

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

January 21, 2005

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Inside...



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TREES FOR TU BISHEVAT.
See ARTS, page 14.



SOUPS FOR COLD WEATHER.
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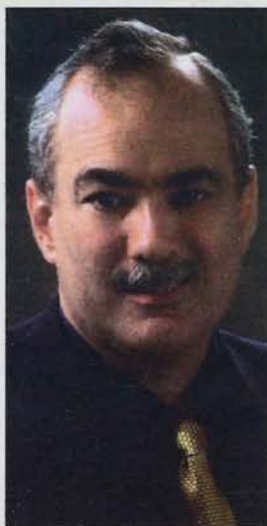
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Terror stymies Abbas

By Dan Baron

SDEROT, Israel (JTA) — The optimism that accompanied Mahmoud Abbas' recent election to the post of Palestinian Authority president appears to be vanishing. In the latest evidence of the pressures that both Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are facing, a dusty Israeli border town went on strike this week. Sderot's businesses and municipal services were shut Monday in a strike declared to mourn

See ABBAS, page 12



Walid Shoebat

Ex-PLO terrorist to speak at JCC

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — A former PLO terrorist — now a Zionist and a Christian — will speak at the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. He has assumed the name of Walid Shoebat and lives in an undisclosed location in California. His transformation from terrorist to Zionist is an extraordinary story — in fact, a British company is now in Israel filming a documentary on his life.

In a telephone interview on Jan. 11, two days after Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority, Shoebat said his purpose in speaking to the Jewish community is to "stop the naïveté and look at the reality. When Jews hear the word peace, they roll out the red carpet."

He said the Palestinian mosques and educational system institutionalize hatred, and until this changes, there can be no peace. His early education steeped him in the hatred of Jews and Israel,

See, EX- TERRORIST, page 3

Black, Jewish ties evolve

NEW YORK (JTA) — The storied tale of Jewish Northerners heading South in the 1960s to fight for blacks' voting rights has taken its place as one of the most distinctive cross-cultural relationships in American history.

Until now, the 1964 murders of three civil-rights campaigners has been unresolved. The recent arrest of a suspect in the Mississippi murders of Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner — both Jews — and James Chaney, a black man, has refocused attention on a relationship once bound in blood.

As Jews marked Martin Luther King Day this year, however, to what extent have black-Jewish relations shifted from their historic marriage?

A long way, academics and Jewish community officials say.

The black-Jewish relationship began in the 1920s and 1930s as blacks moved into neighborhoods Jews were leaving. Still, Jewish businesses often remained, serving the black community. A common bond rose in response to American anti-Semitism and racism, culminating in the civil rights movement. But black

See BLACK, JEWISH, page 13

HELPING HOMELESS



SANDY SACHS helps make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless Sunday morning at Temple Beth-El in Providence.
Photos by Mary Korr

At Beth-El, 200 PB&J's coming up

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — Sandy and Marian Sachs helped make 200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Wonder bread for the homeless last Sunday at Temple Beth-El.

No matter how many he makes, Mr. Sachs — wearing a "Monster chef" apron made by his daughter — said he never tires of eating a good PB&J for lunch.

At another counter in the temple kitchen, Barbara Jacobson's Sunday school class bundled Cheerios, Crispix and dried apricots into baggies.

Kyle Krivitsky manned the big Cheerios bowl and flattened the cereal boxes for recycling. "It's my Bar Mitzvah project," he said. "I picked it because I like food. It's fun and it goes to people who need

See BETH-EL, page 11

Israel aid response immediate

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As the waters of biblical proportions recede, Israel and its American Jewish allies are delicately flying olive branches into tsunami-devastated regions. Israel, by dint of its experience with years of terrorism, has become a rescue and relief powerhouse. Working together with an array of U.S. Jewish groups, it is delivering its services to a region where it has long sought recognition and acceptance.

The prospect for contacts

An El Al airliner delivered 80 tons of aid to Indonesia.

with Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim democracy, is especially prized. Indonesia was also the country hardest hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami, claiming over two-thirds of the 212,000 dead. An El Al airliner delivered 80 tons of aid to Indonesia last week, and Ron Prosor, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's director general, met with Indonesian officials while there.

"It's not the kind of opportunity we seek to further

See ISRAEL, page 8

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater
Rhode Island

Jan. 21 4:27

Jan. 28 4:36

Feb. 4 4:45

Feb. 11 4:56



Community Calendar

FRI., JAN. 21

Temple Sinai Seniors

11:30 a.m. Speaker will be Michael Fink: "The 350th Anniversary of the Jews in America, a Personal View." Dessert, coffee and tea will be served. For more info, call Baila at 461-6124.

SAT., JAN. 22

Torat Yisrael Havdalah, games

6:30 p.m., 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Havdalah service, games for all ages and refreshments. Free and open to the community.

Martin Luther King sing

7 to 9 p.m. Temple Emanuel, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Black-Jewish Alliance annual MLK Sing with choirs from around the state. For more information, call 331-1616.

SUN., JAN. 23

Artist reception, talk

2 p.m. Gallery 401, JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Healthcare expressed in paint-

ings, through Jan. 31, with art instructor Keith Fox and Mass Communication Professor Marie Louise Dick. Call 861-8800 for further information. See Arts.

Children's performer at JCC

3 p.m. JCC Social Hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Stories, songs and family fun with award-winning national children's performer Steve Roslonek. Fundraiser for early childhood program. Advance tickets \$5, \$20 per family; \$7 at door, \$25 per family. For tickets, call 861-8800, ext. 130.

MON., JAN. 24

Journey to Judaism performance

8 to 10 p.m. JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Actress Rachel Factor performs "J.A.P.", a music/dance/dramatic presentation of her discovery of Judaism and move to Israel. She has appeared on Broadway in "Miss Saigon," and "Shogun, the Musical." For more info and tickets, call 888-256-1764 or visit

rachelfactor.com.

TUES., JAN. 25

Torat Yisrael lunch & learn

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Downtown Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Amy Levin at Joe's American Bar & Grill, Providence Place Mall. Order lunch individually; study session on Judaism and the environment is free of charge. RSVP the Torat Yisrael office, 785-1800 or cberger@toratyisrael.org.

Israeli media expert

7 p.m. Jewish Federation's Board Room, 130 Sessions St., Providence. Israel Task Force of the Community Relations Council to host Gadi Wolfstfeld, professor from Hebrew University, and expert on the media's role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

WED., JAN. 26

Medicare lecture at EPOCH

2 p.m. Susan Saccoccia Olsen from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of R.I. will speak on the changes in Medicare for 2005. Call 275-0682 to reserve a seat. EPOCH is located at 1 Butler Ave., Providence, next to Eastside Marketplace.

THURS., JAN. 27

Author on persuasion

8 a.m. Providence Marriott on Orms St. Laurie Puhn, attorney, negotiator and author of Instant Persuasion: *The Secrets to Success in Business*, will speak at a Providence Public Library and Chamber of Commerce breakfast. \$15 per person. Registration is available online at www.providencechamber.com. For more information, call 521-5000.

SAT., JAN. 29

Torat Yisrael honors blood donors

9:30 a.m., Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Sermon by Rabbi Amy Levin: "Saving Souls: The Torah of Organ Donation." Free kiddush lunch during which members of the community who are blood donors and blood bank volunteers will be honored. RSVP at 785-1800 or cberger@toratyisrael.org. See community.

SUN., JAN. 30

Blood drive for R.I. Blood Bank

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Open for dona-

tions from the general community. All donors will receive a free pound of Dunkin' Donuts coffee.

WED., FEB. 2

Cranston Senior Guild

1 p.m. Regular meeting at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Guest speaker Judith Cerrito from the Kent County YMCA. Raffle, refreshments.

Jewish literature program

7 p.m. Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope St., discussion of *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, by Saul Bellow with Brown University Professor David C. Jacobson. On Feb. 16: Author visit with David Shroyer-Petrov, M.D., on *Jonas and Sarah: Jewish Stories of Russia and America*. For more information, contact Sarah Weed at 455-8110.

SUN., FEB. 6

Hadassah stem cell forum

10 a.m. Hadassah to host forum on stem cell research in the community room of the Warwick Police Station in Apponaug. Gil Siegel of the Israeli Embassy to speak. Open to the public. Refreshments. \$3 donation requested. Contact Cory Fink at 941-5303, or email corynurse@msn.com. See Community.

ONGOING

Caregiver's support group

7 p.m. Third Tuesday of every month. Epoch Assisted Living, 1 Butler Ave., Providence. For more info, call 275-0682.

Photo Exhibit

Photography exhibit through Feb. 21 at Highland Court, 101 Highland Ave., Providence.

Eight photographers display landscape and portraits. Hours: Daily from noon to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Free.

Adult Ed. at Habonim

Thurs. evenings, 8 to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 27. "The Joseph Story: Reading a biblical text for personal growth." Led by Rabbis Alan Flam and James B. Rosenberg. Call the temple office at 245-6536.

Talmud study at Habonim

10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays. Jan. 29, Feb. 11, 25. Contact Rabbi Rosenberg at 245-6536 or e-mail: habonim@ids.net to receive an advance copy of the Talmud text.

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Epoch - Blackstone Blvd.
Farmstead (former Cheese Shop)
Gourmet Deli on the Square
Highland Court
Judaic Traditions
Laurelmead
Miriam Hospital
Prov. Public Library
Rochambeau Library
Swan Liquor
The Butcher Shop
Tockwotton Home

Warwick:

Barne's & Noble
Coffee Grinder
Dave's, Warwick Ave.
De Fusco's Bakery & Deli
Food Chalet Post Rd.
Shalom Apartments 1 & 2
Tamarisk
Torat Yisrael Meal Site
Warwick Public Library

West Warwick:

Galaxy II

Wickford:

J. W. Graham
Wickford Flowers

SEND US YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS

Send us your calendar listings — include time, date, location and telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date.

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Community

Ex-PLO terrorist to speak at JCC

From page 1

"Israel does not exist in any Palestinian textbook." He quoted a line from a childhood song he learned in school: "Arabs our beloved, Jews our dogs."

Shoebat spoke of his violent youth. In his teens, he and his friends stoned Israeli soldiers and Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. They threw firebombs, and once he and his friends caught an Israeli soldier and beat him with a nail-studded club, but the soldier escaped. "If I could meet him today, I would say I am sorry. I was not only a terrorist, I was terrorized by my beliefs," he said. A PLO song goes this way: "Sharpen my bones into swords and make my flesh into Molotov cocktails."

"From this speaker, people will get a feeling and a new perspective on the depth of the issues at play in the Middle East," said Rabbi Raphie Schochet of the Kollel community organization, who arranged the visit. Kollel opened offices in the fall at the Jewish Community Center. The rabbi described the group as "an agency without walls," which offers biblical, Judaic and educational programs.

Early years

Shoebat was born in 1960 to an Arab Muslim father and an American Christian mother; he was raised in a Jordanian-controlled village outside Bethlehem.

After the Six Day War in 1967, "I became a Palestinian overnight," he said.

Shoebat doesn't see the Abbas win as an opening for peace. "What happened

Who: Walid Shoebat, former PLO terrorist

What: Lecture sponsored by the Jewish Community Kollel

When: Wed., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$12 at the door. To buy tickets, call 1-800-Shabbat (742-2228) and specify the Walid event in Providence; tickets will be sent in the mail.

For more information: 383-2786, info@providencekollel.org.

(Note: He will also appear at Brandeis University on Mon., Jan 31, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Shapiro Center.)

after the Oslo Accords, when everyone spoke peace? More violence, more terrorism. Abbas may speak peace — fine. But he may just be a better chameleon (than Arafat) of a different color. He is a Holocaust denier. But assume he means peace, like Sadat — well, Sadat got killed.

"Abbas has to fire the mufti in Jerusalem," he continued. "If the Palestinian leadership continues to support terror they cannot expect Israel to talk peace. When the Palestinian leadership finally and completely accepts Israel's existence and sets up a democratic state, based on equal rights for Jews, Christians, women, a free press and all the values of a western civilized democracy, then, and only then, can peace be achieved. Abbas cannot set up an Islamic state like Iran."

In his youth, Shoebat spent time in the Israeli Detention Center called the

Russian Compound, for inciting violence; it was here he made his PLO connections. Once freed from the jail, his anti-Israel activities escalated. He described one such incident. On the Temple Mount one afternoon, he was given a loaf of bread with a bomb inside to deliver to a Bank Leumi branch at 6 p.m. He changed his mind when he saw children nearby; he tossed the laden loaf on the bank roof and ran. He was glad no one was hurt — and then realized he would have been a suicide bomber had he followed instructions and entered the bank. He was told the bomb was timed for later in the evening. Shoebat said he would have welcomed the "martyrdom" as the way to heaven.

When he was 18, his worried parents sent him to a college in Chicago. Among his activities, he raised money for the PLO. "The man who recruited me is still doing it in Chicago," he said.

Shoebat's epiphany came when he

tried to convince his new wife to convert to Islam in 1993. She refused and challenged him on his beliefs, and thus began several years of studying Jewish and Christian bibles, and the Koran. Ultimately, he converted to Christianity. He is an evangelical Christian but "has no wish to proselytize the Jewish people," he said.

Several months ago he didn't make it to an engagement in Vancouver, when Air Canada refused to allow him on a plane. His name and photo was on their do-not-board list when he checked in.

He says there is a price on his head, and he has been threatened by his own brother. In 1995, he managed to get his mother — whom he hated as a child because she was American and Christian — out of the territories and back to her home state of California.

She had tried to leave many times with her children, but was prevented from doing so by her husband.

Shoebat left his job as a computer programmer several years ago and now lectures and writes on his experiences as a Palestinian to make his audiences see the reality behind terror, the face behind the mask of the suicide bomber, and the intent of the Islamic Jihadists.

He refuses to respond to pro-Palestinian contingents that frequently disrupt his talks. "My purpose is winning the middle ground in America. Why plant a seed in a stone?" he asks.



From Terrorist to Zionist

The incredible journey
of Walid Shoebat

Wednesday, February 2nd
Intro at 7:30 PM / Walid at 8:00 PM

JCC
401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI

Ticket: \$8 in advance. \$12 at the door

Become an Event Sponsor for \$250
includes 10 tickets to program plus 2 tickets to wine
and cheese reception with Mr Shoebat prior to the event

For more info or to RSVP for this event
please call 1-800-SHABBAT (742-2228)

In 1978 Walid Shoebat was sent with a bomb on a mission to kill Jews. Today he is speaking out in their defense... Hear the truth behind the propoganda from a man who has lived it.



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Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE Abbas should be given a chance



**Yehuda
Lev**

Looking for any understanding among Jews for Mahmoud Abbas, the newly elected president of the Palestinian Authority, is about as rewarding as organizing a minyan to sit shiva for Yasser Arafat. The poor man can't seem to do anything right. He is the Rodney Dangerfield of the Middle East, the Inspector Clouseau of the Holy Land. Worse yet, he is judged by many of my fellow Jewish scribes to be even more feared than his predecessor, the evil Arafat. And why? Mainly because he says some of the things that we were hoping to hear from a Palestinian leader for lo, these many years. So what could be wrong? What's wrong is that he just says some of the things, not all of them.

Case in point. Abbas has told the Palestinians that it's time to negotiate a settlement with Israel. There was a time when we would have given half of Tel Aviv to hear that from a Palestinian leader. Then he coupled his suggestion with a promise that he would not give way on the issue of the right of return of Palestinians to their former homes in what is now Israel. Oops! — We're back to the bad old days again. Hand me my

rifle, Moish, the war goes on.

Does it occur to anyone in the house that if you are trying to promote democracy, which was what this election was all about, you have to play by the rules? And rule No. 1 is that it takes a plurality or a majority to be elected to office. Rule 1, subsection A states that in order to accomplish this you have to gain the support of blocs of voters. Two guys cheering you on a street corner won't do it. Thousands, organized around a mutual objective, might do it. And one

and goodbye, democratic Jewish state.

Given that, what could satisfy the needs of the Palestinians? Compensation would have to be a part of the package. Reunification of divided families would certainly be another. The return of a small and manageable number of Palestinians might be acceptable if other issues are agreed to. Perhaps some of the surrounding Arab states would take in those Palestinians willing to make their homes there. And finally, there has to be a signed agreement, backed by the

did not provide adequate leadership nor, until now, have Sharon or Shimon Peres. Abbas may or may not provide it (although to describe him as a potential Josef Stalin, as some do, is simply ludicrous,) but if he has the potential to lead the Palestinian people out of the depths of despair that Arafat left them in, it is critical that Israel play a major role in the process.

That role requires patience, understanding and empathy. This last, the ability to put yourself in the position of another, is not given to many and in politics it often marks the difference between a politician and a statesman. But in situations requiring difficult compromises, whether in politics, marriage or the dispensing of justice, to name but a few, all three come into play. To condemn Abbas out of hand, to claim the ability to know in advance what his policies and his decisions will be, is to sentence both Israelis and Palestinians to a permanent state of warfare.

It is not what Abbas said when campaigning for office that counts, it's what he will do in office. Let's look before we leap.

Yehuda Lev, a regular columnist, is a retired journalist who has worked in Israel, Europe and the United States. He lives in Providence.

To condemn Abbas out of hand, to claim the ability to know in advance what his policies and his decisions will be, is to sentence both Israelis and Palestinians to a permanent state of warfare.

of the principal objectives for many Palestinians is to return to what they still call home.

Now you and I, and certainly Abbas, are aware that for Israel, the right of return is a red line that cannot be crossed. For one thing, almost all of those villages and homes to which the Palestinians long to return no longer exist. For another, the returning Palestinians would not be willing citizens of Israel. And for a third, they would soon outnumber and outvote the Israeli Jews

United States, the European Union and the neighboring states, that this represents the final word on the matter.

Which leaves a few major issues such as boundaries, settlements and Jerusalem to be dealt with. Are they amenable to compromise? Feasible suggestions have been made on all of them but inevitably they flounder on the rocks of mutual suspicion, repetitive violence and fear. But the greatest of all the impediments to compromise, on both sides of the line, is inadequate leadership. Arafat

Deciphering Mahmoud Abbas

There's some puzzlement about Mahmoud Abbas, the new chairman of the Palestinian Authority. Does he accept Israel's existence or want to destroy it?

Matthew Kalman of Canada's *Globe and Mail* discerns "an apparent campaign flip-flop" in this regard. A



**Daniel
Pipes**

Jewish Exponent story is titled "He Wants It Both Ways: Palestinian front-runner: Anti-terror, but pro-return." An Australia Broadcast Corporation title acknowledges its mystification, writing that "Abbas's election tactics confuse analysts."

The media dwell on the same apparent contradiction: one moment Abbas demands that Palestinian terrorists stop their attacks on Israel and the next he (literally) embraces them, calling them "heroes fighting for freedom." Also, he talks of both stopping the violence and of the "right of return" for over 4 million Palestinians to Israel, a well-known way of calling indirectly for the elimination of the Jewish state.

What gives?

Actually, there is no contradiction. By insisting on a "right of return," Abbas signals that he, like Yasser Arafat and most Palestinians, intends to undo the

events of 1948; that he rejects the very legitimacy of a Jewish state and will strive for its disappearance. But he differs from Arafat in being able to imagine more than one way of achieving this goal.

No matter what the circumstances, Arafat persisted from 1965 to 2004 to rely on terrorism. He never took seriously his many agreements with Israel, seeing these rather as a means to enhance his ability to murder Israelis. Arafat's diplomacy culminated in September 2000 with the unleashing of his terror war against Israel; then, no matter how evident its failure, it went on until his death in November 2004.

In contrast, Abbas publicly recognized in September 2002 that terror had come to harm Palestinians more than Israel. Intended to prompt demoralization and flight from Israel, this tactic in fact brought together a hitherto fractured body politic, while nearly destroying the Palestinian Authority and prostrating its population. Abbas correctly concluded that "it was a mistake to use arms during the Intifada and to carry out attacks inside Israel."

Abbas shows tactical flexibility.

Unlike Arafat, who could never let go of the terrorist tool that had brought him wealth, power, and glory, Abbas sees the situation more cogently. If stopping the violence against Israel best serves his goal of eliminating the sovereign Jewish state, that is his program.

He no more accepts what he so charmingly the other day called the

He no more accepts what he so charmingly the other day called the "Zionist enemy" any more than Arafat did, but he is open to a multiplicity of means to destroy it.

"Zionist enemy" any more than Arafat did (or Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad), but he is open to a multiplicity of means to destroy it. As he announced after his electoral victory this week, "the lesser jihad (holy war) is over

and the greater jihad is ahead." The form of jihad must change from violent to non-violent, but the jihad continues.

And count the many ways to undo the Jewish state: nuclear weaponry, invading armies, mega-terrorism, plain old terrorism, Palestinian demographic fertility, the "right of return," or confusing Israelis to the point that post-Zionist leftists cause the population unilaterally to crumble and accept a dhimmi (subservient) status within "Palestine."

For an instructive parallel to Abbas

having concluded that violence is inappropriate, consider Stalin in the decade before World War II. Aware of his weakness, he announced in 1930 an intent for the Soviet Union to be a good international citizen:

"Our policy is a policy of peace and of increasing trade connections with all countries. A result of this policy is an improvement in our relations with a number of countries and the conclusion of a number of agreements for trade, technical assistance, and so forth. ... We shall continue to pursue this policy of peace with all our might and with all the means at our disposal. We do not want a single foot of foreign territory."

These were not empty words; Stalin did largely keep to this program until 1939, when he felt strong enough to go on the offensive, at which point he initiated an unparalleled half century's campaign of aggression which ended only with the Soviet state's collapse.

For Abbas, it is 1930; he understands the need to cool things down. As someone who can realistically appraise circumstances and quietly respond to them, he is potentially a far more formidable enemy to Israel than the one-note, blindly violent, and flamboyantly evil Arafat.

Daniel Pipes (www.DanielPipes.org) is director of the Middle East Forum and author of Miniatures (Transaction Publishers).

ALISON ON ALIYA

It's official – I'm stuck!

I will never forget a conversation I had with a mentor of mine, a professor who has taken pains to steer me on the right path from the day I began as a student at Brown. He has heard me waxing nostalgic about Israel for years, bemoaning my feelings of being trapped in America, wondering if I would ever fulfill my dream of living here. On more than one occasion he was able to convince me that making *aliyah* was not the right decision for me at the time. He had spent a significant part of his life in



Alison Golub

Israel, and so I took his warnings very seriously about the inevitable downfall of my naïve hopes and dreams about life here.

And so, late in the summer of 2003, soon after making the decision to move but well before I had any clue what I would do once I arrived here, I knocked on his door with a distinct feeling of unease. I knew I was about to hear some "harsh truths," at the very least. And as I told him my preliminary plans, which included pre-order forms for a washing machine and dryer, refrigerator, and stove, I could see him preparing his speech.

"Alison," he cautioned, "You have to approach this as an experiment, not as the rest of your life. You could be in Jerusalem for the next 50 years, or you could end up back in Providence in two. You need to make the transitioning process as easy as possible, which means keeping your load light and not making purchases that will tie you down. You should only buy these types of items when you are absolutely sure that you are there to stay."

It was a very reasonable perspec-



ALISON AND HER NEW CAR, which doesn't seem to impress her dog Sava.

tive, and I bought it — hook, line, and sinker. So I came over with what was, for me, the bare minimum, and I made do. Slowly, throughout the first year, however, I began to acquire things. A TV was paramount, followed shortly by the VCR and DVD player. "No discussion," I reasoned, "These are simply must-haves." A washer and dryer were first on the list of big-ticket items, and I rationalized the purchase as a response to the exorbitant do-it-yourself laundromat prices here. Next, it was a stove — "I have to cook, don't I?" Then came the TV stand, couches, and coffee table. The arrival of all my possessions from Providence made me decidedly less mobile. I became settled.

The final "nail in the coffin," as it were, came a few weeks ago with the purchase of a brand new car. It was a truly terrifying experience, walking in and plunking down the receipt for a bank transfer of way too much money (cars here cost at least 50 percent more than in the states). But driving up the hills to Jerusalem in my new wheels,

feeling for the first time truly independent in my new country, was an experience not to be forgotten.

Of course, the process of buying the damn thing was not at all painless. The rights for new immigrants were about to suffer a drastic budget cut this month, leaving me scrambling around, trying to take advantage of the larger tax break before the year was up. And then there were the helpful officials at customs, who refused to process the car without custody (for two weeks!) of the originals of my passports, identity card, and driver's licenses. And people here don't write checks anymore; bank transfers are the preferred method of payment, and God help you if your money is in the States instead of here.

The biggest disappointment was the fact that I didn't have much choice in the matter — any of the matters. I had always fantasized about that glorious moment in my life when I would have the wherewithal to walk into a new car dealership (as a bona fide adult!) and make such a purchase. I imagined myself strutting

in authoritatively and dictating exactly what I want and how I want it. Dark grey exterior, red interior, standard shift, four doors, sunroof — the sky would be the limit. "Yes, Ms. Golub," they would nod in deference, "It'll be here tomorrow."

But here in my new home country, my fantasies were thrust to the dealership floor and promptly trampled by every available salesman. I shopped around at three different dealerships, and each time, after expressing my preferences, I was told in no uncertain terms that I was either: a) dreaming; b) insane; c) woefully uneducated with regard to reality; or — the most common response — d) all of the above. Then I was told, quite unceremoniously, what my real options were.

All of a sudden I realized that I was going to have to take what I could get, rather than actually getting what I wanted. I had to make some major decisions, and fast. The last boatload of Mazdas for the year was coming in next week, I was told, and if I wanted the tax break, I had better pick one of the cars that were on it.

In the end, it all worked out. I have a beautiful new car — bright blue, four doors, sunroof, and a radio that isn't half bad. I had to do a lot of dickering and a lot of sweet-talking. The best part is, I am officially mobile — and yet, immobile at the same time. No longer am I a "wandering immigrant," with just the clothes on my back and the ability to pick up and go back to America whenever I please. Just as my professor had feared, I have become officially stuck here, and I am here to stay. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Alison Stern Golub was born and grew up in Seattle, Washington and is a graduate of Brown University. You can email her at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com.

Letter to the editor

After Saturday comes Sunday

The title may seem a little simplistic, but it is a very profound Iraqi proverb. It means that the countries that kick out their Jews will eventually go after their Christians, too.

Today this proverb is coming all too true in Iraq. It is well-known that Baghdad was once the center of a great Jewish society numbering nearly 400,000, but most people do not realize that in 1987 there were over 1.4 million Christians living in Iraq. That number is falling rapidly: there are now approximately 800,000 left. This fast decrease in its Christian population is robbing Iraq of its little remaining politically moderate influence. The upcoming election should see hardly any Western influence, which could result in a disastrous fundamentalist Islamic society. I can only imagine what the outcome may mean for Western civilization.

I meet many people, both Christians and Jews, who say that the Israelis

should give the Palestinians what they want, which they believe will lead to peace. I do not think the situation is that simple. A good rebuttal is: "If the Palestinians lay down their arms, there will be peace, if Israel lays down its arms there will be no Israel. The roadmap to peace is not going to work because there is nobody to make peace with."

I would like to bring up "the clash of civilizations" that I have alluded to. True Muslims believe that any territory that was once held by their people can never be given to any other people. They cannot ever make peace over this issue. I would remind the readers that Yasser Arafat was offered almost 100% of what he wanted and turned it down.

So, what is to come of all this sad news?

When I was in Israel in 2002, I met an 82-year-old survivor of the Holocaust. I asked him to give me some advice as I went forward in life. He said,

"If someone says he wants to kill you, you had better believe it." I do believe this is excellent advice, and I warn everyone to believe it or else.

The Mideast is referred to as the focus of instability by most military and governmental officials. The area contains more than 57% of the world's liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons. I believe most readers would like to be energy independent of that part of the world, but it is not possible. The U.S. now produces only 30% of its needs. The world market is presently out of balance. This means that we have to

bid on oil from wherever we can get it. We produce 7 million barrels a day and consume almost 22 million. Where do we get the rest?

I offer this message so that many truths can be viewed in a few short paragraphs. There are numerous volumes to prove these factual statements. The president has stated that there may never be a peace such as we all hope for. Fasten your seat belts and be ready for the troubled future. Always remember: "After Saturday comes Sunday."

Jay Strauss
Cranston

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Jewish Voice & Herald welcomes letters to the editor and other opinion pieces on topics of interest to the Jewish community. All submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length or content. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

Federation and the JCCRI are partners?



Federation

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King



Janet Engelhart

Mayor David Cicilline sounded the call for equalizing educational opportunities across the state. Gov. Donald Carcieri mentioned the importance of educational opportunity for minority youth. One minister after another called for training dollars for incarcerated youth who are returning to the community. "URI, not the ACI," was the bumper sticker that was being distributed. And the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were read: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

This year's Martin Luther King breakfast, sponsored by the Ministers Alliance, was a call to action. The branch of the Federation that spurs, advocates for public policy, and coordinates action on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society is our Community Relations Council (CRC). I was honored to be sitting with CRC leaders and others in the Jewish community who simply wanted to show their respect for the legacy of Dr. King and their support for social action.

The Black-Jewish Alliance of CRC will co-sponsor its annual Martin Luther King Sing this Saturday evening at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. The program will begin at 7 p.m., and will feature Bill Harley as the master of ceremonies, the Temple Emanu-El Choir, the Kol Kesem Youth Choir, the Martin Luther King School Glee Club, Ebenezer Baptist Church Gospel Choir, Fishel Bresler's Klezmer Ensemble and more. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. This event is proudly brought to you by the Black-Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island, Temple Emanu-El, The Urban League of Rhode Island and The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Israeli media expert to speak

This week CRC and JFRI leaders met with security officials from the state to discuss the security needs of the Jewish community.

And, lastly, I want to bring to your attention an interesting and important upcoming CRC program. The Israel Task Force of the CRC will host Gadi Wolfsfeld, professor from Hebrew University and expert on the media's role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to speak on Tuesday, Jan. 25th at 7 p.m. in the Jewish Community Center's Senior Adult Lounge. Professor Wolfsfeld is an expert on Israeli politics and the role of the press in the Arab-Israeli conflict. He has served as a political commentator for both the Israeli and international news media including Israel television, the New York Times, Newsweek, and CNN. He has also served as a media consultant for the Israeli Defense Forces and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This program is free and open to the public.

As we approach the New Year of Trees, Tu B'Shevat, it is a time of renewal in nature. It is the time of year that trees begin to blossom in Israel. Please consider that renewal is an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to causes beyond our personal self-interest. We carry a proud tradition of tikkun olam, repair of the world. Our Community Relations Council is the perfect vehicle for personal expression and action on behalf of others. Visit our website, www.jfri.org, to see all that CRC is doing. Please call or e-mail Rebekah Raz, our Director of CRC, at 421-4111, ext. 172, or rraz@jfri.org, to volunteer.

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Community

Lynch returns from Israel trip

PROVIDENCE — Just back from a week-long trip to the State of Israel, Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch said the opportunity to tour the region with a delegation of seven attorneys general gave him the first-hand opportunity to increase his understanding of the people, politics, and policies of the Middle East.

Lynch's trip, paid for by the American-Israel Friendship League in conjunction with the government of Israel and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), included meetings with several senior-level members of the Israeli government, a stay at a kibbutz in northern Israel, and tours of a number of notable religious, historical, and geographic sites.

"Having had the chance to meet and

speak with Israelis in cities and villages, and to develop a dialogue with government leaders and top judicial experts, gave me a new perspective on the Middle East," Lynch said. "The trip also increased my respect for the resilience, strength, and tremendous spirit exhibited by Israel's people as they meet challenges on a daily basis, and as they chart a course for the future."

The group's anticipated meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon did not take place because of the activities surrounding the Palestinian Authority's election of its new president, Mahmoud Abbas, and subsequent terrorist violence on a Gaza Strip border crossing that killed six Israelis.

Gewirtz in MLK Hall of Fame

PROVIDENCE — Mayor David N. Cicilline will induct the late Nancy Gewirtz, who co-founded the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, into the Martin Luther King Hall of Fame tonight (Jan. 21) at 5:30 p.m. in the R.I. Convention Center's Rotunda Room.

She died in November and was a long-time, passionate community activist.

"There are many among us who have demonstrated the courage and compassion of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in their everyday lives," Mayor Cicilline said. "This memorial is a fitting tribute to those

who have fought for social justice and who honored King's spirit."

She was selected, along with community activist Roosevelt Benton, for having made "a substantial contribution to acceptance, social justice, civil rights and equality for those who live in Providence," according to a statement from the mayor's office. They were chosen from among 30 nominations.

The mayor created the MLK Hall of Fame in 2003. Each year, two Providence residents will be selected and their names engraved on a permanent plaque.

FROM THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Forum on separation of powers

PROVIDENCE — The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of R.I. hosted a forum on Jan. 13 on implementing the separation of powers amendments passed by Rhode Island voters this past November.

Panelists included Sheldon Whitehouse, former attorney general, as moderator; Phil West, executive director of Common Cause/RI; and Andrew Hodgkin, legal counsel to Gov. Donald Carcieri.

This program stemmed from a concern by CRC Chair Alan Axelrod that Rhode Islanders, having passed these historic provisions, may become complacent, believing that reform of our state government is now a fait accompli. "In fact, passage of the SOP package of constitutional amendments merely sets the stage for substantive reform. Much must happen to actually effect positive change in our government," said Axelrod.

Panelists were asked to present their perspectives on the challenges of implementing SOP, and what must actually happen to bring forth meaningful reform of our government.

Whitehouse put the issue in historical context, recounting the state's constitutional history and citing the elegant language and prescient thinking of our nation's founding fathers in the Federalist Papers.

West focused on the impracticability of legislators serving on executive agencies and boards — "You can't oversee what you are part of..." — and traced some of the decades of recent years (most notably, the credit union crisis) to this inherent conflict of interest.

Hodgkin discussed the enormously complex task of fashioning enabling legislation to change the composition of each of the hundreds of executive agencies, boards, and commissions; and noted that resumes of citizens eager to serve on such entities are already pouring into the governor's office. He urged anyone who wishes to serve to send a resume, and cover letter stating their areas of knowledge and expertise, to Deborah Smith in Gov. Carcieri's office, Office of the Gov., State House, Room 115, Providence, R.I., 02903. For more information, call 222-2080.



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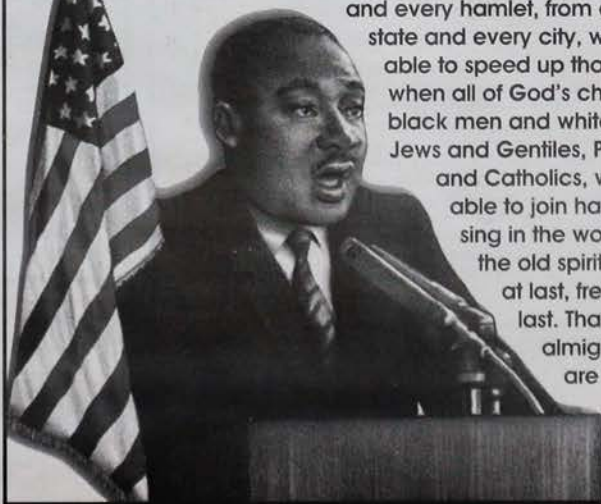
For more information contact Aimee at 401-421-4111, ext. 161

The Black-Jewish Alliance seeks to eliminate prejudice against both African Americans and Jewish Americans and to bring the two groups together to address issues of mutual concern. More information about the Black-Jewish Alliance can be obtained by calling Rebekah Raz at 401-421-4111, ext. 172

This event is proudly brought to you by
the Black-Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island, Temple Emanu-El,
The Urban League of Rhode Island and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

"...When we allow freedom to ring—

when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.'"



From Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Aug. 28, 1963

World

Israel responds quickly with tsunami relief

From page 1

promote bilateral relations with Muslim countries, but I think it's a natural thing to do so," Daniel Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to Washington, told JTA.

Ayalon appeared on a stage last week with a senior Indonesian diplomat at a synagogue fund-raiser for tsunami relief in Washington. It was a rare event for the representative of a nation that until now has shunned ties with the Jewish state. Paul Wolfowitz, the Jewish undersecretary of defense who was ambassador to Indonesia in the 1980s and 1990s and who has lobbied hard since to draw the Muslim nation into the fold of the West, also appeared at the fundraiser.

"This kind of tragedy knows no religion," Wolfowitz said. Others suggested that it would be hard to separate the humanitarian from the political significance of the giving — a factor that probably is leading at least some Jewish donors to funnel their giving through Jewish organizations. The American Jewish Committee, which organized last week's event at the Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, calculated the benefits for Israel into its actions; much of the money it raised went specifically to Israeli relief and medical emergency personnel who are in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Thailand, India and Sri Lanka have diplomatic ties with Israel.

"We are trying to make

these dollars go as far as they can and as effectively as they can in terms of relief, but also in terms of Israel's good will," said Jason Isaacson, the director of governmental and international affairs for the AJCommittee.

So far, a coalition of Jewish groups has raised well over \$13 million, said Josh Berkman, a spokesman for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC alone has raised nearly \$6.5 million dollars. The American Jewish World Service, which met with President Bush on relief efforts on Monday, has collected \$6 million so far.

Aid misunderstandings

Still, there are leftover sensitivities about the decades of distance, and these contributed to a misunderstanding about Israeli tsunami aid to Sri Lanka. The island nation accepted one plane-load of Israeli experts, but asked another, larger team to wait a few days while it organized infrastructure for relief workers.

That led to a stream of false stories that Sri Lanka had rejected Israeli aid, and the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington scrambled to get the true story out. It flooded the media with a statement that "the generous assistance readily given by the government and people of Israel at this hour of need is highly appreciated by the government and people of Sri Lanka."



Child survivors of Auschwitz after the camp's liberation in 1945.

USHMM, courtesy of Belarussian State Archive of Documentary Film and Photography

On 60th, world remembers Auschwitz

KRAKOW (JTA) — Each year, the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet forces is marked on Jan. 27, but this year the 60th anniversary has given Poland, site of the most infamous Nazi death camps, a special opportunity for remembrance and reflection.

The anniversary ceremonies, which will be held at the memorial site in Birkenau, will draw an assortment of international dignitaries and leaders. Among those slated to attend are Israeli President Moshe Katsav, Ukrainian President-elect Viktor Yushchenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Pope John Paul II, originally from the Polish town of Wadowice, which lies approximately 25 miles from Oswiecim, as Auschwitz is known in Polish, will send French Cardinal Jean-

Marie Lustiger — who was born Jewish — as his special envoy.

In addition to world leaders, the most honored guests will be former prisoners of Auschwitz from many countries.

Jaime Ashworth, director of education at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, said the 60th anniversary is significant because "this might be the last time survivors participate to this extent in Holocaust commemoration ceremonies."

In Italy, scores of educational, cultural and commemorative events were planned around the country. Events also were planned across Germany, including addresses by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and World Jewish Congress President Israel Singer at a memorial service in Berlin together with former Nazi death camp inmates.

Memorials also are planned in the Czech Republic, Ukraine, England — where Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip will host a reception for Holocaust survivors at St. James Palace — and Greece, which is marking its first Holocaust anniversary day.

U.N., U.S. events

In the United States, Yad Vashem and the Israeli mission to the United Nations are sponsoring a photo exhibit at U.N. headquarters in New York, the first-ever Holocaust exhibit at the world body, and a special session will be held Jan. 24 to commemorate the liberation of the camps, featuring speeches by diplomats. In Washington, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is sponsoring several events, including a documentary recounting an Auschwitz survivor's return visit to the death camp.

The last roll call at Auschwitz was taken on Jan. 17, 1945. The next day, some 60,000 prisoners were sent out of the concentration camp on death marches, headed to German camps in the west. Approximately 16,000 people were left behind in Auschwitz II, also called Birkenau.

Today more than half a million people visit Auschwitz each year. Poland has a particularly complicated role in Holocaust remembrance. The Nazis chose Poland as the site of many death camps because it borders Germany and was in the center of occupied Europe. More Jews — approximately 3.5 million — lived in prewar Poland than in any other country, and Poland lost more Jews than any other nation.

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News Briefs

Abbas to deploy counter-terrorism security force in Gaza

The Palestinian Authority plans to deploy counter-terrorist police in Gaza by Friday. Officials close to Mahmoud Abbas made the announcement Wednesday as pressure mounted on the Palestinian Authority president to stop rocket and mortar fire from the Gaza Strip at Israeli targets. Under the plan, 750 Palestinian policemen will deploy in areas favored by Hamas and other factions for the launches, but it was not immediately clear if they would arrest the terrorists or merely try to deter them. Hamas, whose representatives are meeting with Abbas in Gaza this week on a proposed ceasefire, said it was "studying" the security plan.

Bomber hits Gaza

A Palestinian suicide bomber killed a Shin Bet agent and wounded eight other Israelis in the Gaza Strip. The Tuesday night attack at Gush Katif junction was the first to claim the life of a member of Israel's shadowy internal security service during the past four years of fighting. According to witnesses, the 21-year-old Hamas terrorist managed to enter a Shin Bet compound at the junction, where he detonated a bomb. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas had no comment on the attack, which came as he met members of the Islamic terrorist group in hope of persuading them to lay down their arms.

Israel lauds U.N. decision

Israel welcomed the United Nations decision to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. "We're pleased as this is the first time since the establishment of the U.N. that it is commemorating the

Holocaust," Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom was quoted as saying in the *Jerusalem Post* on Monday, referring to the General Assembly session slated for Jan. 24. "The fact that 30 nations sponsored it and that 138 nations supported it speaks of the place that Israel holds within the world of nations."

U.N. agency head steps down

The controversial head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees is stepping down. Peter Hansen, the head of UNRWA, announced that he will leave his job at the end of March. Israel long has alleged that UNRWA and Hansen are biased toward the Palestinians, a charge Hansen denies.

Rice will expend 'enormous' effort

Condoleezza Rice said she will spend "enormous" effort to bring about Middle East peace, but isn't sure the Bush administration should send a special envoy for now. "We all believe, and most especially the president, that we have a really good opportunity here, given the election of a new Palestinian leader and given the Israeli Gaza withdrawal plan, which is linked to the West Bank through the four settlements that would be dismantled in the West Bank as well," Rice said at Senate confirmation hearings Tuesday as the next U.S. secretary of state.

Gaza plan drawn up

Israel has drawn up a plan to reoccupy much of the Gaza Strip if the Palestinian Authority fails to quell terrorists there. Security sources said Tuesday that Israeli forces were prepared to mount a Gaza sweep akin to Operation Defensive Shield of April 2002, which gutted the terrorist infrastructure in the West Bank.

Under the new plan, tanks and troops would seize wide swaths of Gaza used by Hamas and other terrorist groups to launch rocket and mortar attacks against Israeli targets. The takeover could last until settlers and soldiers quit Gaza later this year under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan. But security sources said Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas first would be given an opportunity to establish calm, as he pledged to do Monday.

Stock and a tree

Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrants now can receive both a stock certificate and a tree planted in their name in Israel. The partnership was launched last week by the Blue and White Fund, a U.S.-based mutual fund that invests exclusively in Israeli companies, and the Jewish National Fund. More information is available at the Web sites www.blueandwhitefund.com and www.jnf.org.



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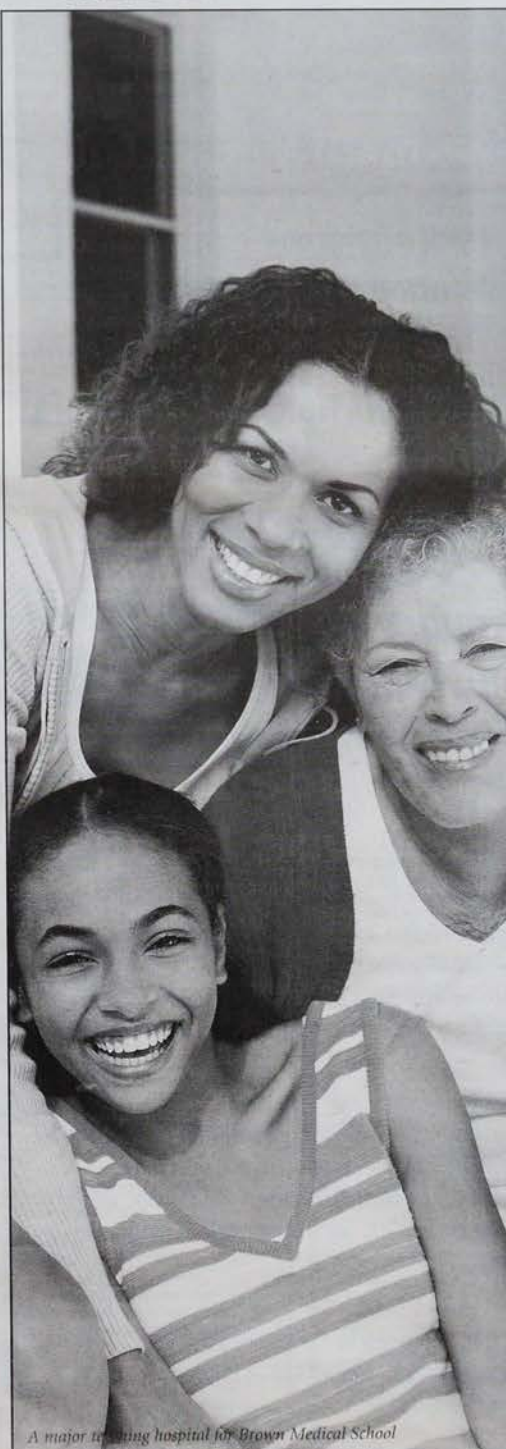
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Nation

Security chief nominee has strong ties to Jewish community

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (JTA) — Michael Chertoff, the Jewish judge President Bush nominated last week to head the vast Homeland Security bureaucracy, brings a rabbi's son's sensibility to resolving the tensions between protecting Americans and preserving civil liberties. Bush made clear in his announcement last week that he found Chertoff attractive because of his toughness and his sterling reputation.

But Jewish community leaders who know him say the judge would bring much more than that to the position.

Chertoff, 51, was the top criminal justice official at the

Justice Department at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He was one of the architects of the Patriot Act, but has since come to question what many consider some of the extremes of the Patriot Act — but that has also earned him Jewish praise.

"To his credit, Judge Chertoff recognized himself that many of things done immediately after Sept. 11 were not things that should have been done," said Paul Miller, the president of the American Jewish Congress, who has met frequently with Chertoff. "He's someone who understands the balance we need between protecting people on the one



PRESIDENT BUSH presents Judge Michael Chertoff as his nominee to be the Secretary of Homeland Security in Washington on Jan. 11.

White House Photo

hand, and tools to protect our safety — and also not to destroy our American values."

Chertoff has strong ties to the Jewish community. Born and raised in Elizabeth, N.J., Chertoff is the son of a rabbi, his two children have attended Jewish day schools and his wife, Meryl, was a co-chairwoman of the regional Anti-Defamation League's civil rights committee when he was the U.S. attorney in New Jersey in the mid 1990s. He lives in Bernardsville, N.J.

Beyond his Jewish ties, Chertoff has an impressive resume: Harvard Law School, U.S. Supreme Court law clerk, partner with the law firm of Latham & Watkins, U.S. attorney, assistant U.S. attorney general. He's now a federal judge on the Philadelphia-based Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Chertoff, a moderate Republican, is well-liked on both sides

of the Congressional aisle.

"Judge Mike Chertoff has the resume to be an excellent Homeland Security Secretary, given his law enforcement background and understanding of New York's and America's neglected homeland security needs," U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in a statement.

Chertoff was the sole Republican U.S. Attorney who Bill Clinton kept in place after assuming the presidency in 1993, on the recommendation of then-Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey, himself a liberal Democrat, and largely on the basis of his success in pursuing mob figures. He went on to become a special counselor for the Whitewater committee from 1994 to 1996, and had a reputation for toughness, although he quit just before that investigation of the Clintons turned rancorous.

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

presents

ISRAEL'S IMAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Guest Speaker

Professor Gadi Wolfsfeld

Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 PM

Jewish Community Center Adult Lounge

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Professor Wolfsfeld holds a joint appointment in political science and communications at the Hebrew University. He is also the director of the Levi Eshkol Institute for Social Science research at the University.

Professor Wolfsfeld is an expert on Israeli politics and the role of the press in the Arab-Israeli conflict. He has served as a political commentator for both the Israeli and international news media including Israel television, the New York Times, Newsweek, and CNN. He has also served as a media consultant for the Israeli Defense Forces and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This program is free and open to the public.

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Beth-El students helping homeless

From page 1

it for their lunch and snacks."

Once the students finished their trail mix packages, Paula Yopak and Sherry Royall cleaned up the stray O's and Crispix crumbs.

Even the smallest hands help out said Joel Alpert, who heads the Crossroads Food committee, which is part of the Social Action Committee (SAC) at the temple. He pointed to a low stainless steel shelf on a rolling counter. "That's where the kindergartners work."

He and other members of the committee visit the religious school classes and tell students about Crossroads (formerly Traveler's Aid), which offers food, shelter and services for the homeless. The project teaches children the meaning of mitzvot, said Lenore Levin Piper, SAC chairperson.

Once the sandwiches, trail mix and packets of celery and carrots were bagged, Alpert drove the groceries downtown to



Crossroads. "On Sundays, there's usually a crowd there in the afternoon," he said. Since there's no cooking facility, the donations are needed.

Piper welcomes volunteers to the committee. She says it's an informal, working group — not the kind that takes minutes. In addition to the Crossroads proj-

ect, the SAC organizes the High Holy Days food drive, sorts food for the R.I. Community Food Bank, works on a Habitat for Humanity project, runs a clothing collaborative and ends the year with a grand finale "Mitzvah Day."

For more information, call the temple office at 331-6070.

Fast food

Students in Barbara Jacobson's religious school class helped make trail mix for the homeless last Sunday at Temple Beth-El. From left are students Meg Sklut, Jacob Rubin, Anthony Gluck and Sarah Shoer.

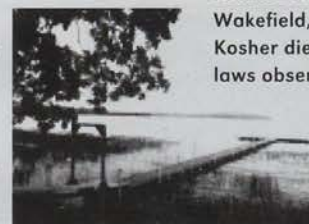
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Mideast

Abbas' honeymoon is brief

From page 1

six residents lost to Palestinian terror and demand action from the government. Yeshiva students held a prayer vigil in the main square.

Many in Sderot, a hard-scrabble industrial town that has slumped into poverty during the last four violent years, accused Sharon of ignoring them and of failing to provide a military solution. The strike occurred just a day after the prime minister gave Israeli security forces an unofficial carte blanche to crack down on Palestinian terrorists. This move would lift restrictions put on them after Yasser Arafat's death last November in an attempt to boost Abbas.

"Without even noticing, the Israeli government has turned 20,000 townspeople into hostages," said Itzik Ohayon, whose son Afik was killed by a Hamas-made Kassam rocket last year. "I am sorry to say it, but this is not a civilized country."

Although Israeli troops killed two Islamic Jihad gunmen who tried to attack their vehicles in central Gaza Sunday, this was far from the major sweep many expected. Some observers speculated that Sharon wanted his tough talk to be heard in Ramallah before becoming a fact on the ground.

Abbas responded quickly. Convening ministers for the first time since being sworn in, Abbas ordered Palestinian Authority security forces to prevent all attacks.



SWORN IN — Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas lays his hand on the Koran as he takes the oath of office under the watch of interim president, Rawhi Fattouh, second from right, and other officials Jan. 15, 2005, in Ramallah.

Pool/BP Images/IT

"Abu Mazen and the Cabinet gave clear instructions to the security chiefs to prevent all kinds of violence, including attacks against Israel," a Palestinian minister without portfolio, Kadoura Fares, told Reuters, using Abbas' nom de guerre.

Israeli officials were cautiously optimistic at the order, the strongest issued by the

ous terrorist groups lined up to say that they would not lay down their arms unless Israel agreed to a cease-fire, although it was unclear what this meant.

But there was no talk of civil war in the West Bank and Gaza, a bright spot for Abbas, who some political experts fear could be at risk of assassination given his calls to end armed attacks. One media report said the Palestinian Authority president sought to incorporate gunmen from the Al-Aksa Brigade, a terrorist group linked to Abbas' Fatah movement, into his security forces, a tacit bid for calm that Israeli officials were not quick to rule out.

But there was no talk of civil war in the West Bank and Gaza, a bright spot for Abbas.

Palestinian Authority against terrorists since the years of the Oslo peace process. But they emphasized that Sharon wanted to see a crackdown on terrorists before resuming contacts with Abbas, which he suspended after Palestinian terrorists killed six Israelis at Gaza's Karni crossing late last week.

Such a crackdown seemed unlikely. Abbas' office offered no explanation of how security forces would confront the roving gunmen in Gaza and the West Bank with whom, in many cases, they have family or ideological ties. And spokesmen for the vari-

Sderot residents said they want some stability after days spent waiting for the wail of custom-designed radars that warn of incoming rockets. Many are concerned that the security situation will only worsen after Israeli troops and settlers leave Gaza under Sharon's withdrawal plan.

"The army can go in hard, and do what needs to be done," said Sderot's deputy mayor, Shai Ben-Yaish. "But then we have to find some sort of peace settlement. There is no way of avoiding negotiations, in the end."



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Nation

Black, Jewish ties

From page 1

riots against Jewish-owned businesses in the mid-1960s and the rise of black nationalism that carried undertones of anti-Semitism often polarized the groups.

Today many of the flash-points in the relationship, like Jesse Jackson's 1984 reference to New York as "Hymietown" and the 1991 Crown Heights riots — when blacks rioted against Jews after a Lubavitch-driven vehicle accidentally hit and killed a black child in Brooklyn — are in the past.

Reports of anti-Semitic remarks by black nationalists such as the Nation of Islam's Louis Farrakhan also have tapered off. Now a new phase has dawned as both groups focus their energies on internal issues, and quieter ties have emerged. Whether the new phase will lead to a new, strengthened relationship or a cooler approach to one another remains in question.

"We've passed through a period of hostility and animosity," says Murray Friedman, director of Temple University's Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History and author of *What Went Wrong: The Creation and Collapse of the Black-Jewish Alliance*.

"The black-Jewish alliance as it once was is dead," he said. But "it has moved in the direction that has been normal in American life, where groups join together on certain issues and break apart on certain issues."

Rabbi Marc Scheier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, and Russell Simmons, the foundation's chairman, said in a statement that the recent arrest in the Mississippi murder case calls to mind the historic black-Jewish alliance and challenges members of both groups "to continue the ongoing struggle for human justice."

In fact, blacks and Jews continue to come together to advocate for political issues ranging from civil rights legislation to Israel.

"There isn't a day that goes by that the black and Jewish caucuses on Capitol Hill don't work together," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center, who is also on the board of the NAACP. Saperstein said young black NAACP board members also show an increasing interest in the Jewish community.

According to Saperstein, collaboration among blacks and Jews is strong across the country, and his own group's black-Jewish activities are as robust as he can remember. Because of that, when tensions do arise "there's



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE presents the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with its American Liberties Medallion at their 58th annual meeting on May 20, 1965. From left, Sol Linowitz, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Hubert Humphrey.

American Jewish Committee Photo

much greater disappointment and sometimes anger than when either of us has similar kinds of problems with other ethnic or religious minorities," Saperstein said.

Sherry Frank also says that in her 24 years as director of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, black-Jewish relations have grown stronger.

Yet anti-Semitism has never been as strong among blacks as among the mutual enemies of blacks and Jews, said Marshall Stevenson Jr., dean of social sciences and director of the National Center for Black-Jewish Relations at Dillard University in New Orleans, a black college

heavily endowed by Jews.

Focus on Israel, FSU

Anti-Semitism among black Muslims, for example, rarely is translated into action against Jews, he said.

Academics say the turning point in the black-Jewish relationship was the 1967 Six-Day War, which they say prompted Jews to turn inward and focus on Israel and the Jewish community's concerns.

In subsequent years, the Soviet Jewry movement occupied the energies of Jews who once had worked for civil rights, Friedman said. Around that time came the rise of black nationalism.

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Tu BiShevat centerpiece hides springtime surprise

In Israel during Tu BiShevat the winter rains are ending and the early spring sunshine is beginning to warm the soil. It is "the new year for trees" and occurs on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, corresponding this year to the secular date of Jan. 25th.



Charlotte Sheer

Special attention is given to the wide variety of trees, fruits, vegetables, and flowers that are cultivated in Israel. The whitish pink blossoms of the sh'kaydiah (almond) tree announce the beginning of springtime.

Parsley that is planted in a small pot on Tu BiShevat is usually ready for late spring use on

the Passover seder plate.

Children will enjoy creating this cheerful almond tree centerpiece for the Tu BiShevat table and later will have fun watching the tiny parsley greens begin to emerge from the soil!

Activity:

Tu BiShevat Centerpiece... and Parsley Planting

Level of difficulty:

Easy to Intermediate

What you'll need:

Plastic cup
Magazine pictures, color news paper inserts
Scraps of green paper
Pink tissue paper
White glue (Tacky glue works best.)
Small tree twig
Potting soil
Parsley seeds

What you'll do:

Cut out assorted green pieces from magazine pictures.
Glue the green magazine cutouts to completely cover the outside of the cup. Set aside.
Cut leaf shapes from green paper scraps. Glue onto twig.
Tear or cut small pieces of tissue paper.
Roll each piece loosely into a small ball. Glue onto twig



with leaves. Set aside.
Fill cup with potting soil.
Follow instructions for planting parsley seeds.
Place decorated twig in center of cup.

Visual literacy connection:

Look at photographs and works of art that include trees and other flowering plants. Find clues in the pictures that give you information about the season, time of day, location, and the mood that is created by the shapes and colors. Compare and contrast how the same kind of tree or flower is represented in different kinds of pictures. Use ideas that you get from one or more of the pictures to create the setting for an original story, poem, or play.

Gallery 401 holding artists' talk

PROVIDENCE — Gallery 401 is holding an artists' reception and talk at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23. The latest exhibit of acrylic expressionist paintings explores women's healthcare and is on display through Jan. 31.

The project is a collaboration between art instructor Keith Fox and Marie Louise Dick, a communications professor. Their intention is to provide a social mirror that allows their audience to respond individually to the topics they address.

Dick teaches at St. Cloud University, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Fox has taught at the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island School of Design.

Gallery 401 is located within the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. Call 861-8800 for further information.



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Serve up hearty soups, Russian style

By Marylyn Graff

Soups for a cold climate

When I was in Russia we were told that we had to have their cabbage borscht and mushroom soup. I think we make them better here in America.

Three Russian soups

Cabbage borscht

Beef bones with some meat or flanken, well-trimmed, 2 - 3 lbs.

A small head of cabbage, cut fairly fine

1 or 2 14 oz cans of diced tomatoes with the juice, or a 28 oz. can, if you like it tomato-y

1 large or 2 medium onions, diced

2 qts. water

2 carrots, sliced, optional

1 or 2 cooked or canned beets, cut up, optional

Sugar and lemon juice or sour salt (citric acid) to taste; start with 1/2 cup sugar and a tblsp. of sour salt or 1/4 cup lemon juice.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Put bones and/or meat in a large pot with the water

and bring to a simmer. Add cabbage, tomatoes, onions, carrots and beets; if desired, sugar and sour salt or lemon juice and salt to taste. Simmer about three hours. Adjust seasoning. Cut up meat if any, and add to soup or serve separately with mustard or horseradish. Skim off fat or chill overnight and remove fat before reheating.

Mushroom Soup

I don't recommend going out into the woods to find your own wild mushrooms. The supermarket is much safer.

1 1/2 qts. (lg. can) vegetable or chicken broth

1 cup dried mushrooms packed down

1 lb. assorted fresh "wild" mushrooms

1 medium-large onion, diced

2 boiling potatoes, peeled and diced

Put broth into a pot. Soak dried mushrooms in hot water to cover for about half an hour. Strain liquid through a coffee filter and add to broth. Add onion and potatoes. Cut up mushrooms and add to pot, along with cleaned fresh mushrooms, slicing and saving a few for garnish. Salt to taste.

Simmer for at least two hours. Puree soup in a blender. Put back into pot and reheat to a simmer with about 1/2 cup medium sherry (optional.) Simmer for 10-15 minutes to steam off the alcohol. (Using

potatoes as a thickener instead of flour prevents the soup from "breaking.") Garnish each serving with some of the sliced mushrooms.

Onion & Potato Chowder

1 1/2 qts. chicken or vegetable broth.

2 or 3 lg. onions, peeled and diced

2 lbs. boiling potatoes, peeled and diced

Several cloves garlic, to taste, peeled and chopped

2 Tblsp. vegetable oil

Put oil in large pot and heat, stir in onions and cook over low heat until clarified, adding garlic when almost ready. Stir in potatoes and broth, bring to a simmer and cook for about an hour. Salt and pepper to taste. You can puree this soup or serve as is. Sprinkle servings with chopped green onions.

You can turn this into a delicious fish chowder by adding chunks of fresh or leftover fish or even canned tuna or salmon, near the end of cooking time.

Marylyn Graff is the food editor and a copy editor at the Jewish Voice & Herald.

Son takes over Izzy's catering



Israel 'Izzy' Yamuder and son, Nathan

By Mary Korr

WARWICK — Izzy, a name synonymous in Rhode Island with good kosher cooking, has passed the apron and account books over to his son.

"After 27 years of schlepping here, there and everywhere, my father is retiring," said Nathan Yamuder one morning at Izzy's Catering, the business his parents opened on Post Road in 1978.

Izzy first learned his trade at Miller's Delicatessen on Hope Street in Providence, where he worked for 20 years. He met his wife, Sena Lifschitz of Attleboro, there when she came in for a sandwich one day.

In 1974, Izzy opened his first business, Izzy's Coach-House Deli, in Warwick.

From this, came Izzy's Kosher Catering. Initially, Izzy and Sena used the kitchen at Temple Am David in Warwick. The couple did everything, from cooking to clean-up.

When another kosher



Members of the Izzy "family" are, from left, co-founder Sena Yamuder, Mary Anne Giansanti, Nathan Yamuder, chef William Killian and Carol Barry.

Photo by Mary Korr

caterer, Louie's, went out of business, the couple "were lucky enough" says Sena, to hire members of that staff, some who continue at Izzy's to this day.

"You're only as good as the people you work with," said Izzy from his Florida retreat.

Izzy's is under the supervision of the Va'ad of HaKashrut of R.I. Today, Izzy supplies the kosher meal sites at the JCC and Temple Torat Yisrael and various nursing homes, the adult day care center of the Jewish Seniors Agency and the kosher Meals on Wheels program.

While Bar and Bat Mitzvahs are their staple, the catering house has non-Jewish clientele as well. For many, kosher is a guarantee of quality, Nathan said.

Izzy said a caterer must "fulfill your promise to a customer.

The special day that you are dealing with cannot be reproduced. Never promise anything you can't deliver."

Nathan has a good sense of humor. The future, he said, lies with cascading fountains of kosher dark Belgian chocolate. Guests pick up skewers of fruits and desserts and give a swirl. He started using it at events recently and it's very popular. That — and sushi and Asian food stations.

And while styles and tastes change over time, Izzy said what made his career special was participating in "major life events. For example, seeing proud grandparents at their grandchild's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Being able to take part in these events is the most rewarding."



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Books

Books for Tu BiShevat Happy New Year to the trees!

By Judith S. Greenblatt

The number of people who celebrate Tu BiShevat, the New Year of the Trees, has been growing in popularity in recent years. An opportunity to celebrate renewal, it fits in nicely with environmental movements.

What are the sources for the new developments concerning Tu BiShevat? The Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) library has an anthology that explores textual roots:

Trees, Earth and Torah, a Tu BiShevat anthology. Edited by Ari Elon, Nomi Mara Hyman, and Arthur Waskow. Jewish Publication Society, 1999.

This collection of resources for observing Tu BiShevat includes biblical, rabbinical, medieval, and modern sources, art, and music. It also includes recipes and crafts, as well as fiction, poetry and essays. After a section on roots, and Biblical Judaism, the book moves on to the trunk, Rabbinic Judaism, and branches: Kabbalah and Hasidism, Zionism and the land of Israel, and eco-Judaism, the fruit, the celebration of Tu BiShevat and seeds, sources for learning and doing.

Hands-on nature: information and activities for exploring the environment with children. Edited by Jenepher Lingelback. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 1986.

If you'd like to explore trees and more with your children, this book is a good place to begin. It includes information, activities and new approaches to teaching

about nature.

Tree books

Children's books about trees include:

- 244.2 H Houghton, Eric. *The Crooked Apple Tree*. Barefoot Books, 1999. Kate and Ben were disappointed that their new house had only an old tree in the garden. As the seasons passed, however, the tree provides inspiration for many games and becomes well appreciated.

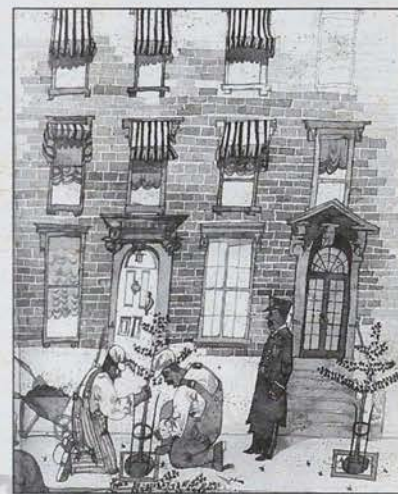
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GOL Gold-Vukson. *Grandpa and me on Tu BiShevat*. Kar-Ben, 2004. In this rhyming book, as in *The House that Jack Built*, there is a cumulative verse. Here, grandpa and the boy plant a tree to celebrate Tu BiShevat, and watch it grow.

- 958.G *Grandpa's Tree*. In this Israel travelogue, an American musician travels throughout Israel looking for the tree his grandpa planted. 24 minutes.

- 244.2 L Levine, Arthur A. *Pearl Moscovitz's Last Stand*. Tambourine, 1993. Pearl stops the city from cutting down the last tree on Ginko St.

- 244.2 Z Zalben, Jane Breskin. *Pearl Plants a Tree*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995. When Pearl's grandfather shows her the tree he planted when he first came to America, Pearl decides to plant her own apple seed in a flowerpot. But that's not enough



Trees for Ginkgo Street

Illustration by Robert Roth

for Pearl!

- 244.2 POT Potok, Chaim. *The Tree of Here*. Knopf, 1993. Pri/int. When Jason's family has to move, a favorite tree comforts him, as does a young tree he can take along.

- 244.2 R Ross, Kathy. *Every Day is Earth Day*. Brookfield, Conn., Millbrook Press, 1995. Series of projects for children relating to recycling the things we use.

- 244.2 VAN Van Allsburg, Chris. *Just a Dream*. Boston, MA, Houghton Mifflin, 1990. One night of dreams about what a terrible future the world might have changes Walter's attitude toward the environment.

- 233 BIE Biers-Ariel, Matt. *The Seven Species*. NYC, UAHC, 2003. A collection of short stories based on the biblical indigenous foods of Israel-the Sheva Minim. A good source for Tu BiShevat stories.



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Community

Vet gets Flying Cross medal

WARWICK — On Nov. 4, World War II veteran Norton Rappoport received the Distinguished Flying Cross medal for meritorious service more than 60 years earlier. Rappoport only recently discovered that he was eligible for the medal as a waist gunner on a B-17 aircraft on an attack run over Berlin on March 6, 1944.

His grandson discovered Rappoport was eligible while doing a school project and researching on the Internet the unit his grandfather belonged to.



SEN. JACK REED, right, pins the Flying Cross on Norton Rappoport. To his side are his wife, Selma, and Adjutant General Reginald Centracchio.

Photo courtesy Norton Rappoport

Zenofsky retiring from BJE

PROVIDENCE — Barbara Zenofsky announced her retirement as Director of Special Needs at the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) of R.I.

Parents of children with special needs are invited to honor her by participating in a spirituality discussion program on Sun., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. at Temple Habonim in Barrington. Rabbi Shawn Fields-Meyer will facilitate the discussion.

Zenofsky has been a teacher and consultant for special needs children in the community for 25

years and also worked as a special needs teacher in the Cranston public schools.

Rabbi Fields-Meyer, the evening's presenter, teaches at the University of Judaism's Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. She is also founder and facilitator of *Ozreinu*, a Torah-oriented spiritual support group for Jewish parents of children with special needs. She is the mother of a special needs child.

Zenofsky will also be honored by her colleagues at children in the community for 25

the Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference on Jan. 30, and by the BJE at its annual meeting in May.

To register for the program, call 331-0956, or email dgoldhaft@bjeri.org.

Temples work on Habitat for Humanity project



VOLUNTEERS from Temples Am David, Beth-El, Emanu-El and Habonim work on a Habitat for Humanity project recently.

PROVIDENCE — The social action committees of Temples Am David, Beth-El, Emanu-El and Habonim are collaborating on a Habitat for Humanity project, under the aegis of the Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of R.I.

Since July, volunteers have been working one Sunday a month on a Habitat house.

Their tasks range from framing, sheathing with plywood,

wrapping with insulation, roofing, hanging sheetrock, installing windows, and finish work, such as hanging blinds, installing shelves, affixing moldings and painting.

Alan Axelrod, CRC chair, coordinated the project, with the help of Dan 'Toby' Marwil of Temple Beth-El, who supervised logistics. Site supervisors are Tony Azevedo and Bob Pelcovits of Emanu-El.

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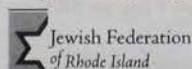
Thursday	January 27	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
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Tuesday	February 22	10 a.m. – Noon
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For more information and directions, contact Tracie Goldman
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Community

Zelniker conference to feature rabbi-author

WARWICK — Rabbi Shawn Fields-Meyer, co-author with Jerusalem's Noam Zion of a new book titled *A Day Apart: Shabbat at Home*, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference for local Jewish educators. The event will be held at Temple Am David in Warwick beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Sun., Jan. 30.

This year's conference will also honor Barbara Zenofsky, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after more than 25 years of service to Jewish children with special needs.

Rabbi Fields-Meyer's keynote is titled "Sanctifying our Lives: Teaching Ritual to Transform our Students and Families." Her focus will be on how to share the power of Jewish ritual with students and their families. She will also conduct a break-out session titled, "The Way In: Three Questions That Bring Prayer to Life."

Other break-out sessions will be: "Torah Table Talk," with Marcia Kaunfer, teacher at the Alperin Schechter Day School; "A Foot in Two Worlds," with Gershon Levine, assistant



Rabbi Shawn Fields-Meyer

director for Jewish community outreach, New England Region, Anti-Defamation League; "Seven Ways to Shabbat" with Miriam Esther Weiner, Judaic studies coordinator, Providence Hebrew Day School; "Shabbat B'derech Ivrit: Teaching Shabbat Through Hebrew" with Rabbi Jacqueline Romm Satlow, educational consultant at the BJE; and "Hiddur Mitzvah: Glorifying God" with Diane Cerep and Jana Brenman, Creativity Center coordinator and creative consultant, respectively, at the BJE.

Rabbi Fields-Meyer is instructor in bible and liturgy at the University of Judaism's Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. She also teaches bible, prayer and spiritual practice at Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles and is a scholar-in residence at the Lishma program for college students at Camp Ramah in California. She is founder and facilitator of Ozreinu, a Torah-oriented spiritual support group for parents of special needs children. She will conduct a special retreat for principals and rabbis the day after the Zelniker Conference.

The educators' conference is named for Joseph and Leba Zelniker, whose daughters, Ella and Sarah, established an endowment fund at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island in memory of their parents. This annual event brings prominent Jewish educators to the community.

Teachers may register for the conference by mail to: BJE/RI, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906; by phone at 331-0956; by fax (401) 274-7982 or email goldhaft@bjeri.org.

The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
 and the
 Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island
 The 5765 Rosh Hodesh Series

Women of Valor: How do they relate to our lives?

February 8 • March 10 • April 12

29 Shevat • 30 Adar 1 • 3 Nisan

FEBRUARY

Shevat

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2005
 Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
 Location: Temple Tova Yisrael
 330 Park Avenue, Cranston
 Cost: \$14.00 (lunch included)
 Speaker: Rabbi Jacqueline Romm Satlow,
 Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island

MARCH

Adar 1

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2005
 Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Location: Temple Beth-El
 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence
 Cost: \$5.00 (dessert included)
 Speaker: Rabbi Sarah Mack, Temple Beth-El
 * This program co-sponsored by Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El

APRIL

Nisan

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2005
 Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
 Location: Congregation B'nai Israel
 224 Prospect Street, Woonsocket
 Cost: \$14.00 (lunch included)
 Speaker: Maud Mandel, Assistant Professor,
 Department of History, Brown University
 * This program co-sponsored by the Women's Rosh Hodesh Group of Congregation B'nai Israel

Dietary laws observed

RSVP by January 24, 2005
 by mailing check and the form below to:

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I.
 02906-3497
 attn: Rosh Hodesh Series

NAME(s):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Please check which session(s) you will be attending

- ☐ February 8 - "Dinah" - (Noon) \$14.00 fee, lunch included
☐ March 10 - "Forgotten Women of the Talmud" - (7:00pm) \$5.00 fee, dessert included
☐ April 12 - "Bella Abzug" - (Noon) \$14.00 fee, lunch included
☐ Enclosed is my check payable to the JFRI for \$ _____ for the cost of the sessions.

Community

Hadassah holding stem-cell forum

WARWICK — The R.I. Chapter of Hadassah will host a community forum on stem cell research on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. in the community room of the Warwick Police Station in Apponaug.

Gil Siegel of the Israeli Embassy will explore the topic from individual, religious, scientific, ethical and moral considerations, legislative challenges, and Hadassah's current and future work in medical research.

This event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served and a \$3 donation is requested.

On March 2, the Rhode Island Chapter will participate in a nationwide effort to advocate for support from our legislators by meeting with state and national representatives and presenting Hadassah's stem cell research.

For more information, contact Cory Fink at 941-5303 or email: corynurse@msn.com.

Holocaust Museum plans spring events

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum (RIHM) has a new educational programming committee; members are Stan Abrams, Melissa Baker, Ed Bochner, Rebecca Brenner, Alice Eichenbaum, Don Hogue, Susan Odessa, Susan Resnik, Jay Strauss, Carol Sugarman, and Rita Williams.

For Student Awareness Days 2005, the committee decided to bring in a nationally known storyteller to perform at schools in three different parts of the state and at one community performance in the Providence area. The performer, Ina R. Friedman, is also an award-winning author of books about the Holocaust for young readers. She has spent decades interviewing people all over the world, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who experienced the Holocaust in different ways — some as victims, others as resisters. Her performances in Rhode Island will tell the stories of three Christians from very different backgrounds who resisted the Nazis.

The community performance, which will be tailored

for an adult audience and include a discussion, will be held in the community room at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living residence on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. A patron's reception will be held in the sun room prior to the presentation.

The second spring project that the committee is now working on is RIHM's annual art and writing contest, which is open to students from grades 6 through 12. There are five categories for submissions: essays, poems, short stories, 2-dimensional art, and 3-dimensional art. The awards ceremony on May 15 will be held at the Warwick Mall. Entries are due April 8.

For more information, call the museum at 453-7860.

Torat talk on organ donation

CRANSTON — Temple Torat Yisrael will explore the Jewish views and traditions of organ donation at a Shabbat morning service at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 29. Rabbi Amy Levin will present a sermon titled "Saving Souls: the Torah of Organ Donation."

"Because of the traditional Jewish reticence to allow autopsy, there is a widespread belief among Jews that organ donation is prohibited," Rabbi Levin said. "It is essential that committed and literate Jews understand what our tradition teaches about the mitzvah of organ donation."

The temple will honor those members who have donated to its

blood drives, which it holds four times a year. Members who volunteer at the R.I. Blood Center will also be honored at a kiddush luncheon to follow the service.

Temple Torat Yisrael invites the entire R.I. Jewish community to join in this educational event.

Continuing the program, there will be a blood drive at the temple on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call 785-1800.

Temple Torat Yisrael

Saving Lives: The Torah of Organ Donation Rabbi Amy Levin

The Rhode Island Jewish Community is invited to join the Torat Yisrael Family for a special Shabbat devoted to the issue of Organ and Blood Donation.

Shabbat morning services, January 29, 9:30 am

Kiddush lunch following services honoring those who have donated blood or volunteered for the Rhode Island Blood Bank.

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Jewish-Latino Alliance

The Jewish-Latino Alliance of the Community Relations Council (CRC) at the Federation met with members of the Latino community recently to discuss developing programs of mutual interest. Above, members of the CRC, Maxine Richman, in foreground, David Leach and CRC director Rebekah Raz listen to Dr. Cynthia Garcia Coll of Brown University speak on Hispanic immigration to Providence; she noted Providence has the fastest rising population of any city in the country. At left, Guia Sanchez, a member of a Latino community group, spoke on educational issues facing inner city kids.

Photos by Mary Korr



Vets need courtroom volunteers

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish War Veterans of R.I. is looking for members to volunteer about two hours once a month to distribute copies of the "Bill of Rights" at the swearing-in ceremonies for new citizens at the Federal Court House in Providence. If interested, call Harvey Green at 726-0190.

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Simchas

Mazal Tov!

Engagement



Emily Fink and Nathaniel Spunt

PROVIDENCE — Michael and Michael Fink announce the engagement of their daughter, **Emily Blima Weintraub Fink** to **Nathaniel Louis Spunt**, son of Palma Spunt of Brookline, Mass., and the late Malcolm Spunt.

The future bride is a graduate of Classical High School, Yale College and Harvard Business School. She is presently employed at Colgate, Inc., in Manhattan.

The future bridegroom is a graduate of Brookline High School, Kettering University and Harvard Business School. He is employed at Archstone Consulting in Manhattan.

A 2005 wedding is planned.

Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Buchsbaum

PROVIDENCE — **Jerrold and Barbara Lavine** announce the marriage of their daughter, **Elisa Heather**, to **Gordon Robert Buchsbaum**, son of Sanford and Selma Buchsbaum of Greenwich, Conn., on Oct. 30th at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. Rabbis Wayne Franklin, Alvan Kaunfer, and Cantor Brian Mayer officiated.

The reception was held at Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass.

The bride is a special education teacher. The groom is an executive chef. The newlyweds reside in Brookline, Mass.

Birth



Jacob David Bookbinder

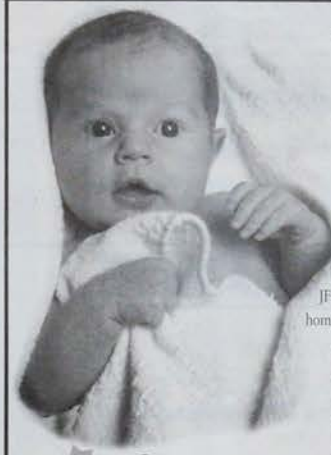
SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Mr. and Mrs. Evan Bookbinder announce the birth of their son, **Jacob David Bookbinder**, on Nov. 12. He weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Bookbinder of Warwick, and Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Kessler of Parkland, Fla. Maternal grandparents are Susan Galbraith of Brookville, Pa., and Gerry Fitzsimmons, also of Brookville.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bookbinder of Boca Raton, Fla.

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Handsome, sincere, intelligent, romantic, faithful, communicative vegetarian. Israeli DJPM, 48, 5'8", lean, Phoenix resident, enjoys music, nature, exercising, conversations and reading. Seeking relocatable soulmate, S/DF, 30-48, good-looking, health-conscious, nonmaterialistic. Friends first. ♀49005

Seeking love, romance. DWJM, 58 (look mid-40s), 5'8", 175 lbs, fit, n/s, varied interests, open-minded, emotionally and financially secure, seeking a WF, slim, 40-55, emotionally secure. Let's talk soon! ♀49002

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AS WE GROW OLDER On Reading *Lost In America*

I have ventured into many new territories in the course of writing this column but I have never written a book review.



Tema Gouse

However, I cannot resist telling you about a book that I recently read which touched me very deeply.

It is titled *Lost in America* and was written by Sherwin B. Nuland.

The dust cover of the book tells us that Dr. Nuland is a clinical professor of surgery at Yale Medical School where he teaches bioethics and medical history. He has written articles for prestigious medical journals and multiple popular magazines.

Now he has written a highly readable and touching book, subtitled *A Journey with my Father.*

It is an autobiography primarily but is also a very sensitive biography about a parent whose impact on the author is ever-present. It reflects how negative feelings regarding a parent can stimulate a child to be independent and achieving.

Born Sherwin Nuland,

Dr. Nuland begins his personal life-story with a heart-rending description of a totally debilitating depression that struck him before he reached middle age. After extensive treatment he recovered and resumed his professional life. He shares the impact of that illness as a preface to his life story.

But this is not a book about the achievements of Sherwin Nuland, now Nuland. This is the story of how his relationship (or non-relationship) influenced his formative years with his embittered, internalized immigrant father whose presence "walks with me through every day of my life."

Meyer Nuland (called Daddy rather than Pa because

mandatory, more ritualistically than spiritually. Sherwin's older sibling had died of pneumonia as a preschooler and his death became the symbol of family grief and created Meyer's aversion to ever again loving someone so much. Physical contact occurred only when chastisement was indicated.

His early preoccupation with "escaping" intensified with the never-explained death of his mother while he was still in grammar school. Each of the family mourned alone. And then a loving benefactor entered Sherwin's life, sending him to camp and then to Yale University. His father felt embarrassed at accepting the philanthropy of others. Despite his son's achievements,

it was only when Sherwin was on his way to becoming a doctor that Daddy could express some pride.

This book affects one so much because it dramatizes the period and the Jewish immigrant experience so richly.

In this non-communicating household, Daddy's increasing debilitation was not discussed. Silence enhances denial. Closeness does not develop in a vacuum. After a lengthy illness Meyer Nuland died.

This book affects one so much because it dramatizes the period and the Jewish immigrant experience so richly. The candor of the author's insights to his pains and deprivations is moving.

I, too, had spinster aunts who never really learned to speak adequate English. They, too, worked in the clothing sweatshops. My home was English speaking but I had relatives who spoke only Yiddish to me. Like Sherwin, I remember being embarrassed about their "foreignness."

It was delightful to read Yiddish terms I had not heard in fifty years. So candid a baring of one's soul is unique. I have not told you some of the dramatic highlights of this life history. They are there for you if you choose to read *Lost in America*.

He ends the book saying—"In seeking to escape him I have drawn closer and now at last I know that the closeness can be good." This is a book to experience.

Tema Gouse, a regular columnist, is a retired social worker and lives in Cranston.

it sounded more American) escaped military servitude in Bessarabia by immigrating to the United States in 1907. He cut off all contact with his family in "the old country" and never explained why. His erasure of a previous life was an ominous indication of Meyer's problems with intimacy. On arrival he pursued several enterprises, failing all of them, and, like many immigrants of the era, he ended up spending the rest of his working life in the sweatshops in the New York Garment District. He never had the courage to upgrade his life and didn't even go to English speaking classes in order to improve his status.

The author's description of his family sounds familiar to those whose family background is similar. Mama Nuland was also from an immigrant family but one who had warmth. However, as was the custom, she never defied Meyer, even to defend her children and Meyer repressed freedom of expression from Sherwin and his brother Harvey.

The household language was Yiddish, with occasional mispronounced English interspersed. The spinster Tante (aunt) who lived with them was not respected, even though her earnings were needed. Bubbeh (grandma) was convinced that every non-Jew was a potential danger. Religious observance was

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Obituaries

Mildred Bloomberg

NORTH PROVIDENCE — Mildred Strashnick Bloomberg died Jan. 4. She was the wife of the late Norman Bloomberg.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Dora (Sarser) Strashnick.

Mrs. Bloomberg leaves two sisters, Tillie Selenger and Irma Friedlander of North Providence. She was the sister of the late Doris Arbeitman, Shirley Leibow, Catherine Pedlikin and Louis and George Strashnick.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Bertha Gershaman

EAST PROVIDENCE — Bertha Gershaman died Dec. 27. She was the wife of the late Hyman Gershaman.

Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Morris and Anna (Popick) Rosenfield, she had lived in Providence for many years before moving to Cranston more than 40 years ago, recently relocating to East Providence.

She was a retired bookkeeper at the School House Candy Co.

She was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael, Temple Emanu-El, the Cranston Senior Guild and Pioneer Women.

She leaves a son, Sidney Gershaman of Stoughton, Mass.; a grandson, Joel Gershaman, of San Francisco, and many nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Agnes Gertsacov, 103

PROVIDENCE — Agnes (Garfinkle) Gertsacov, 103, died Dec. 25, one week before her 104th birthday. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Israel and Tillie (Orleck) Garfinkle.

She owned Woodman's Jewelry for more than 50 years, until she retired at 87.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El, the Leisure Club of Temple Emanu-El, the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society, the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association and Hamilton House. She was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

She leaves a daughter, Joan Gertsacov Smith of Providence and Coral Springs, Fla.; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Alan Avram Gertsacov, and a sister of the late Benjamin Garfinkle, Beatrice Woodman and Nancy Fabricant. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Agnes Gertsacov Memorial Investment Fund, c/o Citizens Bank, Attn. Leslie Whitaker, 63 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903.


Joseph Golditch, 89

CRANSTON — Joseph Golditch, 89, died Dec. 13. He was the husband of the late Charlotte (Nochemsohn) Golditch and

the companion of Barbara Pratt of Cranston.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Max and Jennie (Shapiro) Golditch.

He was the owner of the former Louis and Co. Luggage and also worked for American Tourister Luggage.

 He was an Army staff sergeant in World War II in Belgium, and was a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 284.

A graduate of the former Commercial High School in Providence, he attended the University of Mississippi.

He was a member of the Providence Central Lions Club, the Cranston Senior Guild and the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association. He was a volunteer patient advocate at Rhode Island Hospital.

He leaves a daughter, Linda Weber of Solvang, Calif., and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Morris, Louis and Nathan Golditch, Blanche Strauss, Flora Brody and Celia Levine. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 710 West 168 St., New York, N.Y., 10032.

Albert Hanzel, 85

PROVIDENCE — Albert Hanzel, 85, a retired shoe store owner, died Dec. 16. He was the husband of Pearl (Garfinkel) Hanzel. They had been married for 59 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late William and Kate (Cushner) Hanzel, he was a lifelong resident of the city.

He was the owner of the former Harbar's Shoes in Wayland Square before retiring in 1985.

He was a graduate of Hope High School and had attended the University of Rhode Island.

Mr. Hanzel was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Harriet Cole of Natick, Mass., and Barbara Marks of Bedford, N.Y.; a sister, Lillian Stein of Natick, Mass.; and four grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Sydney, Harold, Leo, Bernard, Minnie and Sadie Hanzel.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

David Hazman, 96

PROVIDENCE — David Hazman, 96, died Dec. 31. He was the husband of Mildred (Kramer) Hazman. They were married for 71 years.

He was a son of the late Jacob and Naomi (Sharifson) Hazman.

He owned pharmacies in Providence and Smithfield for over 50 years, before retiring 20 years ago. He was a graduate of Classical High School and the Massachusetts School of Pharmacy. He was a former member of Congregation Sons of Jacob Synagogue and a member of Touro Fraternal Association.

ciation.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Barbara Wortman of Lynn, Mass., and Judith Feigenson of Wheaton, Md.; a sister, Sadie Levine of Rhode Island; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Max Hazman, Mary Sharifson and Lena Millman. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to Home & Hospice Care of R.I., 169 George St., Providence, RI 02906.

Sylvia Jacobson, 85

SMITHFIELD — Sylvia (Friedstein) Jacobson, 85, died Jan. 10. She was the wife of the late Paul Jacobson, and the daughter of the late Jacob and Lena (Fein) Friedstein.

She leaves a daughter, Dena Carlone of Smithfield, two grandchildren and a niece. She was the sister of the late Ruth Bragman and Bernard Friedstein.

Contributions may be made to Home and Hospice Care of R.I., 169 George St., Pawtucket, RI 02860.

William L. Jacobson, 95

CRANSTON — William L. Jacobson, 95, died Jan. 10. He was the husband of the late Bessie (Wiegenfeld) Jacobson.

He lived in Cranston for over 50 years and was employed in jewelry manufacturing for 48 years. He was a member of the Touro Fraternal Association.

He was the father of Barbara Jacobson of Cranston and Allan Jacobson of Fairfax, Calif. He was the brother of the late Hyman, Albert, Harold, Jack and Benjamin Jacobson, Sheila Hochberg, Rhoda Newman, Gertrude Lang and Dorothy Appelbaum.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Esther Jagolinzer, 85

PAWTUCKET — Esther Jagolinzer, 85, a retired switchboard operator, died Jan. 7. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Lena (Spahn) Jagolinzer, she had lived in Pawtucket for just over a year, previously living in Warwick.

She worked for the National Guard, retiring in 1985.

She was an avid reader and bingo player and enjoyed a good soap opera. She loved giving things to people.

She leaves a sister, Selma Kline of Stoughton, Mass., and several nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Edith Priest and Blanche Botvin.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Chrones Colitis Foundation.

Robert L. Levin, 71

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Robert L. Levin, formerly of Pawtucket and Providence, died Dec. 21. He was the husband of the late Janice Wilma Levin.

He was the son of Eli and Kitty Levin of Pawtucket.

He graduated from Wentworth Institute in Boston with a degree in architectural construction, and the University of Rhode Island with a degree in civil engineering. He was the president of Bob Levin Professional Engineering Co. He worked at Shell Oil Co. and Honeywell International.

He leaves a son, Laurence Levin; a daughter, Julie Cruys; a brother, Harris (Hal) Levin, of Boynton Beach, Fla.; a sister, Donna Singer of Newton, Mass.; and two grandchildren.


Contributions may be made to Pathways, 3115 Hennepin Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN, 55408 or Our Lady of Good Counsel Cancer Hospice, 2076 St. Anthony Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55104.

Richard S. Paster, 79

CRANSTON — Richard S. Paster, 79, a salesman until retiring in 1988, died Dec. 28. He was the husband of Elaine (Frank) Paster; they had been married for 56 years.

Born in Providence, a son of Dora (Fain) Paster and the late Irving D. Paster, he lived in Cranston most of his life.

He was a graduate of Hope High School and the University of Rhode Island.

 He was a Navy veteran of World War II. A Mason, he was a member of Redwood Lodge 35, AF & AM in East Providence; the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Providence; the Rhode Island Shriners; and the Shriners' Motor Corps, in which he was first captain.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves two sons, Leonard A. Paster of North Kingstown and Bruce J. Paster of Hampton, N.H.; a brother, Donald L. Paster of Greenbrae, Calif.; and eight grandchildren. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Rabbi Robert Schenkerman, 70

NAPLES, Fla. — Rabbi Robert Schenkerman of the Naples Jewish Center, died Dec. 17.

He was the husband of Arline (Bloom) Schenkerman. They had been married for 45 years.

Born in Brooklyn, he was the son of rabbinic scholar Joseph Schenkerman and his wife, Edna.

An honors graduate of Brandeis University, he was ordained in 1961. He earned a doctorate degree in 1986 from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. Besides Naples, he also served pulpits in Rhode Island, New York City, Hawaii and New Hampshire.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Judith, and a grand-daughter.

Contributions may be made to The American Red Magen David for Israel, c/o The Jewish Fed-

eration of Naples, 1250 Tamiami Trail No., Naples, FL, 34102.

Bertha Serge, 91

WARWICK — Bertha Serge, 91, died Jan. 12. She was the wife of the late Wallace Serge.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Molly (Hoffman) Pepper, she had lived in Warwick for over 40 years.

She is survived by a sister, Charlotte Desotnek of Warwick, a nephew and a niece. She was the sister of the late Lee Harrison.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Henrietta Shatkin, 90

BROOKLINE, Mass. — Henrietta "Honey" (Willner) Shatkin, 90, died Jan. 1. She was the wife of the late Albert Barnett Shatkin.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., a daughter of the late Samuel and Fannie (Herskowitz) Willner, she lived in Providence, Florida and Brookline.

She graduated from Hope High School in 1931.

She owned the former Added Touch gift shop in Providence. She also worked at the former Worthmore Dress Shop in Providence, a family business.

She leaves a son, Stephen Shatkin of Brookline. She was the sister of the late Beatrice Blistein, Cele Saitow and Joseph Willner.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Sylvan Simons, 86

GREENWICH, Conn. — Sylvan Simons, 86, formerly of Providence, died Dec. 21.

He was the husband of Eva Sayles Simons and the late Frances Hurwitz Simons.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, he was an electrical engineer and an inventor.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a sister, Stella Simons Glassman of Providence and Boca Raton, Fla.; several nephews and a niece.

Miriam Smith

BAL HARBOR, Fla. — Miriam (Bell) Smith, formerly of Providence, died Dec. 23. She was the wife of the late Archie Smith.

Born in Holyoke, Mass., a daughter of the late Joshua and Annie (Burke) Bell, she lived in Providence for 70 years before moving to Florida in 1989.

She graduated from Classical High School in 1932, and attended Simmons College.

Her husband was a founder of the Providence Hebrew Day School. She was also a member of the former Howell Street Synagogue. She was a member of Hadassah and Pioneer Women and a former president of the New England Region of the Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

In 1981, she received the Amudim education award from Yeshiva University in New York

Obituaries

Miriam Smith

From page 25

City. She was a volunteer for the Sisterhood at The Shul in Surfside, Fla.

She helped establish a kosher kitchen at Brown Hillel.

She leaves three sons, Zvi Hershel Smith of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Arthur A. Smith of Stamford, Conn.; and Earl M. Smith of Bergenfield, N.J.; a daughter, Meryl Raskin of King of Prussia, Pa.; a brother, Bernard E. Bell of Providence; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late M. David Bell.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to United Jewish Generations, c/o Rabbi Menachem Smith, 16820 North East 6th Ct., North Miami Beach, FL, 33162.

Norma Broadman Sondler, 87

WARWICK — Norma (Storti) Broadman Sondler died Jan. 13. She was the wife of the late Jack Sondler and the late Haskell Broadman.

A daughter of the late Jenny (Hyman) Storti, she was a resident of Cranston and Warwick for most of her life.

She was co-owner, with her late husband, Haskell Broadman, of the former Park Ave. Delicatessen in Cranston.

She is survived by a son, Dr. Jordan Konisky of Houston, Tex.; a daughter, Fredda Yaras, of Warwick; a sister, Melba Kaplan of Cranston; and four grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Jack Storti.

Betty Cutler Tobin, 89

WARWICK — Betty Cutler Tobin, 89, of Delray Beach, Fla., previously of Warwick, a home-

maker, died Jan. 8. She was the wife of the late Abraham Tobin and Hyman Cutler.

Born in Frederickton, New Brunswick, Canada, a daughter of the late Morris and Katy (Freedman) Lampert, she had lived in Delray Beach for six months, previously living in Warwick and Providence.

She was a former member of Temple Am David and its Sisterhood and a life member of Hadassah.

She leaves two sons, Warren Cutler of Delray Beach, and Jeffrey Cutler of Cranston; two step-sons, Norman Tobin of Warwick and Paul Tobin of Springfield, Mass.; a daughter, Sharen Sherman of Chiang Mai, Thailand; a brother, Harold Lampert of Portsmouth, N.H.; and seven grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Abraham and Morton Lampert.

Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of RI, 245 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Frances Wattman, 86

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Frances Singer Wattman, formerly of Providence, a retired librarian, died Dec. 28. She was the wife of the late Irving Wattman. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Isadore Singer and Sophia (Villar) Singer Wachter.

She was a graduate of Classical High School, and was a magna cum laude graduate of the former Pembroke College of Brown University; she also attended the Rhode Island College of Education and earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Rhode Island. She was a member of the Pembroke College Club and gave teas for incoming

freshman.

Mrs. Wattman was a librarian at the Broad Street School in Providence and founding librarian and a volunteer at the former Jewish Home for the Aged. She was a Red Cross volunteer and was honored with a 25-year pin for her leadership work with the Girl Scouts. Mrs. Wattman was a life member of Temple Emanu-El and its sisterhood, Hadassah and the Jewish Historical Association of R.I. In Palm Beach she was a life member of the Brandeis University Women's Association, a member of the Jewish Federation, and of Temple Emanu-El and its women's club.

She leaves two daughters, Judith Schubert of Foxboro, Mass., and Marjorie Lang of Irvine, California; and seven grandchildren. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Irving and Frances Wattman Endowment Fund at Temple Emanu-El.

Florence Weintraub

PROVIDENCE — Florence Weintraub, a concert violinist at the Rhode Island Philharmonic, died Dec. 16. She was the wife of Morris Weintraub.

Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Max and Harriet (Shoob) Nadien, she grew up in Fall River. She graduated from BMC Durfee High School, and attended the Julliard School of Music in New York City.

As an assistant concertmaster in the Rhode Island Philharmonic for 50 years, she played the violin while her sister, Sylvia Rosenthal, played the cello. She had accompanied such famous artists as Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman. Both sisters retired from the orchestra after the 1998 season.

During World War II, they toured the Pacific for seven months, entertaining the troops. After the war, they joined the

then-fledgling Rhode Island Philharmonic.

Mrs. Weintraub was a member of the Rhode Island State Council of the Arts, and had also served on its board of directors.

She also played in various orchestras throughout the region, including the Hope String Quartet, of which she was a director.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El.

Besides her husband and sister, she leaves a son, Stuart Weintraub of Taos, N.M., and a daughter, Michael Weintraub Fink of Providence; two brothers, David Nadien of Fall River and Lew Nadien of Wantagh, N.Y.; and three grandchildren.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Bessie (Sharp) Wolf, 99

Bessie Sharp Wolf, 99, a former jewelry store owner, died Jan. 5. She was the wife of the late Harry A. Wolf.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Joseph and Bena (Leibster) Sharp, she lived in Fall River and Providence all her life.

Mrs. Wolf, with her husband, were the co-owners of the former Wolf Jewelry in Fall River, retiring in the early 1970s. Prior to Wolf Jewelry, she had worked for Kay Jewelers in downtown Providence for many years.

She was a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association and Hadassah. She was a former member of the Metacomet Country Club where she enjoyed playing golf.

She leaves a sister, Madeline M. Asher of Providence, nine nieces and nephews, 13 great nieces and nephews and 16 great-great nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Hattie Botvin, Minna Strauss, Pearl Lovit and Anne Snow.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of R.I., 245 Waterman St., Suite 306, Providence, RI 02906.

Will Eisner, comic-book artist



MELROSE PARK, Pa. (JTA) — Will Eisner, a giant in the world of comic book art who used his craft in later years to fight anti-Semitism and teach Jewish history, died Jan. 3 in Lauderhill Lakes, Fla., at age 87. The cause of death was complications from heart bypass surgery.

Born on New York City's Lower East Side in 1917, William Eisner was the son of European Jewish immigrants, and his experiences growing up in Brooklyn and the Bronx later would figure prominently in his work.

He turned down an early job offer to design sets for a traveling theater because his mother considered it "a terrible life." Instead, Eisner sold newspapers on a street corner "to make it easier to set a respectable table on Friday nights," and honed his cartooning skills at the New York Art Students League.

Entering the field of comic-strip art in 1936, Eisner soon established one of the first comic-art production studios, assembling a team of artists to provide comic strips and illustrations for newspapers around the world.

Eisner's most famous character creation was the Spirit, an unconventional crime-fighter.

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My Voice

A class reunion with a difference



Alice Goldstein revisited the primary school she attended in Germany during the Nazi era.



THE LESSING SCHOOL in Freiburg, Germany

The text of the plaque affixed to the Lessing School:

"At this site, the Jewish children from Freiburg and the surrounding region received their schooling, because — on the basis of racist laws — they were no longer allowed to attend public schools.

These students, their families and teachers encountered the persecution and extermination policies of the Nazi regime. Thanks to brave people who resisted Nazi rule, many of the children survived, although their families did not.

With those who were saved, we mourn those who were murdered. The rescuers are an example for us of tolerance and civic courage.

From October 1936 until the Nazi pogrom of Nov. 10, 1939, the mandated school was housed in this building. From March 1939 until the deportation on 22 October 1940 to Gurs in southwestern France, schooling took place in the Jewish community center next to the destroyed synagogue at Wethmann Place."

(This is the second of a two-part essay. In part 1, which ran in the Jan. 7th issue of the Voice & Herald, the author relates her experiences as a student in a mandated Jewish school in Freiburg, Germany, during the rise of Nazism and just prior to World War II.)

By Alice Dreifuss Goldstein

I left the school in August of 1939 to flee with my parents to the United States. The school itself was finally closed in October, 1940, when the entire Jewish population of southwest Germany was deported to the concentration camp Gurs, in southern France.

63 years later

From 1939 until 2002, I gave no thought to those two semesters in the Jewish school, even though my Jewish school report card, carefully saved by my parents, followed me from place to place. When, in 2002, I returned to Freiburg for the first time in 63 years, I was asked to visit the Lessing School. A teacher there had initiated a project to write the history of its former Jewish school and she hoped I would be able to identify the rooms and tell her about my experiences. I had no memory of the place at all. We wandered from room to room without any hint of recognition on my part. Finally we went into the schoolyard and in a flash I recognized the chestnut trees surrounding the playground and remembered the games we had played with the chestnuts. So we knew I had been to that school, but learned little more.

In October, 2004, in response to an invitation from the Lessing School, I returned again. Over the two and a half years since my visit in 2002, the teacher and her successive 10th-grade classes had completed their history of the embedded Jewish school, had identified some two

dozen former pupils and had arranged for a plaque to be affixed to the building in commemoration of its history. The former students were invited to participate in the events surrounding the dedication of the plaque. Some seventeen of us returned. We came from Israel, France, Great Britain and the United States.

The program for the three days that we were officially together had been thoughtfully planned to allow time for socializing and relaxing between official events. A formal dinner, carefully structured to allow observance of kashrut, began the festivities. School officials and the mayor of Freiburg attended and spoke, both in welcome and to indicate their commitment to a multiethnic society. The "alumni" began the process of learning about each other.

The following day we were invited to the Lessing School to speak to classes and meet teachers and parents. We were greeted at the school by the strains of klezmer music — a trio of teachers who had deliberately learned this music to make us feel welcome! We were then escorted to various classrooms to meet with students. I met with a seventh grade that had been working on a unit on tolerance and understanding, with the Holocaust as one component. The class itself was multinational, with children from Russia, Turkey and Afghanistan, as well as Germany. They were very receptive to my story and spoke freely about their own encounters with prejudice. Several indicated that while they were very interested in learning about the Nazi period and could speak freely about it to their parents, they were met by complete silence when they approached their grandparents. One young woman was really angry to be so stonewalled. I also felt free to speak to

parents and teachers about my past during the lunch that followed our class meetings and also found a real interest in learning about Judaism.

The following day, the plaque was formally dedicated. City officials, school administrators and some of the alumni spoke. A jazz duo provided musical interludes. I spoke of my longtime reluctance to have anything to do with Germans and Germany; of the constant question in my mind whenever I met Germans; "What did you do during the Nazi period?" and of my gradual recognition that there was now a new generation of Germans. I spoke of the need to learn from the rise of Nazism the importance of protecting civil liberties and of respecting people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or nationality.

The audience included all the upper grades of the school. Also attending were mayors from several of the native towns of the alumni. The ceremony was dignified and moving. The plaque is attached to one corner of the school building where it can be easily seen. It provides a counterpoint to the many signs throughout the city pointing to the general history of Freiburg.

During and between these activities, I was able to learn a little about my fellow returnees. Several had escaped Germany on the "Kindertransport" to England; a few others fled with families through Switzerland. Many were among the deportees to the Gurs concentration camp. From there, they, like most of the children in the camp, were smuggled out, to live in a series of orphanages in southern France. As soon as they could, after the war, they made their way to Israel or the United States, depending on where other family members had been able to find refuge. As

a first-grader in the school, I was among the youngest to return for this reunion. Several were already beyond school age by the time they arrived in America. Two of the men were old enough to be drafted into the Korean War.

Most strikingly, not one of us remembered fellow pupils, other than those who were our own family members, or much about the school itself. Only one recalled the classrooms. A few remembered teachers. The traumatic experience of being away from home, living in a repressive and dangerous time, and then focusing on new lives as quickly as possible, undoubtedly pushed the Jewish school experience far out of mind. I also think that most of us had suffered the loss of playmates who, in Nazi Germany, no longer "knew" their Jewish peers. We learned, even at the age of six or seven, to depend only on ourselves and our immediate families; we tried to be as invisible in public as possible. We were extremely reluctant to trust anyone with our friendship or to become emotionally attached — we were protecting ourselves from future hurt.

We returned to Germany with mixed feelings. One came back for the first time; others of us have done so more often. We all believe that we cannot blame the new generation for the past but that they must learn from it. We want them to know about the life of Germany's Jews before Hitler and of the important contributions that Jews made, even in the smallest hamlets. We hope that activities, such as those at the Lessing School, will help further these goals and aid the young people who were involved to grow into caring and open-minded citizens.

Alice Goldstein is a Holocaust survivor and resident of Warwick.

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Larry Miller, actor



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