



# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts



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## 'Mitzvah Heroes' Aplenty in Inspiring Conference Without Walls

by Jon Rubin  
Herald Editor

Danny Siegel puts it this way — charismatic leaders leave us in awe, but true leaders leave us empowered and ready to act. So the mission of the Mitzvah Heroes Conference Without Walls was an especially tricky one — present the Jewish community with great people and their courageous stories, but focus on the achievements rather the doers themselves.

"It's as simple as you can get — there's only benefit to hanging out with great people," Siegel said. "[But] it's incorrect to say 'Wow! They're up on a pedestal and I'm only me.' You need to say, 'I can do something like that, using my own time and my own energy.'"

The Mitzvah Heroes Conference was a BJE/RI project and was chaired by Susan and David Resnik, coordinated by Miriam Abrams-Stark and Ruth Page of the BJE/RI, and received funding from the Covenant Foundation, Siegel's Ziv Tzedakah Fund and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. This is the fourth Mitzvah Heroes Conference, but Rhode Island was the first conference that was held on a community-wide scale.

Naomi Eisenberger, managing director of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, said the project's goal is to "build a mitzvah-oriented community." After all, she said, "we're in the mitzvah business."

Siegel elaborated — "Tzed-

akah, mitzvah and tikkun olam (repairing the world) are all tied together," he said. "We've been put on earth to do mitzvahs...[and] that means doing the right thing and bringing justice in[to] the world." Said Siegel, "People don't have to be cold or hungry or lonely [and] we can do something about it... Let me tell you something they forgot to tell us in Hebrew School — we have the power of life and death."

Siegel brought mitzvah heroes from all over the United States to synagogues in Narragansett, Middletown, Cranston, Providence, and other locations to share their stories of success. There was Ranya Kelly,

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DANNY SIEGEL, founder of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, kept the mitzvah intensity flowing all weekend. Herald photo by Jon Rubin

## Terrorist Expert Addresses Afghan War and Its Solution

by Jon Rubin  
Herald Editor

For more than a decade, Afghanistan had remained entirely absent from most political discussions in the United States. But not anymore. "Since September 11, everybody has become an instant expert on Afghanistan." So said Dr. Elie Krakowski, internationally renowned expert on international terrorism, before a group of about 80 at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island on Nov. 29.

Krakowski has an impressive background — he is a former official of the department of defense, professor of international relations and senior law fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, and has appeared in the *Boston Sunday Globe*, *New York Times*, *Time* and *Newsweek*.

His appearance was sponsored by Project Shores, an independent, grass-roots Jewish education project, and the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Rabbi Aaron Lapin, director of Project Shores, said that "Jews are quite familiar with the topic of terrorism... but it hit home particularly on Sept. 11." Lapin's aunt, Ruth Lapin, perished in Tower 2 of the World Trade Center. "It is important for American Jews to be informed on this issue," he said.

Krakowski has traveled extensively through the Middle East, including Afghanistan, where he toured last year in an aging Russian helicopter. "It was a very interesting trip," he

said, "...like going back a few centuries."

Afghanistan is "an unimportant country [caught] in between empires," Krakowski said. This information is key, he said, because "the problem is in the surrounding states." Krakowski said that the Afghan factions repeatedly turn to the surrounding countries to get the upper hand in their power struggle. Krakowski has met with many Afghan leaders, including members of the Northern Alliance prior to the events of Sept. 11, and he much enjoyed their company.

He disagrees with the notions that the Afghans are a quarrelsome people that cannot agree among themselves. "That's nonsense," he said. "The Afghans have a relaxed approach to warfare and to

life... [They are] a very tolerant people... Extremism has nothing to do with the Afghans," he said.

Instead, he said, the problem lies in the hostile intentions of the Arab nations that surround it, nations which "push the Afghan leaders" to manipulate policy. The Taliban, he said, "dominate through sheer discipline... and money that is coming in from the [Persian] Gulf." Most people, he said, "assume the Taliban are Afghan... [But] they are a Pakistani creation... a colony of the Arabs." Krakowski said that three Arab nations — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan — all diplomatically recognized the Taliban as the ruling power in Afghanistan before Sept. 11.

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INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST expert Dr. Elie Krakowski spoke about the underlying causes of — and solutions to — the situation in Afghanistan. Herald photo by Jon Rubin

## Suicide Attacks Prompt Tough Israeli, U.S. Response

Bush Takes War on Terrorism to Hamas

President Bush recently directed the war on terrorism against the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas by freezing the assets of the U.S.-based Holy Land Foundation and two other groups believed to be linked to Hamas. The president said that money used by the Holy Land Foundation, which is registered with the IRS as a charity group, is "used by Hamas in schools to indoctrinate children to become suicide bombers... to recruit suicide bombers and to support their families." The president called Hamas "one of the deadliest terror organizations in the world today," while Attorney General John Ashcroft said Hamas' terrorist actions "leave no doubt about the urgency of stopping terrorism in all its forms, whether the terrorism emanates from Afghanistan or from the West Bank and Gaza."

Israel Declares PA a Terror-Supporting Entity

Israel on Tuesday carried out pinpoint strikes against Palestinian targets following a decision by the government to label the Palestinian Authority (PA) a "terror-supporting entity," *The Wall Street Journal* reported. "The government has determined that the Palestinian Authority is an entity that supports terrorism, and must be dealt with accordingly," said the government statement, which also declared the Tanzim militia of Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction and his personal bodyguards Force-17 to be terrorist organizations. The statement said that the PA's status is subject to change should the PA "fulfill its commitments, according to the agreements, to prevent and foil terrorism, punish terrorists and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

U.S. Backs Israel's Right to Self-Defense

The United States publicly defended Israel's right to defend itself following a string of Palestinian suicide attacks over the weekend that killed 26 Israelis and wounded 200, *The New York Times* reported. "Israel is a sovereign government," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Monday. "Obviously, Israel has a right to defend herself, and the president understands that clearly." Fleischer also said that Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat "is capable of doing much more than he has ever done," and said it is important for him "to show that he does represent peace and does not harbor terrorists." A recent letter to the president from 89 members of Congress urged the president not to restrain Israel from responding to Palestinian terrorism.

Courtesy of aipac.org

# HAPPENINGS

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Alperin Schechter Day School .....                  | 751-2470 |
| Brown / RISD Hillel .....                           | 863-2805 |
| Bureau of Jewish Education .....                    | 331-0956 |
| Hadassah (RI Chapter) .....                         | 463-3636 |
| Hebrew Free Loan Association .....                  | 331-3081 |
| Jewish Community Center of RI .....                 | 861-8800 |
| Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island .....              | 621-5374 |
| Jewish Family Services .....                        | 331-1244 |
| JFS Kosher Mealsite .....                           | 781-1771 |
| Jewish Federation of Rhode Island .....             | 421-4111 |
| Jewish Seniors Agency .....                         | 351-4750 |
| Jewish War Veterans of RI .....                     | 941-6032 |
| Lincoln Park Cemetery .....                         | 737-5333 |
| Perspectives .....                                  | 863-9357 |
| Providence Hebrew Day School .....                  | 331-5327 |
| RI Holocaust Memorial Museum .....                  | 453-7860 |
| RI Jewish Historical Association .....              | 331-1360 |
| South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association ..... | 781-1949 |
| Touro Fraternal Association .....                   | 785-0066 |
| URI Hillel .....                                    | 874-2740 |

## Chanukah Happenings



The JCCRI Brown Bag club kicks off the holiday fun at noon on December 11, with a Chanukah "sing-along" with Cantor Rennie Brown. Drinks and dessert will be provided, a \$1 donation is appreciated.

Join the community-wide JCCRI family Chanukah dinner and party on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Enjoy a delicious dinner complete with latkes, pasta, hot dogs, salad and sufganiot. Entertainment will be provided by groups from Alperin Schechter Day School, JCCRI Preschool and JCCRI performing arts class. Call 861-8800 for reservations and information.

The Senior Adult Chanukah Party will be held on Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m., with latkes, entertainment and fun. A \$3 donation is appreciated. For reservations and information call Sue Robbio at 861-8800, ext. 107.

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, will host a Chanukah pre-school craft and story hour on Dec. 11 at 10:30 a.m. The programs will take place in the Braude Library, and are free to members and non-members alike. For reservations and information, call temple librarian Reini Silverman at 331-6070, ext. 111.

Chabad House of Providence will be holding a Malaveh Malkah on Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chabad House, 360 Hope Street in Providence. "Miracles in Modern Medicine" will be the topic led by Drs. Michael Felder and Pinchus Kaplan. Music to be provided by the Rosenfeld and Schuman Duet. Also, on Dec. 16 there will be a giant Chanukah Festival for the entire family, with balloon animals, prizes, dreidel tournaments and more. Call 273-7238.

Touro Fraternal Association will be holding its Annual Chanukah Party Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. at Touro Hall, 45 Rolfe Square in Cranston. Entertainment by Sparky's Puppets! Entertainment and gifts for children 12 and under. The event is open to all members, their wives, children and grandchildren! Hot dogs, latkes, pizza, dessert and soft drinks will be served. Please RSVP by Dec. 9.

South County Hebrew School will be holding a Hanukkah Party at Narragansett Elementary School on Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. Songs, crafts, menorah lighting (please BYOM) and a wonderful Hanukkah brunch. Please call Beverley at 789-8298 for more information.

### Rhode Island's Largest Chanukah Gathering to be Held Dec. 9

It was perhaps one of the busiest days of the year at one of Rhode Island's most popular shopping malls when suddenly all action ceased. Buyers, browsers, shopkeepers, moviegoers, security men, maintenance crews, media personnel and politicians were amongst the hundreds who witnessed the kindling of the giant menorah at Rhode Island's largest Chanukah celebration.

Once again this year, the Chabad CHAI Center an affiliate of Chabad of Rhode Island is delighted to conduct this marvelous event. "This year's celebration will be even larger and more beautiful than in the past," said Rabbi Yossi Laufer, director of the Chabad CHAI Center. "It is sure to be a unique and joyful Chanukah experience and an unprecedented display of solidarity and freedom."

Mayor Scott Avedisian and other dignitaries will be honored in lighting the menorah and will be on hand to greet the crowd.

The festivities will get under way at the center of the Warwick Mall on Dec. 9 at 3:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. there will be a children's craft project — create your own clay dreidels along with lively Jewish music by Stan Freedman's band. At 4 p.m. dignitaries will address the gathering and the Giant Menorah will be lit. Following the lighting, the crowd will enjoy a special presentation of songs by the Am David Hebrew School, followed by a music balloon and magic show by Michael the Balloon Animal. All participants will be treated to fresh hot potato latkes, chocolate Chanukah coins, dreidels and lots of holiday spirit. The event is free and all are welcome.

The recent events of Sept. 11 and in the Middle East have underscored the need for peace and healing of the spirit by all nations. "By coming together and lighting the menorah, which has eight branches out of one shaft, we want to emphasize the fundamental unity and goodness, which is inherent in the world," said Laufer.

Chabad of Rhode Island will be visiting hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and more to make sure that those who are unable to make it to a party or celebration will not be left out of the Chanukah spirit. For more information, to receive a free holiday guide, or to request that someone in a hospital, nursing home or a shut-in be visited, call the Chabad CHAI Center at 732-6559.

## Directory to this week's Herald

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## Weekend of Celebration at Agudas Achim!

Two special events will take place at Agudas Achim on Dec. 14 and 15.

On Dec. 14, beginning at 7:30 p.m., there will be a Shabbat Celebration of Community featuring the installation of the congregation's new rabbi, Elyse Wechterman. Guest speaker at the service is Rabbi Jacob Staub, dean of students at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and co-author of *Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach*. Rabbi Wechterman came to Congregation Agudas Achim in August of this year. She formerly worked at the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation in Philadelphia where she served as director of Congregational Resources and Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. Light refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

On Dec. 15, Agudas Achim invites the public to its annual Hanukkah Party from 6 to 8 p.m. Join the congregation in celebration of this holiday with music, food, and fun. A \$10 contribution is requested. Call the synagogue office at (508) 222-2243 for more information on the gift grab.

## Copies of the Herald are available at...

### In Cranston

- Barney's, Oaklawn Ave.
- Borders Book Shop, Garden City Ctr.
- Rainbow Bakery and Cafe, Reservoir Ave.

### Providence and Vicinity

- Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket
- Coffee Exchange, Wickenden St.
- College Hill Book Store, Thayer St.
- Eastside Marketplace, Pitman St.
- East Side Prescription Center
- Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.

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**Rhode Island Jewish HERALD**

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What's Brewing at ASOS? Each Page

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**R.I. Jewish Community Reacts to Heinous Terrorist Attack**

By Ben Kaplan  
Rhode Island Jewish Community Center

The Jewish community in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts reacted with shock and grief to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The attacks, which resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people, have shocked the entire world and have raised questions about the safety of our country and the future of our world.

The Jewish community in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts is united in its grief and its determination to stand together in the face of this tragedy. We are grateful for the support and solidarity of our friends and neighbors, and we are confident that we will overcome this crisis together.

The Jewish community in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts is committed to peace and justice for all people. We will continue to work for a world of peace and understanding, and we will continue to support our country in its fight against terrorism.

For more information, please contact the Rhode Island Jewish Community Center at 861-8800.

## When Is It Treason?

by Jonathan Friendly

A case headed for trial in Israel will test its tolerance for dissenting speech in a time of war. The case may also offer substantial lessons for America as it tries to balance its worries about terrorism against its carefully won Constitutional protections for individual liberty.

The charges in Israel were brought against a member of Knesset, Azmi Bishara, who in recent years has become a powerful force in organizing Arab Israelis to side with Palestinian demands. This summer Bishara went to Syria to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of Hafez Assad, the dictator long considered one of Israel's most virulent foes. At the gathering were Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and Palestinian terror chieftain Ahmed Jibril. Bishara lauded Hezbollah for its "determination, persistence and heroism," and he added that all of the Arab world should support the intifada so Palestinians "can wage resistance" with the same success.

A year earlier, shortly after the IDF abruptly ended Israel's 20-year occupation of southern Lebanon, Bishara told his political party that "Hezbollah won, and for the first time since 1967 we tasted the flavor of victory. Hezbollah has the right to flaunt its achievement and humiliate Israel."

Two weeks ago the Knesset

stripped Bishara of his parliamentary immunity, allowing the attorney general to press charges of incitement against the legislator. Bishara does not deny saying what he is charged with saying, but he insists that the words were not intended to stir violence against Israel either by its one million Arab citizens or by the rest of the Arab world.

Given the fact that for 14 months the Palestinians have been waging a bloody intifada against the Jewish state, killing nearly 200 Israelis, Bishara's defense — that he simply wants Israel to grant its Arab citizens their full rights — seems ridiculously weak. The Knesset was right to allow the charges to be brought, and the prosecutor should pursue his investigations against many of the other Arab Knesset members who, as writer Yossi Klein Halevi noted earlier this year in *The New Republic* magazine, "function as a psychological fifth column, openly backing Israel's enemies."

But what should America do with those in this country who have cheered the terrorist attacks here? Sending money to Al Qaida is properly punishable, but what about simply voicing an opinion, held by some Muslims in America, that we would all be better off living under Islamic law? Should supporting your nation's oppo-

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## Fundamental Decency

by Avi Shafran and David Zwiebel

An insightful observer once noted that issuing a "clarification" usually means one's original words were understood just a little bit too well. The thought came to mind reading a recent opinion piece in *The New York Jewish Week* by the Religion Action Center of Reform Judaism's director Rabbi David Saperstein, about what has come to be known as the "Rabbi Regev controversy."

To recap, for those who may not have been following this latest episode of unseemly Orthodox-bashing:

On Oct. 12, the *Cleveland Jewish News* reported on an "impassioned" High Holy Days sermon delivered by Rabbi Uri Regev of the Israel Religious Action Center whose message, according to the report, was that the events of Sept. 11 should serve as "a wake-up call about religious zealotry" in Judaism no less than in Islam. "Left unchecked," the *Cleveland Jewish News* article reported the Reform leader saying, "the same kind of intolerance which drove Islamic terrorists to attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon threatens to tear the state of Israel apart." And, in drawing what the article characterized as "a chilling parallel between Islamic and Israeli religious extremists" — being "the Haredi, fervently religious Orthodox Jews who comprise about 6 percent of the Israeli population" — Rabbi Regev was quoted as saying that "They have distorted Torah (teachings) and interpreted them as giving license to get rid of infidels."

Widespread protest, predictably, ensued in the Orthodox community; opinion pieces were written taking Rabbi Regev to task, and an advertisement doing the same appeared in two Jewish weeklies.

Several weeks later, the *Cleveland* reporter issued a clarification, admitting to having taken a number of journalistic liberties, from omitting ellipses to combining quotes from different occasions to neglecting to note that some of her material had come from interviews with Rabbi Regev and statements he had made in informal gatherings rather than from his sermon.

She also explained that Rabbi Regev had not been referring to "all" Haredim but only one of "four groups within the Haredim"; and that his "getting rid of infidels" comment had been made in the context of "acts of hate such as graffiti sprayed on non-Orthodox institutions in Israel" rather than as a description of the mindset of Haredim generally. (As it happens, none of the arrested suspects in such vandalisms have been Haredim, and there are many times more Haredi institutions vandalized each year in Israel than non-Orthodox ones.) At the same time, she asserted, Rabbi Regev "did not clarify that the individuals he considered most difficult represented only a small number of Haredim."

The reporter's clarification thus secured, Rabbi Saperstein sprung to his colleague's defense. While acknowledging that Rabbi Regev had used the events of Sept. 11 to "cast a harsh spotlight on the potential

effects of unchecked fundamentalism mutating malignantly in the minds of a few," Rabbi Saperstein insisted that his colleague's remarks could in no way be seen as equating Haredim with Islamic terrorists, and he called on critics to apologize for tarnishing Rabbi Regev's reputation.

But, with all due respect, the tarnish was and remains entirely self-inflicted. We don't know the precise words Rabbi Regev used during his sermon; our request for a tape of the sermon has been rebuffed. But what is quite clear, even after all the "clarification," is that mere days after Sept. 11 and explicitly invoking the Islamic terrorist attacks on America, Rabbi Regev warned his listeners (either during his sermon or at other times in the presence of a reporter) that Israel's Haredi "religious extremists" are, like Islamic fundamentalists, a dire threat to the lives of others.

Reality check: Graffiti is not akin to murdering innocent men, women and children. Isolated incidents of vandalism have been unconditionally condemned by Haredi leaders and are entirely foreign to the overwhelming majority of Haredi Jews — as are the violent acts of Boruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir (cited by Rabbi Saperstein as examples of Jewish "fundamentalists"), neither of whom, in any event, was or is Haredi. There are no military training camps operated by Yated Ne'eman's editorial board, no suicide bombing manuals published by Shas and no anthrax mailing operations in Me'ah She'arim. To mention Haredim

(Continued on Page 15)

Like something? Don't like something? Let us know.

The *Herald* welcomes Letters to the Editor and opinions on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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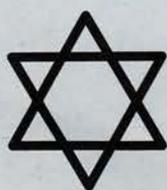
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## Whatever is Bashert?

Last week's Parsha was Vayishlach. In this Parsha, we read about many of the trials which Yaakov encountered while returning from his father-in-law, Lavan, to his parents Yitzchak and Rivkah.

In the beginning of the Parsha, Yaakov hears that his brother, Esau, who wants to kill him, together with 400 men are coming towards them. The Torah tells us that, "Yaakov was greatly afraid and distressed." Yaakov sends gifts to appease Esau so that he would forgive him for taking away the blessings, while at the same time preparing for battle and praying for G-d's help.

Yaakov said to Esau, "Take my gift that is brought to you; because G-d had been gracious with me, and because I have enough."

Even though G-d had promised to watch over him and bring him back to the land of Canaan, Yaakov was still afraid. He was afraid that he may have lost this merit of G-d's protection due to the fact that he was away from his parents for so many years while through all this time, Esau observed the great mitzvah of taking care of them. However, when they met, Esau was afraid to harm Yaakov.

The Torah describes a battle between Yaakov and "a man" which our sages say was Esau's guardian angel. Although the angel couldn't defeat Yaakov, he "strained" Yaakov's thigh. As a result, Jews are prohibited to eat the "sinew of the thigh vein" and it must be removed before the meat is made kosher.

G-d tells Yaakov, "Your name shall not be called any more Yaakov but Israel should be your name." The name Yaakov was given him at birth because he was holding unto the heel of his brother Esau. Yaakov means

enough."

A Chasid once came to Rabbi Meir of Premishlan and complained that someone in town opened the same business as his. "I am very worried!" the Chasid said.

"Did you ever see when a horse drinks water from a river, he kicks his hoof in the water. Do you know why?" the Rebbe asked. "No," replied the Chasid. "I will tell you why," said Rabbi Meir. "When the horse looks in the water and sees his own reflection, he thinks there is another horse there. Now he is afraid that the other horse will drink up all the water, so he tries to frighten him away by kicking his hoofs!"

"It is the same with you!" the Rebbe went on. "You think that if someone else is trying to make a living, it will take away from you. That is not so. Whatever is Bashert (destined) for the other person will not diminish that which is destined for you!"

Submitted by Rabbi Yossi Laufer at the Chabad of West Bay, an affiliate of Chabad of Rhode Island. For more information about our programs and classes, call Rabbi Yossi Laufer at 732-6559, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, R.I. 02886 or visit <www.ChabadOnLine.org/Warwick>.

Torah Today

"heel" and represents a lower level. "Israel" means leadership.

Yaakov is the only one of our forefathers who has two names. At times, the Torah calls him Yaakov and at times, Israel. The two names represent the different stages of the Jewish people. "Israel" represents the times of greatness and glory. "Yaakov" relates to times of suffering and exile.

Yaakov tells Esau, "Take my gift that is brought to you; because G-d had been gracious with me, and because I have

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Day of Mitzvahs Ends on a High Note

by Seth Bromley  
Editorial Assistant

Last Sunday was a busy day for participants of the Mitzvah Heroes Conference Without Walls. Their day began in Cranston at Temple Sinai, which buzzed with activity at 9 a.m. as the conference began. Mitzvah heroes Merrily Ansell, Syd Mandelbaum and children from the Broad Meadows Middle School were on hand to tell their remarkable stories.

David Resnik, of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, co-chaired the event along with his wife, Susan. He began the presentation with an admonition that the conference was a starting point, not a culmination. "Today is a catalyst... This is not the end, this is only the beginning."

Ziv's Rabbi Steven Bayar introduced the mitzvah heroes, and related the purpose of Ziv to a Torah portion that he read recently. In the portion, Jacob flees his home and has a dream, in which G-d speaks to him to get him to return. "Jacob makes a deal with G-d," said Rabbi Bayar. If G-d promises to keep him safe and fed, then Jacob will worship and serve him. This teaches us a key truth about faith, said Bayar. "Jacob knew

you can't talk about faith on an empty stomach. There's no such thing as a religious person who is hungry."

With that said, Bayer introduced the first mitzvah hero, Syd Mandelbaum, founder of the organization Rock and Wrap It Up. By day, Mandelbaum is a scientist who markets devices that are used in the medical field for early cancer detection. Much of the rest of his time is given to his organization, which he started in order to attack the problem of hunger in this country in a creative new way. Mandelbaum explained that when a rock band comes to a city while on tour, a catering company provides huge amounts of food for the band members and their support crew. There are always copious quantities of leftovers after the concert, which would normally be thrown away. Instead, Mandelbaum's organization comes in, collects the food that has been prepared but not served, and delivers them to local shelters, soup kitchens and other relief organizations.

"The waste in this country is grotesquely enormous," Mandelbaum said. He said that between 20 to 150 pounds of food per show is regularly collected

by RWU, food that would otherwise be discarded.

Mandelbaum said there are two important legal tools that allow RWU to operate. The first, which he regards as his "mantra," is "contractual obligation." Mandelbaum said he got the idea for RWU when a friend showed him an example of a contract that a popular rock band signed with a catering company. The contract can contain all kinds of bizarre and outlandish stipulations, all according to the whims of the band members, which the catering company must fulfill, by law.

Mandelbaum thought, why not use this concept to feed hungry people? He started to contact bands and asked them to include the following line in their contracts: "All edible leftover food to go to local soup kitchens or shelters and Rock and Wrap It Up will arrange for the removal." This simple addition forces the catering facility to donate leftover food, by which Mandelbaum defines as anything that was prepared but not served, which usually means that recipients only receive food that has been well-preserved and refrigerated.

Since Mandelbaum started the program in 1994, he has enlisted more than 130 bands. Well-known acts such as Aerosmith, REM and Tom Petty have supported his cause. His job was made easier in 1996, when Congress passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protected donors from liability claims, thus reducing the reluctance of businesses, including caterers, to donate surplus goods. Mandelbaum estimates that he now has 1,800 volunteers covering 500 cities. He said that RWU has recovered 3,500,000 pounds of food, enough to feed at least 10 million people.

Mandelbaum has expanded the focus of his program to include businesses and organizations holding seminars or conferences, and the fashion and film industries; any group that makes use of catering facilities can use contractual obligation to help feed the hungry, with no additional costs involved. He has also enlisted schools and colleges in his quest to save some of the billions of pounds of food thrown away every year in the U.S. Mandelbaum doesn't mince



JOHN BELTZER, founder of Songs of Love, enlists the audience in performing his latest work. Herald photos by Seth Bromley

words about his ambition for the scope of his projects. "We may not be able to give [people] rent money and everything they need to live, but we can feed them, and I believe we can feed all of them." If and when he's done, he said, "there will no longer be hungry people in this country..."

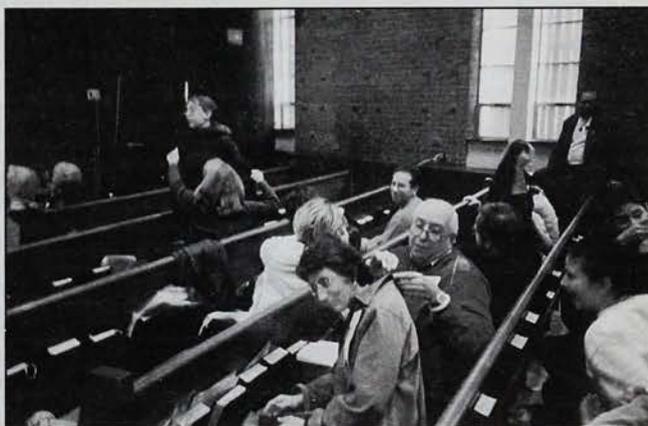
Following Mandelbaum at the morning session, Merrily Ansell talked about her program, Books, Bears and Bonnets. Ansell, from Washington, D.C., assembles care packages for cancer victims. After watching her sister go through a painful fight with cancer that she eventually lost, Ansell looked for a way to help people who were in similarly dire straits —

teddy bear, a good book, and a cap or hat. Ansell said that in only a year and a half, "we've brought smiles to the faces of 1,600 people."

Up next were students from Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, Mass., accompanied by their teacher Ron Adams. The students told the story of raising \$147,000 to build a school in Pakistan, and raising awareness of child labor issues. They were inspired by a visit from Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani boy who had been a slave laborer in a carpet factory. Upon his return to Pakistan, Iqbal was murdered, and the students at Broad Meadows were determined to further his cause by building a school in his memory. They succeeded, and



STUDENTS OF THE Broad Meadows Middle School speak about their tzedakah work on the behalf of children around the world at Temple Sinai in Cranston, along with their teacher Ron Adams.



AUDIENCE MEMBERS at Temple Sinai are asked to check the labels on their clothing to find out where they were made. The Broad Meadows students are calling for manufacturers to put "child labor-free" labels on their garments.

frightened, lonely and in pain. "I want to help patients be a person, not a number," said Ansell. For every patient undergoing chemotherapy at 10 participating hospitals, she puts together a box with a plush

are continuing their work through the program "Operation Day's Work." Students get sponsors to pledge money for a day's work of community service. The money is then donated to a lesser-developed country chosen by the children, and used to fund projects that help people to help themselves, such as schools and micro-loans.

### Mitzvah Spotlight

Following the completion of the morning conference, many of the participants adjourned to the JCCRI in Providence, where the events continued throughout the day. Mandelbaum and the Broad Meadows students made their presentations again there in the afternoon. At 7 p.m.,



## Women's Association of Jewish Seniors Agency

Invites you to a meeting on  
Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.  
Temple Emanu-El (Bohnen Vestry)  
99 Taft Avenue, Providence

### Agenda

Susette Rabinowitz, Executive Director,  
Jewish Seniors Agency

Will give an update on all JSA programs  
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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Day of Mitzvahs Ends on a High Note

(Continued from Page 4)

the social hall was filled for the final presentations of the conference. David Resnik spoke once again, introducing the night's mitzvah heroes. "These are ordinary people. Excuse me, they were ordinary people," he stated. Naomi Eisenberger, managing director of Ziv, said, "These are the people who can teach us how to make the world a better place."

Danny Siegel, founder of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, spoke briefly to introduce the first presenter, Ranya Kelly, also known as "the shoe woman of Denver." Standing an unimposing 5'1"

That was 16 years ago. Since then, Kelly has turned her life into a crusade for the retrieval of goods that are discarded by businesses and distributing them to those in need. She formed an organization, called The Redistribution Center, which has since saved millions of dollars in essential items and used them to make people's lives better. Although businesses were skeptical or even hostile toward her at first, she has formed many partnerships with companies that donate surplus merchandise rather than destroy it.

mitzvah hero of the day, was musician John Beltzer, founder of the organization Songs of Love. Beltzer has spent the last five years recording personalized songs for children who are critically or terminally ill. After spending years pursuing a professional recording contract, Beltzer originally agreed to do five special songs for seriously ill children. The idea was simply "an epiphany," he said. After recording those first few songs, he got a phone call from the mother of one of the children. The child came on the line and said "Thank you for my song."

"That was it, that was my Grammy award," said Beltzer. "It felt incredibly empowering." He decided to form a foundation dedicated to creating these "Songs of Love," a name inspired by his twin brother Julio, who died in 1984 at the age of 34. Julio had composed a song entitled "Songs of Love" just two months before he died. Beltzer recruited singers, songwriters, instrumentalists and studio technicians to help him compose more than 2,700 songs in the last five years. Each song is based on profiles given to Beltzer by the parents of the children, and every song is completely original, with unique music and lyrics tailored to each recipient's personality and life.

After educating the attendees of the conference about his work, he enlisted their help. Beltzer asked the crowd to provide some of the vocals for a song that he would be delivering the very next day to a child with leukemia at Hasbro Children's Hospital. He passed out the lyrics and conducted the chorus as the music played. When the song got to the right part, everyone in the hall began to sing. A beautiful sound emanated from the mass of preposterously out of tune, but righteously sincere voices. And at that moment, we all got a taste of just what it means to be a Mitzvah Hero.



**RANYA KELLY**, the "shoe woman of Denver," talks about her work as a mitzvah hero, while Ziv founder Danny Siegel shows the crowd the items that Kelly recovers and donates to the needy.

tall, Kelly's physical presence belies her status as a giant in the realm of tzedakah. A middle-class mom, Kelly was rummaging through the dumpster behind a local retail mall, looking for cardboard boxes to use for shipping some things to a relative. She found "great boxes," but that wasn't all. She took a closer look and saw that the boxes were all full of shoes — brand-new shoes. She immediately assumed there must have been some kind of mix-up. "I thought, 'no one in their right mind would throw away brand-new shoes.'" She said she consulted with her husband, who told her in no uncertain terms, "Get those shoes!"

With the help of her young son, Kelly proceeded to load her car's trunk, back seat, and front seat with box after box of shoes — men's, women's, children's, work boots and sneakers. When she was done there were about 500 pairs in all. Kelly invited her friends and family to "partake in the bounty" and when they were finished, 400 pairs of shoes remained. Kelly loaded them into her car once again, and drove to the nearest homeless shelter. As she told a member of the shelter staff about her situation, a female resident walked by. Kelly said that what she saw shocked her: the woman was barefoot, in the dead of winter. Kelly pointed this out to the staff member, who replied "We didn't have any shoes that fit her." Kelly was at once both dismayed and elated — she hadn't known her donation of the shoes would help people so immediately and directly. "That woman changed my life forever," said Kelly. "I never would've dreamed a pair of shoes could make such a difference."

She brought with her a suitcase full of examples of the items she collects. The suitcase was full of shoes, socks, winter coats, children's clothes and school supplies. All of these things which would have ended up in our landfills if not for Kelly's efforts, are now going to people who are in desperate need of them. Her work is not without sacrifice, since Kelly often works 80 to 100 hours a week and can't pay herself a salary. Kelly explained, "Why do this? Because I'm commanded by G-d to make my family, my community, my nation, my world — better."

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To find out more about the organizations mentioned:

Rock and Wrap It Up, Aimee Holtzman, Executive Director, 405 Oceanpoint Ave., Cedarhurst, NY 11516, phone: (516) 822-3457, fax: (516) 827-1953, e-mail: aimeeholtzman@aol.com, Web: www.rockandwrapitup.org.

Books, Bears and Bonnets: Merrily Ansell, President, 10844 Antigua Terrace, #103, N. Bethesda, Maryland, phone: (301) 881-2883, fax: (301) 881-2884, e-mail: manmd@starpower.net.

A School For Iqbal, c/o Ron Adams, Broad Meadows Middle School, 50 Calvin Road, Quincy, Mass. 02169, phone (617) 984-8723, e-mail: ronadams2@aol.com, Web: www.digitalrag.com/iqbal.

REMEDY (Recovered Medical Equipment for the Developing World), 3 TMP, 333 Cedar St., POB 208051, New Haven, Conn. 06520-8051, phone: (203) 737-5356, fax: (203) 785-6664, e-mail: remedy@yale.edu, Web: www.remedyinc.org.

Ranya Kelly, c/o The Redistribution Center, 12681 West 49th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033, phone: (303) 431-0904, fax: (303) 424-3368.

John Beltzer, President, c/o Songs of Love, Inc., POB 750809, Forest Hills, NY 11375, phone: (800) 960-SONG, fax: (718) 441-7372, e-mail: songslove@aol.com, Web: www.songslove.org.



## 'Raise Anchor! Hard to Starboard!'

In honor of Columbus Day, kindergarten students at the Alperin Schechter Day School took Ivory soap and made a re-creation of one of Columbus's ships. Each child then "set sail" for his or her ship. Photo courtesy of ASDS



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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## — Mitzvah Hero Profiles: —

*Second Wind Dreams and Project People Foundation*

A spunky blonde from Atlanta, Georgia, Mitzvah Hero PK Beville started off her talk at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island by declaring, "I have the best job in the world." A trained psychologist in elder care, Beville started Second Wind Dreams five years ago with a mission — to change society's perception of aging by fulfilling the dreams of people living in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. "We have a whole subculture living in assisted care facilities," she said. "We as a society have a need to understand them."

Beville founded Second Wind Dreams as a sort of "Make a Wish Foundation" for the elderly. But what makes this one different is just how accessible and simple many of these requests are. Believe it or not, she said, "Most dreams cost \$25 or less." A dream could be for a warmer coat, a watch with a large face, a digital clock, a cupholder for a wheelchair — all simple things that can greatly improve their quality of life.

Some dreams may involve relationships, like seeing a long-lost friend or relative. Beville's program once reunited one man

with his brother after more than 40 years apart. Other residents want to relive past experiences, like returning to their jobs as a nurse or an accountant for a day. Another man wanted to barrel down the highway in a big rig at 120 miles per hour, and, with the help of a trucking company and the police, he did just that.

The program links volunteers, Second Wind Dreams, the dreamer and the elder care facility. Residents are interviewed, and all the parties collaborate to turn their dreams into reality. The benefits of this program are immense; most residents in nursing homes — 80 percent in fact — receive no visitors at all every year. Residents who are involved in programs like Second Wind Dreams frequently show signs of improvement, both mentally and physically, and staff morale frequently improves as a result.

One resident, Saul, was angry and depressed at his isolation in a nursing home. Second Wind Dreams ended up getting him "adopted" by a congregation who brought him to services every week. His condition dramatically improved, and he

was able to get off of his anti-depressant medication and actually became an activity leader at the synagogue.

Whether dreams are grand, like swimming with the dolphins, or small, like having cold watermelons for lunch, Beville warns, "Don't judge the value of a dream," she said, "it's up to the dreamer."

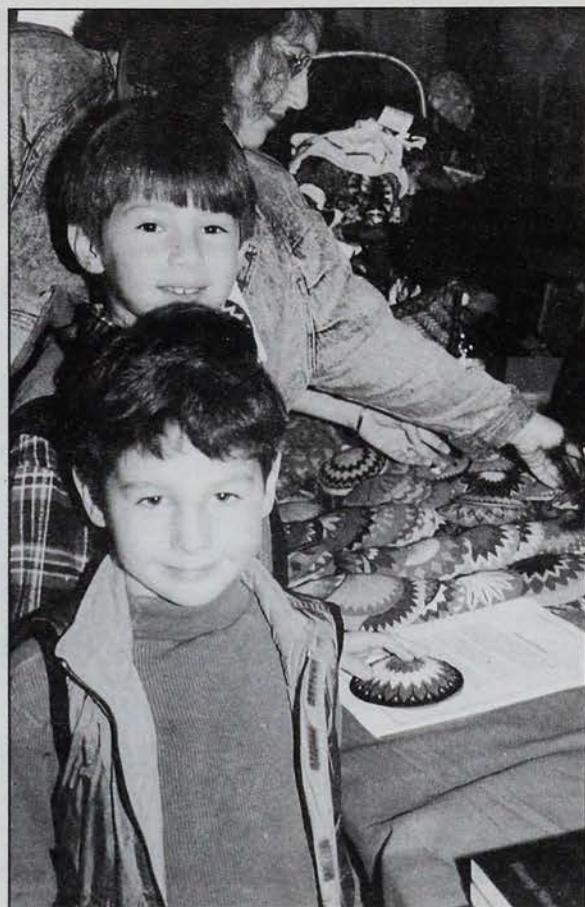
Interested people can call Second Wind Dreams at (678) 624-0500, e-mail them at [swdreams@msn.com](mailto:swdreams@msn.com) or visit [www.secondwind.org](http://www.secondwind.org).

### Project People Foundation

One of the main lessons of the Mitzvah Heroes Conference is that every good deed, no matter how small, can make someone's life better.

South Africa is a country ravaged by AIDS and poverty. Children are often left roaming the streets alone, playing with discarded garbage instead of toys. At times, they managed to acquire dolls, but there was a problem — the dolls were white, with blonde hair and blue eyes. The children were unable to see themselves in the dolls they played with. "What's the message being conveyed to these children?" Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard said.

Chard created the Project People Foundation, which embarked upon a mission to collect 15,000 black dolls for impoverished youths the world over. She called all her friends and family, worked with synagogues, churches, schools and businesses to collect as many dolls as possible. With a little organization and a lot of effort, she got thousands of black dolls of all shapes and sizes. "Bringing joy in a child's life is just as



TWO BOYS STAND next a table with embroidered kippot being sold to benefit families in the developing countries.

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Initially, she enlisted people to bring suitcases full of dolls to countries they were already visiting; now she has made a shift from "charity to commerce." She teaches unemployed women to sew and enlists them in doll-making workshops, and uses the proceeds to help families and their children. Besides dolls, the sewing circles also create kippot, challah covers, stuffed animals

and other items for sale. "This project brings hope, it brings employment," she said. "It gives them pride and self-worth."

Besides helping children in South Africa and other African countries, Chard's work has also found benefactors in Israel. "The Ethiopian children in Israel love these dolls!" she said.

Interested volunteers can contact her at (212) 415-2280 or visit [www.projectpeoplefoundation.org](http://www.projectpeoplefoundation.org).



MITZVAH HEROES PK Beville, left, founder of Second Wind Dreams, and Rev. Linda Tarry-Chard, founder of the Project People Foundation.

*Herald photos by Jon Rubin*

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### Hanukkah by Arthur Szyk, 1948

Photography by Suzanne Kaufman.  
Courtesy of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary



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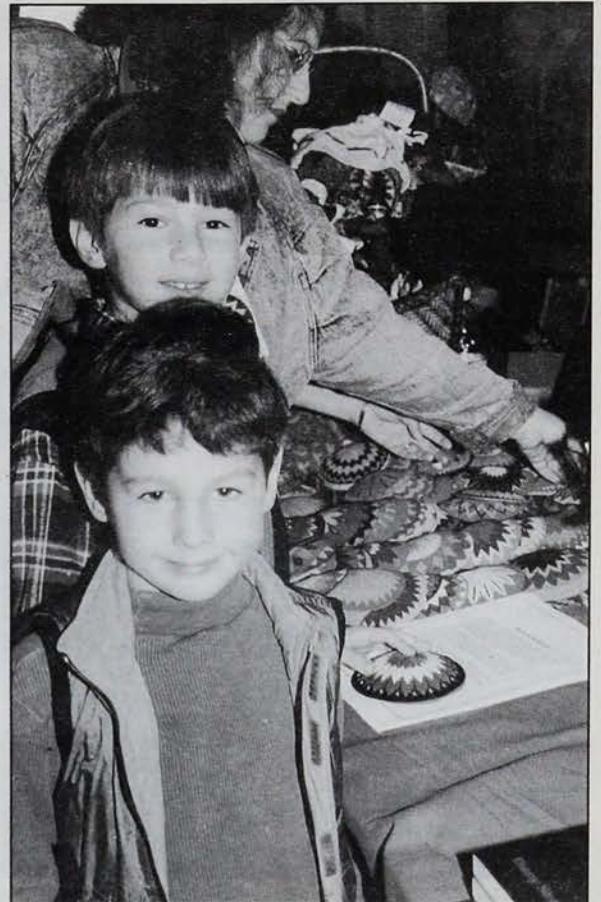
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Photography by Suzanne Kaufman.  
Courtesy of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary



# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## NCJW Holds Prospective Member Meeting

by Jon Rubin  
Herald Editor

Members of the National Council of Jewish Women, Rhode Island section, met at the house of Susan Resnik in Pawtucket. Resnik, who is NCJW's vice president of membership, invited about dozen potential members into her living room.

Eunice Greenfield and Elie Elbaum, NCJW co-presidents, welcomed the group and spoke a little about what the group stands for. "NCJW is different from all organizations — we're all women... we fight for literacy, we fight against domestic violence... and we fight for the legislation to back it up."

Women at the meeting introduced themselves and shared a little bit about what attracted them to the group. Some had



Left to right are Linda Klepter, Judy Robbins and Nan Levine.

Herald photos by Jon Rubin

been invited by members or board members, some had heard good things about the group and were curious, and

others had a mother or family member in the group.

Sue Suls said she was happy to finally check out a meeting, and that she had heard for many years about their efforts, like collecting dishes for new Americans. "I've known about the council for a long time," she said.

Vicki, another prospective member, was looking to expand her commitment to community service. "I thought I should get involved in something more meaningful," she said. Another woman was new in town and wanted to check out adult literacy programs. "I know that everything that is done [by NCJW] is worthwhile," she said.

By meeting's end, many visitors were ready to join and were handing over their dues.

## Terrorist Expert Addresses Afghan War and Its Solution

(Continued from Page 1)

"Afghans hate the Arabs with a passion," he said, adding that the Taliban had attempted to change the national language of Afghanistan to Arabic, which he found to be ridiculous. The Taliban are not the problem, he said. "The Arabs are the problem... The Muslim leadership in all of these countries in not holding up to its responsibilities... They should say that violence is not the way to solve this problem." They are not committed to peace, he said.

Krakowski, who is an Orthodox Jew, found the Afghans went to great lengths to accommodate his religious beliefs. They respected his request not to use telephones or transportation on Shabbat. Some southern Afghan tribes, he said, believe they are one of the legendary lost tribes of Israel, and have

how effective the armed forces have been so far. "I don't think people appreciate it."

In general, he was not particularly confident about the role of the U.N. in the peacemaking process. "The United Nations is totally and thoroughly incapable of putting together a government," he said, and possesses "neither the spiritual weight or the [military] divisions" to do so. He was confident, however, that the people themselves could form a stable government.

"The U.S. needs to be involved... [but] troops aren't necessary, and would in fact be counterproductive." Instead, he felt the U.S. should use its political and economic power to influence hostile surrounding nations behind the scenes. He said that America needs to "convey a serious message to terror-



KRAKOWSKI'S VISIT was the result of a joint effort of Rabbi Aaron Lapin, director of Project Shofar (right) and Rebekah Raz, Community Relations Council director at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Herald photo by Jon Rubin

names similar to Zechariah and other Hebrew names. "They have four holy books — the Torah, the Bible, the Koran and... the Psalms."

Overall, Krakowski found the U.S. military strikes in Afghanistan to be highly commendable. "[They're] superb... first rate." He did not feel that the American public recognized

ists, both in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world. He read a small mission statement of sorts, addressed to the countries that harbor terrorists: "We understand that you have used terrorism [in the past] to meet your needs... This is no longer acceptable. The United States will not stand for it. You [must] get rid of these terrorists. How you do it is your business."



NCJW potential members mingle.

## Celebrate Chanukah With Chabad House of Providence

Chabad House of Providence will be holding a Chanukah Cafe Melave Malka on Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chabad House, 360 Hope Street, Providence. There will be a discussion about Miracles in Modern Medicine by Drs. Micheal Felder and Pinchus Kaplan. Music will be provided by the Rosenfeld and Schuman Duet. There will be hot latkes, hot apple cider and hot holiday spirit.

### Hanukkah Festival

Also at the Chabad House on Dec. 16 at noon there will be a Great Chanukah Festival for the entire family. There will be balloon creations, door prizes, dreidel tournament and refreshments for all. Call 273-7238.

## Open House at Striar JCC December 25

Sample a diversity of experiences at Striar Jewish Community Center's annual Family Open House on Dec. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This popular wintertime event will feature arts and crafts, music, storytelling, and family videos with a Jerusalem theme as well as the free use of the center's newly-renovated Health & Fitness facility, indoor track, full-sized gym, and 25-meter, heated indoor pool. Call (781) 341-2016, ext. 279.

## Reid Flamer Engaged to Pamela Bloom

Martin and Linda Flamer of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Warwick, R.I., announce the engagement of their son, Reid Alan Flamer, to Pamela Michelle Bloom, daughter of Charles and Jerolyn Bloom of Plantation, Fla.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Miami with a master of science degree in biology. Her fiancé is a graduate of Moses Brown School, Emory University and Loyola University School of Law.

The wedding will take place at the Mayfair House, Coconut Grove, Fla., on Feb. 23, 2002. The couple will make their home in the Maryland/DC area.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Rep. Cicilline to Almond: Release Housing Funds

Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-Dist. 4) of Providence and Pawtucket has written to Governor Lincoln Almond, urging him to thaw his ordered freeze on \$5 million included in the state budget for an affordable housing initiative.

"There is virtually no issue that deserves more attention by state and local government than the issue of housing," said Rep. Cicilline in his letter. "We have a responsibility to ensure that every man, woman and child in Rhode Island has a safe and decent place to live. Rhode Island's failure to address our housing crisis continues to be one of our greatest shames."

"In funding this appropriate in the budget over the last fiscal year, the General assembly recognized our responsibility to address this critical issue. Please join us in meeting this challenge," wrote Rep. Cicilline.

"I write to convey my strongest opposition to your proposed elimination of the five million dollar appropriation by the General Assembly in the last fiscal year's budget, for the construction and rehabilitation of safe, decent, and affordable housing. While I recognize the difficulties that current economic conditions and revenue forecasts present, elimination of the Neighborhood Opportunities Program is a grave mistake."

"[Recently], I traveled with Barbara Fields Karlin to tour some of the exciting work of the community development housing programs in Providence. We are indeed making progress in this important area. What was profoundly obvious to me, however, was the enormity of the problem facing our city. I urge you to take the time to visit the neighborhoods of our city and to see first-hand the impact that safe, decent housing has on a neighborhood and the people who live and work in our community."

## Society of Friends of Touro Hires Capital Campaign Director

Michael L. Balaban will direct the multi-million dollar Capital Campaign of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue, National Historic Site, Inc., that is to be launched officially within the next several months, according to SOF president, Andrew W. Teitz.

Balaban brings solid fundraising experience to this position, Teitz said. Balaban most recently was campaign director of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, leading that organization to a six-year record increase at a time when many Jewish Federations were experiencing declines in giving. He has 12 years of fund-raising experience for Jewish organizations in Columbus, Ohio; Los Angeles, Calif.; Newark, Delaware, and with Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization.

A recipient of the Council of Jewish Federation's FEREP Fellowship and of the Tom Bradley Certificate in Multi-Cultural Understanding, Balaban holds masters' degrees in public administration from the University of Southern California and in Jewish communal service from Hebrew Union College. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Delaware.

Balaban lives in Cranston, R.I., with his wife, Lynne, and their two children.

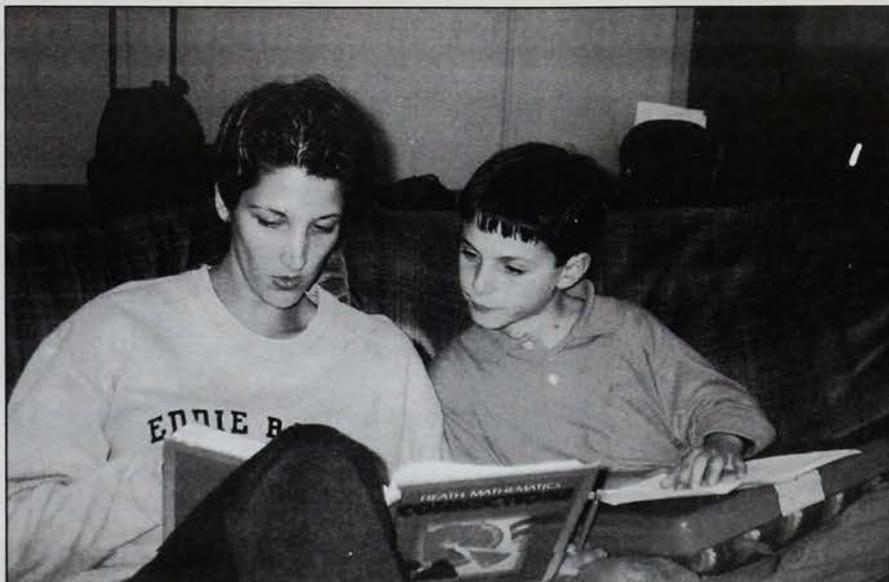
He will direct the national, multi-national dollar campaign

for SOF, a non-sectarian, non-denominational organization founded in 1948 to support the synagogue and to manage and promote its historical and educational programming.

Jane S. Sprague, executive director of SOF, said, "The purpose of this fund drive is to restore Touro Synagogue, which, at nearly 240 years old, is experiencing structural deterioration. The funds raised also will help build a visitor's center that will offer students and tourists a more detailed explanation of the synagogue's importance as a premier symbol of religious liberty in the United States."

Touro Synagogue was made a national historic site by President Harry S. Truman in 1946 because of its importance and because of its outstanding design by colonial architect Peter Harrison. Dedicated in 1763, Touro is the oldest synagogue in the United States and the only one remaining from the colonial era. It has an active congregation of 110 families.

This past October, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Touro signed a co-stewardship agreement that makes Touro a part of the NTHP's collection of 21 historic sites. It is the only sacred architecture in the NTHP collection. Several years ago, NTHP made Touro an official project of its Save America's Treasures program.



## Lightening the (Homework) Load

Pre-Teen Connection Counselor, Keri Harris, lends Luca Tomasi a helping hand with his math during homework time in the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's After School Program.

Photo courtesy of JCCRI

## Wiesenthal Center Condemns MSNBC Media Bias

The Simon Wiesenthal Center has urged MSNBC to accurately describe the Nov. 29 suicide bombing in Northern Israel as an act of terrorism.

"MSNBC is depicting the deadly suicide bombing in Hadera, Israel, as an act of Palestinian 'militants,'" said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Jewish Human Rights organization. "There is no difference between Al Qaeda's suicide attack and those being perpetrated in the Middle East. It is imperative that the media operate on a level playing field — if Mohammed Atta and his 19 associates were terrorists, so was the perpetrator of the Nov. 29 horrific attack on a civilian bus in the Jewish state. The civilized world is currently fighting a war against terrorism and President Bush has emphasized that there must be one standard in combating this war," he added.

The Wiesenthal Center emphasized that in recent months, various media outlets have changed their description of Middle East terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad from the State Department's terrorists designation to militants and/or activists. "This inappropriate move, in effect, signals Middle East terrorists that their murderous deeds are evaluated by a different standard that are being applied to Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network. This is unacceptable," Rabbi Cooper concluded.

## Social Seniors of Warwick to Hold Meeting

On Dec. 12 the Social Seniors of Warwick will meet at Temple Am David at 1 p.m. Following the meeting there will be bingo.

On Dec. 18 our holiday party will be held at West Valley Inn at 11:30 a.m. in the Puccini Room. For any information, call Tillie Orleck or Anne Margolis.

## Chabad Chanukah Party at Warwick Mall

Join the largest family and friends Chanukah celebration in Rhode Island at the center of the Warwick Mall on Dec. 9 at 4 p.m.

Starting at 3:30 p.m. there will be Jewish music by Stan Freedman's band; Chanukah gift shop, clearance sale up to 50 percent off; children's craft project — create a clay dreidel.

At 4 p.m., there will be words of greeting by local dignitaries, Chanukah songs by Am David Hebrew School, and a Magic, Balloon & Music Show by Michael the Balloon Animal.

There will also be a menorah lighting, hot latkes, free dreidels, and Chanukah gelt.

For more information or to acquire your own menorah, call 732-6559. Sponsored by the Chabad CHAI Center of West Bay, Warwick.

## December 25th Open House and Dinner at The JCCRI

On a day when many are looking for something to do and some place to go, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will open its doors to the community on Dec. 25. That's right, there will be a lot going on at the center. All center fitness and recreational facilities will be available from 7:30 to 5 p.m. Not a member? Not a problem... non-members are encouraged to visit and take advantage of the day.

A tentative schedule for the day includes:

- Aerobics class — 9 a.m.
- Pilates class — 10:15 a.m.
- Swimming — Adult swim 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; open swim 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Basketball in the gym
- Racquetball — call ahead to reserve your time!
- Children's crafts
- Afternoon movies for adults and children
- And more will be added

Don't worry about dinner — the center has thought of that, too! Kosher Chinese Comes to Providence! At 5 p.m. join the center family and bring your friends for a delicious Chinese kosher dinner catered by Prima Kosher and will include a number of Chinese specialties such as egg rolls, beef chow mein, and vegetable delight. Reservations are required due to limited seating. The charge for the dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3 to 11 and free for children 2 and under. Reservations are required by Dec. 18.

To make a reservation for the kosher Chinese dinner, or for more information on the day's activities, call the center at 861-8800.



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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Why Are Adults Aurally Deprived on Hanukkah?

by Charles Davidson

All over the world as the Festival of Lights approaches, kids and parents alike gleefully sing a hodgepodge of holiday tunes culled mostly from Yiddish folk melodies. Though educational and certainly entertaining, their musical sophistication matches that of the 4- to 10-year-old set. Lyrics describe dreidels made of clay that tire and drop, invitations to light candles that will flicker in a row and the flour needed to prepare soufganiyot (donuts) and latkes (potato pancakes) — traditional holiday fare. Songs from Israel depict the holiday as a time to plant vineyards, build houses and pave roads. Some pieces speak to the issue of freedom from tyranny, and there are even arrangements for the liturgical text "Al Hanissim." But there is a serious dearth of music written for adults focusing on the less superficial aspects of the holiday.

Only a few musical pieces fit the bill. The oratorio "Judas Maccabaeus" by George Frederick Handel written in 1747 can be savored in its entirety or in sections ("See the Conquering Hero Comes," or "Hallelujah, Amen"). In 1919, American com-

poser Abraham Wolf Binder wrote "Judas Maccabee." And we reach back to 1821 for the only other major work on Hanukkah, "Yehudah Makkabie," an oratorio in Hebrew and German by M.H. Miro.

There are some good CDs available for adult Hanukkah enthusiasts, including "Lights," by the Zamir Chorale of Boston and "The Chanukkah Story" by Western Wind. Both are artfully arranged and performed with an enthralling depth of musicality. But it would be providential if contemporary Jewish composers could find significant inspiration in the story to remedy the situation. Maybe an antiphonal piece on the civil war between the Maccabees and the Jewish Hellenists; perhaps a work highlighting the values and struggles of being Jewish in a non-Jewish world; or what of a composition emphasizing the rabbinical insistence on miracles as the essential theme of Hanukkah.

Until that music exists, let us wish one another a joyous and freilikh Hanukkah, in any key.

Cantor Charles Davidson is Nathan Cummings Professor of Liturgy and Hazzanut at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

## From Chef Dvorah Buhr's Hanukkah Kitchen

### Rootkes (An alternative to potato latkes)

#### Ingredients:

- 1 grated potato
- 1 small grated sweet potato
- 1 grated medium beet (grate separately and rinse several times until water is clear)
- 1 small chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup matzoh meal
- 2 eggs
- Salt and coarse pepper to taste

Drain vegetables well and keep beets separate until end. Mix together all ingredients. Add beets at very end, just before frying. Do not over stir. Fry in hot oil until crispy. If you make them ahead, reheat in a hot oven (375 degrees) for 8 to 10 minutes or until crispy. Serve with spicy sour cream.

### Spicy Sour Cream

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 minced garlic clove
- 1 Tbsp. chopped chives
- 1 Tbsp. chopped basil
- 1 Tbsp. chopped sage
- Salt and coarse pepper to taste
- Pinch cayenne pepper

Mix all ingredients together. Feel free to vary the choice of herbs; use fresh, not dried.

### Soufganiyot Pudding

#### (What to do with those leftover jelly donuts)

- Ingredients
- 3 cups cubed day-old soufganiyot (jelly donuts)
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup pineapple, apricot or other juice
- 3/4 cup chopped dates
- 3 eggs

## Beth Sholom to Honor Professor Alan Zuckerman on December 16

Congregation Beth Sholom, Providence, R.I., will honor Professor Alan S. Zuckerman at its Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 16.

Roberta and Alan Zuckerman came to Providence in July 1970. Both hail from Brooklyn, N.Y. They studied at the Yeshiva University High Schools and Brooklyn College and met for the first time at a dance held at the Young Israel of Flatbush. They married during their last year at Brooklyn College, Roberta earning a BA in sociology and Alan earning one in political science.

Alan has advanced degrees in politics (MA and Ph.D.) from Princeton University. He came to Brown as an instructor and proceeded through the ranks, becoming a full professor of political science in 1983. Professor Zuckerman has received several professional awards, including twice serving as a Fulbright Professor, Tel-Aviv University (1985-1986) and the University of Pisa (1991).

He has also been a visiting professor at Tel-Aviv University on two other occasions as well as a Visiting Professor at the University of Florence, University of Essex, and Stanford University. He is the author and co-author of *The Politics of Faction*, *The Transformation of the Jews*, *Doing Political Science*, and *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* as well as articles that have appeared in journals in the United States, Britain, Israel, Italy, and Austria.

His wife, Roberta, has been a financial services professional for more than 21 years, assisting people in their insurance and investment planning. She is a Chartered Life Underwriter and a Registered Investment Advisor. They have three children, Gregory, Ezra, and Shara.

The Zuckermans joined Congregation Beth Sholom more than 20 years ago. Alan has been a member of the board, vice president, chair of the Rabbinical Search Committee, and president (1997 to

2000). He has also served other agencies of the Jewish community, including vice president and chair of the education committee at the Providence Hebrew Day School/New En-

The dinner management committee consists of Tess Hassenfeld, Sharon Groh Mintz, Bess Nochomowitz, Donne Nochomowitz, Ina Schlessinger, Gus Schlessinger, Ann Schwartz



Roberta and Alan Zuckerman

gland Academy of Torah, and member of the Bureau of Jewish Education and the editorial board of the *Jewish Voice*.

The Awards Dinner honoring Professor Zuckerman will take place at Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St. (corner Rochambeau Avenue), Providence, on Dec. 16. Cocktails will be served at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

and Chaye Silverman.

Members of the Telephone Squad are Brenda Abramovich, Ruth Elul, Frieda Gelbtuch, Selma Fishbein, Hella Flescher, Barbara Klein, Esther Yavner and Herbie Schwartz. Judith Rosenstein handled special arrangements.

For information on seating, reservation of tables, tickets and ads, call the synagogue office at 621-9393.

## Agudath Achim to Hold Auction

A Goods and Services Auction in support of Congregation Agudath Achim in Taunton, Mass. will be held on Dec. 8.

A silent auction will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., auctioning will begin at 8:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Jewish Community House, 133 High St., Taunton, Mass.

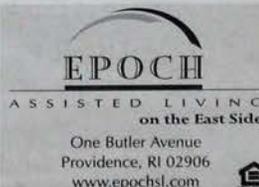
Select items include: A two-night stay on Martha's Vineyard, Red Sox tickets, Celtics tickets, front row Bruins tickets, Restaurant gift certificates and Celtics tickets. Call (508) 822-3230.

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## PHDS Holds Jewish Book Fair

Each year the Parents, Teachers and Friends of the Providence Hebrew Day School sponsors a Jewish Book Fair. The fair includes a wide variety of children's and adult books, educational toys and software, and Chanukah gift items. The entire fair is organized and staffed by parent volunteers who hold this and other fund-raisers for the school. The funds raised are used to purchase enrichment items for the students and teachers. An added treat for the final evening of the book fair was a kosher pizza night, which always attracts many parents and community members. Photo courtesy of PHDS

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## A Tour Through The Holy Temple

*An Interactive, Intergenerational, Communitywide Exhibit in Mass.*

Shaloh House in Stoughton invites everyone from the Southern New England Jewish community to experience something unique this holiday season. People of all ages, religions and interests will marvel at the Holy Temple — An Intergenerational, Interactive, Communitywide Exhibit at the Village Shoppes at Cobb Corner in Canton, Mass., from Dec. 9 through Dec. 17. The focus of the exhibit will be a large-scale model of the Beis Hamikdash, the Holy Temple, prior to its destruction. Surrounding the exhibit will be crafts and hands-on displays for adults and children that will further enhance the understanding of the Temple, Israel and Jewish customs and traditions.

The week is filled with special events, programs and lectures. Sundays are family days from noon to 7 p.m. On Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Zalman Gurkow will give an adult only lecture on the structure of the

Temple, and on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Mendel Gurkow will lecture on a day in the life at the Holy Temple. People are invited to participate at both lectures for one admission fee. December 12 is Senior Citizen morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Seniors are admitted for a discounted rate and will participate in a discussion about the Temple as well as the interactive exhibits. The Shaloh House Girls Youth Group is having a special Saturday evening event at the exhibit from 6 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 10.

Once again, Shaloh House is reaching out to the community to educate and entertain. In September, they sponsored the South Shore Jewish Music Festival that was attended by approximately 6,000 people from all ages, religious backgrounds and geographical areas. Last year, Shaloh House sponsored the Jewish Family Expo at the Village Shoppes, enjoyed by school groups, Hebrew schools and the

public, more than 500 people were there for the three-day event. The tour through The Holy Temple should not be missed!

This event is made possible by the generous contribution of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies Synagogue Program Fund, Polychem USA, Lappen's Auto Parts, Dr. Boris Balson, Foxboro Eye Care Center, Rentals Unlimited, Dame Associates, Albert Judaic Library, and First Choice Armor.

Admission to the event is \$5 for children and seniors, \$6 for adults, and children under 3 are free. All arts and crafts, exhibits and materials are included with the price of admission. Group rates and times are available. Handicapped accessible. Hours: Sundays, noon to 7 p.m.; Monday through Thursday, 2 to 7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Saturday. For more information, contact Shaloh House at (781) 344-6334 or toll free (866) 2-Shaloh or link to our Web site at <www.ShalomBoston.com>.

## Village Retirement Communities Names Jenny Miller as Director

Village Retirement Communities announced the appointment of Jenny Miller of Warwick, R.I., as community relations director of their three Rhode Island communities: The Village at Waterman Lake in Greenville, The Village at Elmhurst in Providence and the Village at Hillsgrove in Warwick. Miller will be responsible for maintaining relationships with area professionals and other community members, as well as familiarizing the public with the Village's lifestyle options for older adults. Miller will also coordinate the use of Village Function Rooms by community professionals, a free service The Village provides in support of local businesses and organizations. Prior to her new position, Miller was activity director at The Village at Hillsgrove in Warwick, R.I.

Village Retirement Communities, founded in 190, is a leading New England provider of

catered retirement lifestyles for older adults, including catered retirement living, catered assisted living, and assisted living for people with Alzheimer's. Headquartered in Greenville, R.I., the company owns and operates residences in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.



Jenny Miller

## Rhode Island's Sidney S. Braman, M.D., Named President of the ACCP

Sidney S. Braman, M.D., FCCP was inaugurated as president of the American College of Chest Physicians at convocation ceremonies recently held in Philadelphia. The ceremony was attended by more than 700 new fellows of the college, physicians, family and friends. The college, dedicated to the improvement of cardiopulmonary health, has nearly 15,000 members internationally who specialize in various multi-disciplinary areas of chest medicine.

Braman is chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Rhode Island Hospital and Brown Medical School and professor of medicine at Brown University. His research and scholarly interests are primarily related to COPD and asthma

and the investigation of new approaches to the treatment of airway disease and acute and



Sidney S. Braman, M.D.

chronic respiratory failure. As an active fellow of the ACCP, Braman has served the college as governor for Rhode Island, and chair of the Council of Governors; a member of the executive committee of the Board of Regents; reviewer for *Chest*, the journal of the ACCP, and an editorial board member.

According to Braman, "My plan during this coming year is to reach out and partner with other clinically related national and international organizations to foster patient related initiatives in the treatment of COPD, asthma, and smoking cessation especially in women and young girls. I also will work to see that the guidelines developed by the World Health Organization on COPD are broadly disseminated. These guidelines are focused on early detection and improvement in patient outcomes in the treatment of COPD."

## Redwood Lodge No. 35 Makes Charitable Commitments

At the start of his term of office, the Master of Redwood Masonic Lodge No. 35 Worshipful James D. Hodges committed the lodge to help at Feinstein Community Kitchen at St. Martha's Church, East Providence, R.I. The master and his immediate suite of officers, including Senior Warden Simon Richardson, Junior Warden Frank Duffin and the Junior officers, along with many past masters and brothers of the lodge, will attend the servings and help in the cooking, serving and setting up. They will continue to help out for the noontime sittings on three Sundays in the coming months as the brothers have done for the previous four years. In addition, the lodge has been involved in a clothing and paper goods drive to help the needy. In the past years Redwood Lodge members have served more than 100 people in these drives.

It has been a very satisfying experience for those members who have contributed monetarily as well as physically in fulfilling these commitments.

Guest speakers at our December meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Goben, who are directors of the Feinstein Community Kitchen, and the Pastor of St. Martha's Church explaining the purpose and the contributions that Redwood has made. Redwood Lodge is pleased that we can contribute in the area where we meet, at Grand Lodge Freemasons Hall, 222 Taunton Ave., East Providence.

The J Connection invites you to  
**The J Ball Party**  
 Win a trip to Club Getaway  
 All guests get a free membership

Tired of the same old smoky techno crew!  
**Monday, December 24**  
 Starting at 8:00PM  
 Advance tickets \$20  
 \$25 at the door

Your Hosts:  
 Zvi, Eric Rievo, Carla Miller, Rob Belinky, Jill Yanoosky, Jennifer Brenner, Richard Suss, Steve Marder, Shira Gril.

Alex Pezeman, Jennifer Ellison, Jeff Popkin, Sara Berkowitz, Audrey Winter, Rachel Glazer, Randi Konikoff...

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**S.C. Hebrew School Hanukkah Party to be Held December 16**

South County Hebrew School will be holding a Hanukkah Party at Narragansett Elementary School (Mumford Road) on Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Come celebrate Hanukkah by singing songs, making Hanukkah crafts, lighting your menorah (please bring a family menorah) and enjoying a wonderful Hanukkah brunch.

For more information, call Beverly at 789-8298.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

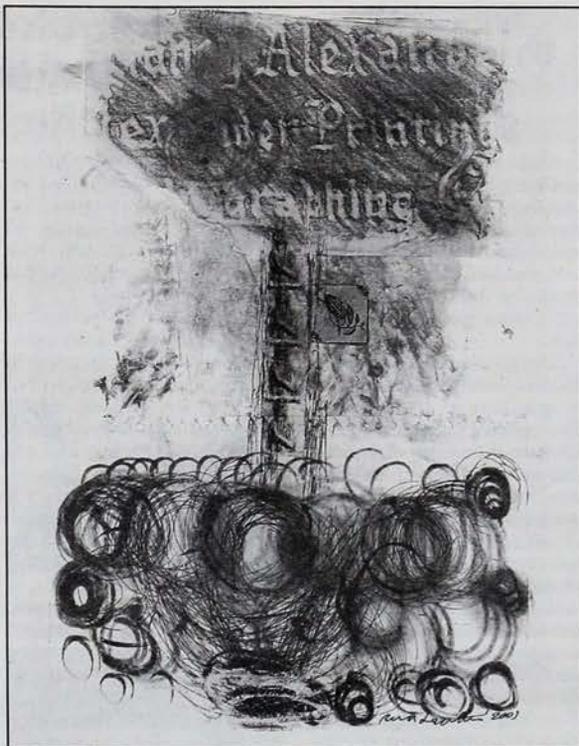
## 'Special Times'

by Riva Leviten

A fast and furious spinning this Chanukah season, dreidel spins, head spins as old stories are retold knitting codes to others as messages. life is reviewed, we spin back in time remembering — Delicious Times, dinner table meals, rituals, specifics of time, simple times the special times as children, the special form of play we can't do as we get older. Current events take us back, we think back to a time when we were free.

Forgotten and older people may say "I don't remember the incident, but thank you for coming today." Look to care for our elders so we won't fear the passages of life, in traveling from the early years to the later years.

Hard to keep stable sometimes, We don't always know what's going to happen, but we need to stretch ourselves expand ourselves We are spinning to reach an altered state



Riva Leviten is currently enjoying her "golden years" as an artist. Extremely prolific, she has appeared in dozens of shows and has been showcasing her work in Rhode Island for more than 30 years. Riva will be participating in a nationwide traveling collage show in 2002. She will also be showcasing her exhibit "The Face of Hunger and Poverty" at the Gallery of Social and Political Art on Boylston Street in Boston next February. Call (617) 244-5581.

## 'Israeli Breakfast' at Sons of Jacob

by Harold Silverman

I read with interest your article in the Nov. 1 edition of the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald*, "Strangers in a Strange Land." The article concerned a group of students at Johnson and Wales who recently arrived here from Israel.

Congregation Sons of Jacob, 24 Douglas Avenue, Providence, decided to invite the students to pray and eat breakfast at our shul on Nov. 22. We gave the students a tour of our historic synagogue and taught them a little bit about its past, and introduced them to a few friends.

Harold Silverman is president of Congregation Sons of Jacob.



MEMBERS OF Congregation Sons of Jacob sit with Israeli students for some breakfast.



WE GATHERED everyone inside our main sanctuary for one last photo. Photos courtesy of Sons of Jacob Synagogue

## Perspectives Events For December 2001

**December 15 — Chanukah Party.** This Chanukah party is like no other! Come eat latkes and assorted holiday foods, make Chanukah cards, sing songs, make and play with dreidles. What more could you want? We're going to start with havdalah at 7 p.m. at 106 Angell St. and then Chanukah it all night long. Cost is only \$5 at the door. For more information, call Nora at 331-4732.

**December 20 — Pete and Repeat...** were on a boat. Pete fell off, who's left? OK! We'll do the event again. The third Thursday is going to be at Steam Alley Pub, 520 South Water St. We're meeting at 8 p.m. For more information, call Toby at 433-4554.

**December 24 — Dinner and a Movie.** O.K. It's Christmas Eve, what else are you going to do? Well, maybe Perspectives can help! We're going to the Providence Place Mall to grab a meal and a flick. We'll be meeting in the food court at 6:30 p.m. If you're wondering how to know who's part of the group, just look for the *only* people in the food court. For more info, call Jessica at 464-8807.

**December 27 — Last Parasha of the Month.** Dust off your Humash and get your kippot out of the closet — it's that time of the month again. We're getting together to study Torah. If you ever wondered "What exactly did that part about the lightning and destruction mean?" then this is the place for you. We'll be reading Vayechi. The interesting point: There is no rabbi. We are all laypeople trying to make sense of the text. We'll meet at 106 Angell at 7:30 p.m. to eat and discuss. For more information, call Brett at 273-5372.

The Mission of Perspectives is to provide a social outlet and a resource for Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s and to offer a connection to the greater Rhode Island Jewish Community. Perspectives is a project of the Brown-RISD and URI Hillel Foundations and is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

## Hadassah Executive Elected to National Council of Women's Organizations

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, announces the election of National Executive Director Ellen Marson to the steering committee of the National Council of Women's Organizations. Marson is the national executive director of Hadassah, the country's largest women's, largest Jewish and largest Zionist organization. She will assume a three-year term with the NCWO.

"Women's health, women's role in grassroots political activities and other educational, family and advocacy issues are central to both Hadassah's mission and that of the NCWO," comments Marson. "Since Hadassah has long been involved with the NCWO but has never been represented on the steering committee, I am thrilled to be taking this next step on behalf of Hadassah. This is an exciting collaboration that bodes well for the future of all women."

The National Council of Women's Organization is a bipartisan network of more than 100 women's not-for-profit organizations, which together represent more than 6 million members. NCWO organizations

work in collaboration to advocate change on many issues of importance to women. Service on the steering committee, with its eight members and a chair, is limited to organization presidents and chief executives.

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**Chanukah Celebration**  
In Rhode Island  
**At the Warwick Mall**  
At the Center of the Mall  
**Sunday Dec. 9**  
**4:00 p.m.**



**3:30 pm**

Jewish music by  
Stan Freedman's band

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Born Family Skating Center Announces 2nd Annual Opening Activities

Start lacing up those skates! The Newport Yachting Center announces that the Born Family Skating Center will enjoy its second annual opening activities on Dec. 7, 8 and 9. To help celebrate the opening of the outdoor rink, located on the Newport Yachting Center's grounds adjacent to America's Cup Avenue and the Newport Bay Club, the Yachting Center has planned two fun-filled weekends for the general public.

The Born Family Skating Center, featuring a 90' x 100' skating surface large enough to

accommodate up to 150 skaters at a time, is open seven days a week until the end of March for skating sessions at 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 3 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A lunch time skate session is available on non-holiday weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults have the rink to themselves on Friday and Saturday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.



accommodate up to 150 skaters at a time, is open seven days a week until the end of March for skating sessions at 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 3 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A lunch time skate session is available on non-holiday weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults have the rink to themselves on Friday and Saturday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Daily public skating, private party engagements and skating lessons are some of the many activities that are back by popu-

lar demand. The Learn to Skate Program for children and adults at the beginner, novice and intermediate levels begins Dec. 1. Adults and children can take part in either of two six-week programs to learn to skate or to improve acquired skills. Kids have to be at least 4 to join in. Skate rentals, food and beverages, lighting for night skating, lockers and public access spaces for viewing are also featured at the skating center.

Admission will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children between 3 to 11 years of

age and free for children under 3. Skate rentals will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children between the ages of 3 to 11 and \$3 for children under 3. If you bring an empty Mrs. "Ts" Pierogies package to the rink you will receive a \$1 admission discount for any skating session.

For more information about the Born Family Skating Center and the opening weekend activities, call 846-1600. For reservations, call 846-3018. You can also find out more about it at <www.skatenewport.com>.

## Brown Fall Dance Concert a Student Showcase

The Brown Dance Ensemble's Fall Concert will be presented by the Brown University department of theater, speech and dance on Dec. 6 to 9 at 8 p.m. in the Ashamu Dance Studio in the Catherine Bryan Dill Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert is a collection of 11 new works by student choreographers in the ensemble. The choreographers are Scott Franco, Lynnette Freeman, Deborah Friedes, Alison Friedman, Lauren Hale, Tisola Logan, Audrey McIntyre, RCJ Dance (Ryan Smith, Courtney Rowe, Jonathan Martin), and Andros Zins-Browne.

Ticket price is \$5 general admission. Phone reservations are accepted with Visa/Mastercard. Box office hours are Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the evening of performance. For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.

## Athenaeum Hosts Local Author Allen Kurzweil

The Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit St. (corner of College and Benefit streets) hosts a reading on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. with Allen Kurzweil, author of the newly published *The Grand Complication*. This event continues a series that included authors David Kertzer and Peter Kramer. The program is free and open to the public.

Kurzweil has won various awards, including fellowships from the Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and also the Guggenheim Foundation. He is currently a fellow at Brown University's John Nicholas Brown Center.

Kurzweil is married to the anthropologist Françoise Dussart and they have a 7-year-old son. His previous novel, *A Case of Curiosities*, an international bestseller, was published in 1992 to great critical acclaim.

*The Grand Complication* is a stunning and suspenseful intellectual novel that is narrated by Alexander Short, a stylish young reference librarian of arcane interests. A delicious compendium of quirky colleagues, erotic pop-up books, deviant passions, and miraculous examples of theft, the book is a grand and complicated "time-piece" told with a devilish sense of fun.

## Brownbrokers Presents 'Straight Man'

"Straight Man," an original student-written musical, will be presented by the Brownbrokers of Brown University Theatre, Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 6 through 9 in Stuart Theatre. All performances are at 8 p.m., with the exception of Dec. 9, which is a 3 p.m. matinee only.

"Straight Man" is the story of young and sexy Hollywood types searching for meaning in a complex post-modern world; one in which the place of the musical is not always certain. Mickey writes the music for "Alive For Some Time Now," a daytime soap opera. Trevor is a career auditioner by day and the manager of L.A.'s hippest bar by night. The living room of their West Hollywood apartment conjures images of a sitcom; emotional honesty is replaced by self-conscious humor. The two met in New York, and since then Mickey has had deep romantic feelings for Trevor, who is straight. Mickey longs for a time and a place where, in his mind, he and Trevor "had" each other. His confusion and frustration have culminated in a creative pursuit — he is writing a musical about Trevor.

Life becomes complicated when Katherine, an up and coming "indie" actress, moves in next door. Her success forces Trevor to confront his own failure. Their romance forces Mickey to address in his show what he won't in his life. Trevor and Katherine must evaluate where they are in relation to each other and to the world

around them; they struggle to reinvest the "types" they seem destined to inherit. "Straight Man: A Musical" follows these characters to where they are instead of where they think they should be, and challenges the audience to ask the question: how to we want our stories told?

Under the direction of Rebecca Melsky, the cast includes Jeb Havens, Lance Rubin, Rebecca Miller, Jessie Austrian, Carmen Gill, Adam Green, Andrew McClain, Bryant Romo, Todd Goldstein, Sonia Aneja, Emma Boroson, Spencer Collins, Carin Cymanski, Naomi Gingold, Jennifer Johnson, Julie Ostrov, Lealah Pollock, Jason Siegel. The stage manager is James Egelhofer with set design by Laura Jellinek, costume design by Jillian Waid, lighting design by Joseph Blodgett, sound design by Sam Kusnetz and technical direction is by Dov Lebowitz-Nowak.

Tickets are available at the Leeds Theatre box office, 77 Waterman St., Providence. Ticket prices are \$14 general admission, \$10 for senior citizens (65 and over), and Brown faculty/staff, and \$5 for students. Phone reservations are accepted with Visa/Mastercard. Box office hours are Tuesday through Friday noon to 5 p.m. and one hour before curtain on the evenings of performance. For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.

## Paintings by David McGee at RISD

"15 Minutes: The Ballad of Then and Now" by David Wayne McGee connects those of us living in the fast-moving, ever-changing present with those of a distant, static, and resolved past. McGee has replaced a number of portraits in the museum's permanent collection galleries with his paintings of people made during a residency at the Olneyville Branch of the Providence Public Library. Through this simple conceptual action he asks us to consider the meaning of identity, mortality, time, and legacy. The paintings are on view through March 3, 2002.

The RISD Museum is located at 224 Benefit St., Providence. Call 455-8113 for more information.



## Cranston Public Library Announces Events

American Pharaoh Film Works presents "YABO Images of Pride," an art exhibit from now through Dec. 31 at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road. The late YABO specialized in the portrayal of African-American heritage and history. Originally from Hope, Arkansas, and a long-time resident of Santa Monica, Calif., Albert "YABO" Stewart retired to Rhode Island.

The East Greenwich Art Club will hold an exhibit of mixed media works at the Cranston Public Library, from now through Dec. 28. An opening reception will be held Dec. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

The Providence Brigade Band will present a lecture, musical performance, and will have artifacts on display from the mid-19th century brass band movement. The presentation will be Dec. 4 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Cranston Public Library. The program is free and is sponsored by the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities. Call 943-9080 for more information.

## ACT's 'Oliver' to Help Women's Center

Here's a Dickens tale with a twist — Oliver Twist, that is! All Children's Theatre presents "Oliver!" at Vartan Gregorian School Theatre, 455 Wickenden St., Providence. (Theater entrance is on East Street and parking is available.) Show times are Dec. 7-8, 14-15 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 9 and 16 at 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 for children and \$12 for adult. It is recommended for ages 5 to adult.

A poor orphan boy searches for love and food as he adventures from a London workhouse to the streets and alleys of 19th-century London and winds up at the home of a wealthy benefactor. Favorite songs from this hit musical include "Food, Glorious Food, Where Is Love?," "Consider Yourself," "You've Got to Pick a Pocket," and more. The collaboration of Wrenn Goodrum, ACT's artistic director, and Judith Lynn Stillman, internationally acclaimed musician, will make this a heartwarming, holiday must-see for the entire family.

Bring a donation for the Women's Center to any performance of "Oliver" and become eligible to enter ACT's Family Four-pack Raffle! The winner will receive free admission for a family of four to a spring 2002 performance of their choice. Suggested items welcomed by the Women's Center are: all sizes of disposable diapers (especially infants), deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, moisturizing lotions and mouthwash. If Oliver's mother received this support the story might never have been written.

Reservations are strongly recommended. Call 435-5300 or e-mail: <ACTinRI@aol.com>

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## A Guide to The Arab-Israeli Conflict

by Mitchell G. Bard

For years people have been asking for a resource that provides concise, factual information on the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. AICE announces the publication of a new book that fills this desperate need: *Myths & Facts — A Guide to The Arab-Israeli Conflict*. This 464-page guide contains 26 chapters covering everything from Israel's roots to each of the wars to the "al-Aksa intifada."

"Too many people are unfamiliar with the basic history of the conflict or simply don't have concise, fact-based replies to falsehoods propagated about Middle East issues," said author Dr. Mitchell Bard, executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. "I want to arm students of all ages with the information they need to understand and critique what they hear and see in the press, on campuses, and in their communities."

In addition to discussions of the historical issues and current events, the book has a collection of maps and key documents, such as the Oslo agreements and the peace treaties Israel signed with Israel and Jordan. The facts are footnoted and a wide variety of sources have been consulted, from Arabic, Hebrew and English newspapers to scholarly journals and books.

**If you have an event you would like featured on our Arts & Entertainment Page, please send it to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 0294, fax to 726-5820 or e-mail rijewishherald@hotmail.com**

## MYTHS and FACTS

*A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*  
by Mitchell G. Bard • Foreword by Eli E. Hertz



American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

As AICE's chairman, Eli E. Hertz, writes in the foreword, we recognize that Israel is not perfect and *Myths and Facts* is not meant to defend every action or mistake committed in Israeli history. The goal is to put issues into perspective and to explain the complex issues involved in the conflict. "The

truth may not always win," Hertz writes, "but it is always right."

The book will soon be available in major bookstores and can be ordered online through AICE's Jewish Virtual Library <[www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org](http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org)>. The retail price is \$9.95 with discounts available for volume purchases and non-profit institutions.

## First-Ever Display of Hanukkah at New York Met

Exhibition to stand until January 6, 2002

The Metropolitan Museum of Art will present for the first time an elaborately decorated 18th-century menorah — one of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith — to celebrate this year's holiday season. Dating to about 1771, the candelabrum is large in size, over 60 feet tall and 40 feet wide, and rich in ornament, indicating that it was intended for use in a synagogue. An inscription suggests that the synagogue was located in Eastern Europe, probably in Poland.

A special candle-lighting ceremony will take place on Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. The menorah has been lent by the Michael and Judy Steinhardt Collection.

The menorah is a special candleholder used by Jews in rites during the eight-day festival of Hanukkah, an ancient holiday commemorating the triumph of the Jews, under Judas Maccabeus, over Greek rule in 164 B.C.E., and celebrating Maccabeus's re-dedication of the defiled Holy Temple. Beginning the 25th of the Hebrew month of Kislev (usually in December), the central feature of Hanukkah is the lighting of candles each evening, one on the first night, two on the second, and so on.

Though the military victory of Maccabeus is more emphasized today, the distinctive ceremony of lighting the menorah also recalls the Talmudic legend of how the small supply of non-desecrated oil — just enough for one day — miraculously burned for eight full days in the Temple until new oil could be obtained.

The menorah has eight receptacles for oil/candles and a further receptacle for the center light (the "shamas") used for kindling the other lights.

The installation is organized by Clare Vincent, associate curator of the department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts. Installation design is by Michael Langley, exhibition designer.



## Second-Career Rabbis and Cantors Featured in New JTS Documentary

Slated for nationwide broadcast on ABC-TV starting January 13

Jewish baby-boomers entering their collective mid-life are finding that spirituality and religion have gained greater prominence in their daily lives. For many, this has meant attending shul more often, for others it involves weekly Torah study or volunteering for a Jewish organization.

For still others, however, the realization that their work and Judaism can no longer exist in separate worlds has sparked a clarion call. These men and women have found themselves turning away from successful careers in the secular world to enter an entirely new profes-

sional setting — one that requires a five- to six-year immersion in a religious environment. Rabbinical and cantorial training, they discover, entails much more than rigorous study; it precipitates a wholesale personal transformation. For individuals and their families, the decision to become a rabbi or a cantor in mid-career demands humility, sacrifice and strength of character.

"Faith First: Second Career Clergy," produced by JTS in conjunction with Diva Communications, examines this fascinating, life-altering choice from the perspective of several extraordinary people. From first-year students making the diffi-

cult adjustment to being back in a classroom setting, to pulpit rabbis and cantors who have completed their formal training to bring their years of life experience and maturity to a congregation, this hour-long documentary is both an inspirational look at the personal growth and fulfillment to be gained from a career in the clergy as well as an endorsement of pursuing one's heart's desire later in life.

Scheduled to be broadcast on most ABC affiliate stations across the nation, "Faith First: Second Career Clergy" will begin airing on Jan. 13, 2002. Check local listings and the JTS Web site <[www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu)> for dates and time.

## 'Trembling Before G-d' To Show in Brookline

Opening Dec. 14 at Coolidge Corner, Brookline

"Trembling Before G-d" is an unprecedented feature documentary that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism.

Built around intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma — how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.

As the film unfolds, we meet a range of complex individuals — some hidden, some out — from the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi, to closeted married Hasidic gays and lesbians, to those abandoned by religious families, to Orthodox lesbian high-school sweethearts.



"Trembling Before G-d" will be showing in Brookline Dec. 14.

"Trembling Before G-d" is an international project with global implications that strikes at the meaning of religious identity and tradition in a modern world. For the first time, this issue has become a live, public debate in Orthodox circles. The film is both witness and catalyst to this historic moment. What emerges is a loving and fearless testament to faith and survival and the universal struggle to belong.

"Powerful! A film that should, indeed must, be seen."  
—George Robinson, *Jewish Week*

The film opens Dec. 14 at Coolidge Corner, 290 Harvard Street, Brookline.

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# OBITUARIES

**SYDNEY GRUNBERG CRANSTON** — Sydney Grunberg, 88, of Hollins Drive, owner of the former United Sheet Metal Co. in East Providence before retiring, died Dec. 1 at home.

He was the husband of Harriet (Solotist) Grunberg and the late Hilda (Pritsker) Grunberg. Born in Poland, a son of the late Moses and Dvora (Altenhaus) Grunberg, he moved to Taunton at the age of 5, and had lived in Rhode Island since he was 21.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El and Kulanu. He was a Big Brother with the Big Brothers Association of America.

He was the recipient of the Joseph Warren Medal from the Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts in recognition of his distinguished service to the fraternity, and was an active member of the Watuppa Lodge of Masons, Fall River.

He was past master of Mount Hope Lodge, Somerset, the King David Lodge and the Metacomet Daylight Lodge, both in Taunton. He was a member of the Old Colony Past Masters Association, and served as district deputy grandmaster for the Fall River 30th Masonic District in 1983 and 1984.

He was a member of the Past District Deputy Grand Masters Association of Massachusetts. He was past high priest of the Fall River Chapter and the Illustrious Masters of the Fall River Council. He was a member of the Palestine Shrine Masons of Rhode Island, and a 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Providence. He was a member of the AZAB Grotto and the Order of Eastern Star, as well as many other Masonic organizations. In 1995, he received a 50-year veteran's medal.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Gerald Grunberg of Pikesville, Md., and Howard and Alan Grunberg, both of California; a sister, Rosa Drucker of Newton, Mass.; and three grandchildren and a great-grandson. He was the brother of the late Beatrice Grunberg and

grandfather of the late Samuel Grunberg.

The funeral was held Dec. 4 at the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.

## IRWIN M. KAY

**CRANSTON** — Irwin M. Kay, 70, of Sheffield Road, died Nov. 25 at Briarcliffe Manor, Johnston.

He was the husband of Adele (Finberg) Kay. Born in Providence, the son of the late Murray and Mirrel (Resh) Kay, he had lived in Cranston for 43 years.

He had been the treasurer of Wel-Made Mfg. Co. of Providence for many years, and later had owned Mr. Donut shops in Woonsocket and Dedham, Mass., before retiring.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Paul Kay of Cranston; a daughter, Lisa Goncalves of Naples, Italy; and a grandson. He was the brother of the late Sheila M. Kay.

Funeral services were held Nov. 28 in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Parkinson Disease Association, 825 Chalkstone Ave., Providence, R.I. 02908. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

## IRVING H. LEVINE

**DELRAY BEACH, Fla.** — Irving H. Levine, 82, of East Spring Harbor Drive, formerly of Cranston, retired owner of the former Roberts Paper Co., died Dec. 1 at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Pembroke Pines, Fla.

He was the husband of Roslyn (Roberts) Levine. Born in Providence, a son of the late Leo and Bella (Rappaport) Levine, he had lived in Delray

Beach for 11 years, previously living in Warwick and Cranston.

He was the owner of the former Roberts Paper Co. for 35 years, retiring 11 years ago.

He was a past president of Temple Torat Yisrael and a member of its Men's Club. He was a board member of Temple Torah in Boynton Beach, Fla., and a member of its Men's Club. He was a member of Touro Fraternal Association, the Leonard Bloom Post 284 of the Jewish War Veterans, and the Overseas Lodge of the Masons, AF&AM.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in Europe. He attended Bryant College.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Dr. Alan M. Levine of North Bethesda, Md.; a daughter, Phyllis L. Bolotin of Swampscott, Mass.; two brothers, Bernard and Marvin Levine, and a sister, Florence Malatt, all of Cranston; and five grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Dorothy Meierowitz.

The funeral service was held Dec. 3 in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Association. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

## HARRY LIDZKI

**PROVIDENCE** — Harry Lidzki, of Hillside Avenue, died Nov. 30. He was the husband of Rachel (Rabinowitz) Lidzki.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Celia, and

her husband Stephen Gamm.; three grandchildren, Ammi, Joram and Noah Borenstein and great-granddaughter, Gabrielle.

There was a graveside service on Dec. 2 at Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Jewish National Fund or Hadassah. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## BERNICE PORT

**CRANSTON** — Bernice (Kaufman) Port, 72, of Susan Drive, died Nov. 30 in Miriam Hospital.

She was the wife of Seymour Port. They had been married for 50 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Rebecca (Lilker) Kaufman, she had lived in Cranston since 1958.

She was a former member of Temple Torat-Yisrael. She was a member of the former Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Rhonda Port Walker of Berkeley Heights, N.J.; a stepsister, Marcia Reback of Providence; and a granddaughter. She was the sister of the late Irving and Joseph Kaufman.

The funeral service was held Dec. 2 in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 400 Main St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860 or your favorite charity. The family was as-

sisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.

## ANNE R. STEINGOLD

**PROVIDENCE** — Anne R. Steingold, 78, of 1 Regency Plaza, a bridge teacher and a league life master, died Nov. 27 at Miriam Hospital.

She was the wife of the late Charles J. Steingold. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Edith (Silberman) Resnick, she had lived in Lincoln for 10 years before moving to Providence two years ago. She had previously lived in Florida for many years. She was a bridge teacher and director for more than 20 years in the Rhode Island area. She was a life master in the American Contract Bridge League, and ran bridge games at Hamilton House and the Jewish Community Center.

She was a life member of Hadassah and a member of Temple Beth El. She was a graduate of Hope High School and Bryant College.

She leaves a son, Larry S. Steingold of Cranston; three brothers, Albert Resnick of Warwick, Leon Resnick of Worcester, Mass., and Frank Resnick of Cranston; a sister, Helen Lehrer of Cranston; and three grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Nov. 29 in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to your favorite charity. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

*One's goal in paying a shiva call to a mourner is to comfort him or her. Yet one does not always know what sort of comfort the mourner most needs. Perhaps you will start speaking about the dead at just the moment he or she desperately needs to speak about something else. Or perhaps you will try and divert the mourner by speaking about a lighter subject (I've often heard people in shiva houses talk of sports events) at just the moment when he or she needs to speak about the deceased. And, perhaps the mourner just doesn't want to speak at all.*

*For most of us, silence is uncomfortable. Rabbi Jack Riemer notes, "We are afraid of silence. I get into the car, I turn on my radio. I get into the elevator, they play music for me. Why? Because we're afraid to be alone for two seconds with ourselves. It's okay to be quiet. It's okay to just sit and listen. It's okay to not fill the air with small talk and cheap talk and sports talk. Just leave enough silence in which something can be felt."*

*Jewish tradition ordains one phrase that all those who make a shiva call say upon departing: "May G-d comfort you among all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem."*

*This simple statement reminds the mourners that they are not alone in their suffering; they are part of a community. Also, by mentioning, the sorrowful fate of Zion (the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., and the eventual exiling of the Jews from their homeland), the guest reminds the mourner that suffering is a part of the human condition. But it is also not the last work. In our century, Zion has been restored. And the mourner, too, will know happiness again.*

Excerpted from *The Book of Jewish Values* by Rabbi Joseph Talushkin

## Hold Tight To Today

When the day looks good enough to frame and keep, all of us want it to never end... just as we want good health, good friends and good times to last forever.

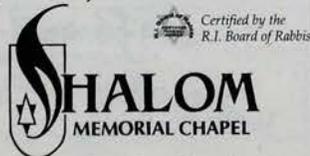
But we realize that we must also face our share of sorrow along life's way.

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# Mitzvah Clowns Come to Town

by Jon Rubin  
Herald Editor

What do mitzvahs and clowning have to do with each other? A lot more than you think.

That's what Sue and Mike Turk (a.k.a. Sweet Pea and Buttercup) taught religious school students at Temple Beth-El in

Jewish students transformed into Jewish clowns.

Mike and Sue gave the students pointers on how to apply their clown make-up, and for a while the room was relatively quiet while the clowns-to-be squinted into mirrors and applied facial powder and lipstick. They also received lessons in



Students get their make-up just right



SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS at Temple Beth-El's religious school in Providence joined teachers and faculty members in becoming Mitzvah Clowns.

Herald photos by Jon Rubin

Providence, as part of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island's "Mitzvah Heroes Conference Without Walls."

The mitzvah of "bikkor cholim," or visiting the sick, is an integral part of Jewish charity. Rabbi Akiva even went so far as to say that "He who does not visit the sick is as if he shed blood" (Nedarim 40a). Visiting the sick has proven scientific benefits as well — a patient's recovery is directly linked to their attitude, and optimistic or happy patients have a better chance of a faster recovery than those who are pessimistic.

Enter the mitzvah clowns, with their mission to bring joy and laughter to sick children in hospitals and elderly residents in nursing homes. With the help of mountains of wigs, giant ties, jester hats, top hats, red noses, and multi-colored baggy pants,

balloon making and other clowning tips.

The students were reminded to stay in character, and that insincerity will only backfire and create distance between the clown and the person they are trying to cheer up. Mike stressed to the kids, "The most important part is the one-on-one time... you're not just there to entertain a lot of people." Most of all, he asked that the children listen to those they're visiting. "You'd be surprised what you learn..." he said.

He also advised the children to treat people with respect, not to crowd anyone and recommended that they "get lower" rather than towering over people. With kids, he said, the closer you get to the ground, the more "you'll get lots of hugs." Once they were all trained, the students drove over to a local nursing home and entertained

the residents there.

Sue and Mike have been clowning for 20 years, and started this program about six years ago after meeting with Danny Siegel in a scholar-in-residence weekend. Temple Beth El was contacted by Ruth

Page at the Bureau of Jewish Education a few weeks ago to see if the students were interested. Since the seventh grade class was already involved in a mitzvot curriculum, the match seemed perfect.

Once Sue and Mike show

can get into it very quickly. "Once people get their hands in it it's so transforming!"

Misty Sidell, who assembled a clown troupe called Josie and the Pussyclowns, said, "It's really fun... I could try it with a bunch of friends." Her friend



Sweet Pea (Sue Turk) puts the final touches on a student's make-up.

people how easy, enjoyable and beneficial clowning is, they hope people will start local "clown troupes" of their own. "It's such a wonderful thing to help people," Sue said, "and why should we be selfish and do it all ourselves?" She felt that once people try it, even skeptics

Sarah Kahn agreed. "I hope they try it again."

People interested in learning more about mitzvah clowning can visit <[www.mitzvahclowns.com](http://www.mitzvahclowns.com)>, e-mail <[SB.Clowns@aol.com](mailto:SB.Clowns@aol.com)>, or call (973) 467-2768. Sue said that local magic and party stores frequently donate items or give large discounts.

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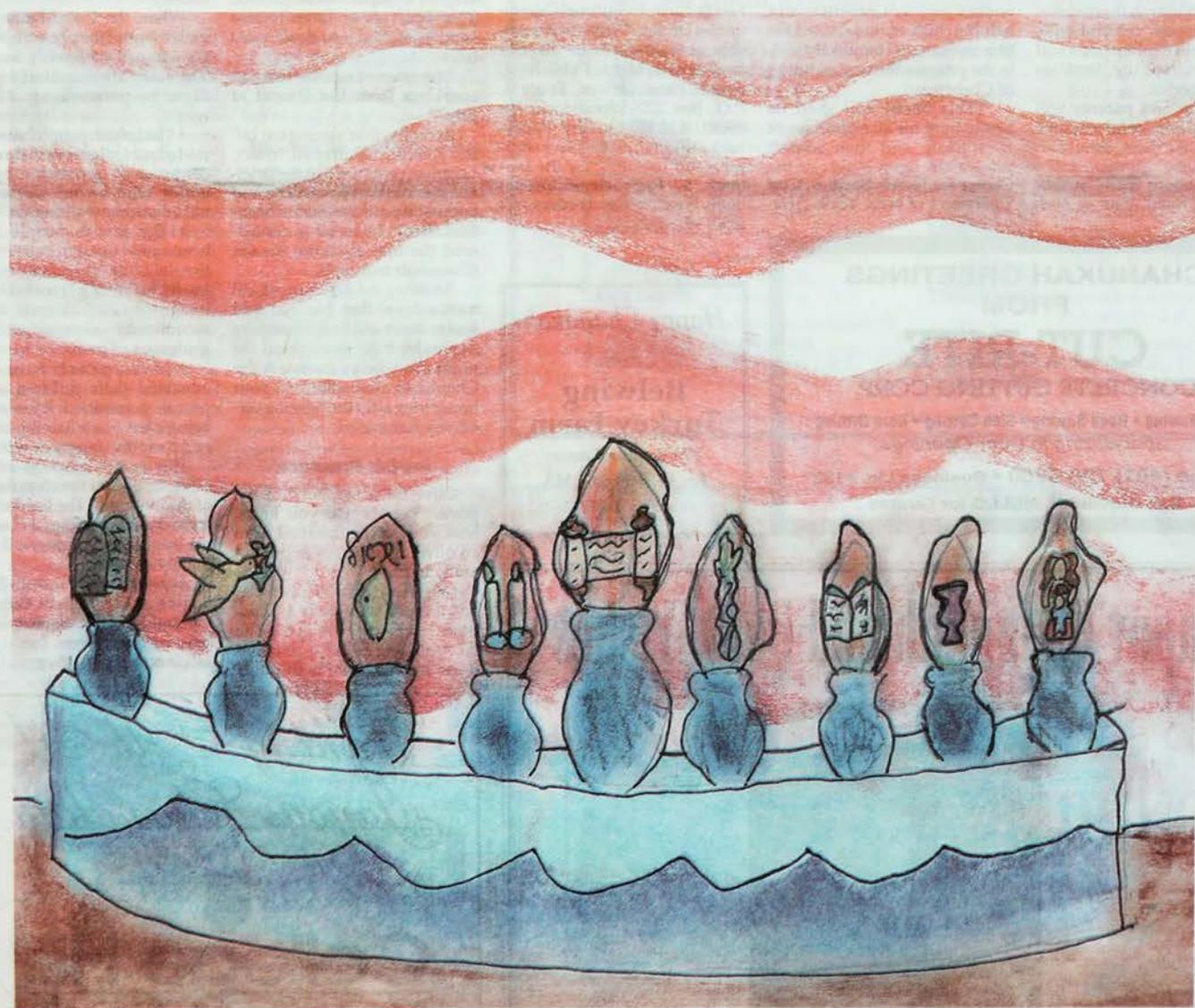


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The Rhode Island Jewish Herald  
December 6, 2001

5762

# Chanukah



*Chanukah Art Contest First Place Winner*

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**Zoe Brumberg-Kraus, 11, ASDS**

## The Real Meaning of Hanukkah — in Story, Celebration, Food and Song

Jewish families in America have long experienced the festival of lights in neighborhoods adorned with the twinkling lights, merchandise, and trappings of Christmas. To Jewish children, December is often the first test of their identity, the first realization that they are not like almost everybody else. Many Jewish parents have countered these ghosts of Christmas past by trying to outdo Christmas — with presents, fanfare, and decorations.

Dr. Ron Wolfson offers another way to celebrate in *Hanukkah, 2nd Edition: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration* (Jewish Lights Publishing/December 2001/Quality Paperback Original/\$18.95), revealing a holiday rooted in Judaism and providing a spiritual sourcebook for all aspects of a family celebration.

This updated edition of a classic features: The story of Hanukkah; celebration for families of every constellation; songs and prayers in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish (with clear transliterations); recipes for traditional and modern Hanukkah foods; "December Dilemma" advice (how to celebrate the spiritual meaning of the holiday in the midst of other traditions' celebrations); and firsthand explanations and ideas from real-life families around America.

"Children and parents will all find this wonderful resource a way to make their Hanukkah even brighter," praises Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, author of *In God's Name; Cain & Abel*:

*Finding the Fruits of Peace*; and many other books for children.

The newly redesigned, easy-to-use edition of *Hanukkah* offers more family ideas and new resources for holiday celebrations in any Jewish home. This complete handbook provides hands-on advice and practical suggestions to invite all families into Hanukkah's spirituality and joys, from the making of luscious latkes and Hanukkah crafts to the stories of the heroism and the miracle that are remembered every year with the lighting of the *hanukkiah*.

Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis writes in the book's preface: "A glance at the table of content, from storytelling to recipes to theology, offers evidence of the author's comprehensive grasp of the family. *Hanukkah* is helpful to the family that strives to induct its members into the spirituality and joys of Jewishness and Judaism."

Difficult issues are also dealt with, and in sensitive ways. *Hanukkah* includes firsthand advice on these topics and more: The unique challenges for intermarried and interfaith families and Jews-by-Choice, avoiding a Hanukkah celebration that is really a pseudo-Christmas, and helping children understand the true meaning of Hanukkah (and, in the process, the true meaning of Christmas).

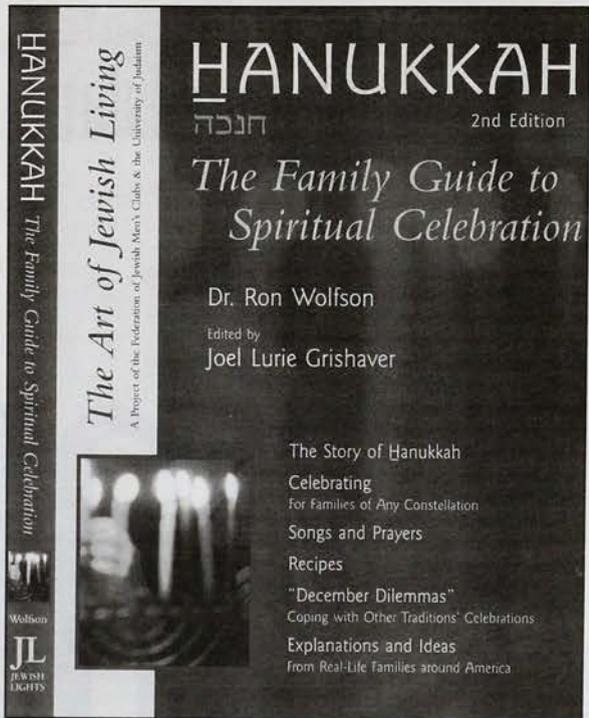
"[This book] will shed its bright light for all eight days of Hanukkah, and then some," praises Dr. Egon Mayer of the Center for Jewish Studies, City University of New York. "[Ha-

nukkah] deals sensitively with the traditions of the holiday, as well as with the variety of ways in which modern Jews attempt to grapple with the complex emotions and celebrations of the Christmas and Hanukkah seasons."

"*Hanukkah* is full of the light inspiration of the holiday itself. Every Jewish family needs this wisdom," says Stuart M. Matlins, publisher of Jewish Light Publishing.

Dr. Ron Wolfson is the William and Freda Fingerhut Assistant Professor of Education, the director of the Whizin Center for the Jewish Future, and vice president of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. He is co-founder of Synagogue 2000, an institute for envisioning the synagogue of the 21st century. Wolfson is also the author of *The Art of Jewish Living: The Shabbat Seder, The Art of Jewish Living: The Passover Seder, and A Time to Mourn, A Time to Comfort: a Guide to Jewish Bereavement and Comfort* (all Jewish Lights). He celebrates Hanukkah in southern California with his wife, Susie, and their two children, have and Michael.

*Hanukkah, 2nd Edition: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration* by Dr. Ron Wolfson is available at bookstores or directly from Jewish Lights Publishing, Sunset Farm Offices, Route 4, P.O. Box 237 Woodstock, Vt. 05091; \$18.95; Quality Paperback Original; ad \$3.75 for shipping and handling for the first book, \$2 for each additional book. For credit card orders, call (800) 962-4544.



## Oil or Candles?

Without a doubt, there is something special about those colored candles we all grew up with. However, colored candles are not a requirement. In fact, you don't even have to use candles at all if you don't want to.

"You mean I can use leftover sparklers from the Fourth of July?"

Actually, that's going too far. But you can use olive oil. In fact, because it was used in the original menorah in Jerusalem and because it produces such a beautiful flame, olive oil is considered the fuel of choice for the Chanukah menorah.

Another advantage of oil menorahs is that you can add fuel to them and keep those tiny flames burning throughout the night. This helps maintain the Chanukah atmosphere in your house long after the lighting ceremony has ended.

### Jewish Pressure

Olive oil is symbolic of the Jewish people. Do you know how you get the finest oil from an olive? You've got to press it really hard.

Life creates a lot of pressure, and it is often precisely at those times — when we are pushed to the breaking point — that our finest moments shine through.

To persevere and overcome enormous pressure is one of the defining challenges of life. It is also a defining theme in Jewish history.

When the Dalai Lama was exiled from Tibet, he sought out the council of Jewish leaders. The Jews are mankind's paradigm for perseverance. Here's why:

- The Jewish people have carried a love for Jerusalem through centuries of oppression by enemies who swore we would never see her walls again.

- The Jewish people have been called upon to believe that the value of all human beings lies in their being "created in the image of G-d," despite being victimized by the most evil and grotesque of men.

- Jewish parents have even educated their children to be proud, committed Jews when being a Jew was a liability at best and a mortal danger at worst.

This is the message of the olive, its oil and the clear flames of the menorah. The harder you try to crush our bodies and souls, the brighter our flame will ultimately shine.

*Adapted from Chanukah - Eight Nights of Light, Eight Gifts for the Soul, by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf. <www.leviathanpress.com>. This article courtesy of aish.org.*

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# Your Chanukah Guide

## The History of Chanukah

During the period of the second Bet Hamikdash, the land of Israel came under Greek rule. The Greeks proclaimed cruel decrees against the Jews, prohibiting observance of *Shabbat*, *Brit Milah* (circumcision) and other *Mitzvot*. They entered the Holy Temple, defiling and desecrating all within it.

The Jews turned to G-d and prayed for deliverance, and G-d had mercy on them and came to their aid. The family of the *Chashmonoim* (Hasmoneans), who were *Kohanim* (priests), created a small army called the Maccabees and battled the Greeks. They managed to overthrow great numbers of them until they were victorious and expelled the Greeks from the land.

When the Greeks had entered the Holy Temple, they defiled all the oil in the sanctuary. When the Maccabees defeated them on the 24th of Kislev, they searched the entire Temple but could find only one jug of oil still bearing the seal of the *Kohen Gadol* (the High Priest). The jug had been buried in the ground, showing that the Greeks had not touched it. However, the oil in this jug was sufficient to light the Menorah of the Temple for only one day.

But a great miracle occurred and the Menorah remained lit for eight days, until they were able to produce new, pure oil. To mark this miracle our Sages decreed that we light the Menorah on these eight nights, joyously praising G-d for the miracles.

This holiday is called "Chanukah," which is formed from two words, *Chanu*—they rested, and *Kof-Heh*, which has the numerical value of 25; meaning that they rested (from the battle against their enemies) on the 25th of Kislev. Chanukah also means dedication, for during these eight days they rebuilt and rededicated the *Bet Hamikdash* after the Greeks had defiled it.

The great miracle of Chanukah was brought about through a great Jewish woman. When the Greek king, Antiochus, besieged Jerusalem, the Jews there were sorely oppressed. Yehudit, the daughter of Yochanan the *Kohen Gadol*, bravely managed to gain entry into the enemy camp. Charming the Greek general, she served him cheese dishes to make him thirsty, and then wine until he became drunk. While he slept, she beheaded him and brought the "trophy" to Jerusalem where it was openly displayed. When the

Greeks saw their leader dead, they all fled and the Jews were victorious.

### Customs

**Chanukah Gelt** — On Chanukah, it is traditional to give children Chanukah gelt (money). Of course, this beautiful custom adds to the children's happiness and festive spirit. In addition, it affords us an opportunity to give them positive reinforcement for exemplary behavior, such as diligence in their studies and acts of charity.

**Playing Dreidel** — The dreidel is a four-sided spinning top, also called a *s'vivan*, in Hebrew. On each side is a Hebrew letter: Nun, Gimmel, Hey and Shin. The letters stand for the phrase, "*Nes Gadol Hayah Sham* — A great miracle happened there." It is used to play a lively Chanukah game.

The origin of the dreidel: The Syrians decreed that the teaching or study of the Torah was a crime punishable by death or imprisonment. But the children defiantly studied in secret; and when Syrian patrols were spotted, they would pretend to be playing an innocent game of dreidel.

**Food** — Because of the great significance of oil in the story of the Chanukah miracle, it is traditional to serve foods cooked in oil. Among the most popular Chanukah dishes are potato latkes and doughnuts.

### Chanukah and Miracles

Chanukah is a time when we emphasize and reflect upon the miraculous aspect of our lives, an aspect of which we are ordinarily unaware.

Generally speaking, the sameness of our day-to-day existence suggests to us that life is predictable, that events take place in a natural order, a logical chain of cause and effect. But occasionally, something occurs that kindles within us a deeper awareness, a sense of something more than natural forces at work.

When such events are so blatant as to defy rational explanation, we call them miraculous, and the heightened awareness they inspire can render us more sensitive to the miraculous dimension within seemingly ordinary events as well. The Chanukah miracles serve to remind us that G-d's Providence is ever present. Even so-called "natural" phenomena, a sunrise, a bird in flight, a wildflower in bloom, are, in essence, evidence of the Miraculous Hand.

*Courtesy of CHAI Center Chabad of West Bay, Warwick, R.I.*

# How to Celebrate Chanukah

Kindle the Chanukah menorah on each of the eight nights of Chanukah. For the dates, times, number of lights and the order of kindling see below. Chanukah lights are kindled either in the front window or by a doorway.

Use olive oil or candles — large enough to burn until half an hour after nightfall — for the lights of the menorah. Use the *shamash* (service candle) to kindle the lights, and place it in its special place on the menorah.

All members of the family should be present at the kindling of the Chanukah lights. Students and singles who live in a dormitory or in their own apartments should kindle menorahs in their own rooms.

On Friday afternoon the Chanukah lights (which will burn until 1/2 hour after nightfall), are kindled before the Shabbat candles are lit. From the time Shabbat candles are lit until Shabbat ends and the Havdalah prayer is recited, the Chanukah menorah should not be relit, moved or prepared. After this time, the Chanukah lights for Saturday are kindled.

## Menorah Kindling Blessings

### Before kindling the lights, recite:

**1. Bo-ruch A-toh A-do-noi E-lo-hey-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lom A-sher Ki-di-sha-nu Bi-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-va-nu Li-had-lik Ner Shel Cha-nu-kah.**

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

**2. Bo-ruch A-toh A-do-noi E-lo-hey-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam She-a-sa Ni-sim La-a-vo-sey-nu Ba-yam-mim Ha-heim Bi-z'man Ha-zeh.**

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in days of old, at this season.

*The following blessing is said only on the first evening (or the first time one kindles the lights this Chanukah):*

**3. Bo-ruch A-toh A-do-noi E-lo-hey-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lom She-he-chi-ya-nu Vi-ki-yi-ma-nu Vi-hi-gi-ya-nu Li-z'man Ha-zeh.**

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, and has preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season.

## 2001 Menorah Kindling Calendar for Rhode Island

Nightfall December 9-16 ..... 5:00 p.m.  
 Shabbos Candle Lighting December 14 before ..... 3:58 p.m.  
 Shabbos ends December 15 ..... 5:01 p.m.



Sunday, December 9  
 After Nightfall  
 Blessings No. 1, 2 & 3



Monday, December 10  
 After Nightfall  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2



Tuesday, December 11  
 After Nightfall  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2



Wednesday, December 12  
 After Nightfall  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2



Thursday, December 13  
 After Nightfall  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2



Friday, December 14  
 Before Shabbat  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2



Saturday, December 15  
 After Shaabat ends and  
 Havdalah is recited  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2



Sunday, December 16  
 After Nightfall  
 Blessings No. 1 & 2

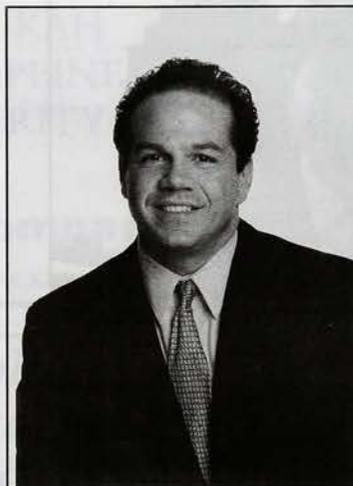
*Courtesy of CHAI Center Chabad of West Bay, Warwick, R.I.*

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# Happy Chanukah

## David N. Cicilline

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# Dreidel Secrets

In Judaism, even something as simple as "spin-the-top" is really not as simple as it appears.

During the time of the Maccabees, Jews were imprisoned for the "crime" of studying Torah. While in jail, these Jews would gather together to play dreidel. Under the guise of idling away their time, they'd engage in Torah discussions and thus defy the enemies of Judaism.

Every dreidel has four sides with one Hebrew letter on each side. Each of these letters begins a word. The four letters are:

- Nun — the first letter of the word nes, which means "miracle"
- Gimmel — the first letter of gadol, which means "great"
- Hey — the first letter of haya, which means "was" and
- Shin — the first letter of sham, which means "there"

When taken together, these letters proclaim "A great miracle happened there." Today, the "game of dreidel" reminds us of our eternal defiance of anyone who tries to stand between a Jew and the Torah.

### Spinning Through History

Someone once said: "Life is like a top. You spin around a lot, and then you fall over."

To some, life is a game, a joke, an arbitrary abyss. Not to the Jewish people — we've been "spinning" through history for 3,000 years. To some, history may seem like an arbitrary string of events whose frequent tragedies seem to proclaim life's futility. But the message of the dreidel is just the opposite.

In mystical Kabbalah teachings, there is another dimension to the dreidel. The four letters

represent four different historical empires — Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman — that tried to destroy the Jewish people. (Today we are victims of the Romans who destroyed the Second Temple and sent us into the current exile.)

Are we just spinning haphazardly from one tragedy to another, or is there some rhyme and reason to all that has happened in our history?

It is at times of tragedy that the dreidel presents its message: If we believe there is ultimate meaning to the Jewish people, if we know that despite the dizzying blur of events in our history there is some purpose to it all, and if we are prepared to fight to remain Jews regardless of what history throws at us, then who knows — we might just see a miracle and be reassured that there is a hidden hand guiding the destiny of the Jewish people.

### Modern Miracle

About 50 years ago, for the first time since the Maccabees defeated the Greeks, the Jewish people were on the verge of reclaiming sovereignty in their homeland. Around the world, many were skeptical if the birth of this new state would happen at all. Others were convinced that if it was born, it would soon go down in defeat to the vastly larger and far better equipped Arab armies.

For political reasons the Jews of Palestine had built up an image of strength. So persuasive was their propaganda, even the Arabs had been fooled. But reality was pathetically different:

The fledgling Jewish army had weapons for less than a quarter of its men. Its total arsenal consisted of a few thousand rifles, less than a thousand machine guns, and sufficient ammunition for only three days of fighting. The Jews had no heavy armaments of any kind — no heavy machine guns, no artillery, no anti-tank or anti-aircraft guns, no real armored cars. And nothing whatsoever in the way of an air force or navy. Nothing.

Then, on December 5, 1947, things got worse. The United States government announced a total embargo on arms sales to the Middle East. By that time, the Arabs had already purchased tens of millions of dollars worth of U.S. arms surplus. And the Jews were left with their paltry supplies.

But you know the rest of the story.

### How to Play the Dreidel Game

On Chanukah, everyone loves spinning the dreidel. We have contests to see who can spin it the longest. Or who can get the most dreidels spinning simultaneously. And of course, there's the famous dreidel game played for Chanukah "gelt:"

- Nun — no one wins
- Gimmel — spinner takes the pot
- Hey — spinner get half the pot
- Shin — spinner matches the pot

Adapted from Chanukah—Eight Nights of Light, Eight Gifts for the Soul, by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf. <www.leviathanpress.com>. This article courtesy of aish.org.



# Light The Way to Hanukkah

Coming as it does in mid-December with its festive foods and games, Hanukkah is a joyous time for Jews everywhere, celebrating an ancient victory that has significance in the contemporary world. This year, the JTS online learning center presents a host of interactive holiday treats for the entire family and everything you ever wanted to know about Hanukkah. The first candle of the seven-day Festival of Lights will be it on the evening of Dec. 9.

By turning to <http://learn.jtsa.edu/hanukkah>, you can tune into a discussion of the history and culture of Hanukkah with JTS chancellor Dr. Ismar Schorsch and radio host Larry Josephson. The public radio broadcast, part of the highly acclaimed "What is a Jew?" se-

ries can be downloaded with festive music by Cantors David Lefkowitz and Elisheva Dienstfrey.

The Web site is a wonderful place for parents to visit with their children and offers a night-by-night animated approach to the miracle of Hanukkah and the lighting of the candles with stories, songs and games in the Kids Corner, plus a holiday coloring book.

Of course, no holiday is complete without its gustatory delights, and the JTS Hanukkah Web site offers a recipe for soufganiyot pudding—or what to do with those leftover jelly donuts.

For the more scholarly there are treatises on the holiday and a guide to the practices and origins of Hanukkah by Isaac Klein.

The following chart is designed to give you a sense of the flow of events that took place during the period of Chanukah and to place them in the broader context of Jewish history.

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Abraham and Sarah .....          | 1671 BCE |
| Egyptian slavery begins .....    | 1400 BCE |
| Jewish people enter Israel ..... | 1272 BCE |
| First Temple built .....         | 825 BCE  |
| Babylonian exile begins .....    | 422 BCE  |
| Purim events .....               | 355 BCE  |
| Second Temple built .....        | 352 BCE  |
| Miracle of Chanukah .....        | 165 BCE  |
| Roman exile begins .....         | 70 CE    |
| First Crusade .....              | 1096 CE  |
| Expulsion of Spanish Jewry ..... | 1492     |
| Holocaust .....                  | 1939     |
| Rebirth of Israel .....          | 1948     |
| Reunification of Jerusalem ..... | 1967     |

# Happy Chanukah

and best wishes for a joyous Festival of Lights



Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
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# In Defense of Hanukkah

by David Greenberg

It's Hanukkah time again. The annual rite allows Christians to pay lip service to Jewish sensitivities with an ecumenical greeting of "happy holidays" and Jews to emulate Christians by stampeding to the shopping mall. It's also a chance for purists to ruin the fun by insisting that Hanukkah has traditionally been a minor Jewish festival. Yet this holiday — which commemorates the successful Israelite revolt in the second century B.C. against their Syrian oppressors and their refusal to assimilate into the prevailing Hellenistic culture — has become "the Jewish Christmas." How did this happen? And is it good for the Jews?

The story begins with the commercialization of Christmas, which emerged as the major American feast only after German immigrants arrived in the United States after the Civil War. Then, in the late nineteenth century, came a revolution in retailing — the rise of department stores, mass marketing and advertising. Christmas parties, gift-giving, and greeting cards proliferated. The Coca-Cola Company adopted as its logo a jolly bearded man in a red and white suit, and soon Santa bypassed Jesus as Christmas's main icon.

Enter the Jews. Around 1900, millions of eastern European Jews came to the United States, congregating in urban enclaves such as New York's Lower East Side. Most rapidly adopted American traditions, including the newly secularized Christmas. "Santa Claus visited the East Side last night," the *New York Tribune* noted on Christmas Day, 1904, "and hardly missed a tenement house." Jews installed Christmas trees in their homes, and their children sang carols in the public schools. The second generation of American Jews resisted this embrace of a festival that, despite its secular trappings, was fundamentally Christian. But parents couldn't deprive their kids of gifts or seasonal merriment, and

Hanukkah benefited from convenient timing. Instead of giving children the traditional "gelt," or money, Jews began to exchange presents.

Jewish religious leaders, no longer insecure about fitting in, now urged schools to let Jews abstain from yuletide celebrations or to provide all-purpose holiday parties instead. Lighting the menorah proved a satisfying alternative to adorning a tree with colorful lights. Hanukkah's emphasis on self-reliance and military strength in the face of persecution dovetailed with the themes of American Zionists. The warrior-hero Judah Maccabee, leader of an ancient revolt, morphed into a proto-Zionist pioneer. Jewish organizations packed Madison Square Garden for fund-raising galas in support of a Jewish state, featuring such keynoters as Albert Einstein.

With the postwar migration to suburbia, Hanukkah shored up its place as American Jews' number one holiday. In the early '50s, sociologist Marshall Sklare, studying a Chicago suburb, found that lighting Hanukkah candles ranked as the most popular "mitzvah," or religious good deed, above hosting a Passover Seder and observing the Sabbath.

Sklare attributed the holiday's popularity to its easy accommodation to Christmas rituals and its compatibility with modern values. The Hanukkah lesson being taught, Sklare noted, was no longer reverence to G-d for performing a miracle

but rather the triumph over religious intolerance—a perfect message for liberal America in the age of civil rights.

Ozzie-and-Harriet Jews also modified their observances for the 1950s home. As Jenna Weissman Joselit has written, a Jewish guidebook from the era included recipes for "Maccabean sandwiches" composed of either tuna fish or egg salad and shaped to resemble a bite-sized Maccabee warrior, or the "Menorah fruit salad," a composition of cream cheese and fruit that, when molded, resembled a menorah.

By the late '50s, Hanukkah paraphernalia grew to encompass dreidel-and-menorah-festooned decorations, paper goods, gift wrapping, greeting cards, chocolates, games, books and LPs. Parents could now assure children that Hanukkah wasn't a poor man's Christmas but a "better" holiday because presents lasted for eight days. Since then, Jews have become more integrated into American life, and Hanukkah has embedded itself in television, office parties, Hallmark stores, Barnes & Nobles, and other leading American cultural institutions.

The trend worries many Jews, who see it as proof of their people's perilous assimilation. Yet the evolution of Hanukkah represents not a capitulation to the forces of Christmas but an assertion of Jewishness within a multicultural society. Just as Kwanzaa, created in 1966, has returned many black Americans

to their African heritage, so Hanukkah has helped tether Jews to their heritage and even returned them to the fold.

In a 1985 study, journalist Charles Silberman recounted how the Jewish writer Anne Roiphe, besieged with letters after confessing that she celebrated Christmas, switched to Hanukkah and found it more meaningful. Likewise, Silberman noted, more American Jews than ever were preferring Hanukkah to Christmas.

Far from a sell-out, the contin-

ued observance of Hanukkah follows in the tradition of the Israelites who spurned the pressures to adopt the ways of Greek society. Indeed, in acculturating to the United States while maintaining their Jewishness, observers of Hanukkah may well be doing Judah Maccabee proud.

*David Greenberg, a graduate student in history at Columbia University, is working on a book about Richard Nixon and American culture. He is a longtime journalist.*

*This article originally appeared at [tompaine.com](http://tompaine.com).*

## Local Storyteller to Tell Chanukah Stories

Chanukah is a time for light, and nothing shares light like stories, says Rhode Island author and storyteller, Mark Binder. Children and adults will laugh and smile at stories like "The Lethal Latkes," "Spin the Dreidle" and "A Present? For Chanukah?"

**Times and dates will be:**

Dec. 2, 10:45 a.m. Temple Hahonim Religious School, Barrington, R.I. (not open to public).

Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Admission is \$3 per family to benefit the JCC preschool;

Dec. 11, 3:30 p.m. at Rochambeau Public Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence. Admission is free.

Dec. 12, 7 p.m. at Sharon Public Library, 11 North Main Street, Sharon, Mass. Admission is free.

Dec. 16, 9:15 a.m. to noon at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main Street, Attleboro, Mass (not open to public).

Mark Binder is an internationally known writer and a storyteller. He is a former editor of the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald*. He is the author of *The Everything Bedtime Story Book* and the audio book, *The Brothers Schlemiel — From Birth to Bar Mitzvah*.

*The Brothers Schlemiel From Birth to Bar Mitzvah* (ISBN 0-970642-8-3) is available for only \$9.95 plus \$1.50 postage from Light Publications, P.O. Box 2462, Providence, RI 02906. It can be ordered online at [www.lightpublications.com](http://www.lightpublications.com)

For more information contact Beth Hellman at 272-8707.



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# Sign One Candle — Chanukah Candlelighting Chart Available in Sign Language

Begin each of the three blessings like this...

|                        |                 |     |                   |                  |               |                    |                          |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|                        |                 |     |                   |                  |               |                    |                          |
| Boruch ברוך<br>Blessed | atoh אתה<br>are | You | Ado-noy ה<br>L-rd | Elo-haynu<br>our | אלקינו<br>G-d | Melech מלך<br>King | העולם<br>of the universe |

Chanukah has always been a holiday of inclusion. There is a rabbinic mandate stating that every Jew is required to light Chanukah candles. When King Antiochus and the Greeks were persecuting the Jews, the Macabees' ability to defeat the powerful army and keep the menorah (special Chanukah candelabra) lit for eight days with only a small amount of oil was truly a miracle for the entire nation. For more than 1,000 years, intergenerational families spanning the gamut of religious observance have come together to commemorate these miracles by lighting the menorah. Now, for the third year, this inclusion extends to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The Our Way outreach program for the Jewish deaf and hard of hearing (a division of the Orthodox Union's National Jewish Council for the Disabled) has published an illustrated sign language chart of the Chanukah candlelighting blessings. This chart will be mailed to thousands of deaf and hard of hearing Jews throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The laminated chart, which features brief descriptions of some of the holiday's basic laws and popular customs, was created under the direction of Tchia Kastor, a deaf activist living in Baltimore, and was illustrated by the Baltimore firm, Staiman Design. The chart is available for a suggested donation of \$10.

Kastor explained, "It is very important to provide for the needs of the deaf in their language. In creating the Chanukah candlelighting chart, my desire has been to help everyone who best expresses themselves through sign language to participate in these wonderful rituals and grow closer to G-d."

Our Way Director Rabbi Eliezer Lederfeind explained, "The candles that we light on Chanukah signify a hope so strong and enduring that it transcends language. Though it is still important to recite the blessings aloud (if possible), the sign language candle-lighting chart enables deaf and hearing impaired Jews to experience the beauty and meaning of Chanukah in their own special way."

Our Way offers a variety of

programs and services for the deaf as well as for family members, friends and anyone who interacts with the deaf and hearing impaired. To order a copy of the sign language Chanukah candlelighting chart, join the mailing list, or obtain more information on Our Way programs for the Jewish deaf and hard of hearing, please call (212) 613-

8234, e-mail <ourway@ou.org>, or write to Our Way/NJCD, 11 Broadway, New York, NY 10004. For an e-mailed version of this chart, contact <www.ou.org/ncsy/ourway/chan.htm>.

Established in 1969, Our Way is the only Jewish movement reaching out to the deaf and hearing impaired across the country and bridging the gap

between the hearing and non-hearing worlds. Through a vast array of programs including holiday celebrations, a Jewish Deaf Singles Registry, Torah study groups, summer tours, family retreats, conventions and special signing publications, Our Way provides spiritual and social opportunities for nearly 1,000 deaf across the country.

## The Night Before Chanukah: A Poem

'Twas the night before Chanukah, boichniks and maidels  
Not a sound could be heard not even the dreidels

The menorah was set by the chimney alight  
In the kitchen, the Bubbie was hopping a bite  
Salami, Pastrami, a glaisele tay  
And zoyere pickles mit bagels — Oy vay!

Gezint and geschmock the kinderlach felt  
While dreaming of taiglach and Chanukah gelt  
The alarm clock was sitting, a kloppin' and tickin'  
And Bubbie was carving a shtickele chicken  
A tummel arose, like the wild-est k'duchas  
Santa had fallen right on his tuchas!

I put on my slippers, ains, tzvay, drei  
While Bubbie was eating herring on rye  
I grabbed for my bathrobe and buttoned my gottes  
And Bubbie was just devouring the latkes

To the window I ran, and to my surprise  
A little red yarmulka greeted my eyes.

When he got to the door and saw the menorah  
"Yiddishe kinder," he cried, "Kenahorah!"  
I thought I was in a Goyishe hoise!  
As long as I'm here, I'll leave a few toys.  
"Come into the kitchen, I'll get you a dish  
Mit a gupel, a leffel, and a shtickele fish."

With smacks of delight he started his fressen  
Chopped liver, knaidlach, and kreplach gegessen  
Along with his meal he had a few schnapps  
When it came to eating, this boy sure was tops  
He asked for some knishes with pepper and salt  
But they were so hot he yelled out "Gevalt!"

He loosened his hoysen and ran from the tish

"Your koshereh meals are simply delish!"  
As he went through the door he said "See y'all later  
I'll be back next Pesach in time for the seder!"  
So, hutzmir and zeitmir and "Bleibtz mir gezint!"  
he called out cheerily into the wind.

More rapid than eagles, his prancers they came  
As he whistled and shouted and called them by name  
"Come, Izzie, now Moishe, now Yossel and Sammy!"  
On Oyving, and Maxie, and Hymie and Manny!"  
He gave a geshrai, as he drove out of sight  
"A gut yontiff to all, and to all a good night!"

Anon



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# The Rhode Island Jewish Herald Thanks All Of The Contestants



This year the Herald received 136 submissions for the Chanukah Art Contest!

## AGES 4 TO 6

- Benjamin Almekies, 6, PHDS
- Eliyahu Baver, 5, PHDS
- Tali Bessler, 4, PHDS
- Esty Bharier, 5, PHDS
- Ruchama Diamond, 6, PHDS
- Matthew Glazer, 4, PHDS
- Rochel Golden, 3, PHDS
- Ariela Greengart, 6, PHDS
- Eli Meir Haldorsen, 5, PHDS
- Yisochor Jakubowicz, 6, PHDS
- Yitzchok Jakubowicz, 4, PHDS
- Avichai Kapach, 6, PHDS
- Zohar Kapach, 4, PHDS
- Aaron Ryan Kaplan, 6, Providence
- Jacob Klein, 6, PHDS
- Shira Krinsky, 5, PHDS
- Rochel Lapin, 4, PHDS
- Keshet Levine, 4, PHDS
- Shaina Martin, 4, PHDS
- Yoni Monat, 5, PHDS
- Yehuda Nissel, 6, PHDS
- Esther Basya Raskin, 5, PHDS
- Joshua Rosenbaum, 6, PHDS
- Aryeh Rosenfield, 6, PHDS
- Chana Rosenfield, 4, PHDS
- Yanky Saklad, 4, PHDS
- Michal Sauer, 6, PHDS
- Hana Sawyer, 6, Stoughton, Mass
- Rebecca Sawyer, 6, Stoughton, Mass.
- Avi Schechter, 6, PHDS
- Menuchah Schuman, 4, PHDS
- Benjamin Strachman, 5, PHDS
- Chaya Faiga Taitelbaum, Pre-K, PHDS
- Devorah Golda Taitelbaum, 5, PHDS
- Yisroel Zalman Weiner, 5, PHDS
- Ellie Weisman, 5, PHDS
- Adena Malka Yudkowsky, 5, PHDS
- Tzvi Hirsh Yudkowsky, 4, PHDS
- Hannah Zurier, 6, Providence

## AGES 7 TO 9

- Lia Almekies, 7, PHDS
- Lyza Baum, 8, Cranston
- Samantha Bomzer, 8, Cranston
- Corey Charness, 8, East Greenwich
- Alana Deluty, 8, Cranston
- Hope Elias, 8, East Greenwich
- Sonia Felder, 9, PHDS
- Tova Gerber, 9, PHDS
- Jennifer Glazer, 7, PHDS
- Eddy Golden, 9, East Greenwich
- Rochel Haldorsen, 9, PHDS
- Yaakov Haldorsen, 8, PHDS
- Aviva Kaufman, 7, PHDS
- Hannah Kessler, 9, PHDS
- Shoshana Klein, 8, PHDS
- Samantha Leach, 8, Temple Beth El
- Ilan Levine, 8, PHDS
- Eliezer Martinez, 8, PHDS
- Dahlia Neeman, 7, ASDS
- Danielle Neeman, 9, ASDS
- Shira Nissel, 9, PHDS
- Ariel Noorparvar, 8, PHDS
- Eliyahu Simcha Raskin, 7, PHDS
- Alysa Redlich, 8, Cumberland
- Estee Saklad, 8, PHDS
- Hana Sauer, 9, PHDS
- Sarit Sauer, 7, PHDS
- Aaron Schechter, 9, PHDS
- Avshalom Shriki, 7, PHDS
- Joseph Strachman, 9, PHDS
- Sorah Hinda Taitelbaum, 7, PHDS
- Laura Weil, 8, JCCRI Kidspace
- Binyomin Weiner, 7, PHDS
- Dovid Shmuel Weisman, 7, PHDS

## AGES 10 TO 13

- Kelsey Abramovich, 11, PHDS
- Shifra Andelman, 11, PHDS
- Danielle Bessler, 11, PHDS
- Danielle Davis, 12, Torat Yisrael
- Melanie Davis, 12, Torat Yisrael
- Melanie Deady, 11, West Greenwich
- Miriam Diamond, 11, PHDS
- Rachel Dress, 12, Torat Yisrael
- Robert Elias, 13, Torat Yisrael
- Jacob Felder, 10, PHDS
- Meir Gerber, 11, PHDS
- Aryeh Leib Gibber, 10, PHDS
- Amanda Gilstein, 12, Torat Yisrael
- Jonathan Goldin, 11, PHDS
- Stacy Greenberg, 12, Temple Torat Yisrael
- Solomon Hirsch, 12, PHDS
- Nathan Japhet, 11, PHDS
- Alannah Johnson, 10, Torat Yisrael
- Ross Kaplan, 10, Torat Yisrael
- Eder Karnes, 10, Torat Yisrael
- Atara Kaufman, 11, PHDS
- Brahna Kessler, 11, PHDS
- Jennifer Landau, 11, PHDS
- Eli Lipson, 10, PHDS
- Shayna Matzner, 13, Torat Yisrael
- Michael Mintz, 11, PHDS
- Benjamin Monat, 11, PHDS
- Moshe Raskin, 11, PHDS
- Yehudis Shifra Raskin, 10, PHDS
- Michael Rose, 10, Cranston
- Nathan Rosenbaum, 11, PHDS
- Billy Sacks, 10, Torat Yisrael
- Rebecca Sacks, 12, Temple Torat Yisrael
- Aaron Samuels, 12, Temple Torat Yisrael
- Aaron Schacht, 10, PHDS
- Asher Schectman, 10, PHDS
- Matthew Schwartz, 12, Torat Yisrael
- Sarah Shafner, 10, PHDS
- Amy Beth Shilim, 12, Temple Torat Yisrael
- Daniella Shriki, 11, PHDS
- Elisheva Stark, 11, PHDS
- Matt Streich, 11, Torat Yisrael
- Shoshana Taube, 11, PHDS
- Yerachmiel Taube, 12, PHDS
- Yehuda Weiner, 10, PHDS



2nd Place, Yair Strachman, 7, PHDS

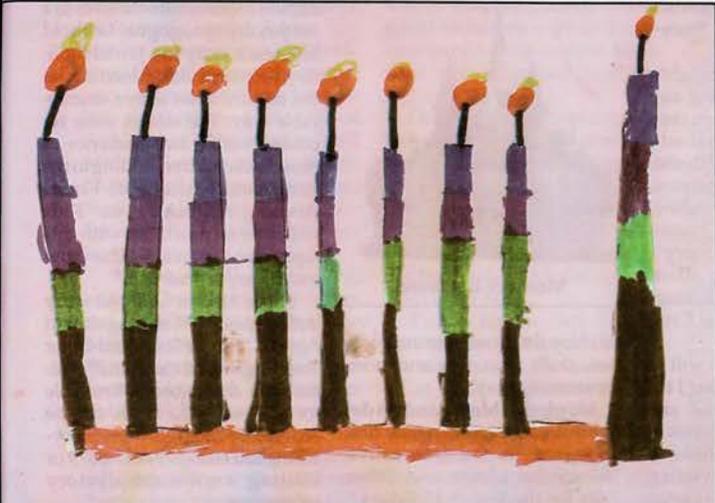
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- Rhode Island Mall — 828-2700
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- First Night Providence — 521-1166
- National Amusements — 508-699-6688

# Contest Winners

## and Jewish Herald

Kids who took part in this year's contest.



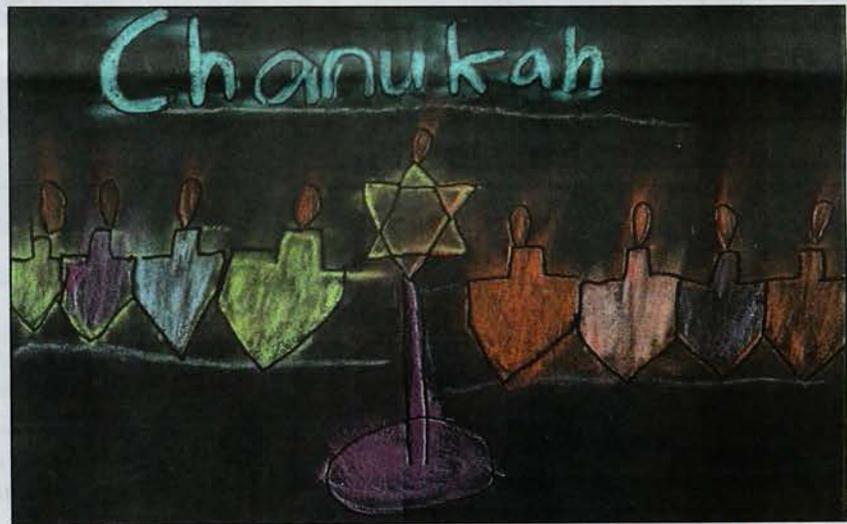
2nd Place, Age Group 4-6, Nechama Bayer, 6, PHDS



Honorable Mention, Age Group 10-13, Eli Baum, 10, Cranston



Honorable Mention, Age Group 4-6, Ezra Felder, 6, PHDS



1st Place, Age Group 7-9, Shlomo Shriki, 9, PHDS



3rd Place, Age Group 4-6, Blima Haldorsen, 6, PHDS



Honorable Mention, Age Group 7-9, Rachel Zurier, 9, Providence

## Outstanding Wines Make Holiday Dining Special

December 9 is right around the corner — time to prepare for Chanukah feasts and festivities. This season, Royal Wine Corporation is offering a wonderful selection of world-class wines to enhance holiday gatherings. From rich and fruity Baron Herzog Cabernet to the floral Bartenura Asti from Italy to the fabulous Laurent Perrier Champagnes of France, this Chanukah will definitely be enhanced by serving fine wines that match holiday meals, from appetizer to desserts.

Start your Chanukah celebrations off with a glass of bubbly from Laurent Perrier, one of France's most respected Champagne producers. The Brut (\$49) is made in the traditional method from a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes. It is an elegant Champagne with earthy flavors and a crisp, yeasty finish. The Brut Rosé (\$56) is made exclusively from Pinot Noir grapes, imparting a wonderful fruity quality and a gorgeous rosy color. Both are "food friendly" wines that will match beautifully with light appetizers.

For the main course, consider the varietals of Baron Herzog. Produced only from the finest California grapes, Baron Herzog wines will add elegance to your

holiday table. The acclaimed Baron Herzog 2000 Chenin Blanc (\$6.99) has fresh, fruity flavors, with just a touch of sweetness that makes it ideal for lighter courses. Rich main dishes, such as roasts, call for Baron Herzog 1999 Zinfandel (\$12.99). The wine is rich and spicy, with a wonderful oak bouquet and berry flavors. The 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$12.99) has soft berry and plum flavors that will pair nicely with red meat and roasted poultry dishes. All three of these Baron Herzog wines have received high praise from wine critics.

For dessert, a sweeter wine is called for. Italy's Bartenura Asti (\$12.99) is a lovely sparkling wine with floral aromas and luscious sweetness. The wine is an ideal match for light fruit-based desserts.

Royal also has two non-alcoholic alternatives from California: Sparkling California Chardonnay (\$3.99) and Sparkling California Zinfandel (\$3.99). These sparkling grape juices bring children into the holiday spirit as well as providing a non-alcoholic alternative for discriminating adults.

Based in Bayonne, N.J., Royal Wine Corporation is the world's leading importer and distributor of kosher wines.



## Children Click-Start Their Imaginations for Chanukah

<[www.simplystorytelling.com](http://www.simplystorytelling.com)> Has Hanukah Fun Online

Children looking for a new fun activity for Chanukah can click-start their imaginations at <[www.simplystorytelling.com](http://www.simplystorytelling.com)> to create their own stories about the amusing Mordechai Mouse, star of Naomi Leithold's storytape, "Mordechai Mouse and Other Tails for the Jewish Holidays" (\$10, Simply Storytelling, (877) 417-8679).

After listening to the delightful interactive storytelling audiocassette, kids can then create their own Mordechai adventures at Leithold's Web site <[www.simplystorytelling.com](http://www.simplystorytelling.com)>. The site offers a new window created especially for Chanukah within the "Create a Story" page. Kids can invent other Mordechai "tails" by clicking on the mouse icon in the Creative Castle window.

"My hope is that kids will be inspired by the stories that I tell on the tape to go ahead and create Jewish-themed stories of their own," says Leithold, a popular Chicago storyteller, who is a former kindergarten

teacher at The Latin School of Chicago and director of the Jewish Council for Youth Services preschool in Chicago. "Children can use Mordechai to express their creativity through their own words and thoughts, and



Mordechai Mouse

develop their own communication skills in a fun and non-threatening way."

Mordechai Mouse and his delightful cast of characters first appeared in the interactive "Mordechai Mouse and Other Tails for the Jewish Holidays."

On the 50-minute storytape, young listeners met a dragon who loves to nosh on chicken soup and noodles; an onion that won't come up from the ground; a little girl who learns how to make mmmmm... good matzah balls, and a quiet little mouse named Mordechai who lives in a very noisy synagogue. Leithold links each story to a Jewish holiday, helping children learn about the culture in an active, memorable way. The stories were recorded with a live audience of preschool children, adding to the participatory fun. *South Florida Parenting* magazine says, "Kids will have so much fun with this tape, they won't realize how much they're learning."

Other Naomi Leithold story audiotapes are "Tell It Again and Again," "Purple Socks and Other Toe-Tingling Stories," and "Animals on the Loose." Available for \$10 each, the tapes can be ordered by calling Simply Storytelling toll free (877) 417-8679 or visiting <[www.simplystorytelling.com](http://www.simplystorytelling.com)>.

## Chanukah Cooking at Highland Court

The following events are being held during the month of December:

**Dec. 3** at 7 p.m. there will be a holiday dance recital performed by the students from The Pointe Dance Studio.

**Dec. 5** at 7 p.m. The Happy Notes, a group of 20 members, will perform from a repertoire of more than 50 songs interspersed with jokes and skits.

**Dec. 6** at 7 p.m. Tai Chi with Alan Knight.

**Dec. 10** at 7 p.m. there will be a Chanukah cooking class with Batya at Highland Court, Highland Avenue, Providence. Taste her homemade potato latkes and applesauce while she does a dreidel demonstration. Call 273-2220.

**Dec. 12** at 7 p.m. Highland Court presents our annual Holiday Concert with pianist Bella Miller.

**Dec. 13** at 7 p.m. John McNiff from Roger Williams National Park will portray the life of William Blackstone.

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## Fire Up Your Celebration With 'Stories and Songs for Hanukkah' at Striar JCC

Let your spirit soar with stories and songs in the Jewish tradition at Striar Jewish Community Center's fourth annual CHAI Arts Chanukah Celebration on Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. The two-day event will feature world-renowned storyteller Penninah Schram and the internationally acclaimed Gerard Ederly Ensemble in a program that combines the splendor of the Jewish oral tradition with the exuberant rhythms and sounds of Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Middle Eastern music. Titled, "Kindling the Flames: Songs and Stories for Hanukkah," the performance will warm your heart and soothe your soul.

Schram, of New York City, and the Casablanca-born Ederly are popularly known as, "The Minstrel and the Storyteller." After more than a decade of performing together, their respective talents have been seamlessly integrated into a magical unified whole. A leader in the Jewish storytelling revival, Schram blends her unique performance style with Ederly's musical charms to transport listeners to another time and place.

At Striar JCC, the concert for adults on Saturday evening, Dec. 15, will feature elegant Chanukah stories by Schram and vibrant traditional and original musical compositions performed by Ederly, oud (Middle Eastern lute) virtuoso George Mgrdichian and nationally acclaimed percussionist Rex Benincasa. These gifted musicians explore a rich variety of Jewish musical traditions with unlimited creativity and dramatic flair.

On Dec. 16, the celebration will continue with a festive family workshop in storytelling and song. Wrapping Schram's and Ederly's talents into an intimate setting, this light-hearted celebration will bring out the magic of Chanukah for adults and children of all ages.

Tickets for the Dec. 15 concert are just \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students. Add \$2 at the door. Tickets for the family workshop on Dec. 16 are \$10 per family. For reservations or information, phone Gershon Levine (781) 341-2016, ext. 279, or e-mail <glevine@jccgb.org>.

## Chanukah Children's Activities

### How to Make an Edible Dreidel

You can make an entirely edible dreidel by using the following:

1. a Hershey's chocolate kiss (unwrapped)
2. a marshmallow (preferably the square kind with toasted coconut. But any type will do.)
3. a licorice stick cut into about 2 inch pieces
4. confectioner's (powdered sugar) mixed with very little water to glue the project together.

The marshmallow goes in the middle. Using the "paste" or "glue" made from the confectioner's sugar and water, you glue the chocolate kiss to the bottom of the marshmallow, then "screw" the licorice into the top, like a handle. If you'd like, you can then use a toothpick to paint the symbols nun, gimmel, hay, and shin (or poe, whichever applies - depending on where you live) onto the marshmallow. The kids love this fun project, then they can eat the dreidel after they have enjoyed looking at it, and even trying to spin it.

### Let Your Kids Make Their Own Greeting Cards

- Materials Required:
1. construction paper
  2. crayons, markers, or tempera paint
  3. envelopes

When you provide your child with a sheet or two of construction paper, a set of crayons, markers, or paints, and an envelope you get instant, mailable greeting-card art.

If you don't have any construction paper on hand, you can use any kind of stationary or paper. Fold the paper over and let your child go to work.

Let your preschoolers work on

decorating the card and you can write in the greeting or slogan later. For slightly older kids, just learning their alphabet or Alef-Bet letters, dictate the spelling of the words for them. Let older kids write out their own cards. Along with their artwork, you can include pressed leaves or flowers. In addition to artwork, you can include a pressed leaf or flower.

However your child creates the cards, the recipients are sure to appreciate the personalized effort and message. After all, it is the thought that counts.

These articles originally appeared at <www.shemayisrael.com/chanukah>.

### Jeshuat Israel Holds Chanukah Party

On Dec. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m., Congregation Jeshuat Israel will be holding a Hanukah party at the Touro Community Center in Newport. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 14 at 847-4794.

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# The Courage to Be Different: A Message for Chanukah

by Yosef Ben Shlomo Hakohen

It was the winter of 1952. I was six years old, and my mother took me on a walk around our neighborhood in downtown Brooklyn, New York City. The stores were all lit up for the Christian holiday, and in each store window, there was a Christmas tree prominently displayed.

"Mommy," I asked, "Can we also have a Christmas tree in our house?" My mother was surprised by my request, and she responded: "As you know, Jeffrey, we are Jewish, and Jewish people do not celebrate Christmas. It is not our holiday."

The next night, I was in for a surprise. My parents called me and my younger sister into the living room and pointed to a small candelabra. "This is a Chanukah menorah," my father explained, "and tonight begins the celebration of the Jewish holiday of Chanukah." He gave a brief summary of the Chanukah story, and then lit the first candle.

Afterwards, we were given presents. To my great delight, this ceremony was repeated for the next seven nights, including the giving of the presents!

This was my first Chanukah celebration. When I grew older, I was told that my question concerning the Christmas tree had inspired my parents to begin the celebration of Chanukah in our own home. Until then, my parents had never explained to us that we had Jewish holidays of our own. Both of my parents were progressive social activists who were involved in a variety of political and social causes for the betterment of society, and the conversation in our home centered on the evils of prejudice and the importance of recognizing that all human beings are basically the same, despite our different skin color or religions. My parents did not consider themselves "religious," although they often spoke about human brotherhood and how we are all "G-d's children."

My request for that "tree"

evoked in my parents a sense of Jewish pride, and they realized that they had neglected an aspect of our education. By bringing the Chanukah menorah into our home, they were conveying to me and my sister that we had a unique identity, and that we should not be ashamed to be "different."

My neighbor's mother also conveyed to her children this message in very different circumstances. During World War II, the Germans placed his mother and his older sisters in a concentration camp in Northern Germany that was just for women and children. When the Chanukah holiday arrived, they were not allowed to celebrate in any way; moreover the Germans gave the Jews the following order: All the children must go to a series of rehearsals to learn how to sing Christmas carols, and on Christmas day, they are to perform before all the soldiers and camp officials. Children that did not participate would be shot. My neighbor's mother, together with a friend, decided that their children would not perform. They had endured all forms of suffering,

but they would not submit to this public mockery of Jewish beliefs. His mother told her friend: "I did not raise my daughters to sing carols to the man that these people worship." Somehow, they found a way to hide their children, and miraculously, their lack of attendance was not even noticed by the officer in charge.

When the Christian holiday arrived, the Jewish children were placed on a stage, and they faced an audience of soldiers and camp officers. As they sang the songs, the Germans began to slowly leave the area, and the children were ordered to remain and continue singing. Finally,

all the Germans had left the area, and the children were still singing. Suddenly, the stage blew up, and all the children were killed.

There are those who feel that in order to be "universal," one must assimilate into the culture of the majority. Chanukah, however, provides us with a different understanding of how to be "universal." It conveys the message that to be truly universal, we must first have the courage to be different. In this way, we will be able to give to the world our own unique light.

This article originally appeared at [www.shemayisrael.co.il/publicat/hazon](http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/publicat/hazon)

## The J Connection Throws Chanukah Party

The J Connection will throw a wine and jazz party to launch the 35+ Group (TJC35+). For the past three years, The J Connection has provided programming for the 20s and 30s group. "We are constantly asked when our programs will be offered for the 35+ crowd," says Jeff Popkin,

the founder. "The wait is now over, and we are extremely excited to offer the same upscale high-energy events and trips for this group."

On Dec. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. (TJC35+) will sponsor a wine and live jazz event at the Veronique Restaurant and Ballroom in Brookline, located at 20 Chapel St. in Brookline (across from the Longwood MBTA Station). Admission is \$20 and includes a social wine sampling, light hors d'oeuvres, and live jazz music from Paulo Danay quartet. For more information, call (617) 312-5410 or visit [www.thejconnection.com](http://www.thejconnection.com). For directions to the Veronique visit [www.veronique.com](http://www.veronique.com).

All guests will get a free 35+ membership for the upcoming year (\$59 value)!

TJC35+ offers high-energy activities, trips and large interactive social events.

For more information go to [www.tjcboston.com](http://www.tjcboston.com) or call (617) 312-5410.

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## Emanu-El to Hold Hanukkah Celebration Dec. 9

It's almost Hanukkah! Our 12th annual Hanukkah celebration will be held on Dec. 9 — the first night of Hanukkah. The celebration will have three parts — something for everyone! You and your family are welcome to attend one, two, or three events.

• **Family Program** — (4:30-5:30 p.m.): New this year! Young families are invited to a Family Program for older pre-school an elementary age children and their parents. Come as a family to enjoy Hanukkah activities, including menorah making, in the Goldberg Center. (Pre-registration necessary)

• **Dinner** (5:45-6:45 p.m.): Our volunteer gourmet chefs will once again be preparing a delicious Hanukkah dinner. Pick your venue this year. The Meeting House, Sisterhood Lounge, or Vestry. We'll have a community menorah lighting, using the menorah made by the young families. After the children are done eating, they will be treated to a preview of songs from the temple's youth production of "Fiddler on the Roof," and adults can continue smoozing or participate in Israeli dancing. (Pre-registration necessary)

• **Hanukkah Concert** (7 p.m.): We will be treated to our famous Hanukkah concert in the Main Sanctuary, which features the Temple Emanu-El Choir, the Kol Kesem Youth Choir, and the Choral Club, all under the leadership of Cantor Brian Mayer. This year the cantor is planning some surprises to get us all participating! The lively Kol Klezmer, led by Shelley Katsh, will add to the fun. Free and open to the community.

This is always a sellout event, and seating is limited at dinner. Bring non-perishable food items for distribution to community organizations. Call the temple office at 331-1616 for more information.

## Join Cub Scouting and 'Be a Maccabe!'

Join us for a morning of fun and excitement on Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center in Providence. Certified archery instructors will teach all new Cub Scouts "how to be a Maccabe." Representatives from the Cub Scouts will be on hand to discuss your role as a parent in Cub Scouting while your son is learning the "Maccabean tradition."

Do you want your son to grow up to be self-reliant, dependable, and caring? Is it important to you that he learns traditional values such as honesty, trustworthiness, and respect for others and the environment?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, then you should check out what Cub Scouting has to offer boys in first through fifth grades. Pack 104, chartered by Congregation Beth Shalom, invites you and your son to become a part of one of America's leading value-driven organizations. The Cub Scout program is a valuable resource that can help families accomplish worthy goals while building and strengthening relationships within the family.

## JERI's Potato Latke Day is Heating Up

Adult Care Institutions Encouraged to Join

Agencies and facilities are invited to sign up for Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island's annual Hanukkah Potato Latke Day, which will be taking place right after the start of Hanukkah on Dec. 10 in nursing homes and assisted living facilities all over the state. JERI, which is a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, has already gathered more than 32 facilities to participate in this event, and they can always use more!

Latkes, or potato pancakes, are traditionally served on Hanukkah to remind us of the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days. Latkes are composed of grated potatoes, onions, flour, eggs and seasonings. This project intends to let Jewish residents all over the state enjoy in this special Hanukkah treat at

the same time.

This project is the brainchild of volunteer Herbert Meister. Susan Adler, executive director of JERI, said of Meister, "[He's] the type of volunteer who truly acts in the name of dedication and devotion. He thinks constantly about how to brighten up the lives of each resident's day. Mazel tov on his hard work!"

Interested facilities can contact Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island at 621-5374, or fax them at 331-4961.



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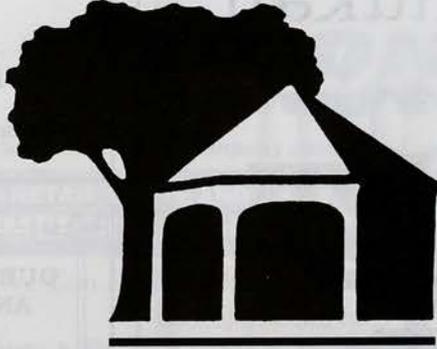
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# Is There Such Thing as a "Low-Fat Chanukah?"

Florine Mark of Weight Watchers says "You betcha"

by Jon Rubin  
Herald Editor

For those people trying to lose weight, Chanukah can seem like a lost cause; one of the main linchpins of the holiday is food, and not just any food — fried food. Is there any way around this weighty tradition?

Florine Mark, executive director of Weight Watchers International, said Jewish food is not out to get us. "Our food doesn't have to be any more fattening than anybody else's," she said. "We didn't have fattening oil when the menorah was in the temple," she said.

During Chanukah we can eat good food and still use discretion, she said. For starters, she recommends using olive oil when we do use oil in our foods. Also, although we should most definitely be cooking up latkes,

"don't eat them every day," she said. She recommended making sweet potato latkes, pita bread and different kinds of tarts.

"Weight keeps you from doing what you want to do mentally and physically." She said that now more than ever it is "our patriotic duty that you eat well-balanced meals and exercise." If a crisis should come, G-d forbid, "you want to be able to handle it" and to have a positive mental attitude. "You need to be at your peak — not pigging out."

Comments like this have an eerie sense of truth in recent days. Mark told the story of a woman who weighed over 300 pounds who was in one of the higher levels of the World Trade Center when the airplanes hit. "She couldn't get down," Mark

said, and a well-meaning friend who was trying to help her get out ended up perishing with her in the flames. "She was handicapped," Mark said.

Mark said that Jewish cooking is different now from the days of old. "We don't use the kishkies and shmaltz... we don't even see that stuff anymore." Mark said that Jews have been eating healthy foods for thousands of years. "We Jewish people have a history of eating lots of fruits and vegetables," she said, like babaganouj, hummus, tabouli, and pomegranates. "Horseradish has no calories," she added, and "matzah has always been a neutral food."

Overall, during this holiday, Mark said that the most important thing to remember, she said, is that Chanukah is a holiday, and we should treat it like one. "Enjoy your Chanukah dinners, even if you eat a little more."

# Weight Watchers Recipes Celebrate Chanukah

Weight Watchers knows what a treat it is to indulge in customary holiday foods. When losing weight, the company suggests these healthy options for a few Chanukah favorites:

For example, rather than deep-frying your latkes, try our Potato Pancakes recipe made with relatively little oil. Instead of the traditional fried sufganiot (jelly filled doughnuts), adults might enjoy the sweet and tangy Lemon Tart, which is baked. And while nothing can replace the joy of chocolate "gelt" treats, Almond-Fudge Truffles offer a lighter and more grown up alternative.

"Part of the joy of celebrating a holiday is partaking in the customary foods," said Florine Mark of Weight Watchers. "Enjoying lighter recipes allows those losing weight to honor food traditions without feeling deprived."

Here are some Chanukah eating tips:

1. Prepare a menu that includes some lighter alternatives to deep fried foods.

2. Remember the joy. There's no reason to feel deprived or guilty when you are eating healthy treats in moderation.

3. Enjoy a different indulgence each night over the eight nights of Chanukah.

4. If you're a guest at a holiday gathering, offer to bring a healthy dish.

5. Update traditions that your family can pass on. Of course the use of oil is significant to the celebration of Chanukah, but you can still honor tradition without making deep-fried foods the mainstay of your holiday foods.

## Weight Watchers Chanukah Recipes

### Potato Pancakes

Number of Servings: 4  
POINTS per serving: 3

- 1 1/4 pounds baking potatoes,\* peeled and shredded
- 2 egg whites
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 scallions, minced
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons vegetable oil

1. Soak the potatoes in cold water 30 minutes; drain and blot dry. Preheat the oven to 375° F.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the potatoes, egg whites, flour, scallions and salt. Form into 12 pancakes.



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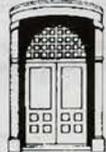


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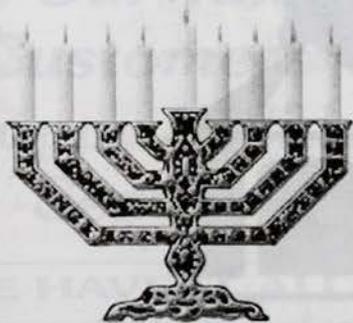
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**Weight Watchers Recipes Continued**

3. In a large nonstick skillet over medium heat, heat one third of the oil. Cook the pancakes, 4 at a time, until just golden, about 2 minutes on each side; transfer to a baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining oil and pancakes. Bake until crisp and cooked through, 5-7 minutes.

\*It's critical to use starchy baking potatoes like Idahos; waxy or boiling potatoes brown and burn too easily.

Per serving: 160 Calories, 5 g Total Fat, 1 g Saturated Fat, 0 mg Cholesterol, 469 mg Sodium, 26 g Total Carbohydrate, 2 g Dietary Fiber, 4 g Protein, 13 mg Calcium.

Above recipe reprinted by permission from Weight Watchers New Complete Cookbook, by Weight Watchers International, Inc. 1998

**Lemon Tart**

Number of Servings: 8  
POINTS per serving: 6

**Crust:**

- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon canola oil

**Lemon Curd:**

- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon unflavored kosher gelatin
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1. To prepare the crust, whisk together the flour and baking powder into a medium bowl. Whisk together the sugar, egg, lemon zest, and vanilla in a large bowl, until the sugar dissolves. Whisk in the oil. Sprinkle in the flour mixture and mix just until combined; the mixture should resemble a thick batter rather than a dough. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 20 minutes.

2. Preheat the oven to 425° F. Spray a 9-inch tart pan with a removable bottom with nonstick spray. Flour your hands lightly and press the batter into the pan and up the sides. Prick the bottom with a fork. Spray a sheet of foil with nonstick spray and line the batter with the foil, with the sprayed side down. Top with pie weights or dried beans. Bake 8 minutes; remove the foil and pie weights. Continue baking

the crust until golden brown, about 4 minutes more. Remove from the oven and cool completely on a rack.

3. To prepare the lemon curd, measure the water into a small microwavable bowl, sprinkle in the gelatin, and let stand until softened, at least 5 minutes. Beat the eggs until well combined.

4. Combine the lemon juice, sugar, and lemon zest in a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer, then remove from the heat. Whisk about 1/2 cup of the hot lemon mixture into the eggs to warm them, then pour the eggs into the remaining lemon mixture. Return the pan to the heat, and cook, whisking constantly, until the lemon curd starts to gently simmer and thicken. Remove from the heat.

5. To assemble the tart, microwave the gelatin on Medium for 10-second intervals, stirring after each interval, until melted. Strain the lemon curd through a fine-mesh sieve, then stir in the gelatin and vanilla. Let cool to room temperature, then pour the curd into the crust. Cover the tart with plastic wrap and chill for at least 4 hours or overnight.

Per serving: 304 Calories, 5 g Total Fat, 1 g Saturated Fat, 133

mg Cholesterol, 252 mg Sodium, 60 g Total Carbohydrate, 1 g Dietary Fiber, 6 g Protein, 76 mg Calcium.

Above recipes reprinted from Weight Watchers Great Cooking Every Day, 2001 by Weight Watchers International, Inc.

**Almond-Fudge Truffles**

Number of Servings: 24  
POINTS per serving: 1

- 1/2 cup + 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup light cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

1. Reserve 2 tablespoons of the cocoa powder on a sheet of wax paper. In a food processor or in a medium bowl, with an electric mixer on high speed, blend the remaining 1/2 cup of cocoa powder, the confection-

ers' sugar, cream cheese and almond extract.

2. Drop the cream cheese mixture by rounded teaspoons into the reserved cocoa powder, making 24 truffles; roll into balls, and refrigerate until firm, 1-2 hours.

Per serving: 45 Calories, 1 g Total Fat, 1 g Saturated Fat, 2 mg Cholesterol, 27 mg Sodium, 6 g Total Carbohydrate, 1 g Dietary Fiber, 1 g Protein, 10 mg Calcium.

Above recipe reprinted by permission from Weight Watchers New Complete Cookbook, by Weight Watchers International, Inc. 1998

To learn more about Weight Watchers and use the Meeting Finder, visit <www.8883florine.com> or for information about Weight Watchers meeting locations, call 1-888-3-FLORINE.



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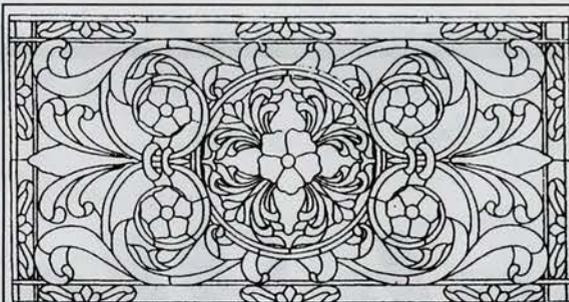
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