to accommodate the needs of someone who cannot possibly know that I stand for him and utter words in Aramaic I do not understand – even when I read them in the arcane English translation generally supplied? Is it ancestor worship, as a rabbi/scholar I know maintains? Is it a hope that if I say Kaddish my children will say the prayer for me in my time? – and if they do, how does that benefit me, exactly? I'll be pretty much dead under the circumstances.

Is it for the same reason I keep a kosher diet, so as not to break the link in the chain unlikely ever to be mended, a chain that I suppose goes back to Pharisaic days? In point of fact, I could not deliberately skip the daily ritual for my father any more than I could eat a ham and cheese sandwich with a

pork rind chaser, but I can't rationally tell myself why. Passover, the story of our liberation, has just ended, but it's also the story of our bondage to ancient law we neither created nor formally consent to except in the observance. Hegel in the 18th century argued that what gives us freedom is acceptance of the burden of law; Hobbes, the 17th century English philosopher, argued that without law we are no better than the sav-

This is my constant quandary, why observe the laws of Judaism. An associated one was added before Passover when I saw the play "Grace" at the Gamm Theatre. Grace is the eponymous central character, a professor of natural science. She refuses to call herself an atheist because that defines what she is not, a not believer in God. Instead she defines her attitude as "naturalism." She mocks William Paley's creationism and fawns over Darwin. The universe has no purpose. Things just happen. Then her son announces that he is becoming an Anglican priest. The sparks fly.

She attacks: You with your moderate religion are giving cover to scriptural literalists who turn the irrationality of religion into the violence of bomb-throwing fanatics. But is it true? That's the question, never fully resolved in the play. Do the moderate practices of religion, the observing Passover, for instance or Lent or Ramadan, provide cover for the fanatics who would destroy all that is not of their revealed belief?

If benign religion morphs into cultural oppression or murder, is the irrationality of religion compensated for by its social values? Hamas, after all, runs hospitals.

Religion pretends to be rational when it bothers to. Maimonides and Aquinas believed in Aristotle's rationality, but even that depends on the irrational belief in an unmoved mover, a contradiction in terms. I'd like to abandon formal religion, but then I'd have no opportunity to say Kaddish for my father in that lyrical little bandbox of a ballpark off of Yawkey Way, a whimsy that would have brought a smile to his baseball-loving heart.

In the end, the Red Sox won the opening game, Kaddish was recited, the tulips are coming up; the trees are showing their leaves. Spring is in the air. Let us rejoice.

*Joshua Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. He can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.*



Josh Stein

**"There are Jews who never consciously observe any Jewish ritual law, and yet they are Jews."**

ages whose lives are solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.

So, do I obey the law to avoid the chaos of freedom, or does the law give me freedom while it binds me to action, the purpose of which eludes? The law we obey, is it that which makes us Jews? That's a simple one. No. There are Jews who never consciously observe any Jewish ritual law, and yet they are Jews. (We call many of these people "Israelis.")

NOT ALONE

The history of the science of kosher food

Claim that kosher dietary laws were grounded in health was a 19th-century invention

**T**HE MARKET for kosher foods dwarfs the population of consumers who keep the kosher dietary laws. A 2008 survey, conducted by the marketing research firm Mintel Organization International and reported on a number

of industry and other web sites, revealed that whereas only 14 percent of respondents purchase kosher food for religious reasons, 62 percent of respondents purchase kosher food for its quality and 51 per-

cent for general healthfulness.

But why do so many people believe kosher food to be so healthy?

Many people, Jews and non-Jews, believe that the prohibition of eating pork is rooted in the knowledge, experience, or folk wisdom that people can fall ill from eating it, especially from trichinosis. Beliefs such as this one have helped create the large and growing market for kosher foods.

In truth, the very claim that the kosher dietary laws are grounded in science and health was a 19th-century invention.

As the historian Thomas Schlich details in his essay "The Word of God and the Word of Science: Nutrition Science and the Jewish Dietary Laws in Germany, 1820-1920," the 19th century was a time when nutrition science underwent critical developments, and science and rationality

were held in high esteem.

At the same time, the Jews in places like Germany were navigating in the modern world, and trying to understand what it meant to be Jewish in a world of rationality and science, where reli-

**"We only have to look at the many hundreds of unambiguously unhealthy kosher-certified products to know that kosher and healthy are not always synonymous."**

gious laws, such as the kosher dietary laws might seem outmoded and could segregate Jews from the general population. Many Jews gave up the dietary laws and many gave up Judaism altogether.

As Schlich writes in his essay (published in the 1995 book, *The Science and Culture of Nutrition, 1840-1940*),

"the dietary laws entered into the discussion of how to bring Judaism into line with the modern world."

Many Jews found themselves having to argue either for changing the dietary laws or justifying them. Both sides in the debate appealed to medical science and rationality to defend their positions.

In defense of the dietary laws, proponents pointed to the relatively long lifespans and the supposed lack of epidemic diseases among Jews, as well as the unhygienic nature of eating pork or blood.

Such arguments were picked up and echoed by American writers, helping to establish the widely held convictions that health, hygiene, and science lay at the core of the Jewish dietary laws.

This history helps explain, in part, why kosher-certified foods appeal to so many people – many more than

keep kosher out of religious commitment. Indeed, while even Jews who keep kosher for religious reasons will refer to the scientific arguments as additional support, the tradition has long rooted the dietary laws not in science but in obligation, not in physical health but in spiritual health.

Given the millennia of Jewish history, the scientific justifications for kosher food are a relatively recent development. And, though these justifications seem like common sense to us today, we only have to look at the many hundreds of unambiguously unhealthy kosher-certified products to know that kosher and healthy are not always synonymous.

*Alan Krinsky, a columnist for The Voice & Herald, wrote a doctoral dissertation on the history of nutrition and diet; he has a degree in public health and works in healthcare quality improvement. He can be contacted at adkrinsky@netzero.net.*



Alan Krinsky

## VIEWPOINT

## Jewish day schools in Rhode Island: A vision for the future

*Recommendations to strengthen day school education*

By EZRA L. STIEGLITZ  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**A**S REPORTED in the Feb. 20 issue of *The Voice & Herald*, the board of trustees of the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) voted to close the middle school at the end of the current school year due, in part, to the heavy financial burden the middle school was placing on JCDS. I am sure that the decision to close the middle school was "heart-wrenching and difficult."

In this same article, Stephen Silberfarb, CEO and Executive Vice President of JFRI, said that Jewish education remains a top communal priority. "We need to get word out about the unique value of a Jewish day school education."

Silberfarb also said: "We who are pained with this decision have to turn our anguish into action by stepping up to make Jewish education in Rhode Island sustainable."

In support, I am presenting three recommendations that I feel will strengthen Jewish day school education in the future. The community is certainly fortunate to have two day schools available to parents who wish to have their children experience a full-day Judaic and secular educational program. The schools are, of course, the Providence Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. These schools currently cater to the needs of more than 250 children.

In the past, JFRI, through the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE), has provided grants-in-aid funding to both schools. One of the recommendations presented below concerns a reformulation of grants-in-aid allocations. The other two pertain to the creation of a community-wide, needs-based scholarship program and the development of a plan for marketing day schools.

1. TO ENSURE the viability of both day schools, the formula used to allocate grants-in-aid funds for the Providence Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community Day School should be revised to reflect the funding level common in other federations and indexed to keep up with inflation.

Each year the JFRI allocates funds to the Providence Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community Day School. This standard allocation to the schools is referred to as "grants-in-aid."

These grants follow a formula based on both enrollment and the amount of scholarships. However, the amount of support specified in the formula is higher than the amount of funds allocated for this purpose.

For example, the allocation to the day schools for the 2006-2007 by the JFRI was \$163,128, though according to the formula, the allocation should have been \$326,219. The funds actually allocated represent only 50 percent of the amount determined by the formula. This level of funding has been relatively flat for over a decade.

2. JFRI SHOULD establish a community-wide, needs-based scholarship program that could be used by families with great financial needs who have children attending Jewish day schools. This scholarship program would supplement scholarship awards already provided by



Photo courtesy of PHDS

Members of the Providence Hebrew Day School band play at the PJ Library celebration at Barnes & Noble in Warwick in December 2008.

these institutions.

A 1999 United Jewish Communities/Jewish Education Service of North America report states: "No Jewish family that desires to send its child(ren) to a Jewish day school should be prevented from doing so due to financial reasons."

Providing financial assistance to needy families places a great burden on the budgets of these institutions. For example, in the only question relating to this in the 2002 Jewish Community Survey, 16.5 percent of the respondents with children would not send their children to day schools due to the cost of tuition.

With the economy on the decline and an unemployment rate that is one of the highest in the nation, the number of applications for financial aid will,

in all likelihood, increase. As a result, it is incumbent on the community to share in the responsibility of helping the most needy families provide their children with a quality Jewish education.

3. THE COMMUNITY should fund a proactive marketing program to encourage families to enroll their children in Jewish day schools.

The greatest concern is attracting the attention of families so that they would consider day school education as a viable option for their children. There is a need to establish community collaborations for marketing day school education. Such a promotional campaign would foster a strong awareness of the value of day school education to our community. Families should see our schools as opportunities to give their children the highest-quality Jewish, secular and moral education available.

I am a realist. The economy is in dreadful shape and budgets are tight so I don't expect that funds will be forthcoming in the near future to provide the finances necessary to support all of the recommendations listed above. However, the fact that we are

experiencing difficult economic times is even more reason to develop a vision plan — one that is insightful, inventive and progressive.

Perhaps one idea that could be considered by the JFRI Board of Directors is to change its formula for distributing annual campaign funds. Currently, 50 percent of funds collected remain in the community and 50 percent are distributed to organizations in Israel and other countries.

More and more communities have veered away from this traditional 50-50 split to a more realistic split, e.g., 60-40 split, whereby a majority of funds remain in the community. The additional revenue created by modifying the distribution of campaign funds could be used in part to support some of the recommendations presented above.

Given that the community recognizes the vital role that day schools play in creating a new generation of engaged and literate Jews who can give our community a sustainable future, it is essential that the leaders of our community consider new ways of supporting both schools based on a plan for the future that has been carefully researched and well thought-out. Consideration of the recommendations suggested above would certainly be a step in the right direction.

*Ezra Stieglitz chaired the Day School Liaison Committee of the Bureau of Jewish Education from 2005-2007, where these ideas were first developed. He currently serves as a member of The Voice & Herald*

## New partnership promotes Jewish education

*Editor's Note: A new partnership promoting Jewish education has been formed by the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, Providence Hebrew Day School, the Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Center, and PJ Library. The goal is to spread the word about Jewish educational programs, Jewish day schools, and Jewish supplementary schools in our community*

**T**HE NEW partnership is actively engaging in outreach to share the results of a study conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, which recently surveyed 3,312 current Jewish undergraduates of varying educational and denominational backgrounds

to examine the effects a Jewish day school education has on the college years. The following are some of the survey's key findings:

- Acceptance to first-choice college: The majority (67 percent) of all Jewish college students surveyed are attending their first-choice college. Students who attended Jewish high schools are gaining acceptance to their first choice at the same rate as alumni of public and private high schools.
- Academic excellence: College GPAs of former Jewish day school students mirror those of students who attended public or private schools.

- Just saying no: Former Jewish day school students are more resistant to social pressures that lead to binge drinking and other risky behaviors than their public and private school peers.
- Bursting the social bubble: Jewish high school alumni develop diverse social networks that extend well beyond their day school connections. Only a small minority (11 percent) indicated that most of their friends continue to be those they met in high school.
- Socially responsible: Students who attended Jewish day school for at least six years are more likely to become involved in socially responsible activities, such as

community volunteerism and advocacy, than their public and private school peers.

- Assuming leadership: More than one-third (36 percent) of former Jewish day school students assume leadership positions in college, similar to proportions of private and public school alumni (40 percent and 39 percent, respectively).
- Broad career possibilities: Former Jewish day school students select major fields of study across a broad spectrum, and they intend to pursue graduate programs in proportions that are virtually indistinguishable from that of students who attended public or private schools.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

**JCPA plenum reverberates with advocacy at local level**

*Interfaith coalition to meet with community leaders on May 6*

BY MARTY COOPER  
mcooper@jfri.org

IT HAS NOW BEEN a little more than a month since I, along with two other delegates from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Community Relations Council (CRC) attended the national Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) plenum in Washington D.C. Even now, I keep thinking about how relevant and timely the social action and Israel advocacy issues discussed are to CRC's day-to-day activities.

This session, like others in the past, kept us fully programmed, with little time for rest or relaxation. Issues of poverty, Darfur, relations with the local Islamic community, Israel and perhaps more apropos for today, our economy, were discussed and debated.

This session, unlike others in the past, featured Maxine Richman, who spoke of the formation of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition, whose mission is to fight poverty with faith. Explaining how the Rhode Island interfaith community is working to reduce poverty in the state,

Richman detailed to more than 25 workshop attendees about the CRC's role in establishing the coalition. The coalition, with more than 50 organizational members from virtually every faith group, also includes social action advocacy partners.

Richman spoke of the Statehouse vigil on Jan. 6, urging our elected officials to create a budget and pass bills based on wisdom and compassion for those in need.

The coalition's goal – to reduce poverty by 50 percent in 10 years in Rhode Island – will require dedication, commitment and patience. Throughout her presentation, Richman cited examples of "best practices" that the coalition used to be successful.

On May 6, the coalition will host a poverty conference that will include clergy, university presidents, business leaders and government officials. The conference, which will be held at the Roger Williams Park Casino in Providence, will address hunger, healthcare, unemployment, and homelessness in the state.

**AT THE PLENUM**

The plenum included speakers and presenters of national and international stature. This included U. S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. Also speaking were Robert Greenstein from the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, Wade Henderson of the Leadership Conference on Civil



U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL  
addresses the JCPA plenum.

Rights, and Harvard Law School Professor Laurence H. Tribe.

Tribe described a "who's who list" of influential people who were his former students, including President Barack Obama. Tribe gave an inspiring talk about our Constitution, and on how we can – and should – work to restore our freedoms that, during the last decade, have eroded, while, at the same time, balancing our national security.

Because we were meeting in



MAXINE RICHMAN details the work of the R.I. Interfaith Coalition in a presentation entitled, 'There Shall Be No Needy.'

the nation's capital, the JFRI contingent – which included Richman, David Leach (chair of the CRC) and me – visited with members of the Rhode Island delegation, including Sen. Whitehouse, Rep. James Langevin and Rep. Patrick Kennedy. (Sen. Reed was unavailable to meet with us due to a vote on a key issue.)

Whitehouse, enthusiastic about his first trip to Israel, showed us pictures from the trip (he would later share those photographs as

part of his March 27 presentation at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, where he talked about his recent trip to the Middle East, to more than 130 people).

All the congressional leaders expressed support for Israel and a genuine concern for Rhode Island's unemployment, housing foreclosures and health care issues.

Next year's plenary session will be in Dallas, Texas.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Moving ahead in unity

*We must face uncertainty and move ahead*

**T**HIS PAST WEEK we celebrated Passover, the festival of our freedom. But Passover is about more than the Exodus from Egypt; it is the first chapter in the story of how a large group of oppressed people eventually became a great nation.



**Doris Feinberg**

This could not happen, however, until the Israelites underwent many tests and travails. Like us, the Israelites were uncertain about their future. But they, like we, ultimately had to determine that there was no going back: They had to face their fear and go forward as one people.

Though we are not threatened by slavery, our community and what it stands

for are under threat by the current economic crisis. We, too, must face our uncertainty and move ahead together.

The community's leaders are responsible for choosing the direction we take in the belief that the choices we make now will lead to the strongest possible Federation and Jewish community in years to come. As I have shared with you before, the key to our current decision-making is the determination to consolidate our organizational structure so that it operates as efficiently as possible while preserving and strengthening our most compelling services and programs. The dedicated leadership of our professional and volunteer leaders will be more important to us than ever.

To recognize that dedication, JFRI's annual meeting will take on a new format this year. In addition to elements of a traditional meeting, we will also have an Evening of Community Awards and Recognition on May 11, at which we will recognize the leaders from all our communal agencies.

These volunteers, who have continued to serve us through some of the most challenging times we have ever seen, will for the first time have the

**"We must have the courage to move ahead in unity 'into the midst of the sea,' knowing that we will ultimately reach dry land."**

opportunity to be acknowledged in a forum at which the entire community is represented. This all-community meeting will be about what we can accomplish as a whole, what each person and agency can contribute, and how we can come together and move ahead as one.

In our tradition, the seventh morning of Passover is when we read Exodus 14:10, the account of the crossing of the Red Sea. When the Israelites arrived at the shore they were terrified, trapped as they were by the Egyptians pursuing them in the rear and the deep sea ahead. According to the

*midrash*, the group was divided about the best course of action to take. But Moses persuaded them to come together and agree to proceed into the sea. Their unity, however, had to be strong, for the *midrash* tells us that it was not until the water reached the leaders' nostrils that God caused the waters to part.

Like the Israelites, we must come together as one community and journey toward our common tomorrow. This year's annual meeting is a paradigm of what we must become for a strong future: A unified people

who understand that we can accomplish so much more when we work in harmony toward our shared goals. While the waters of our metaphorical Red Sea may not show signs of parting just yet, we must have the courage to move ahead in unity "into the midst of the sea," knowing that we will ultimately reach dry land.

*Each month, Doris Feinberg, the president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, uses this space to inform you about what is happening with the Federation, the programs it supports, and the community.*

## Esta Yavner wins Lea Eliash Memorial Teacher Award



**ESTA YAVNER, Judaic Studies Coordinator at the JCC Early Learning Center.**

PROVIDENCE – Esta Yavner, long-time teacher and Judaic Studies Coordinator at the JCC Early Learning Center (ELC), has been awarded the 2009 Lea Eliash Memorial Teacher Award, the Rhode Island affiliate of The Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education.

Parents, children, colleagues and friends all characterize Yavner as an inspiration.

She fulfills her job with commitment, dignity and joy, and is completely committed to inspiring both students and staff

about Jewish life.

The Eliash award recognizes teachers in communities across North America who have made a commitment to the field of Jewish education. Named in Rhode Island for veteran teacher Lea Eliash z"l, who served our community for more than 50 years, the award was established by the Bureau of Jewish Education of

Rhode Island to honor outstanding classroom-based teachers in formal Jewish educational settings.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, May 12th 7:00 pm  
Temple Am David, Warwick

**Harry Elkin MIDRASHA Community High School Graduation & Community Teen Awards and Recognition**

Honoring the MIDRASHA Class of 5769

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For more information, contact  
Jamie Richman at [jrichman@bjeri.org](mailto:jrichman@bjeri.org) or  
401 331-0956 x181

## PJ Library Calendar

**Saturday**

**April 18**

**Tot Shabbat**

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick  
10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Thursday**

**April 23**

**WHERE:** Epoch Senior Health Care on Blackstone Blvd., Butler Hospital Campus, 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence

**WHEN:** 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

**April 25**

**Shabbat Story Time**

**WHERE:** Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence

**WHEN:** 10:30-11:30 a.m.

*For PJ Library's Jewish bedtime stories and songs for families, all events are free of charge and open to the community. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas to all PJ Library events.*

*For more information, contact Nicole Katzman, PJ Library director, at 331-0956, ext. 180, or [nkatzman@bjeri.org](mailto:nkatzman@bjeri.org).*

**The PJ Library**



## We were wetter – for the better

### Reflections on NOLA, the young leadership conference

By JENNIFER AND MICHAEL OELBAUM  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**W**HEN WE think of New Orleans, we think of the French Quarter, the bayou, Bourbon Street, jazz and, of course, the beignets. After attending the recent UJC Young Leadership conference, TikkuNOLAm, we now think of the Ninth Ward, 17th St. canal, the Brad Pitt Project and, of course, St. Bernard Parrish.

Last month, we were privileged to be a part of this amazing event. We arrived in New Orleans a few days early, and spent some time sightseeing and enjoying the change of scenery. On Sunday afternoon, the conference began. At the opening plenary, we heard from local Rabbi Uri Topolosky, Jewish residents of New Orleans, and the president of Tulane University, Scott Cowen. The stories they told were really quite amazing. Tulane has done

a lot to bring the city back from the floods.

After the session, we boarded buses and began a tour of the city. It started with two local Jewish men telling us their story. Another person, part of the Jewish Service Corps, got on the bus and gave us more of the tour. We toured a bayou and saw the Brad Pitt Project. We saw all the now-empty foundations where houses once stood, pre-Katrina. Everyone's story is different, but everyone went through their own personal tragedy. And, everyone seems to have a grudge against FEMA. This tour was an incredible experience. What we've seen on the news is just so different from seeing it in person.

Day Two started off having our favorite breakfast – bagels and lox, not *beignets*. Since the rainy weather was not cooperating with us, the decision was made to go to Mardi Gras World, where the Mardi Gras floats are built and



Michael and Jennifer Oelbaum in New Orleans

stored. That was pretty amazing.

We then headed off to help rebuild the Archbishop Hannan Youth Center that had been damaged during the flooding following Hurricane Katrina.

The site had been a high school, but is now being turned into a youth center. Our group started with the task of digging holes for some raccoon-proof garbage can shelters.

Despite the rain, we continued our work. After lunch, we helped build picnic tables.

What an experience. We were the largest group of volunteers to come to the youth center site, and have since heard that what we accomplished in just one day would have taken about four months at the usual pace. That is quite the achievement. Just a few of the tasks completed by the group were fixing fences, painting murals, building, painting, and securing trash receptacles, building picnic tables and benches and planting flowers.

At times, things were a little chaotic, and while we didn't feel like we were doing enough, in the end, to see what the entire group accomplished, and being part of this team, was something to be proud of. Everyone just seems so grateful that we took a day out of our lives to come and help them. What a good feeling, and how proud we were to be a part of this.

To read more about our trip, and view media coverage of the conference, visit our blog at <http://jenandmikeonthego.blogspot.com>

## Israeli attorney Jonathan Livny to speak on Arabs and religious Jews

**O**N TUESDAY, April 21, the Cardozo Society of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will welcome Israeli attorney Jonathan Livny. He will give a presentation entitled: "Arabs and religious Jews: Can Israel be democratic?"

Livny, a prominent attorney practicing in Jerusalem, was the presiding judge of the Military Court in Judea and Samaria, holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Previously, he held the position of Attorney General of the West Bank. Livny served in the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the war in Lebanon.

He also served as chief military prosecutor for Israel's Judge Advocate's Office, which involved the prosecution of criminal cases and drafting of laws for the West Bank.

Livny has represented Israel in various international conferences and received wide recognition as one of Israel's more forceful spokesmen on television and radio. He has also served as assistant to the minister of tourism and legal adviser in the Knesset.

Livny's presentation is just

one in a series of presentations offered by the Cardozo Society of JFRI, a group for Jewish attorneys, judges and law students in Rhode Island. The society, chaired in Rhode Island by Linn Freedman, is named for former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo, and is designed to strengthen relationships among those in the legal profession through education and leadership, while working to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Rhode Island and throughout the world.

Cardozo Society programming integrates legal and Jewish concerns to demonstrate

the unique contributions the legal profession can make to improve the Jewish community at large.

*The Cardozo Society program with Jonathan Livny will take place on Tuesday, April 21, from noon to 1:30 pm at the offices of Adler Pollock & Sheehan PC, with a cost of \$10. Lunch will be provided and dietary laws observed.*

*For more information or to RSVP for the presentation, contact Jackie Salett, Development Officer at JFRI: 421-411, ext. 172, or [jsalett@jfri.org](mailto:jsalett@jfri.org).*



Jonathan Livny

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For more information, contact  
Jamie Richman, Community Education Coordinator  
at [jrichman@bjeri.org](mailto:jrichman@bjeri.org) or 401 331-0956 x81

## IRAN: Rhetoric escalates on dangers of nuclear threat

From Page 1

Robert Whitcomb, Edward Achori, Froma Harrop, and David Brussat.

The visit, which had been coordinated by Israeli General Consul for New England, Nadav Tamir, was an opportunity for Dr. Shtauber to expound, as he explained in an interview with *The Voice & Herald* at breakfast prior to the session, on "the threat that Iran represents to the world."

Shtauber, who retired as a brigadier general in the Israel Defense Forces after a 25-year career, had served as the head of the IDF Strategic Planning Division. He also served as a foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Shtauber had been

### NEWS ANALYSIS

a member of both the Israeli delegations in peace talks with Syria and with the Palestinians at Camp David.

Shtauber, who also completed the advanced management program at the Harvard Business School and holds a Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, is a frequent visitor to the United States.

The full-court press by Israel on Iran was clearly evident in the interview that Netanyahu gave the day he was sworn in to *The Atlantic Monthly* correspondent Jeffrey Goldberg: "The Obama presidency has two

great missions: fixing the economy, and preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said. According to Goldberg, Netanyahu said the Iranian nuclear challenge represents a "hinge of history" and added that "Western civilization" will have failed if Iran is allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

In addition, Goldberg reported that Netanyahu said of the Iranian leadership, "You don't want a messianic apocalyptic cult controlling atomic bombs. When the wide-eyed believer gets hold of the reins of power and the weapons of mass death, then the entire world should start worrying, and that is what is happening in Iran."

And, as reported by *The Wall Street Journal*, in its recent meeting with U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mullen said that "there is leadership in Israel that is not going to tolerate a nuclear Iran." When asked whether Israel was capable of inflicting meaningful damage to Iran's nuclear installations, Mullen said simply, "Yes."



**U.S. CHAIRMAN OF the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen favors diplomacy but says there's not a lot of time.**

Mullen said that, for the time being, his counsel was diplomacy, noting that even in the darkest days of the Cold War the United States talked with the Soviets.

**"There is leadership in Israel that is not going to tolerate a nuclear Iran."**

**Admiral Mike Mullen**

But, Mullen added, "we don't have a lot of time."

#### ATTACK ON IRAN?

A few days earlier, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse had addressed more than 130 people at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, offering observa-

tions on his recent trip to the Middle East. At the gathering, former Gov. Bruce Sundlun, himself a former aviator from World War II, asked Sen. Whitehouse about the feasibility of Israel launching an air attack against Iran to destroy its nuclear weapons capability, similar to the strike launched against Iraq in 1981.

Whitehouse carefully answered the question, saying that the situation was much different than in 1981. First, the nuclear facilities in Iran had been hardened against attack.

Second, any Israeli air attack would have to traverse Iraqi airspace, now controlled by the United States, raising issues of American involvement in such an attack.

The incident was related to Shtauber, and then he was asked about the feasibility of such an attack against Iran's nuclear facilities. He answered: "Before undertaking such measures, all diplomatic options would need to be exhausted," he said.

According to Shtauber, the kinds of economic sanctions that would cause Iran to reconsider its position have not yet been applied "up to this point." Further, it would take some time for

such sanctions to take effect.

From a strategic viewpoint, he said Israel would not undertake such an attack unless "our intelligence was confident that we knew enough, that we technically could accomplish it, and that we were prepared for the issues of reprisal."

#### THE NEW GOVERNMENT

What did Shtauber think of the new coalition government – and the rise of Avigdor Lieberman as Foreign Minister?

"I think the coalition – including Labor – makes the government more stable," he said. "Lieberman is a pragmatist," he continued. However, "he likes to make the talk, but not the walk." Further, Shtauber said that as foreign minister, Lieberman would, in reality, not be a major player, but rather a performer "at the side of the stage."

As for Labor's agreement to join Netanyahu's government, Shtauber, as a former aide to Ehud Barak, said that he did not see it "as a fig leaf, but rather as an opportunity."

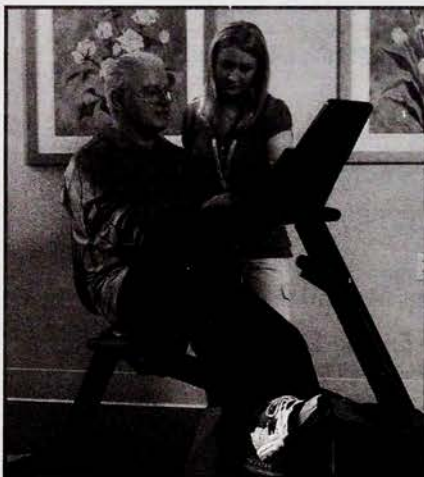
Moving forward, Shtauber argued that the biggest issue confronting Israel and the region was not the Palestinians, nor Gaza, but the Shia-Sunni religious split and Iran.

"Gaza is not so important," he said.

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# Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

## 2009 Annual Meeting and Evening of Community Recognition & Awards

Monday, May 11  
10 *Iyar* 5769

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Jewish Community Center  
401 Elmgrove Avenue Providence

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www.JFRI.org

# Did the Armenian genocide have its own Primo Levi?

*New book offers a survivor's account*

By ADAM KIRSCH  
nextbook.org

NEW YORK – A week before Germany's invasion of Poland, Hitler reportedly urged his generals to slaughter civilians – Slavs and Jews, the two most hated groups in Nazi ideology – without mercy.

"After all," he flippantly asked, "who remembers the Armenians?"

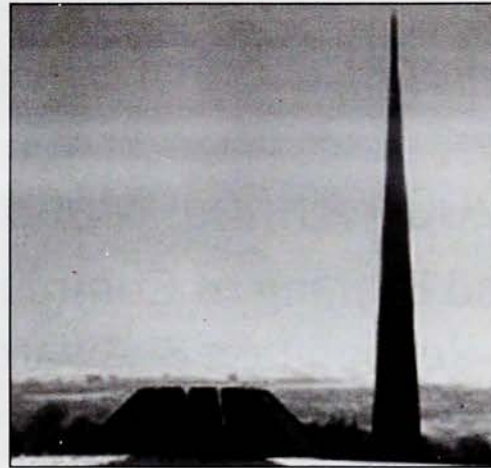
In fact, the attempted genocide of the Armenians by the Turks during the First World War was very well documented, at the time and ever since.

Henry Morgenthau, the American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during the massacres, wrote at length in his memoirs about this attempt to wipe an entire population off the face of the earth. The word genocide had not yet been coined, but that is clearly what happened in Armenia between 1915 and 1918; in fact, Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish activist who coined the term, had the Armenian example in mind.

Yet it is true that the Armenian genocide has not entered into America's common cultural memory in the same way as the Nazi Holocaust. In part that is because it took place in the

Ottoman Empire, from which few Americans come, rather than in Europe, where many Americans have their roots; in part it is because the U.S. never fought the Ottomans in World War I, as it did the Germans in World War II; in part it is because of the greater prominence of Jews than Armenians in American life. And sadly, it is also due to the continuing refusal of the Turkish government to acknowledge the crimes of its predecessor state, thus creating an illusion of controversy about a history that no historians doubt. (When the Turkish Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk spoke publicly about the Armenian genocide, he was charged with the crime of "insulting Turkishness" and forced to flee abroad.)

In 2007, the Anti-Defamation League was rightly embroiled in scandal when it supported the Turkish government's plea to the U.S. Congress not to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. (After much controversy, the director of the ADL, Abraham Foxman, tempered



THE MEMORIAL IN YEREVAN commemorating the Armenian genocide during World War I.

his stance.) For, as many writers urged at the time, it is surely incumbent upon Jews, above all,

**"In this eyewitness account of the genocide, written in 1918, Grigoris Balakian offers an Armenian equivalent to the testimonies of Holocaust survivors."**

to remember the Armenians, whose oblivion Hitler counted on.

That is why the publication of *Armenian Golgotha: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1918*

is especially noteworthy for Jewish readers.

In this eyewitness account of the genocide, written in 1918 and now translated into English for the first time, Grigoris Balakian offers an Armenian equivalent to the testimonies of Holocaust survivors like Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel.

Balakian, a priest of the Armenian Apostolic Church, was deported from Constantinople in April 1915, along with a large group of Armenian intellectuals and community leaders. For the next three years, until Turkey's defeat and surrender in September 1918, Balakian lived constantly under the shadow of death. Exiled, sent

on forced marches, threatened by bandits and government officials, starved and sick, he managed to survive only by a combination of luck, daring, the corruption and

inefficiency of Turkish officials, and the support of righteous non-Armenians who hid and fed him.

As Balakian, along with his fellow deportees, was sent from place to place, he witnessed and heard about the unbelievable horrors inflicted on the Armenians of Turkey.

The Ottoman state was far less powerful and organized than the Nazis' would be; it did not have the resources to build gas chambers, or even the railways to bring people to them. The mechanics of mass murder, then, were primitive and face-to-face.

Armenian deportees were attacked by mobs and groups of bandits armed with axes and farm tools, much as in the Hutu massacre of Tutsis in Rwanda. Balakian records many scenes of Armenians being tortured, mutilated and decapitated, of babies torn apart by soldiers, of women raped dozens of times until they died; he shows us fields of decomposing corpses and hills of bones and skulls. Most of those who survived these organized attacks succumbed to starvation and illness. In total, an estimated 1.2 million Armenians died.

*Adam Kirsch is the author of Benjamin Disraeli, a new biography in Nextbook's Jewish Encounters series. Reprinted with permission from Nextbook.org.*

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MEDICAL ARTS

The voices of the newly arrived

*Bintel Brief letters paint a heart-breaking picture*

**A** MASSIVE diaspora unfolded in the four consecutive decades following 1880, as millions of Jews abandoned their ancestral homes in Eastern Europe to venture forth to the West.

The transformation from *shtetl* to ghetto was a time of chaos, cultural disruption, domestic disarray, and poignant despair intermingled though with adaptive courage. Most families succeeded in making the transition; some did not.



**Stanley Aronson M.D.**

Social historians would learnedly note, in retrospect, that the Jewish people had undergone a profound transplantation, greater in some ways than their prior involuntary dispersions. But no ethnic group undergoes such a massive demographic transition and then remains silent about it. An awesome body of literature attests to the struggles attending this later day diaspora.

The perceptions of learned sociologists are one thing, but to hear the plaintive voice of individuals passing from the Old World to the new, one requires something beyond the scholarly texts.

One finds this voice – sometimes humorous, sometimes belligerent, sometimes despon-

dent – in the thousands of letters to the leading American Jewish newspaper of the time, *The Forward*.

These letters, collectively known as Bintel Briefs, paint an often heart-breaking picture of the social engagement of these Jewish immigrants.

Letters to a newspaper editor are not new. But the Bintel Briefs letters bring the seeking of public counsel to a more intense, more intimate level.

Those decades of transition for the immigrant Jews were times of prodigious and irreversible change: priorities were upended, traditions were trashed and the ethical compass of many was set askew.

A century has passed since these letters have accumulated. What were they like? Their flavor? Their content?

If any theme dominated it was the appeal for social justice. Certainly, monumental issues of the day were brought forth, issues such as the evil of war, the merit

of unionization, women's suffrage, better schooling, health insurance, the role of pacifism during World War I and even prohibition.

But the great majority of these letters were emphatically personal, intensely anguished, probing, yearning, heart-breaking.

Health, and particularly the effects of tuberculosis (often called Jewish asthma, consumption or the workers' disease), were often discussed. Other problems included marital infidelity, domestic incompatibility,

religiously mixed marriages, and, frequently, desertion by husbands.

In general, the letters were passionate, blunt, and with little circumlocution. Their salutations included "worthy editor," "esteemed editor," or merely, "dear editor."

The opening sentence was often a manifest declaration in itself, an appeal for fairness, a *cri de coeur*: "I am an unhappy, lonely orphan, 15 years of age and I appeal to you in my helplessness. My story is a tragic one."

Or, yet another typical opening: "Please print my letter and give me an answer."

And still another: "I, an old woman of 70, write you this letter with my heart's blood."

**PROFOUND AND COMPELLING**

So many profound feelings are distilled in the opening paragraph. An adult woman, without companionship, writes: "I am as lonely as a stone."

A son leaves his mother behind

a sin to use face powder? Shouldn't a girl look beautiful?"

Or a woman trapped in a thankless, loveless marriage to a wealthy man: "The jingling of the silver brought me no solace."

Politics intrudes sometimes. "My son is already 26 years old and doesn't want to get married. He says he is a Socialist and he is too busy. Socialism is Socialism, but getting married is important, too."

Indeed, every socio-political view finds expression in these letters from free-thinking agnosticism to orthodox fundamentalism.

These pleas are leavened with letters describing conflicts between kosher-dependent mothers and their non-kosher daughters-in-law. Certainly, the many intergenerational problems that emerge when multiple generations are forced to share a three room tenement apartment that also serves as a daytime workshop.

There is a grievous word in Yiddish, *agunah*, which means a wife, often with children, deserted by her husband. In stable communities in the old country, no matter how impoverished, wife-abandonment was uncommon. But with the turmoil



**Abraham Cahan, the editor of *The Forward*, created the Bintel Brief advice column for Jewish immigrants.**

of displacement and resettlement in America, with the blandishments of an expanding America filled with new possibilities and beckoning inducements, with the restructuring of human interrelationships in Western society came the unspeakable tragedy of husbands deserting their family.

And the Bintel Briefs reflect this lament. "Max, you left us in such a terrible state. You had no compassion for us. I bore you four children. And then you left me. Who will support us? Have you no pity for your own flesh and blood? My tears choke me and I can no longer write."

Historic events had transformed the majority of European Jewry from an impoverished, oppressed and dispersed people into a vibrant, creative and productive community in the New World. The transformative process had often been painful. And the Bintel Briefs gave plaintive expression to this.

*Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., can be reached at smamd@cox.net.*

**"A mother sorrowfully admits that her children have become more assimilated than she: 'In America the children bring up the parents.'"**

in the old country and begins his journey to America wearing "a white shirt wet with my mother's tears."

A mother sorrowfully admits that her children have become more assimilated than she: "In America the children bring up the parents."

A young woman appeals for approval from the editor: "Is it

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MEDICAL ARTS



**Stanley Aronson M.D.**

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We thank Dr. Aronson for his generosity and his continued wisdom and erudition which he shares in "Medical Arts."

Please make your checks out to *The Jewish Voice & Herald*, and mail to: Voice & Herald Patrons, 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I., 02906

From Page 1  
NEW ORLEANS AS  
A JEWISH HUB

Horn found the focus for her novel while wondering around a New Orleans neighborhood in 2002, where she came upon a Jewish cemetery. "I had some time to kill before a presentation on my first novel," she explained, "and I was surprised to find that there were so many graves from the early 1800s."

New Orleans, she continued, "had the second-largest Jewish community after New York City in the 1860s." Jewish graveyards, in turn, often serve as a backdrop for pivotal scenes in *All Other Nights*.

Horn, 32, currently lives in Short Hills, N.J., with her husband and family; she recently gave birth to her third child, Eli. For Horn, who has a doctorate in Hebrew and Yiddish, one thing in common with her previous books is her desire to "explain aspects Jewish history that are not very well known."

In her first book, *In The Image*, winner of the 2003 National Jewish Book Award, she wrote about the practice of Jewish

*All Other Nights*  
By Dara Horn  
\$24.95, W.W. Norton  
384 pages  
ISBN 978-0-393-06492-6

**HORN: Novelist explores Jewish history during the Civil War**

immigrants traveling to America who threw their *tefillin* overboard at sea.

Her second book, *The World To Come*, interweaves the lives of painter Marc Chagall and Yiddish author Der Nister with modern day art forgery and terrorism.

"In my books I'm interested in exploring history that is not a caricature of the past, to write something that has something to say to us today," she said. "Literature has a way of bridging

ences with characters in my books - Chagall's granddaughter, for instance, and another person who was related to Der Nister," she said.

One of the reasons she attributed to interest in her books, she said, has been the growth of book clubs in the Jewish community.

One of the better known characters in Jewish fiction, Brenda Potemkin in Philip Roth's *Goodbye, Columbus*, resided in Short Hills, N.J., and for Horn, one of her motivations in becoming a writer was to create a different image for Jewish women.

Horn, who grew up in Short Hills, found it ironic that she now had returned there to live.

"I don't have much in common with Brenda Potemkin," she said with laugh. "Although I did learn Yiddish at Harvard."

Horn said that has never met Roth, but there was, she said, in her family's past, a similar thread of Jewish migration from Newark to the suburbs.

**JEWISH IDENTITY**

In *All Other Nights*, Horn said, many of the characters are always performing, acting a role in one way or another, often a necessity of Jewish survival. "In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, in order to succeed, someone who was

Jewish often had to put on a show," she said. The book, she continued, is about "who - and what - deserve loyalty."

The characters are often driven to make decisions based upon their own view of patriotism - and family. Horn cited the character of Philip Levy, an American Jew, a business owner, and the father of four daughters, who states: "My worse enemy is lawlessness." He believes in the ideal of an America that is ruled by laws and ideals, rather than who is in charge at the moment, Horn said, and it's clear that this is her preference, too.

The story is also a romance, and for Horn, it's very much about how a person redefines himself or herself, based upon the obligations to the people around him, or her.

In terms of future plans, Horn said that she had written "40 or 50 pages of the next book that I'll probably throw away. I'm not in a position to talk about it."

**"In my books I'm interested in exploring history that is not a caricature of the past, to write something that has something to say to us today."**

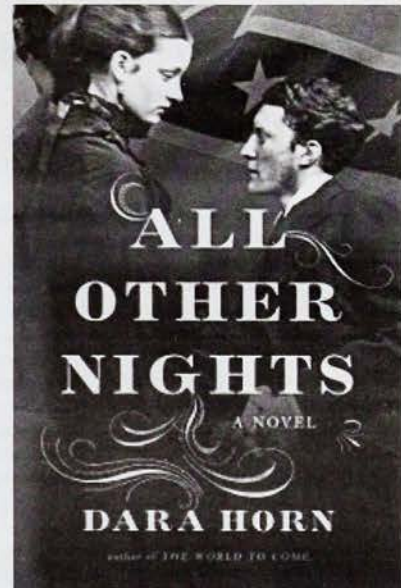
Dara Horn

differences, starting conversations that would have not happened otherwise."

As with all of her books, the stories and characters are based upon very thorough historical research.

**BROAD AUDIENCE**

Horn expressed both surprise and gratitude about the broad appeal her work has had throughout the Jewish community. "People have written me who have had personal experi-



*All Other Nights* creates a Jewish spy vs. spy story set mostly in New Orleans, Mississippi and Virginia.

In the fall, Horn plans a tour to promote her new book, and said that she would endeavor to try to arrange a stop in Providence, co-sponsored by *The Voice & Herald*.

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# Media invited to listen in on first meeting of new faith-based office

Key Jewish leaders named to Advisory Council

By ERIC FINGERHUT  
JTA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (JTA) – President Barack Obama said during the campaign that he wanted to keep George W. Bush's faith-based office around but revamp it. Among the examples of the changes – the new Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships invited the press to its first briefing for religious and community leaders.

A handful of religion reporters were able to sit in April 6 on the two-hour session at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building for many of the members of the office's new 25-person Advisory Council, as well as other religious and community activists and even some church-state separation advocates.

Much more important than media access were the contrasts Joshua DuBois, executive director of the office, drew between the new office and its function over the previous eight years.

DuBois said the goal of the Bush administration's faith-based office to "level the playing field" for faith-based organizations when bidding for government grants was important, but that

the new president's goal was to utilize the knowledge and expertise of religious and community organizations to achieve particular policy goals. Those priorities include addressing domestic poverty and contributing to the economic recovery, promoting responsible fatherhood, reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion, and enhancing interreligious dialogue and cooperation.

He also emphasized that the administration wanted a "policy-based partnership," and that the office did not have a political or advocacy-based agenda. Much of the meeting consisted of Obama administration officials who work in areas such as education policy, urban affairs and combating poverty outlining the president's goals in those areas and appealing for ideas from the leaders on the kinds of programs that work in their communities.

DuBois said strengthening the "legal and constitutional footing" and drawing "appropriate legal lines" for faith groups receiving government dollars also were a priority and another way the office would differ from the Bush adminis-



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN President Nancy Ratzan was named to President Obama's Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and attended a briefing on the role of the office.

tration's faith-based operations. He did not go into specifics on

that process."

The most contentious legal issue is whether faith-based groups receiving federal funds should be able to take religion into account when hiring, which groups were allowed to do during the Bush administration. Opponents say it amounts to federally funded religious discrimination, while supporters say it is essential to maintaining the religious character of the organization.

When Obama established the faith-based office in February, a legal review was in place but no decision was made on the employment issue.

DuBois also noted that despite beliefs to the contrary by many he had met during the presidential campaign, the faith-based office does not distribute grant money. He did say the office could provide "technical assistance" to groups who were interested in applying for such grants from government agencies.

Reaction from Jewish leaders attending the meeting was positive.

"It's a very good start," said Orthodox Union public policy director Nathan Diament, noting that the administration had invited a "broad and diverse

group" and adding that it would be interesting to see how the office developed in the coming months.

Rabbi David Saperstein, the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, praised the "level of communication and effort at dialogue," adding that the administration needs "these groups to be effective" and to "work through these groups."

Diament, Saperstein and National Council of Jewish Women President Nancy Ratzan, who also attended the session, all have been named to the office's Advisory Council. Rabbi Steve Gutow, executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and the group's Washington director, Hadar Susskind, also attended the briefing.

Even the Rev. Barry Lynn from Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, another meeting attendee, said he was happy that DuBois had emphasized strengthening the "legal and constitutional" footing of the office and liked the inclusivity of the meeting, which included everyone from an evangelical Christian minister to church-state separationists. As for the idea of having religious leaders sitting on an advisory council in a secular democracy, Lynn said "red flags go up," but "we'll see" how it develops.

**"Rabbi David Saperstein, the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, praised the 'level of communication and effort at dialogue.'"**

legal issues but told the group he wanted to "work with you all on

had invited a "broad and diverse



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# The Best of Jewish Rhode Island

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The Voice Et Herald is pleased to announce its first annual Best of Jewish Rhode Island. Our readers can choose their favorites in 50 different categories. Please write in your choice in as many categories as you want. Send to: Best of Jewish Rhode Island, c/o The Voice Et Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I. 02906. You can also go to our web site, [www.JVHRI.org](http://www.JVHRI.org), and vote online. On June 12, we will announce the winners in a special section; each winner will receive a special framed award for display.

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| <p>1. Best place to spend a weekday afternoon or a Sunday morning while the kids are in Religious School.</p> <p>2. Best place to eat bagel, lox and a shmeer of cream cheese.</p> <p>3. Best place to be on Christmas Eve/ Christmas</p> <p>4. Best source of Jewish gifts for weddings, b'nei mitzvoth.</p> <p>5. Best place to go with out-of-town relatives or friends to show off "Jewish Rhode Island."</p> <p>8. Best place for kids' birthday party gifts.</p> <p>9. Best place to host kids' birthday parties.</p> <p>10. Best source of Jewish books.</p> <p>11. Best place for Jewish study.</p> <p>12. Best Chinese food.</p> <p>13. Best (non-Chinese) ethnic food (Italian, French, Mexican, Thai, etc.)</p> <p>13. Best deli food.</p> <p>14. Best Sunday brunch.</p> | <p>15. Best place to go with the Sunday papers when you <b>don't</b> want to be seen by people you know.</p> <p>16. Best place to go with the Sunday papers when you <b>do</b> want to be seen by people you know.</p> <p>17. Best romantic getaway – upscale price.</p> <p>18. Best romantic getaway – moderate price.</p> <p>19. Best source of kosher wines.</p> <p>20. Best source of kosher meats.</p> <p>21. Best place to store or sell your chametz.</p> <p>22. Best place to buy all your Passover meals' ingredients.</p> <p>23. Best Purim spiel.</p> <p>24. Best place to buy prepared:</p> <p>Noodle kugel _____</p> <p>Brisket _____</p> <p>Matzah ball soup _____</p> <p>Knishes _____</p> <p>Latkes _____</p> <p>Bagels _____</p> <p>Bialys _____</p> <p>Chopped liver _____</p> <p>Cheesecake _____</p> <p>Challah _____</p> <p>25. Best kosher caterer.</p> | <p>26. Best place for falafel.</p> <p>27. Best place to hear klezmer music.</p> <p>28. Best library to spend time in.</p> <p>29. Best place to learn Hebrew.</p> <p>30. Best source of Jewish-themed movies and films to rent.</p> <p>31. Best place to buy your son's bar mitzvah clothes.</p> <p>32. Best place to buy your daughter's bat mitzvah clothes.</p> <p>33. Best place to buy items of Judaica.</p> <p>34. Best beach or, where you are most likely to run into your Jewish neighbors.</p> <p>35. Best florist for weddings, b'nei mitzvoth.</p> <p>36. Best DJ for weddings, b'nei mitzvoth.</p> <p>37. Best photographer for weddings, b'nei mitzvoth.</p> <p>38. Best jeweler for engagement or wedding rings.</p> | <p>39. Best bar to see your Jewish friends and neighbors.</p> <p>40. Best restaurant to see your Jewish friends and neighbors.</p> <p>41. Best place for Jewish singles to meet.</p> <p>42. Best place to learn Israeli dancing.</p> <p>43. Best place to hold a Jewish meeting outside the office.</p> <p>44. Best Jewish camp for Rhode Islanders.</p> <p>45. Best Jewish educator in Rhode Island.</p> <p>46. Best Jewish athlete in Rhode Island.</p> <p>47. Best source in Rhode Island for personalized ketuba.</p> <p>48. Best source in Rhode Island for tallis.</p> <p>49. Best Jewish entertainer.</p> <p>50. Best mikvah for Rhode Islanders.</p> |
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# Jewish Community Calendar

## Friday

April 17

### Simchat Shabbat for Young Families

Kid-friendly Shabbat dinner followed by interactive service

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

**WHEN:** 5:45 p.m.

**COST:** \$10/family

**MORE INFO:** RSVP 785-1800

## Sunday

April 19

### Family Concert

Cantors Rick and Josh Perlman, Cantor Brian Mayer and Kol Kesem HaZamir Teen Choir lead "Shirei Achim v'Chaverim!" - Songs of Brotherhood and Friendship, a show for children and adults.

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

**WHEN:** 4 p.m.

**COST:** Under 21, free; older than 21, \$10 per person, \$18 per couple

**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

### White Elephant Sale

Find treasures from attics, closets and garages.

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

**WHEN:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

### Knit & Kvetch

Knitting circle at Torat Yisrael.

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

**Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Annual Meeting**  
and Evening of Community Awards & Recognition

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Jewish Community Center  
401 Elm Grove Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island

**Keynote Speaker**  
Dr. Jonathan Sarna  
Brandeis University

www.JFRI.org

Recess at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's annual meeting will be an evening of community awards and recognition on Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m., at JCCRI, featuring keynote speaker Jonathan Sarna.

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

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

### Kaddish for Six Million

Holocaust memorial event sponsored by the Jewish Collaborative with candle lighting, music and prayers for peace.

**WHERE:** Village Inn, 1 Beach St., Narragansett.

**WHEN:** 6 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** RSVP to Kaddish-for6Million@jewishcollaborative.org.

### Jewish Genealogy

Meeting features Michael Goldstein, discussing Israel's genealogical resources.

**WHERE:** Temple Emanuel, 385

Ward St., Newton, Mass.

**WHEN:** 4 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 796-8522

## Monday

April 20

### Holocaust and Heroism Day

Interfaith musical event will celebrate vibrancy of German Jewish cultural life before the Holocaust.

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

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

## Tuesday

April 21

### Torat Yisrael's Lunch and Learn

What happens when Jews face infertility?

**WHERE:** Cucina Mista, 455 Main St., East Greenwich

**WHEN:** Noon - 1:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1500

## Wednesday

April 22

### In Search of Sugihara

Hillel Levine will speak on Japanese diplomat who saved more than 10,000 Jews.

**WHERE:** Brown/RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence

**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Megan Nesbitt at 863-2805

### Good News about Israel

Visiting Professor at Brown University, Dr. Lehman-Wilzig will speak on current situation in

Israel.

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

**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

## Thursday

April 23

### Peace Prospects in Mideast

Former Sen. Lincoln Chafee and MJ Rosenberg, director of policy analysis for Israel Policy Forum, will speak on recent Israeli elections.

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

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** judithkaye@aol.com

### Circle of Consolation

Bereavement discussion group

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1500

## Sunday

April 26

### JFS Anniversary Gala

Jewish Family Service celebrates 80 years of working with families with luncheon "Honoring Octogenarians."

**WHERE:** Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk

**WHEN:** Noon

**COST:** \$80 per person

**MORE INFO:** RSVP by April 10 to 331-1244 or behiye@jfsri.org

### Brotherhood Breakfast

Ross Levine will discuss current economic situation.

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

**WHEN:** 9:00 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

### March for Babies

JFRI's Women's Alliance invites mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, grandmothers, granddaughters to walk in the March of Dimes' March for Babies.

**WHERE:** Colt State Park, Route 114 Hope St., Bristol

**WHEN:** 9 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** Call Beth Dindas at 421-4111, ext. 174

### Jewish Baroque and Beyond

Museum Concerts presents concert, exhibition and talk on Jewish baroque music from Venice

**WHEN:** 2:30 pm

**WHERE:** RISD Museum Chase Center, 20 Main St., Providence

**MORE INFO:** 862-3692

**COST:** Tickets are \$23/adults; \$18 seniors

## Wednesday

April 29

### Israel Independence Day

Sounds of Simcha, folk dancing, face painting, kosher food

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 5 - 8 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-0956, ext. 177

### Brown RISD Hillel Annual Meeting

Prof. Sam Lehman-Wilzig and Rabbi Rackover will speak.

See CALENDAR, PAGE 33

**Celebrate Israel Independence Day**  
at the  
**JCC**  
401 Elmwood Ave., Providence  
**Wednesday, April 29th**  
5:00-8:00p.m.  
Live music  
Special performance by Sounds of Simcha  
Israeli folk dancing  
Face painting  
Bedouin tent  
Kosher food & Judaica for sale  
Special guest speaker  
at 7:15 p.m.  
Samuel Lehman-Wilzig, PhD, from Bar-Ilan University  
Topic: Israel's Independence

Sponsored by:

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY will be celebrated from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, at the JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, with music by Sounds of Simcha, folk dancing, face painting, and kosher food

**PRESCRIPTION FOR SURVIVAL**  
A DOCTOR'S JOURNEY TO END NUCLEAR MADNESS

**BERNARD LOWN, MD**  
Co-founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and recipient of the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER Bernard Lown, M.D., will speak at Miriam Hospital on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 444-4800.

## Simply More Delicious: A delectable solution to cooking woes

*New cookbook is both history-rich and loaded with contemporary recipes*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
NKIRSCH@JFRI.ORG

**N**EARLY 18 months after working as co-chairs to launch *Simply More Delicious*, the newest cookbook from The Miriam Hospital's Women Association, Robin Engle and Leslie Sax are eager to continue working together. That's good news for the local folks who've ordered cookbooks, as Engle, Sax, and a team of volunteers will soon canvass the neighborhoods to hand-deliver the books, due out in early May.

The cookbook committee, comprised of members of the Women's Association, carries on a long and rich tradition: in 1924, association members, along with other Jewish organizations, raised \$80,000 in four weeks to purchase and then begin renovating the buildings on Parade Street in South Providence that became the original Miriam Hospital.

Even before the hospital was established, members of a group that predated the



AN OIL PAINTING by Faye Stolzman is featured on the cover of the new cookbook, *Simply More Delicious*.

Oil painting by Faye Stolzman

association (Miriam Society No. 1) cooked, served kosher food and brought Shabbat candles to hospitalized Jewish immigrants. They also raised funds for wheelchairs, medical and dental care, convalescent care and more for the needy Jewish residents among them.

In 1904, they purchased their first "subscription" of \$250 to the Rhode Island Hospital to ensure a free bed for Jewish patients

— and that was an annual fee!

The members of the Miriam Society wanted to establish a Jewish hospital where Jewish patients could feel comfortable, but one with a nonsectarian spirit. Reorganized as The Miriam Hospital Association, the group received a charter from Rhode Island's Secretary of State in 1907 for "...building, maintaining, and operating a Hebrew Hospital." Annual dues

in those days were \$1 a year, payable in monthly installments.

### WHY A NEW COOKBOOK?

"So many of us kept talking about the old cookbook and how we wished there was a new one. I approached Renee Vogel (co-president of the Women's Association) and she thought it was a great idea," said Engle. "And, when you mention an idea, you become chairwoman. Leslie was a great worker on the

committee, so we joined forces."

The Women's Association raised more than \$80,000 from the three sold-out printings of *Simply Delicious*, first published in 1975. Funds raised from the cookbooks' sales are used for hospital equipment, patient rooms and other resources that benefit patients.

A copy of *Simply Delicious* is rarer than hen's teeth, so those

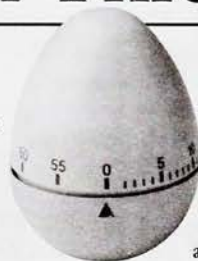
See TRADITION, Facing Page

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Visit [www.jwu.edu/chefschoice](http://www.jwu.edu/chefschoice) for a complete list of classes or to register on line.



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## TRADITION: New cookbook blends best of new and old

From Page 18

buying *Simply More Delicious* might want to buy an extra copy to keep hidden for safekeeping.

According to Anne Sherman, office manager of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association, someone wanted to buy the organization's sole copy of *Simply Delicious*. Some women only have photocopies of the original book; others' well-used, well-loved books are bound together with rubber bands.

### WHAT'S COOKING?

"*Simply More Delicious* blends the best of the original cookbook with many new, healthier recipes that reflect how we cook today," said Sax. "Two new categories in the cookbook – vegetarian entrees and kids' cooking – are examples of *Simply More Delicious* new approach," she said.

Even the colorful cover acknowledges the cookbook's historical precedent, as both *Simply Delicious* and *Simply More Delicious* depict bounties of fruits and vegetables. Association member Faye Stolzman painted the cover artwork.

Before soliciting new recipes from association members, The Miriam Hospital staff, restaurants, and upscale markets, Sax, Engle and their steering committee of 10 women read through the original cookbook to see which recipes they wanted

to consider keeping. Especially dated recipes, such as casseroles featuring canned cream of mushroom soup, or those substituting salami for bacon or tuna fish for shellfish, were discarded.

Taste-testing and recipe trials ensued, with the occasional weight gain here and there from the most committed tasters. "But the women tasting the desserts are all so thin," laughed Sax.

Like Miriam Hospital's food service, the cookbook is kosher style, but not kosher, as it includes recipes with meat and cheese. "*Simply More Delicious* definitely has healthier dishes – there are many more recipes for boneless chicken breasts and extra-virgin olive oil, rather than butter," said Sax. "We've expanded the fish and chicken sections, and cut the beef recipes."

*Simply More Delicious* includes some 500 recipes; about one-third of them are from the original cookbook and the rest are new. Although some of the historical recipes have been discarded, the association, recognizing the rich heritage their mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

**COOKBOOK COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS, Leslie Sax and Robin Engle, compare notes about *Simply More Delicious*.**

established, includes a detailed history of the association and The Miriam Hospital. Both Sax and Engle are

**"The women tasting the desserts are all so thin."**

**Leslie Sax, cookbook committee co-chair**

grateful that The Miriam Foundation lent the Women's Association upfront funds to produce the cookbook. Money raised from the sale of *Simply More Delicious* will be donated to close out the hospital's capital campaign.

The Women's Association will host a dinner on July 18 at Ledgemont Country Club. Before then, *Simply More Delicious* will be sold at locations around the state. *Simply More Delicious* costs \$36 (\$25.95, \$1.82 tax, \$8.23 postage). Local people can save on postage and pick it up at a committee member's house. You can order the cookbook by calling The Miriam Hospital's Women's Association office at 793-2520 or at <http://cookbook.miriamhospital.org>.

In the meantime, here are two spring recipes from *Simply More Delicious* to tempt your palate.

### ASPARAGUS WITH CREAMY LEMON SAUCE

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 3 tablespoons butter, divided
- 2 tablespoons flour
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup boiling water
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- dash Tabasco
- ½ cup sour cream

Method:

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in saucepan.

Stir in flour and cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly.

Add water and lemon juice. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened and smooth. Simmer 5 minutes. Add salt and Tabasco.

Just before serving, add sour cream and remaining butter. While the mixture is simmering, steam or microwave asparagus, until tender, but crisp. Spoon sauce over and serve

Makes six servings.

### GRILLED MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST

Ingredients:

- 6 boneless chicken breast halves
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 3 tablespoons coarse grain mustard
- 1 and ½ tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 and ½ tablespoons lime juice
- 1 and ½ teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Method:

Mix marinade ingredients together, and marinate chicken at least 2 hours.

Grill 8 minutes per side over low heat, and serve.

Makes six servings.

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## Kitchen klutzes and connoisseurs all benefit from Chef's Choice

*With no homework or tests, Johnson & Wales teaches culinary skills and ethnic cuisines*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

**C**AN'T DECIDE what to get for all the gift giving that comes with Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations and weddings? In this economy, a fun, yet practical and skills-based, gift — such as Johnson & Wales (J&W) Chef's Choice class — might fit the bill.

Whether you want to send your high school graduate off to college with some basic kitchen acumen or your father is a whiz in the kitchen, but just can't conquer grilling, the Chef Choice one-day mini-courses could meet all your gift-buying needs.

The school first established the Chef's Choice classes back in the early 1990s, said Joanne McQuesten, director of continuing education for J&W. "The classes have definitely grown over the years," she said, "and we're

offering more ethnic cooking classes. It's not just Italian, but Mexican, Portuguese and all kinds of foods."

Venice Transformed, Cool Soups and Awesome Salads, Basic Culinary Skills, Flavors of the "Bayou," and Cooking with Fresh Herbs are just a handful of the nearly three-dozen adult classes offered between now and July, and some are already sold out. Each class is limited to, at most, 16 people. While the \$80 per person tuition may seem steep, consider that each instructional class is three hours long and, at the conclusion of class, participants eat what they've made. J&W chefs teach the classes and students assist. All the classes are taught at the David Friedman Center at 1 Washington

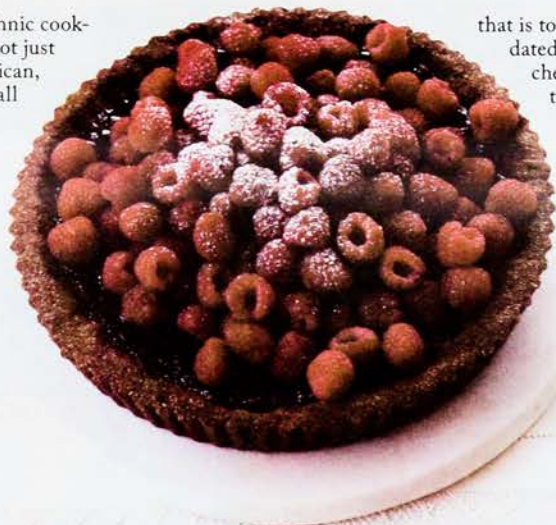


Photo from The Jewish Kitchen

**SUCH A LINZERTORTE!** You could learn to make something so luscious and lovely to look at in Chef's Choice cooking class.

Avenue, at the school's Harborside Campus off Allens Avenue in Providence.

Classes are offered year-round, in the fall, winter/spring and summer; classes are held on Saturdays and, sometimes, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Classes are categorized for beginners (level 1), intermediate (level 2) and advanced (level 3). That keeps participants from either being bored in a class

that is too basic or intimidating in a course with a chef tossing off such terms as "roux" and "flambé" when they've never scrambled an egg.

J&W wants to create a new generation of people comfortable in the kitchen, so they offer classes for children, ages 8 to 12, and teens, ages 13 to 16, as well as camps.

A one-week Chef's Choice for Kids

Summer Camp (five mornings of three hour sessions each) provides kids with instruction in basic skills (homemade French fries or mac 'n cheese), fruit fiesta, healthy snacks, cookie club and pasta possibilities. Teens in Chef's Choice for Teens Summer Camp gain instruction in basic skills, easy seafood, Mexican cooking, pizza and pie skills. For those gourmet-hungry kids and teens, there is a second set

of classes later in the summer that teach different skills. Camp tuition is \$250 per student. At the end of each week of camp, students prepare a luncheon buffet for guests.

Among the most popular classes, said McQuesten, is the Valentine's Day dinner for couples; dessert and Italian classes are always big hits, too. Ideas for new classes come from those who participate in Chef's Choice classes and J&W faculty and staff. Because other J&W campuses also hold Chef's Choice classes, they'll all exchange ideas with one another. While they've not been inundated with requests for "cooking on a budget," McQuesten said they have the skills to offer such instruction, if there is sufficient interest.

Remember, you don't have to limit your gift giving to others; you may decide that you want to give yourself the gift of such classes as Piece of Cake, Pies, Pies or Berry Delicious Desserts.

*For more information, to enroll or purchase a gift certificate, contact [www.jwu.edu/chefschoice](http://www.jwu.edu/chefschoice) or call 598-2336.*

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## Produce ripe for picking, and eating....almost

Farmers' markets, farm stands offer array of fresh, local foods

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

**A**MONG THE newest – and certainly the most famous – vegetable garden initiative is the one that Michelle Obama recently established on the White House lawn. You need not travel to Washington, D.C. to find fresh, local produce; instead, check out a farmers' market or farm stand closer to home.

Truly, spring is right around the corner, so it will soon be time to start enjoying New England's bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Pack up a canvas bag, get on your walking shoes, and head out to your nearest farmers' market.

You can get great recipe ideas from vendors or fellow shoppers and, by walking or biking to and from the market, you'll reduce your carbon footprint and get some valuable exercise.

While this listing doesn't include every single farmers' market in Rhode Island or nearby Massachusetts, it includes many of them. Markets typically open between May and June and stay open through October or November. Keep your eyes peeled for signs of your favorite markets.

### PROVIDENCE FARMERS' MARKETS

- Whole Foods' Waterman Street store, Wednesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Whole Foods' University Heights store, Mondays, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Lippitt Park on Hope St./Blackstone Blvd., Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Wickenden Street, in the Doyle Realty parking lot, Tuesdays, 3 to 6 p.m.
- Brown University, Wriston Quad, Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Cranston Armory in Providence's Armory District, Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.
- Algonquin House, Broad Street, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Downtown, Kennedy Plaza by Burnside Park, Fridays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Rhode Island College campus, Wednesdays, 3:30 to 6 p.m.
- Capital Hill's Department of Administration's front lawn, Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### AQUINICK ISLAND FARMERS' MARKETS

- Newport Vineyards & Winery, Middletown, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Along Newport's shaded



walk, Wednesdays, 2 to 6 p.m.

### BARRINGTON FARMERS' MARKETS

- Ace Hardware, Wednesdays, 3 to 6 p.m.
- Hains Memorial State Park, Wednesdays, 2 to 6 p.m.

**"By walking or biking to and from the market, you'll reduce your carbon footprint and get some valuable exercise."**

### CRANSTON FARMERS' MARKETS

- Rhodes on the Pawtuxet parking lot, Pawtuxet Village, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon
- Whole Foods' Garden City store, Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.
- R.I. Department of Labor and Training, Pastore Complex,

Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### EAST GREENWICH FARMERS' MARKET

- Academy Field, Mondays, 3 to 7 p.m.

### WARWICK FARMERS' MARKET

- Goddard State Park, Fridays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### WOONSOCKET FARMERS' MARKET

- St. Ann Arts & Cultural Center, Tuesdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

### MASSACHUSETTS' MARKETS

- Gilbert Perry Square, downtown Attleboro, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon
- City Hall rear parking lot, Taunton, Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m.
- Kennedy Park, Fall River, Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Ruggles Park, Fall River, Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In the meantime, though, if you simply can't wait until after Memorial Day to buy straight from a local vendor, check out the indoor wintertime farmers' market that will remain open through May.

Just as pilots welcome their passengers to Providence after their planes touch down at T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, the Providence wintertime farmers' market is actually in Pawtucket, at the Hope Artiste Village, 1005 South Main St. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and, in May, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Or, check out one of the many farm stands dotting Rhode Island's and Massachusetts's roads – many of them are only a mile or two from the cities in which we live or work and have already opened for the season.

Barden Orchards in North Scituate, Pippin Orchard Nurseries in Cranston, Pezza Farm in Johnston, Four Town Farm in Seekonk, Mass. and Seven Arrows Farm in Attleboro may be well-known, familiar sites to many *Voice & Herald* readers. There are so many others, so expand your horizons.

*Detailed information on farm stands, farmers' markets and which restaurants and stores sell locally-produced foodstuff, including directions to these sites, is at: [www.farmfreshri.org](http://www.farmfreshri.org); [www.rifruitgrowers.org](http://www.rifruitgrowers.org), or [www.visitri.com](http://www.visitri.com).*



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## Matzah makers



Ben Stone, 4, son of Andrew and Mindy Stone of Providence, grinds wheat to make flour for matzah, as Rabbi Yehoshua vLaufer watches.



JCCRI PRESCHOOL STUDENTS participated in the Chabad-sponsored Matzah Factory on Wednesday, April 1, at the JCCRI.

## Steak recipe a welcome addition to spring menu

*Kosher caterer offers a favorite recipe to try at home*

*Editor's Note: The Voice & Herald sought recipes from the area's kosher caterers to welcome spring. We'll feature other favorites in upcoming issues of The Voice & Herald; this recipe comes from Neil Morris, president of NRM Catering, of Stoughton, Mass.*

### STEAK PEBRE

Ingredients for steaks:

- 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon of mustard seed
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper (can mix with red if more spice desired)
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 2 -10-ounce steaks, trimmed
- 2 teaspoons canola oil

Ingredients for Pebre sauce:

- 1/2 cup finely chopped Vidalia onion
- 1 large tomato, seeded and diced
- 1 small yellow pepper diced
- 1/2 cup chopped sweet peppers
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons minced Serrano pepper
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1-2 cloves fresh garlic, minced (2 will kick it up a notch)



1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Ingredients for plate preparation:  
2 avocados, pitted and peeled

Method for steaks:

Mix cumin, mustard seed, 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper in a small bowl. Rub the spice mixture evenly over both sides of steaks.

Heat oil in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high.

Add the steaks and cook just until browned, 1 to 2 minutes per side.

Transfer the pan to the oven and roast the steaks 5 to 7 minutes for medium-rare (depending on thickness) use meat thermometer and remember that the

meat will continue to cook once out of the oven

Remove steaks from pan and let rest for 5 minutes.

Method for Pebre sauce:

Combine the onion, tomato, yellow pepper, sweet peppers, cilantro, Serrano pepper, cider vinegar, garlic and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl.

Preheat oven to 325°F.

Method for plate preparation:

Mash avocados with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt in a small bowl and add squeeze of fresh lemon juice.

Serve steak sliced thin and over avocado and top it with Pebre sauce.

MIDRASHA Open House

Where can Jewish teens continue their connection to the Jewish community and take advantage of a wide variety of innovative and engaging learning, service and social opportunities?

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# Yehuda Lev, family and friends celebrate seder at Summit Commons

*We pray to appreciate and value life, even in the midst of chaos and unwelcome change*

By ROSA MARIA PEGUEROS  
Special to The Voice & Herald

Last June, my husband Yehuda Lev, 82, collapsed. In the months that followed, he has alternated between several week-long sojourns in hospital and living in a nursing home because the nature of his illness makes it impossible for him to be cared for at home. Traditionally, we had hosted a large Pesach seder for as many as 25 people. This year, my daughter and I struggled with our choices: Should we forego our celebration and go to other people's homes? Should we go ahead and host it without him? Should we have our seder and connect to him with Skype, an Internet video connection? Finally we decided to do the seder at his nursing home. It was small; 12 of us – only our extended family and closest friends.

The following is the drash, or commentary I wrote to welcome our guests to the seder.

FOR ME, Pesach is a holiday laden with memory. It was on Pesach that I first felt Ari move within me during my pregnancy. We shared Pesach with Yehuda's mother and stepfather several times, and I have wonderful memories of them on those occasions. Then, there are all the seders that we have shared with all of you.

It is wonderful that, in spite of the difficulties of the last year, we are all together here in Yehuda's home away from home.

You build a life and you believe that you have some control over it, and then an accident occurs, or a sudden illness, and you find that the life you carefully constructed will sweep you along, like a fish in a river, and you have little control over anything. You are left to wonder at the arbitrary nature of life, at the chaos that now rules your life, and to pray for the strength to meet the unfamiliar challenges that lurk just out of view. Mathematicians say that the nature of life is chaos. Unlike many things that they assert, this last year has made me understand this concept. And we, ever human, try to impose our small bit of order over the chaos.



Yehuda Lev

As Henry David Thoreau, said, in *Walden*, "Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains. I would drink deeper; fish in the sky, whose bottom is pebbly with stars."

As I prepared for the seder this year, I was thinking that the Israelites had to leave the familiar oppression of life in Egypt for the great unknown of life in the desert: Where would they sleep? Where would they get water? Where would they get wheat to make their bread? What flora and fauna would they find to feed themselves and their children? Slavery was horrid but wandering in a desert for an indefinite time, which ultimately turned out to be 40 years –

**"Teach me to embrace the mystery, God. Remind me to enjoy the ride."**

Rabbi Naomi Levy

almost two generations – was terrifying. Small wonder that they wept with joy at the magical manna that appeared so they could make their bread, or that, in a rare moment of doubt, Moses struck the rock twice to draw water for his multitudes. In the midst of the desert, it is hard to imagine that we will survive our terror and uncertainty.

So here we are, and to the question, "How is this night different from all other nights?" we add this answer to the traditional answers: Tonight, we are acutely aware of the transitory nature of life, in a way we have never been before, and I offer this "Prayer for Embracing Life's Mysteries" by Rabbi Naomi Levy: "Teach me to bend with life, how to repair what I can repair, how to live with my questions, how to rejoice in Your wonders. When I am faced with events that baffle and astound me, help me to transform my frustration into humility and awe. Teach me to embrace the mystery, God. Remind me to enjoy the ride. Thank you, God, for this spectacular life."

Rosa Maria Pegueros is an associate professor of Latin American History and Women's Studies at the University of Rhode Island. Her email is pegueros@uri.edu

### PJ Library

MARCIE GREENFIELD-SIMONS, director of the PJ Library, Harold Grinspoon, PJ Library visionary, Nancy Hoffenberg and Molly Hoffenberg after she received the PJ Library book, *Legend of Freedom Hill*, by Linda Jacobs Altman. This was the 500,000th book delivered by the PJ Library.



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## Janna Gur delights, entertains, educates and feeds crowd

*A little food history, a little cooking, a lot of fun at the CRC sponsored event*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

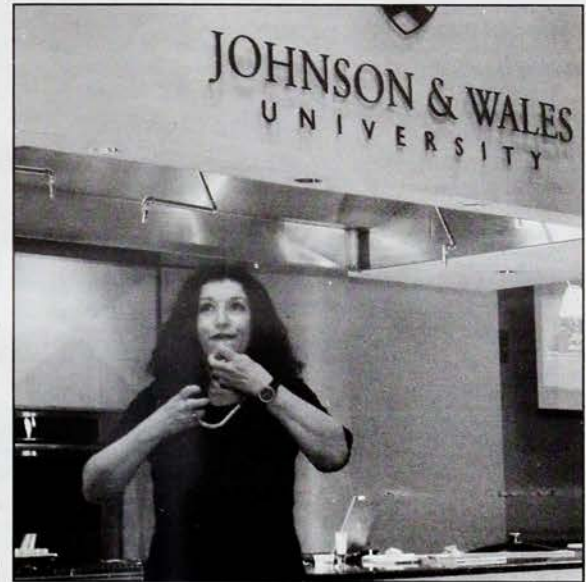
**J**ANNA GUR, the Israeli author of *The Book of New Israeli Food*, published by Schocken Books, spoke and gave a cooking demonstration to the community on March 31 at Johnson & Wales University's Harborside Campus. Nearly 100 people attended the event, which drew rave reviews from those who attended.

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island sponsored the event.

Gur wrote to the CRC's Avi Nevel who was gracious enough to translate her e-mail into English. She wrote, in part: "Yesterday, I finished my tour and now I am in beautiful Napa, Calif. I look back and am reminded of all the good people who helped to create this visit. The event in Providence was one of the highlights, from my point of view, from production, the warm welcome, the great company and the reception for my book. It was just great!"



GUR IS COOKING for a rapt and attentive audience.



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A HUNGRY CROWD waits patiently to sample Gur's cooking.



All photos courtesy of Wei-Chang Lee

GUR GRACIOUSLY AUTOGRAPHED cookbooks and talked with book-buyers.

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## JERUSALEM JOURNAL

# A family in Ofakim

### Instant friends, lasting relationships

I WOULD LIKE to tell you about a family that lives in a town in Israel called Ofakim. I first became friendly with this family's oldest son in the army when we were



**Daniel Stieglitz**

placed in the same division of our squadron. We became instant friends upon learning from our commanders that we shared a common interest of wanting to attend the army's medic training course. We cheered for each other when news came that we had both been guaranteed a spot in the course.

As we progressed together through the course our friendship grew even stronger. Eventually, my friend started inviting me to come to visit his family for Shabbat. After a while he was so persistent that I had to accept. A short while before this visit took place, my friend confided in me about his family's current difficult economic situation.

After being hit by some major financial troubles last year (through no fault of their own and having to do with a string of bad events) the family was forced to leave their comfortable lifestyle in Beersheva and move to the nearby town of Ofakim. However, my upcoming visit would show me that based on their attitude and outlook on life, it was hard to imagine that they had lost anything at all.

I had never heard of Ofakim before my journey there, that Shabbat Eve. I learned very quickly that one of the reasons it is such an affordable place to

live is because it is one of the many towns near the Gaza border, and is often the target of Hamas rockets that are launched into Israeli territory. One way or another I knew I was in for a unique Shabbat experience.

Upon entering the family's small apartment I was instantly given a warm greeting and smiles by my friend, his parents, younger brothers and sisters, and the latest addition to the family, a baby boy who is only a few months old. It was here that I saw a relatively large family living in a small apartment, each of them having to share a room with more than one sibling. Nonetheless, from this moment on, I was treated much like a king by each member of the family.

At the slightest hint of hunger I was cooked my own personal meal on the spot. Later, while attempting to clean up my plate from the table I was nearly tackled by several members of the family who insisted that I remain seated and relaxed while they took care of that for me. This was soon followed by a cup of warm tea served with fresh mint leaves.

At the Shabbat dinner table later that night I saw nothing but joy in their hearts as they sang, shared stories of their week, and each took turns holding the baby. In the middle of the meal there was a knock at the door from a friend who had come to inform them of the birth of his son and invite them to a celebration in the synagogue the following morning. Upon hearing of their friend's joyous news they pulled him into the apartment and started dancing with him in the middle of the living room to show how happy they were for him and his family. At the conclusion of the meal the mother reminded the children to thank their father for providing such a beauti-

ful meal for the entire family.

On Shabbat day I was exposed to even more of the family's joy and kindness. However, during the first of two Shabbat visits to their home, this uplifting atmosphere was temporarily broken when we heard army jets flying overhead. We became curious as to what could be happening to necessitate the Israeli Army's breaking of Shabbat. We later found out that an air strike on Gaza had just begun. And later that evening I was given a reality check when I heard my first "Code Red" rocket warning, followed by the faint sound of a Qassam rocket falling several miles in the distance.

At the end of my second visit I was given a *Kosher for Pesach* cookbook as a gift to pass on to my mother, a delicious fish recipe to give to my father, and a drawing of a dove given to me by one of the brothers to keep for myself.

Before departing from their home after each visit I tried to convey how truly grateful I was. Not just for being given a place to stay for Shabbat, but for having the opportunity to see a family with so much love and joy in their hearts, despite the hard times they've had to endure over the last year.

After the first visit I was given an even greater reality check to learn that a Hamas rocket had landed just 100 meters from their home the day after I had left. The thought of how much this family has lost in the last year and how much more still they could have lost if that rocket had landed just a few meters closer chills me to the bones. And yet, they still celebrate life in all its glory because they realize that no matter what they lose, all they truly need is one another.

*Daniel Stieglitz can be reached at [dstieglitz@gmail.com](mailto:dstieglitz@gmail.com).*



DANIEL STIEGLITZ'S new-found friends, the family from Ofakim.

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ON WORDEN'S POND

## 'Thinking jobs' valuable for longevity, mental acuity

*Pranks, practical jokes part of centenarian's past practices*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

OF ALL the questions thrown at her, there was only one she couldn't answer: "Which was the first presidential election you voted in and whom did you vote for?" "I've always had jobs that required thinking, so maybe that's why I'm still healthy and alert," said Kwasha. "Everyone should be working, I don't care how much money you have."

*Editor's Note: Part One of the interview with Charlotte "Lottie" Kwasha appeared in the April 3 issue of The Voice & Herald. This is "the rest of the story."*

While she doesn't know how to use a computer, she said, "I do my math long-hand and then check it against the calculator to see that I was right."

### PRACTICAL JOKES AND HUMOR HELP

Even at age 100, Kwasha has a wickedly funny sense of humor, as she recounted pranks she pulled on people, and some pranks others pulled on her.

She surprised her colleagues - pipe-smoking officers - at an important meeting with the "brass" from Washington, D.C. by pulling out a corncob pipe and saying, "light me up." Years later, after reading a newspaper story about Army officer who had flown missions over the base she was stationed at in the Philippines, she called him and asked a series of questions, all to establish that he had truly flown the missions described in the story.

She then lobbied the \$64,000 question at him, "When you flew over that lake, did you see a naked woman (with a dimple on



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

CHARLOTTE "LOTTIE" KWASHA, with Mayor David Cicilline, at her 100th birthday party celebration at Epoch on Blackstone on Feb. 12.

her rear end) shinnying up the water pipe? That naked woman," Kwasha laughed, "was me."

Her younger sister, Babe, had no desire to enlist, as Kwasha had, and told the Navy, "Give me a direct commission or nothing - I'm a teacher, I'm not enlisting." After they eventually said "yes," Babe had two dolls made for Kwasha: a WAC (symbolizing Kwasha) saluting the Navy officer (representing Babe), and

another of the Navy officer issuing a command. Those dolls have accompanied Kwasha ever since.

### ANTI-SEMITISM, LIFE IN THE MILITARY

"When I was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston," Kwasha recalled, "I was able to save 10 German Jewish boys (who had come to this country before World War II). I was worried what would happen to them if they were sent to fight in Europe - so I made sure they were sent to the Pacific Theater. Maybe that was my reason for being at Ft. Sam Houston."

The anti-Semitism she witnessed in the military and, later, with the Jewish War Veterans, was far from subtle. "No Jew will get a promotion in my unit," one of her unit commanders had said to her, about a medical unit she'd established. Unfazed, Kwasha shot back, "No Jew wants to work with a thick-headed Irishman like you."

After her military service with the Women's Air Corps,

**"I was able to save 10 German Jewish boys. Maybe that was my reason for being at Ft. Sam Houston."**

Kwasha worked as the national service officer at the Jewish War Veterans for 39 years, until she "retired" at 72. She then volunteered there until she was 83.

### LIFE AS A CENTENARIAN

After all these years, nothing surprises her and very little worries her. She does worry, though, about the current financial crisis: "I used to buy stocks on my lunch hour," she said, and now, "stocks have done me dirty."

Kwasha said, "I'm concerned. I used to have plenty of money, but no one knows what will happen now. I am as frugal as possible, but I am used to good things."

Nothing disrupts her serenity, even discussions of death. "What will be, will be," she said, completely unperturbed. "I've seen and done so much and when the man upstairs decides, it'll happen."

In the meantime, Kwasha doesn't dwell on what will be. As reading is her favorite pastime, she reads everything that comes her way. Bridge and knitting are no more, though she still plays bingo and solitaire.

Do you ever get bored, Lottie? "Never."

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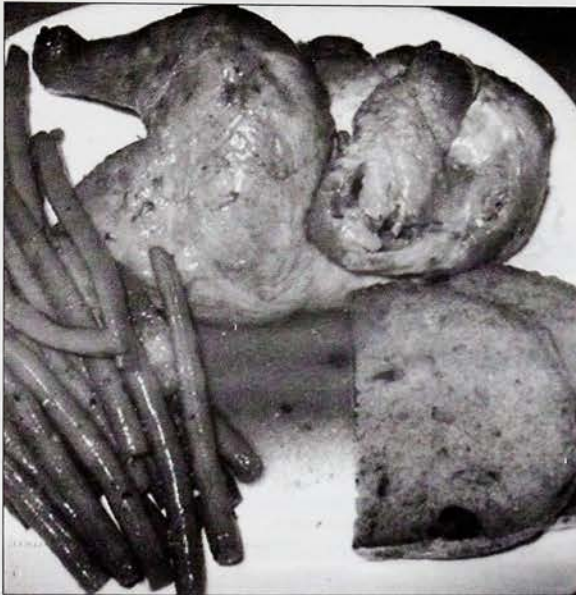
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## Can you help name the new kosher food pantry?

PROVIDENCE - The Torah commands us to "Open your hand to the poor and needy in your land." As a Jewish community, helping our fellow Jews who struggle with life's basic needs is a *mitzvah*. To respond to the current situation, AgeWell RI is establishing the first kosher food pantry for members of the Jewish community of greater Rhode Island.

The kosher food pantry will be a critical resource for needy families of all ages.

AgeWell RI, a collaboration of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, Jewish Family Service, and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, needs a name for its new pantry. Please email Susan Adler at [sadler-jeri@jsari.org](mailto:sadler-jeri@jsari.org) by May 18 with your entry for a name. The winning names and more information on the dropoff locations for food and financial donations for the new kosher food pantry will be announced in a future issue of *The Voice & Herald*.

## Yiddish shmoozers welcome Rabbi Franklin

PROVIDENCE - Rabbi Wayne Franklin, senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, will address the Yiddish shmoozers at their next meeting. The meeting will also include a Yiddish language lesson, a sing-along of nostalgic Yiddish songs and storytelling by the members.



Rabbi Wayne Franklin

The meeting will be held on Friday, April 24 at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI), 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Sue Suls at the JCCRI, at 851-8800, ext. 108.

## Mohegan Sun offers musical entertainment for Cranston Guild

CRANSTON - The Cranston Senior Guild will meet on Wednesday, May 6 at 1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Temple Am David's Cantor Rick Perlman will entertain the group, and a raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting.

On Wednesday, May 13, the Guild will travel to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. The cost is \$20 per person, including a \$10 food credit and \$10 in free bets.

Both events are open to members and non-members of the Guild. For more information, contact Judah Rosen at 942-0985.



Photo courtesy of RI Hadassah  
THE "GO GREEN" Hadassah Donor Committee in the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens greenhouse, from left, co-chair Barbara Portney, co-chair Monika Curnett, Rena Dressler, Judy Schoenfeld, Miriam Plitt and Michele Keir.

## RI Hadassah's green garden party

By MICHELE KEIR  
*Special to The Voice & Herald*

With a theme of "Go Green" at the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah's annual donor dinner on April 5, the Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens' lush greenhouse

was the perfect setting. Daniel Marwil, M.D., motivated the audience with his presentation, "The Greening of the Environment" and Sweet Adelines International's barbershop quartet was the perfect entertainment for the evening. In keeping with the

evening's theme, Michele Keir and Rena Dressler designed centerpieces made, in part, from recycled *Voice & Herald* newspapers; and guests received goody bags from the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation.

## AIPAC holds 10th annual dinner

BOSTON, Mass. - The Honorable Cory A Booker, mayor of Newark, N.J., will be the featured speaker at the 10th annual leadership dinner of The American Israel Public Affairs

Committee (AIPAC) New England Region. The event, on Sunday, May 17, begins with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner program at 6:30 p.m., and will be held

at the Westin/Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass.

For more information or tickets, contact Naomi Muta at 617-399-2542 or [nedinner@aipac.org](mailto:nedinner@aipac.org).

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## Story of Japanese diplomat, who rescued 10,000 Jews

Hillel Levine, professor and author, to speak at Brown/ RISD

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@jfri.org

Raoul Wallenberg wasn't the only diplomat who rescued Jews from the perils of the Nazis; Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat, who acted in a similarly courageous manner, is the topic of Boston University Professor Hillel Levine's presentation at Brown/ RISD Hillel on Wednesday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m., at 80 Brown St., Providence.

Sugihara, the subject of Boston University Professor Hillel Levine's book, *In Search of Sugihara: The Elusive Japanese Diplomat Who Risked His Life to Rescue 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust*, acted in contravention of the Japanese government's policy to cooperate with its Nazi allies.

As part of Brown/ RISD Hillel's Holocaust conference, Levine will share Sugihara's story and talk about the quality of character of Sugihara, a man who issued visas for 10,000 Jews to travel to Japan

during World War II. What makes one man risk his career — and perhaps his life

— to save thousands of strangers while others are murdering millions of innocent people?

A professor of sociology and religion at Boston University, Levine has held visiting professorships in Japan, China, Poland, the Soviet Union, Brazil, and Israel. The author of five books, including *In Search of Sugihara, on ethnic violence and normative conflict*, Levine is also the president of the International Institute for Mediation and Historical Conciliation.

*In Search of Sugihara: The Elusive Japanese Diplomat Who Risked His Life to Rescue 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust*, published in 1996 by The Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, may be available for purchase at the event, which is free and open to the public. For more information, contact 863-2805 or [www.brownhillel.org](http://www.brownhillel.org).



Hillel Levine

## One American family's long history with a German synagogue

The story behind the Ansbach synagogue

By GLORIA ABRAMOWITZ  
Special to The Voice & Herald

LOCATION. Location. Location. For a synagogue in the Bavarian town of Ansbach, Germany, this first commandment of real estate is what saved the 300-year-old building from destruction.

The Ansbach Fire Department stepped in and saved the building from destruction during Kristallnacht in 1938. The fire department did not act out of kindness as some townspeople would like to believe. Rather, their motivation was the synagogue's location. Nearly all the buildings in downtown Ansbach are arranged side-by-

side in long rows and the synagogue is right in the middle of one of these rows. Had the Germans torched the synagogue as planned, the town's other buildings would have caught fire and burned to the ground as well. The synagogue was saved, but desecrated nonetheless, and used by the Germans as a warehouse and stable.

After the war, the U.S. Army decided to set up its European Signal School in Ansbach and named Lt. Commander Reuben Abramowitz as the first installation commander of Ansbach.

In 1946, Reuben's wife, Olga, and son, Benjamin, joined him in Ansbach. (Several of Olga's cousins who had survived the Holocaust were in the Bleidorn Displaced Persons Camp in Reuben's area of command.) Ben was 12 and studying to become a *bar mitzvah* the following year. Abramowitz decided to make the local German government restore the Ansbach Synagogue — at their expense — to its original condition.

The Germans complied and, in October of 1947, Benjamin Abramowitz, became the first U.S. military dependent to become

a *bar mitzvah* in Germany after World War II.

After Abramowitz and his family returned to the United States, the connection between the Ansbach Synagogue and the Abramowitz family lay dormant for the next 50 years. His son, Ben, made the Army his career and served as an infantry officer for 28 years.

The tradition of Abramowitzes serving their country continued as Ben's oldest son, David, graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1982 but took his commission with the Army. In 1997, David received orders to command the 1st Infantry Division's Apache Helicopter Battalion, in Ansbach, Germany.

David, his wife, two daughters and son, Jacob, arrived in Ansbach in December of 1997. Jacob, like his grandfather 50 years earlier, was of



Altar of the Ansbach Synagogue

*bar mitzvah* age. The newly arrived Abramowitzes found the Ansbach Synagogue still standing but locked, as access to it required special permission from the city. There was no viable Jewish community in Ansbach and the synagogue served only as a historical tourist site because of its baroque architecture. No Jewish service had been held there since Ben's *bar mitzvah* except for interfaith memorial services on Kristallnacht.

**"He stood on the same bimah that his grandfather had read from 52 years earlier."**

Nevertheless, the city of Ansbach gave the Abramowitz family their full cooperation and access

to the synagogue.

On July 3, 1999 the Ansbach Synagogue was once again filled as Jacob was called to read from the Torah. He stood on the same stone and marble *bimah*, centered in the middle of the synagogue, that his grandfather had read from 52 years earlier. As Jacob's Grandpa Ben, cousin, Larry Hartstein (who was born in the Bleidorn Displaced Persons Camp), and nearly 100 other Germans, Czechs and American friends and family looked on, the connection between the Ansbach Synagogue and the Abramowitz family was joined once again.

*This article, excerpted from the Jewish War Veterans, was reprinted with permission of Jewish War Veterans of the United States.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, May 12th 7:00 pm  
Temple Am David, Warwick

### Harry Elkin MIDRASHA Community High School Graduation & Community Teen Awards and Recognition

Honoring the MIDRASHA Class of 5769

Jennifer Dinerman  
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## Local teens participate in gala New York City concert

*Members of Kol Kesem HaZamir make beautiful music*

By JAMIE RICHMAN  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**M**EMBERS of Kol Kesem HaZamir, of the Harry Elkin MIDRASHA Community High School and Temple Emanu-El, conducted by Cantor Brian Mayer, participated in a special gala concert on March 22 at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in New York City.

Part of an extensive network of Jewish teen choirs which offer a unique experience and connection to Judaism through choral music, the Kol Kesem HaZamir teen choir helped celebrate the 16th birthday of HaZamir, the international Jewish high school choir.

A program of the Zamir Choral Foundation, HaZamir has 18 chapters across the United States and in Israel. HaZamir serves as "a conduit for continuity, giving teens across the denominational spectrum a unique opportunity to explore their musical heri-

tage and Jewish identities in a structured, community-based program," said Matthew Lazar, the organization's founder and director. "The program has grown tremendously over the years, with new choirs forming chapters annually, an active alumni association, and a dedicated team of conductors who provide a strong educational experience for our singers."

As HaZamir member, Daniel Cohen of New Brunswick, N.J., recently wrote, "Performing with HaZamir has been the greatest experience of my life. It was great meeting teenagers who love music and are Jewish as well. HaZamir enables me to grow as a singer, but most importantly as a Jew." Since the group's founding in



A HaZamir choir performance at Carnegie Hall in 2008

Photo courtesy of BJE/RI

1993, more than 1,000 teens have participated.

"This kind of powerful teen experience leads to lifelong engagement with Judaism – and our alumni certainly bear that out," said Lazar. "Many have taken their place as leaders and movers in Jewish communities everywhere."

In the past year, HaZamir singers took part in a Zamir

Choral Foundation concert celebrating Israel's 60th

to the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Jerusalem.

**"This kind of powerful teen experience leads to lifelong engagement with Judaism."**

Matthew Lazar

birthday at Carnegie Hall, and performed in a video simulcast

For more information about Kol Kesem HaZamir, contact Cantor Brian Mayer of Temple Emanu-El, at 331-1616, or Jamie Richman of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island at 331-0956, ext. 181.

## Alice Goldstein will share her story

PROVIDENCE – Alice Goldstein will speak at Laurelmead on 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence on May 12 at 2 p.m. Goldstein, the author of the acclaimed memoir, *Ordinary People, Turbulent Times*, is also a teacher, demographer, artist and Holocaust survivor. She will share her story, as a survivor, and that of her family.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will also include refreshments. To reserve a seat, please contact the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of RI at 453-7860.



Alice Goldstein

## JERI satellite office hours

PROVIDENCE - Jewish Elder-care of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, will hold its "drop-in" satellite office hours at Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road, Middletown, on May 7 from 10:30 a.m. to noon; at Bright View Commons, 57A Grandville Court, Wakefield, on May 11 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; at Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Road, Tiverton, on May 18, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; at Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick, on May 21, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; and at Congregation B'nai Israel, 224

Prospect St., Woonsocket, on May 28, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

The topic will be "How to Pamper Yourself," and JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant JERI Director Ethan Adler will be available to counsel and advise seniors and their families on any issues or concerns. Ethan will also be available for pastoral counseling.

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or email [sadler-jeri@jsari.org](mailto:sadler-jeri@jsari.org). For general information on programs provided by Jewish Seniors Agency, visit [www.jsari.org](http://www.jsari.org).

## Poverty Institute's Linda Katz honored

*Health care policy work lauded by two area nonprofits*

PROVIDENCE – Linda Katz, of Providence, and the co-founder and policy director of The Poverty Institute, has been chosen to receive two distinguished awards hailing her work on Rhode Island healthcare policy. On April 6, at Local 121, she, U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy and members of HealthRIght, were named Health Care Policy Heroes, by Ocean State Action.

On May 4, Katz is due to receive the "Profile in Change" award, along with Senator Jack Reed, given by the Fund for Community Progress. According to the Fund, this award is Rhode Island's distinctive honor for those who have dedicated



photo courtesy of The Poverty Institute

Linda Katz

their lives to creating positive change in the community. Through this award, The Fund aspires to motivate others to become agents of change and to encourage support for organizations that help create change. The May 4 breakfast event is at Waterplace Restaurant in Providence.

Katz has worked to improve and expand anti-poverty

programs to help the most economically challenged populations in Rhode Island. Her work has improved economic security for people with disabilities, welfare recipients, immigrants, and low-wage workers and their families.

"I am very honored to receive these recognitions," said Katz. "It has been my extreme good fortune to work with so many wonderful people who share a common vision for our state and our country. Our vision assures that all people have access to quality, affordable health care in a society that is rooted in economic and social justice. I look forward to continuing to work to make this vision a reality."

For more information or to reserve tickets for the May 4 event, contact: [info@fundcp.org](mailto:info@fundcp.org) or 941-7100.

## Obituaries

### Kimberly C. Boucher

SEEKONK, Mass. — Kimberly Boucher, of Prospect St., Seekonk, died April 3 at Miriam Hospital after a four-month battle with lung cancer. She was the wife of Ronald Boucher for 31 years.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of Muriel Cole of San Francisco, Calif. and the late Dr. David Cole. She was an art teacher in East Providence for 30 years, retiring in 2008. As a member of the Seekonk Hearststone Lions, she was a past president and received the Melvin Jones Award in 2008.

She received her bachelor of arts degree from Roger Williams College and her master's in education degree from Rhode Island College.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her daughter Shannon and son Cameron of Seekonk, Mass., and Brandon of Portland, Ore.; and by her brother Peter Dwares of San Francisco, Calif.

Contributions may be made to the Kim Boucher Children's Cancer Fund, c/o Seekonk Lions Charitable Trust, P.O. Box 326, Seekonk, Mass. 02771. Arrangements by

### Rose (Lisker) Flink, 92

PROVIDENCE — Rose (Lisker) Flink died April 3, her 92nd birthday, at Mary Ann Morse Nursing Home, in Natick, Mass. She was the wife of the late Ellis M. Flink. Born in Providence, she was the youngest child of the late Etta and John Lisker. Her four brothers, Albert, Abraham, Hyman, Nathan, and one sister, Frieda Corris, predeceased her.

She was a graduate of Simmons College and a member of Temple Beth-El and Hadassah. She was a lifelong resident of Providence and, for a number of years, Palm Beach, Fla.

She is survived by her son James Flink of Copenhagen, Denmark; her daughter Joanne Silver and son-in-law Robert Silver of Framingham,

Mass., grandchildren Mathilde Flink, Sophia Flink, Stephanie Silver and David Silver and his wife Paige Silver, and two great-grandchildren, Ariana Rose Silver and Jack Ellis Silver.

Donations may be made to Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, New York, N.Y., Temple Beth-El or the charity of your choice.

### Morris Feldman, 86

PROVIDENCE — Morris Feldman died March 31. He was the husband of Arline "Bunny" (Harriet) Feldman for 60 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Jacob and Lena Feldman, he was a lifelong resident of Providence. He owned the former Mother's Box Lunch, an industrial catering service, before working for Providence.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, and the Redwood Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the Masons, and volunteered at The Miriam Hospital for many years.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Harvey Feldman and his wife Linda of West Warwick, and Bill Feldman and his wife Gail of Cranston; his grandchildren Lisa and Carrie, and great-grandchildren, Andrew and Lauren. He also leaves his brothers; Sydney Feldman of Pompano Beach, Fla. and Seymour Feldman of Boca Raton, Fla. He was the brother of the late Hyman, Samuel and Louis Feldman.

Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

### David Friedman, 87

PROVIDENCE — David Friedman, of Woodland Terrace, died April 13 at The Miriam Hospital surrounded by family and friends. He was the husband of Frances (Roy) Friedman for 64 years, and the son of the late Benjamin and Rebecca (Leibowitz) Friedman. Born in New York City, he was a lifelong resident of Providence.

A national leader in the restaurant supply industry, he was

chairman of Paramount Restaurant Supply Corp. and Monarch Industries, Inc., and was also involved in several other business ventures. He was a World War II Army veteran, serving domestically in the Signal Corps, until his discharge.

He was universally respected for his creative vision and business acumen and was the driving force behind the creation of the culinary school at Johnson & Wales University where he served

as a Legacy Trustee for more than 30 years. He was a member of Temple Beth-El and Temple Emanu-El of Providence and a former board member of the Jewish Federation of RI and The Miriam Hospital. He was the father of Diane Ducoff and her husband, Dr. Robert, of Providence, and the late Larry Friedman and his surviving wife, Marilyn Friedman Shealey, of Providence. He was the uncle of Karen Ostrowsky and her husband, Howard, of Warwick, and many nieces and nephews; the brother of Murray Friedman of Florida and the late Saul Friedman and Jean Haas. He was also the grandfather of Michelle Miller and her husband, Andrew; Patti Albert and her husband, Benjamin; Lynn Belkin and her husband, Matthew; Michael Friedman and his wife, Lauri; Mark and Leslie Friedman; and Louis and Danielle Ostrowsky. He was the great-grandfather of Sydney and Adam Miller, Ysabel Albert and Matthew and Eric Friedman. Contributions in his memory may be made to Johnson & Wales University, David Friedman Scholarship Fund, 8 Abbott Park Place, Providence, R.I. 02903 or Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 or Temple Beth-El, Frances and David Friedman Fund, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

### Martin A. Gornstein, 55

NARRAGANSETT — Martin Gornstein died on April 7. He was the husband of Donna Wurafic. Born in Providence, he was a devoted

son of Sidney Gornstein of Highland Beach, Fla. and the late Barbara (Teller) Gornstein. A 1971 graduate of Cranston East High School, he was an entrepreneur involved in several business ventures for many years.

He was an animal lover and had many dogs.

He was the brother of Michael Gornstein of Cumberland.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 275 Westminster St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

### Jennifer A. Miller, 56

SHAKER HEIGHTS, Ohio — Jennifer Miller died April 4, surrounded by her family. She was the wife of Jack Cohan. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, she was a daughter of the late Ephraim and Daphne (Holtz) Gordon. She lived in Boston and Providence before moving to Ohio in 2002. She was a graduate of the University of Witwatersrand and Providence College.

She was the first middle school head at the Alperin Schechter Day School in Providence and was the head of the Rashi School in the greater Boston area until 2001. She relocated to Cleveland in 2002 to become the head of Pardes High School and subsequently became the head of the Laurel School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She consulted with PEJE in mentoring Jewish educators and school administrators. She was a former member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her twin children Carla Miller-Kopikis and her husband Alexis of Needham, Mass., and Gregory Miller of Boston, Mass.; her step-daughters Andrea Cohan of San Francisco, Calif., and Ilene Cohan of Columbus, Ohio. She was the sister of Alan Gordon of Barrington, and Lorraine Podolsky of Toronto, Canada.

Contributions may be made to The Jennifer Miller Memorial at the Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton, Mass. 02458

### Dallas (Shwom) Paull

ELSEWHERE — Dallas Paull, of Quincy, Mass., died on April 9. She was the wife of the late Ralph Paull, and mother of Myra Paull and her husband Edward McGivney of Washington and Richard Paull of Florida.

She also was the sister of Ethel Herman of California and the late Jacob, Sidney, Solomon and Thelma Shwom; the grandmother of Risa and Paul Pecoraro, Lydia Paull-Flores, David Paull-Flores, Courtney Paull and Ariel Paull; and great-grandmother of Weston.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Ronald McDonald House, 229 Kent Street, Brookline, Mass. 02446.

### Oleg Pesin, Ph.D., 72

PROVIDENCE — Oleg Pesin, Ph.D. died on March 23. He was the husband of Genrietta Snigireva. Born in Ukraine, he was a son of the late Yury Pesin and Sarrah Shifrina. He was a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Fine Chemical Technology, and a member of Temple Emanu-El.

In addition to his wife, he is also survived by his daughter Tatyana Federova of Montreal, Canada, grandsons Dmitry and Konstantin Federov, and his sister Eugenia Zarankina of Pawtucket.

### Sabena Zenofsky, 99

PROVIDENCE — Sabena Zenofsky of Sunny View Nursing Home, Warwick, died April 5. She was the wife of the late Isaac Zenofsky. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Morris and Julia (Davis) Miller, she had lived in Providence for more than 80 years before moving to Warwick.

She was the mother of Morris Zenofsky of West Warwick and Rosalie Gleckman of Cranston, sister of the late Norman Miller, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of two.

Contributions in her memory may be made to your favorite charity.

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# Jewish Community Calendar

From Page 17

Where: Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence  
When: 5:30 - 6:50 p.m.  
MORE INFO: 863-2805

**Yom Haatzmaut BBQ**

Brown RISD Hillel celebrates Israeli independence day with a kosher BBQ.

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

WHEN: 8 p.m.

MORE INFO: 863-2805

## Thursday

April 30

**Charles Jacobs**

The founder of The David Project will speak at a gathering of the RI

Jewish Coalition.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 595-9943

## Friday

May 1

**Social Action Shabbat**

Sister Anne Keefe of St. Michael's Church will speak.

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

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

(Open to the community)

## Sunday

May 3

**Jewish Historical Society Annual Meeting**

Bernard Fishman discusses the role of history museums in Jewish life.

WHERE: R.I. Jewish Historical Association, 130 Sessions Street, Providence.

WHEN: 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: Info@rijha.org, or 331-1360

## Thursday

May 7

**Nobel physician at Miriam**

Dr. Bernard Lown will speak on "Doctor diplomacy helps end the Cold War"

WHERE: Miriam Hospital, Hurvitz board room

WHEN: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: Register at 444-4800

**The Event for Women**

Installation of JFRI's Women's Alliance president, Bonnie Steinberg Jennis.

WHERE: RISD Museum of Art  
WHEN: 7-9 p.m.

MORE INFO: 421-4111

**Circle of Consolation**

Bereavement discussion group

WHERE: Temple Torat Yisrael

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 785-1500

## Monday

May 11

**Jewish Community Annual Meeting**

A celebration of our community's

achievements, with a talk by Jonathan Sarna on "The American Jewish community in the post-Madoff world."

WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHERE: JCCRI Social Hall, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: 421-4111, ext. 158

## Tuesday

May 12

**Survivor shares her story**

Alice Goldstein will speak at Laurelmead, in a program sponsored by the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of R.I.

WHERE: Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence

WHEN: 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 453-7860.

### TRANSPARENCY: Who makes decisions?

From Page 4

lished, as an advertising insert, the list of abandoned property, produced by the R.I. Treasurer's office. In 2008, that task was outsourced to a private firm, and *The Voice & Herald* was dropped from the list. The reason given by the private firm: as a cost-cutting measure, ethnic publications such as *The Voice & Herald* were dropped.

In turns out that this expla-

nation was, well, not quite accurate. Inserts – both in 2008 and 2009 – were continued in a weekly Portuguese newspaper, in a weekly catering to the Italian community, and in a weekly catering to the Hispanic community.

A copy of the list of newspapers which received the advertising inserts, clearly a matter of public record, was requested in

2008 – but never received until recently.

Further, in early 2009, a meeting was requested – and promised – with the Treasurer to discuss the possibility of including this insert in *The Voice & Herald* – before any decision was made. It never happened.

Now, the Treasurer is a big fan of *The Voice & Herald*. He

praised the newspaper in a 2008 letter, commending its strong writing and columnists. He and his family are strong supporters of the Jewish community here in Rhode Island, and also have strong connections to Israel.

I'm happy to give him the benefit of the doubt here – and hope and trust that he was unaware of the details of the decisions made by the private

contractor, under contract with his office. I'm still waiting for the promised appointment to sit down and talk with the Treasurer, in person. My meeting request is now entering its fourth month, but I'm optimistic – and patient – that it will happen soon – at least before 2010.

### D'VAR TORAH Aaron has faith in God

PARSHAT SHEMINI  
LEVITICUS 9:1– 11:47

*This week's parasha reminds us that serenity and happiness spring from internal harmony, not external sources.*

WHAT CAN BE more painful than the loss of a child? After a parent holds his infant child in his arms, after he helps the growing child walk, speak, read, discover the wonders of the world, the child becomes forever a living part of the parent. The death of a child, therefore, rips a gaping hole in the parent's heart, a wound that can never be healed – and the older the child, the more gaping the wound.

In times of such terrible tragedy, it is almost impossible for a parent not to cry out in grief and anguish, not to scream with pain. And yet, in this week's Torah portion, we learn that when Aaron witnessed the violent death of his two grown sons, he was

silent. How deeply he must have been hurt and grieved by the loss of his beloved sons. But nonetheless he remained totally silent. He showed no reaction whatsoever. How can this be? How could he suppress his cries of anguish?

Furthermore, we learn that God rewarded Aaron for remaining silent by conveying through him, rather than through Moses, the prohibition against performing the Temple service in a state of alcoholic intoxication. The question immediately arises: The Torah is attuned to the feelings of the mourner and actually encourages him to cry for the first three days of his bereavement. Why then was Aaron's suppression of his cries of anguish so praiseworthy? And if his silence was indeed so commendable, how was his selection to convey the prohibition against intoxication during the Temple service a fitting reward?

The Hebrew word the Torah uses here to portray Aaron's

silence, *domeim*, has two other meanings – the state of being inert and singing. What common thread connects silence, inertia and song? Let us consider for a moment the most desirable state that all people seek. The American Declaration of Independence actually hits the nail on the head when it speaks of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Happiness depends on inner harmony. When a person is at peace with himself and his environment, he is happy. But harmony does not derive from external sources. It emanates from within, from serenity of the soul. Our senses, however, are the enemies of harmony. They constantly bombard us with a variety of stimuli to which we are inclined to react, and thus our harmony is disrupted. We cannot be at peace with ourselves if we are at the mercy of a volatile world.

*Rabbi Naftali Reich is on the faculty of the Ohr Somayach Tanenbaum Education Center.*

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## We Are Read Everywhere

*Where in the world will we go next?*



Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam

Lois and Stephen Schneller from Middletown, catching up on local happenings in the *The Voice & Herald* while touring in Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam".



GEORGE KEMPLER and ALICE HAMILTON  
Dominica Island, Caribbean

GEORGE KEMPLER, of Smithfield, and Alice Hamilton, of North Kingstown enjoyed their March trip to the Caribbean and *The Voice & Herald*. This picture is in Roseau, on the Dominica Island in the Caribbean. The island, Kempler wrote, is noted for its many rainforests and waterfalls.

**Please, don't forget to share your simchas and travel photos with *The Voice & Herald***

Send Simchas and We Are Read to: E-mail: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org);  
Mail: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.  
E-mail high resolution photos. For photo return enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

***Tifereth Israel Congregation, New Bedford, MA is seeking a knowledgeable and energetic P/T Jewish Educational Director, beginning July 1, 2009.***

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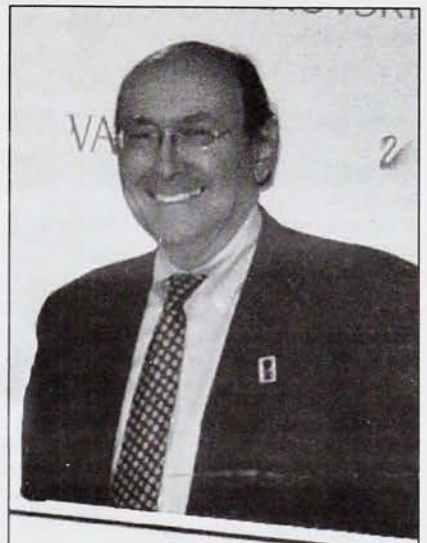
Please send your MS Word document resume and a cover letter to:  
**[schoolsearch@tinewbedford.org](mailto:schoolsearch@tinewbedford.org)**  
Applications will be accepted until April 24, 2009.

## Recognition

### Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

DR. ARNOLD H. HERMAN, right, medical director of Breast Health, a center for diagnosis and treatment of breast disease, in Providence, was a guest speaker at the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Pacesetter Event held on March 19 at Swarovski headquarters in Cranston. The event honored 63 volunteers who have raised \$2,000 or more to support the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraiser that will be held on Oct 25.

Active in cancer treatment since 1974, Herman, of Pawtucket, has also been honored by the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the American College of Surgeons for his advocacy work and commitment to increasing cancer awareness.



Meryln and Miriam Rodyn

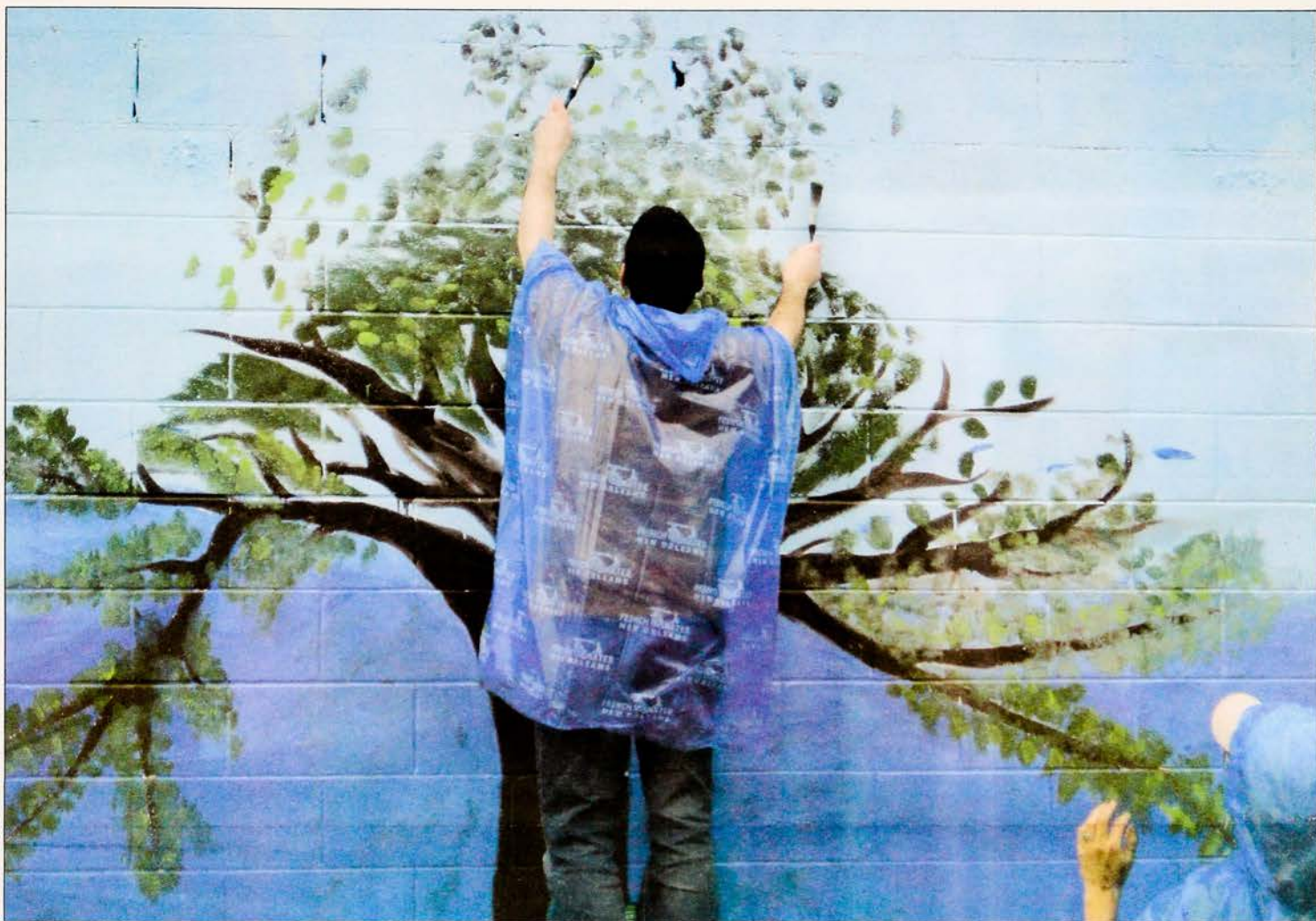
### 65th Wedding Anniversary

MERLYN AND MIRIAM RODYN of Warwick celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a family celebration at Twin Oaks Restaurant. Married on April 1, 1944, the couple has two children, Linda Caldarone and Steve Rodyn and his wife Sharon, grandchildren Melissa Caldarone and Jaymie Rodyn, and great-grandchildren Zachery Caldarone and MacKenzie Patnaude. Meryln was the owner of the former Merl's Trophies and Miriam was a human resources administrator at Hasbro, Inc., before retirement.

### Award



On April 1, Esta Yavner, a teacher in the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's preschool, received the Lea Eliash-Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. This is a prestigious joint award of the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Educational Service of North America and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. She is pictured here with Minna Ellison of the Bureau of Jewish Education.



TIKKUN OLAM CONTINUES IN NEW ORLEANS

Photo by Jacob Berkman/JTA

More than 500 young leaders from the Jewish federation system were in New Orleans recently to participate in a Jewish service project. These young men and women are part of a new growth in service learning taking hold in the Jewish community.

## What will Israel look like in another 60 years?

*Today's Israel would amaze its founders*

By RICHARD PEARLSTONE  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

NEW YORK (JTA) — In January, the Jewish Agency renovated some 300 bomb shelters in the south of Israel. With the increased range of rockets from Gaza hitting Ashdod and Beersheva — the first time these cities came under rocket attack since the 1948 War of Independence — it was time for some renovation.

Visiting these refurbished bomb shelters or watching kids as they practice taking cover in them gives one a sense of *deja vu*. Today the Jewish Agency is able to provide color TV and air conditioners in the shelters, an improvement over a transistor radio and a fan. But a bomb shelter is still a bomb shelter and a rocket still a rocket.

Which makes me wonder: As Israel celebrates its 61st year of independence, what would my grandfather, Joseph Meyerhoff, think if he saw Israel now?

As he sat huddled with David Ben-Gurion in 1950 contemplating how to get urgently needed capital into Israel — he subsequently started Israel Bonds — my grandfather wouldn't have imagined driving today north of Tel Aviv to Israel's high-tech hub or inside Intel's micro-processing factory in Kiryat Gat. He wouldn't have imagined Israel boasting of 4,000 high-tech companies and more than 100 venture-capital funds.

Nor would he have imagined that alongside this boom, the growing socio-economic divide and an unprecedented number

of children living in poverty.

It also would have been hard to think of the Jewish Agency partnering with Cisco to offer a three-year course giving high school students in underprivileged areas a com-

---

**My grandfather's generation would have assumed there would be quiet, if not peace."**

---

puter technician's certificate, so they can make their way into technical units in the army.

Today, instead of *kibbutzim* and development towns built by the Jewish Agency during our grandparents' heyday in the 1950s and '60s, we are founding young communities built by college students in socio-economically challenged areas of Israel. When they aren't study-

ing, members of these young communities are mentoring at-risk youth, volunteering at the local council and participating in projects to improve the area. These students call themselves the Zionist pioneers of the 21st century.

Would our grandparents have imagined that Jews would continue to find a haven in Israel in 2009 from countries as diverse as Germany, Georgia and Yemen?

Would they have imagined the busloads and plane loads of Jewish youth from all over the world coming to Israel on Birthright or to study for a year?

Finally, if they believed Israel were to reach its seventh decade, my grandfather's generation would have assumed there would be quiet, if not peace, and that Israel would not at once be facing home-

made Kassam rockets from Gaza and a nuclear threat from Iran. I don't think they would have envisioned us renovating bomb shelters in 2009.

But the really interesting question is, what will Israel look like 60 years from now, when our grandchildren are where we are today? That's the unwritten part of the story; that's the part we are writing today.

It's easy to lose sight of this amidst our daily lives, personal and communal turbulence, especially during these times of economic challenge. But if we keep on course, especially when it is difficult, come Israel's 120th Independence Day, our grandchildren will look back with pride on what we did, just as we look back on the generation that founded the state.

*Richard Pearlstone is chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel.*

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