

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

9 Adar I 5765

Vol. III — Issue XXV

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

February 18, 2005

As of Feb. 15, the annual community campaign has raised

\$3.9 Million — up 4%.

Thank you to our donors for making a difference in the lives of Jews in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world!

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FIRST ISSUE OF JEWISH HERALD PUBLISHED IN 1929. See page 3.



THE FACES OF ALIYAH. See page 6.



KEEPING KOSHER ON EL AL. See page 20.

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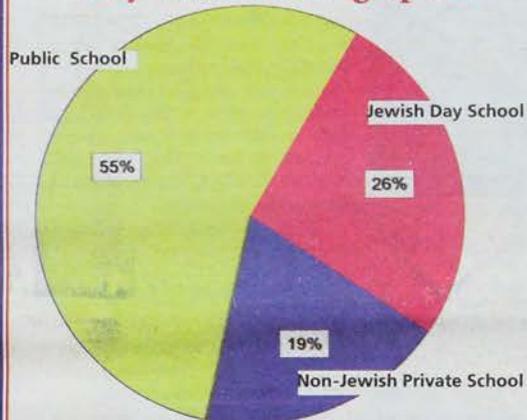
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Community day schools growing trend

'The community day school is an exploding phenomenon, expanding beyond anyone's imagination.'

— Dr. Marc N. Kramer

Day School Demographics



Type of schools attended by Jewish children in R.I., ages 6-12



DAY SCHOOL EXPERT — Dr. Marc N. Kramer, the executive director of RAVSAK, the Jewish community day school network, speaks to Russell Raskin, at left, president of the Providence Hebrew Day School, after his presentation.

Plans advance to open one here in 2006

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — The plans for opening a pluralistic, multi-denominational Jewish community day school in Rhode Island took another step forward when a nationwide expert, Dr. Marc N. Kramer, spoke to community leaders, educators, and rabbis on Feb. 3.

And on Wednesday, Feb. 16, the Jewish Federation of R.I. board discussed start-up funding for the school in the range of \$400,000 over a two-year period.

"Over the last 10 or more years, Jewish education has been identified as one of our top priorities," said Mark R. Feinstein, president of JFRI.

Two years ago, Feinstein convened the first committee to examine the state of Jewish day school education in Rhode Island, and their resulting recommendation was to examine the possibility of a community school. Today, a community day school is receiving growing support from Reform, Conservative and Orthodox community leaders.

See DAY SCHOOL, page 8

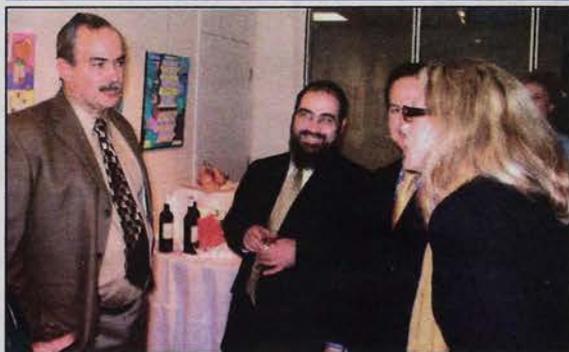


Photo courtesy of Kollel

WELCOME — Walid Shoebat, at left, a former PLO terrorist who now speaks up for Israel, gave a talk at the Jewish Community Center Feb. 2. Jewish Community Kollel Rabbi Raphie Schochet, who organized the event, stands next to Mayor David Cicilline and DeeDee Witman.

Former Muslim terrorist speaks out for Israel

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — Walid Shoebat walked to the stage at the Jewish Community Center on Feb. 2 flanked by two black-suited security guards. An Arabic man in his late 40s, Shoebat took the microphone and said something that even those familiar with his cause weren't quite prepared for. "Shalom Haverim (Hello friends)," he said in Hebrew.

A former member of the Palestinian Liberation Orga-

nization who carried out terror attacks against Israel and who was raised on anti-Jewish vitriol, Shoebat has since found a love for Israel and Judaism. A Christian Zionist living in this country, he travels to colleges, churches and synagogues telling the story of his painful childhood, his violent adolescence and his eventual reformation.

Born in Bethlehem, the son of an American-Christian

See TERRORIST, page 9

The Jewish Voice & Herald

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater
Rhode Island

Feb. 18 5:02

Feb. 25 5:11

March 4 5:19



Community

Jewish Voice & Herald wins awards



Photo by Jonathan Rubin, taken Nov., 2003.

PHOTO FINISH — This photograph of a girl from a moshav (agricultural community) in southern Israel presenting a bunch of grapes to American tourists, from vineyards funded by American Jewish communities, won first place in the annual New England Press Association's "Better Newspaper Contest."

BOSTON — The R.I. Jewish Voice & Herald staff won three awards in the annual "Better Newspaper Contest" run by the New England Press Association (NEPA), comprised of 460 daily and community newspapers in the six-state region.

The winners, selected from 6,000 entries, were given out at NEPA's annual convention and trade show held Feb.



Photo by Mary Korr

WINNING STORY — A story on a boy with autism, Zach Blasbalg of Barrington, shown here at his Bar Mitzvah in Temple Habonim last year, won first-place in the feature writing category in the annual New England Press Association's "Better Newspaper Contest."

4-6 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

The Voice & Herald's editor, Jonathan Rubin, won a first-place "personality photo" award for his photograph of a young Israeli girl on a moshav he took on a Federation trip to Israel. The judges cited it as "an arresting portrait of health, innocence and beauty."

He also took a second-place

award in the feature writing category for a historical and travel article on Jewish Spain.

The Voice & Herald's asst. editor, Mary Korr, won a first-place feature writing award for a story on a Bar Mitzvah boy with autism in Barrington, Zach Blasbalg, who was helped every step of the way by his determined and patient older sister, Samantha.

Community Calendar

Continuing

PHDS Minyan,

Torah Conferencing

Sats., Feb. 19 & 26, 8:30 p.m., Rabbi Yisrael Reisman.

Sun., Feb. 20, 11 a.m. to noon, Rabbi Eitan Feiner, live from Israel.

Thurs., Feb. 24, 9 to 10 p.m., Rabbi Yissachor Frand, followed by Maariv.

Temple Torat Yisrael

Adult education classes every Tues. from 7 to 9 p.m. Rabbi Amy Levin will lead classes on Talmud, Mishnah, traditions; Proverbs introduction with Ethan Adler. Fee is \$18. To register, call 785-1800.

TUES. TO THURS.

FEB. 22-24

JCC Vacation fun

10 a.m. JCC, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence. Open to the public; \$5 per child, adults and kids under one year free. Snacks included. Tues., storyteller Cindy Killavey; Wed., magician Skip Daniels; Thurs., Gym Bears movement class. Contact Carolyn at 632-0784.

Gan Israel camp

Chabad CHAI Center, Warwick. Winter camp will take place on any day or all three days. With daily trips, activities, arts and crafts and warm lunches. Jewish children ages 5-10. \$25 per day.

Scholarships available. Call 884-7888 to register.

TUES., FEB. 22

Celebrations heirloom craft session

2 p.m. Art & Soul Pottery, 147A Orchard Ave., Wakefield. Pottery and paint. \$10. Limited registration. Call Robin Kauffman at 477-4313 or rkauffman@bjeri.org.

Knitting Mitzvah

10 a.m. - noon. JCC Senior Adult Lounge, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence. Knit scarves and hats to send to children in Afula, Gilboa. Novices and experts welcome, lessons provided, needles and yarn available. Sponsored by the Community Service Committee of the Women's Alliance. For information, contact Tracie Goldman at 421-4111, ext. 162 or email tgoldman@jfri.org.

SAT., FEB. 26

Torat Yisrael 'Fire and Ice' night

"Fire and Ice" evening sponsored by Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston. Havdalah service followed by an evening of ice skating, both to be held at the Fleet/Bank of America Center on Kennedy Plaza in Providence. Adults \$5, children \$3. Rental skates are available for \$5.

Temple Beth-El dance

Silent auction, 50/50 raffle, DJ, catered buffet dinner. \$50 a couple. Call 331-6070 for information.

SUN., FEB. 27

Israel Trips forum

11:30 a.m. Temple Emanu-El in

See CALENDAR, page 19



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The Jewish Herald began 76 years ago

By Yehuda Lev

It wasn't the best of times to start a newspaper. The collapse of the stock market and beginning of the Great Depression were just three weeks away.

It wasn't the worst of times either, at least for fledgling Jewish newspapers. There was international news — the massacre by Arabs of dozens of Jews in Hebron — and local news — the installation of Dr. Jacob Sonderling as the new rabbi of Temple Beth-Israel — to report on. These were just two of the stories uppermost in the minds of many of the 30,000 Jews of Rhode Island when the first issue of *The Jewish Herald*, which billed itself as "R.I.'s Jewish Home Newspaper," was published on Oct. 3, 1929.

A copy of the first issue is in the archives of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. It is yellowed and the edges of its pages are flaking off, but with great care you can turn them and enter a Jewish world radically different yet strangely similar to our own. In the front page report on Rabbi Sonderling, who came to Rhode Island from a pulpit in Hamburg, Germany, Providence Mayor James E. Dunne was quoted as comparing him in appearance to "Count von Luckner, who may be remembered as the brilliant (German) war captain (who) scoured the seas destroying many Allied ships without the loss of a single life." This was regarded by the rabbi and the audience as great praise just 11 years after the World War.

News from Palestine

The major front page story from Palestine, as it was then called, was concerned with the aftermath of the Hebron massacre and, in particular, the behavior of the British police at the scene, one of whom was given a citation for bravery for protecting the Jews of the city. The Jewish



Photo by Mary Korr

START THE PRESSES — The first edition of *The Jewish Herald*, in the archives at the R.I. Jewish Historical Association, was published on Oct. 3, 1929. The weekly newspaper sold for five cents a copy or \$2.50 "per Annum, payable in advance." Meyer M. Cooper was the president of the Jewish Press Publishing Company, located on Orange Street. James M. Finkle was the managing editor and Harold K. Halpert was the editor of the new newspaper.

survivors had a somewhat different version of what happened and cited the unwillingness of the police to protect them. In a second front page story, a London newspaper was quoted as reporting that British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, en route to New York, was warned to issue a statement favorable to the Jews of Palestine, if he is not to avoid "... the same kind of reception in America as a British Premier would have received from the Irish population of New York."

A prominent story

on the cover concerned a dispute between Louis Lipsky, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and David A. Brown, chairman of the Palestine Emergency Fund, who disagreed about some critical words Mr. Brown uttered about Rabbi. Stephen Wise, another Zionist leader. In the restrained language of the times, Mr. Lipsky said, in part, that Mr. Brown's words were "... baseless and

Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
 1654 ~ 2004

uncalled for and hurtful in the cause of unity."

Another story on the top of page one told of the plans Rhode Island congregations were making for the coming of the year 5690: "The New Year holidays will be marked by a series of learned sermons, all of which will, no doubt, inspire the members of that congregation to an intelligent evaluation of themselves in the past year's life and to a proper resolution of improvement in the years to come," stated the writer.

Editorial page

Turning to the editorial page, the lead editorial expresses the purposes of the editors in publishing Rhode Island's first Jewish newspaper: "*The Jewish Herald* will perform a function that no other periodical or newspaper performs in this state. It will provide the Jews in Rhode Island with news of their brothers in other localities, and, at the same time, it will tell them, in striking contrast, of their own contributions to Jewish life, in their synagogues, in their market-places, in their clubs, and in their drawing rooms."

A second, and far longer editorial, concerns the place of Jews in Palestine: "For the sake of honesty and practicability, every Jew must recognize that the non-Jews of Palestine have their rights and their place in the land."

Dorothy Williams

Bar/Bat Mitzvah coming up?

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jcc Kollel
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 A traditional Friday Night service followed by a communal meal in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Services begin with the Afternoon prayers at 5:20 followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and the meal.

Friday evening March 4th - JCC of RI
 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI

Services are free.
 Advanced registration for the meal is required.
 \$10 per person \$50 per family (maximum).
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Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Welcome to the 'Minus-50 Club'

Ever mindful of our mission to educate the Jewish masses, this week we focus our attentions on the calorically challenged who, by every recent account, comprise a majority of the population. All others should turn immediately to the heavyweight thinkers with whom your observer shares this page.



Yehuda Lev

As a newly enrolled member of the "minus 50 Club" (55 pounds to be exact) I feel compelled to share with you some of the unexpected pitfalls you may encounter en route to the nirvana of thinness. Consider, for example, the problem of the wandering pants pockets. It is always possible to take in a pair of trousers from the back but it is impossible to do so from the front. Result? As your waistline gets smaller your anterior pockets move further and further to the rear, resulting in four posterior pockets, suitable for holding wallets but not keys. Have you ever tried sitting on a bunch of keys? Or take the need to refit. Sooner or later, as you progress down the path to physical perfection, you will be urged to purchase a new wardrobe. This can be a discouraging experience. Confident in my new

self-image as Mr. Slim, I ventured forth last week, first to Macy's, then to J.C. Penney, only to be told that they had no suits in my size. Salespeople in both emporia suggested a third store, which shall not be named (no, it was not Big and Tall) and there I found suitable clothing but, to my embarrassment, in a section marked "portly." I tried to persuade the management to rename it "Executive Size" but they were resistant to change. As one explained to me, "If it was good enough for Roger Williams,

mundane matters as proper nutrition and weight loss.

There were 135,000 entries to choose from. Dedicated as I am to thorough research, that seemed a bit much, so I examined only the first 50. Two themes were stressed, kashrut and vegetarianism, and both were treated with great respect.

Of proper nutrition and weight loss I saw not a word, although perhaps I missed some by not checking out the

upon by another plant worshipper with a quotation from Deuteronomy 8:7-10... "a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey."

In all this, you quickly realize, there is nary a slice of brisket to relieve the endurance required to eat only seeds and trees.

Sheer endurance is one cornerstone of successful Jewish dieting to the point where the two most commonly used instructions on your computer are COPY and PASTE. (I am assuming that, like me, successful dieters write down the caloric value of everything they eat, even unto the tiniest Altoid.) You can, with sufficient practice, type your food diary for a single day and endlessly copy it, making adjustments only for late weekend mornings.

There is another, equally essential cornerstone to this process. Never go it alone. Jews emerged from a tribal culture: return to it as quickly as possible. I'm not referring to a 12-step program. Tribes have shamans, or gurus. Get yourself a guru. I have one, provided by Miriam Hospital's cardiac rehab program. Every week she checks my diary and tells me how well I am doing. Believe me, it's even better than brisket.

Jews emerged from a tribal culture: return to it as quickly as possible. I'm not referring to a 12-step program. Tribes have shamans, or gurus. Get yourself a guru.

it's good enough for us."

You may wonder what all this has to do with our usual areas of interest: Jews, Israel, governmental errors of judgment and the imperative, so often cited by the moralists among us, to repair the world. In an attempt to find a connection linking Judaism with diet, I googled both words together to see how much attention is paid in our sacred writings to such

remaining 134,950 entries. Of the laws of kashrut and their rationale, I do not have to remind you, but the trend toward Jewish vegetarianism is supported, among the faithful, by numerous biblical quotations, including this from Genesis 1:29: "Behold. I have given you every herb yielding seed... and every tree... to you it shall be for food." That is enlarged

ALISON ON ALIYAH
Family matters

People are always shocked to find out that I made *aliyah* without having any family here in Israel. I am always asked, with incredulity, how I manage by myself and when my parents will be coming to join me here.

Until recently I was rarely bothered by these questions, usually responding that my family in Seattle simply doesn't feel the same way about Israel and isn't able to make such a huge trip to visit me here. I contented myself with the dumbfounded looks I always receive by telling myself that Israelis have a different conception of the meaning and behavioral norms of family, and that this is just another of those glorious little cultural differences.

But lately it's been getting to me. I find that, in nearly every phone conversation with my mother over the past month, I cannot help but mention how much I want her to come visit me. We talk, argue, debate - even yell - endlessly about the reasons for her reluctance: it's too far, too much money, too scary, too dangerous, too unknown. I try to understand, to use the empathy skills I have learned in my psychology studies, but it's so difficult and so painful.

Then, last week, I had the same

conversation, but for the first time with my brother. I had never expected him to come here, for all the same reasons. But how he articulated his own excuses really hit me. "Alison," he explained, "you have to understand that a trip like this is simply beyond my comfort zone. Places like Israel, and Iraq - they're just too scary."

Yes, you heard right, my friends. "Israel and Iraq," in the same sentence! I was shocked. I simply cannot believe how my family, after hearing me wax poetic about Israel, about how happy I am, about how much my life has changed for the better in this past year, even after reading these articles every two weeks, could still believe that Israel is comparable to a less-than-developing country surging with militants and rebels, in full-on war times, no less!

There are times on the phone with my family when I am certain that they are picturing me living in a tent in the middle of the desert with my camel tethered to the front flap. Whenever I happen to mention that it is raining, whoever I am talking to at the time invariably exclaims, "Really!? It rains there?"

None of my friends here understand how my family can be so far removed from Israel, in every way. Every other *olah chadasha* (new immigrant) that I know has had at least two family members visit them within a year of making *aliyah*. Although I feel painfully alone

in this regard, the fact that my family can still believe what they believe even with an *olah chadasha* in their midst, speaks fairly loudly about the terrible P.R. coming out of this country. My protestations as to the safety and relative peace here just can't seem to combat the constant news footage of Kassam rocket shelling, military incursions into the territories, and lockdowns at the checkpoints.

And so I've become a foreigner in my own family. They don't understand me, and I can't seem to find a way to bridge the gap. I wish my words were enough, but their fear and lack of information are obstacles too large to overcome and I honestly can't blame them. I always knew that I was different, that this country spoke to me in a way that very few people can truly comprehend. But this is the first time that I have been faced with my family's profound inability, or lack of willingness, or perhaps lack of desire, to open a window into my world here.

A couple of weeks ago I received an email from a woman introducing herself as a distant cousin on my mother's side. I immediately called her number, fingers shaking with emotions I didn't know I was capable of having. She told me she made *aliyah* the year I was born, and has loved every minute of it since. I was filled with a sense of wonder and pure joy, and not a small amount of incredulity that there was someone out there in my gene pool who felt the same way I do. No matter how distant, to find out that even a drop of Zionism exists in my family tree was an incredibly powerful thing. No longer do I need to feel different or alone. There is someone out there with parts of my blood running through her, who understands how I feel about this land. And she can drive over to visit anytime.

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, and read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.

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. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

VIEWPOINT

Tsunami, tzedakah, and the question of evil

By Alan Krinsky

The devastating tsunami in Asia has led to much discussion of G-d and the problem of evil. Beyond the sudden and profound human loss and material destruction, the far less pressing yet deeply perplexing theological questions haunt many of us. While some individuals of various religions see in the tsunami a divine punishment or message, many seek other ways to reconcile the devastation with our religious beliefs and commitments. We wonder, where was G-d when well over 200,000 individuals—including many children and entire villages—were swept away to their deaths without warning?

As horrifying as we find the tsunami, is it the seeming injustice of it or rather its enormity that distresses us so? After all, I would suggest, the problem of evil (that is, theodicy, or the problem of evil existing under the auspices of a good G-d) remains the same, whether we are talking about more than 200,000 tsunami victims or a single child with cancer. Is the problem of evil truly any different in the two cases? Should the recent disaster lead us to question our faith or G-d's place any more than a single suffering child?

To this I would answer no. Both cases figure as theological problems. If

we can reconcile or at least manage to maintain our faith in the event of one, we ought to do so in the event of the other. After all, our ancestors, on the whole, lived in much more treacherous times and places, without our material and medical resources; lifespans were, on average, shorter, and child mortality higher. Did our ancestors waver in their faith in the wake of suffering, in the wake of epidemics, Crusades, or pogroms? No doubt, some questioned G-d or shouted at G-d, but our ancestors continued to keep the mitzvot; they kept on guarding Shabbat, observing the kosher dietary laws, and they kept on celebrating life—weddings, holidays, Shabbat, children, food, and so much more.

Even after the murderous reign of the Nazis and the often unspeakable horrors of the Shoah, Jews have continued to build, both the state of Israel and yeshivot, schools of Jewish learning, not only in Israel and America, but in Germany and in the former Soviet Union too.

In the end, I do not have a simple means of resolving the problem of evil in the world, of how we explain a good G-d coexisting with a destructive tsunami or a single case of childhood cancer. I do think one Jewish answer is to struggle, to question, not to rest, to understand that we cannot really understand completely from

our limited perspective. As Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein noted recently in reacting to the tsunami, we can only remain silent, yet we must say something.

It is not my purpose here to suggest an answer to the problem of evil. Others, who have devoted much more research and thought to the matter have penned entire books. Rather, I wish to note that if our ancestors could maintain their faith, and if we have until now managed to maintain our own faith, then this terrible tragedy ought not to shake it.

Why, if the theological problem is no different, then, has our response been so great? Jews and non-Jews alike, in our community and across the world, have made generous pledges and donations for relief. Why? Well, the human imagination is touched by the enormity of the disaster. We have a difficult time comprehending the loss of so many lives in such a brief window of time.

And although I mean no criticism of generosity in providing relief, I think that our response to devastation ought not to be determined entirely by our perceptions to it. The tsunami, as did 9/11, elicits our response, but are the victims and survivors of 9/11 or the tsunami any more deserving of our sympathy and our tzedakah than children with cancer or people ill with AIDS? How do we compare the couple of hundred thousand people dead in a moment in Asia

with the millions dying slow deaths of AIDS in Africa? Are the latter any less worthy of our concern or charity because we have become less horrified by their condition or fate?

How can we measure and compare tragedy and suffering? We ought not to, I suppose. But we should not let our giving be shaped too strongly by our perceptions, by the almost instinctual horror we feel.

This, then, is the central thought I hope to offer for consideration: we ought to be careful not to diminish our tzedakah to other organizations by giving to the worthy cause of tsunami relief.

Whether we have given in the past to local Jewish education or to fighting AIDS in Africa or both, we should not simply divert our resources to tsunami relief. We should give to the latter not instead of the former, but in addition.

Perhaps the best Jewish response to the problem of evil is to do good, to make the world a better place, to decrease suffering, to give of our time and money. After all, tzedakah is most properly translated not as charity but as justice. The Jewish response to evil in the world is to pursue justice, tzedakah, and to increase it.

Alan Krinsky lives in Pawtucket.

Letters to the editor

Support for public schools and Jewish organizations

Where are your kids going to school? It's a topic for all parents on the East Side, where we have a lot of choices. It often surprises people when I mention that my children are enrolled in the Providence public school system, and say that I am thrilled. The teachers are kind and wonderful. The youngsters are learning and love going to school every day (except when it snows).

Yes, there are frustrations. "No Child Left Behind" is a farce. The schools are constantly under the threat of cuts. The system is overloaded; it must teach English as a second language, help students who don't grow up in the Jewish tradition of learning, and they have to accept anyone. Schools have an impossible and often thankless job.

So why do so many East Siders pull their kids out? 1) Fear. They want their children to have the best, and they're afraid of the public schools. 2) They can. They have the resources to enroll their children in a private school.

My children have great teachers. They meet and play with people who aren't from the same socioeconomic background. And it's free. (Well, not free. I have to pay taxes like everybody else.)

In the last issue of the *Voice &*

Herald, there were two pieces on the Opinion page that offer an interesting contrast. In one letter, Rabbi Alvan Kauner opened the conversation for a new Jewish community day school. In the other, Rick Nelson discussed the United Way's defunding of the JCC,

and the problems that is causing.

Here's my proposal. Stop sending our children to private schools. Send them to the public schools and demand that the public schools do their job. Support the public schools. Join the PTO. Lobby at the state house and the White

House. And take the money you save and contribute it to the JCC, or whatever cause you like.

Our children are the future, but not just our children. All children.

Mark Binder
Providence

PHDS Dean lauds community day school effort

The Providence Hebrew Day School has been serving the Southeastern New England Jewish community for more than 55 years, preparing students to take their place as Jewish leaders of tomorrow. The Day School provides a program that blends the finest in Torah studies with a rigorous program in general studies that prepares our students to compete in a globally competitive society.

As Jews and educators, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that the next generation is introduced to the highest ideals of the Jewish faith. For half a century, PHDS has stood for the proposition that full-time Jewish education is essential to that goal. We are therefore pleased to learn that leaders of the Rhode Island Jewish community have embarked on a mission to open a

community day school, with the goal of reaching and teaching every Jewish child. It is a noble goal and one that we whole-heartedly support.

It is also important to note that the nationally prominent consultants chosen by the Federation, Dr. Joshua Elkin of PEJE and Dr. Mark Kramer of RAVSAK, have made it clear that the community school model is usually not the school of choice for Orthodox families, regardless of their level of observance. That is why the Community School Task Force recommended, and the Federation has accepted, the charge that the Federation and Bureau of Jewish Education will remain firmly committed to supporting an Orthodox day school, to serve the needs of those families for whom a community school is not an option. As PHDS has always

served a non-Orthodox constituency as well, the lay leadership of the school views the community day school as a challenge for us all to strive to greater academic heights.

We are especially gratified that the Federation has chosen Jewish education to be the centerpiece of its effort to strengthen the Jewish community of R.I. The opening of a community day school, and the exposure of large numbers of our youth to the beauty power of our Tradition, will enhance Jewish living in Rhode Island by supporting the idea that day school attendance is the number one priority for the growth and vitality of our people.

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, Dean
Providence Hebrew Day School

Federation

Two visitors show heart behind face of aliyah

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — Two young men who made aliyah to Israel shared their stories with members of the Jewish community last week.

They were part of the "Faces of Aliyah" program which the R.I. Jewish Federation supports through the Jewish Agency for Israel and the United Jewish Communities.

They are but two of the 120,000 new immigrants to Israel in the past four years, said Maya Neiger, who works for the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem and who accompanied them to New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Tennessee, Omaha, and Providence.

Snapshots:

Natanel Kadoche, 26, grew up in Casablanca, Morocco. He attended a Jewish day school, which also educated Christian and Muslim students. He was

always curious about Israel and attended a summer program there when he was 15.

"It was a historical moment for me to stand at the Western Wall," he said. "I made history for myself."

Ultimately, he decided to attend university in Israel. "I was supposed to go to Paris and study there, like my brothers did," he said. Instead, he told his family he wanted to make aliyah. He was 18. "My mother didn't want me to go in the Israeli Army."

He described his first day in Israel: "There was a suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market. I was put into the reality of my new country immediately," he said. He stayed with an aunt for several weeks, before beginning a preparatory school, which he attended on scholarship from the Jewish Agency. "In my aunt's apartment in Jerusalem, we had Shabbat dinner. I felt new born," he said.



Photos by Mary Korr

ISRAELI VISITORS — At left, Maya Neiger from The Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, speaks about how the agency assists newcomers to Israel, such as Alejandro Okret, left, and Natanel Kadoche. The trio came to Providence last week on a program called "Faces of Aliyah," which the Jewish Federation of R.I. supports through the Jewish Agency for Israel and the United Jewish Communities.

Looking back over the last seven years, he said, "The hardest thing for me was to leave my family behind in Morocco." His parents eventually moved to Israel; and his mother passed away three years ago. "She is buried in Israel. This is important to us," he said.

He now attends Bar-Ilan University, and is in his third year in optometry school. To relax, he likes to gather with his friends on Shabbat — friends from all over the world who have made aliyah, like him — and to listen to Israeli pop music. He also likes to explore the small towns and out-of-the-way places

in Israel.

Alejandro Okret, 23, was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He made aliyah three years ago. "I didn't go to Jewish day school, but I was raised in a Zionist way. I was part of a Zionist Youth Movement. I had a Jewish world and a regular world."

He recalled the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in his city when he was a teenager. "My sister and I went there afterwards, and tried to recover books and pieces of its history — it was 100 years old," he said.

The incident gave him a

deeper understanding of what it meant to be Jewish. "I had a commitment to the Jewish community, I realized. In that spirit, I went to Israel at 16 with a youth group. I had fun. We went to an Army base and dressed up in uniform. We held M-16s. I looked around at the land my father told me about in stories — and there I was, on this land where everything happened."

"When the second Palestinian uprising began, I decided to make aliyah. I had to help. My mom said, 'Why now, in the middle of the bombings?' I cannot say she understood it, but she supported me."

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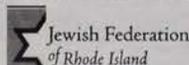
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Speaker: Rabbi Sarah Mack, Temple Beth-El
Program: "Forgotten Women of the Talmud"

* This program co-sponsored by Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El

APRIL *Nissan*

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
Program: "Bella Abzug"

* This program co-sponsored by the Women's Rosh Hodesh Group of Congregation B'nai Israel

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Federation

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Celebrate Adar, a month fit for a queen

As we enter the month of Adar, I'm always brought back to childhood celebrations of Purim, the highlight of this Jewish month.



Janet H. Engelhart

Community school

My mom, of blessed memory, would tack up the hem of one of her formal strapless gowns, buy a crown at the local party store and take me to Temple where I joined with the other hundred or so Queen Esthers, marching in the special Purim parade.

One of my favorite photos of my daughter, Allison, is in a long pink gown, with a handmade crown and a flower in her hand, a beautiful Queen Esther pictured shortly before her third birthday because she is an Adar "baby." She still talks about holding her ears during the noisemaking and waving the daisies that the children received as a reminder of Queen Esther's beauty and strength.

And so, it is especially appropriate that, in this month of merrymaking and focus on our children, we celebrate the formation of a Board for a Community Day School. It has been known for years that full-time Jewish education is our best insurance policy for perpetuation of our Jewish community. Now is the time for us to invest in the broadest day school options possible so that we can attract additional students to receive Jewish day school education.

Our community and our donors have declared that we must offer forward-thinking, cutting-edge Jewish experiences of excellence throughout the state. And so The Partnership has moved ahead to explore the best option for day school education, resulting in the formation of a Community Day School. I applaud their efforts.

We must not stop there. The Partnership is putting together a proposal for adult study and leadership development to present to our agencies and leaders across our region. We should look at ways in which to better cooperate and collaborate in the area of informal Jewish education - camping, teen activity, Israel experiences, and family education.

Smile, it's Adar! This is the time of the year for celebrating our resilience as a people and the time to celebrate our children and grandchildren. We have much to smile about. We are on the road to building our community from strength to strength.



Israel briefing

LEADERS FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF R.I. and its Community Relations Council and the American-Israel Political Action Committee received a private briefing from Sen. Lincoln Chafee on his recent trip to the Middle East and Israel. From left are David Hirsch, Janet Engelhart, Bruce Wolpert, Rebekah Raz and Richard Licht.

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Community

DAY SCHOOL: Day schools a growing trend

From page 1

"Community schools are on the cutting edge. Our community is ready to embrace one," said Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, who chaired the committee studying the school. A board of directors has recently been nominated — the proposed officer slate includes Bruce Wolpert, president; Gloria Feibish, vice president; Alan Harlam, treasurer, and Vicky Bharier, secretary.

An interim site search is underway. Once initial funding has been secured, a search for a

head of the school will ensue.

There are over 70 of these schools in the United States, and 100 in North America. Kramer, executive director of RAVSAK, the national Jewish community day school network, said Jewish day schools in this country are a \$3 billion marketplace.

"But, if you think you're running a school on tuition, you're kidding yourself," Kramer said.

He said typically the schools are funded by the organized Jewish community, grants, fund-

raisers and alternative resources.

The proposed school has the support of the board of the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS), which has "approved a resolution to work cooperatively with the committee in the creation of a new community school," said Dr. Penney Stein, head of school. "We are moving ahead with great deliberation."

Harlam said: "We are looking at a transition from a denominational school into a



Dr. Kramer speaks to Robert Landau, who chaired the initial day school task force; Laurie Sholes and Larry Katz, director of educational services at the R.I. Bureau of Jewish Education.

non-denominational school to serve wider groups of Rhode Island Jews."

Presumably, the Schechter School would integrate the majority of its students into the new school, and join with the fledgling school when it is expected to open in September of 2006.

Kramer said a Jewish community day school should act like a public school and be inclusive, but look like a private school and be competitive, with top teachers and the latest technology.

The proposed school here would open with grades K through 8, and an expected enrollment of about 200 students. In terms of dollars, Kramer said, it's more affordable to start with an elementary school, serving K through 6 or 8.

In his talk, Kramer said if the proposed school does not

serve the need of segments of the Orthodox community, the Jewish community should remain supportive of a separate Orthodox school, a recommendation the Federation has endorsed. The Federation currently subsidizes both ASDS and the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) at \$551 per student.

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of PHDS, supports the proposed school, while recognizing that it would not be the first school of choice for Orthodox families. (See Letter to the editor, page 5.)

Rabbi Mitchell Levine, head of the Modern Orthodox congregation, Beth Sholom, also supports the school and served on the group studying it. (See his remarks to a JFRI board meeting in My Voice, page 30.)

Jonathan Rubin contributed to this article.

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Community Day School timeline

- **Dec., 2002** — Jewish Federation of R.I. (JFRI) President Mark R. Feinstein establishes the Day School Task Force, chaired by Robert Landau and staffed by the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE). The committee explores how the community will ensure excellence in Jewish day school education.
- **July, 2003** — The Task Force concludes that:
 1. Day school education has a strong positive impact on Jewish identity.
 2. The greater Jewish community is more likely to provide greater support for a trans-denominational community school.
 3. It recommends that the community should explore a Jewish community day school provided that there is also a commitment to that segment of the Orthodox community for which a community school is not an option.
- **Sept., 2003** — The Partnership, a new organization comprised of community leaders convened by the JFRI, supports the concept of a community day school.
- **Feb., 2004** — The Community Day School (CDS) Committee, with 25 members, is established by The Partnership and chaired by Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer and staffed by the BJE.
- **Dec., 2004** — The Board of Alperin Schechter Day School supports the findings of the CDS Committee.
- **Feb., 2005** — 1. A national community day school representative speaks to JFRI and BJE boards.
 2. Community School committee nominates board of directors.
 3. Day School Committee approves bylaws for 501(c) 3 agency.

Community

FORMER TERRORIST: Ex-PLO member now speaking out for Israel

From page 1

mother and an Islamic father, Shoebat said his mother was virtually a prisoner of Muslim society, which did not allow women the right to divorce or leave their husbands, as she tried to do many times. On one occasion, when she fled to the U.S. embassy for help, her husband intercepted her, brought her inside a house and struck her in the head with a hammer for her insolence. Shoebat watched the whole thing. He was three years old.

In stark detail, Shoebat described his childhood under Palestinian rule, where "myths were taught as facts."

"The [Koran] was a book on revolution...Moses was a Palestinian revolutionist. Jesus was a Palestinian revolutionist," he said. School lessons included songs with lyrics such as "Jews are our dogs," and texts and teachers promised Jews would be flung into the sea, with the males slain and the females taken as concubines. He was told that Jews put anti-fertility drugs in their water, caused mad cow disease, and consumed blood.

"We watched films of the Holocaust and laughed...and ate popcorn. [We] believed it a fabrication...that they were actors."

The issue at the heart of the intifada isn't land, he said, but a

constantly reinforced anti-Semitism. "I think President Bush is naive... The "occupation" is in the minds of these children... we need to liberate their minds."

Shoebat came to Providence as the first major program by the newly established Providence Kollel, which partnered with the JCC in the event. The event drew a mix of Orthodox Jews, Christians and others, more than 200 in total.

Shoebat's stories were a compelling, if scattegical, mix of tales of Muslim extremism and his strong love of Jews and the Zionist cause.

"Today, a silent Jew is in danger... he must speak up," Shoebat said.

Violent youth

As a young man, he was awash in violence; he was brought into the folds of armed militia groups, and carried out a bombing attack on an Israeli bank. His cousin was shot during an attempted bombing attack. He continued to experience anti-Israel rhetoric in U.S. mosques, but it was when he met his wife, a Mexican Christian, that he began to question his beliefs.

She challenged him to find the violence that he was taught was rife in the Jewish psalms. When he read them, and found nothing of the sort, he was

stunned. He began to read the Jewish bible, and to research Jewish history for himself. He saw "Fiddler on the Roof" 300 times.

"I started to ask myself... Why do I hate Israel?"

Shoebat quit his job as a computer programmer and now speaks for a living. He said that his job is no picnic — the money isn't great and he must live under an assumed name to remain safe from pro-Muslim groups and anti-Israel demonstrators. "It's not fun to go to universities and see angry mobs of Palestinians waiting outside."

Members of the audience were moved by his presentation, and gave him a standing ovation.

He was asked repeatedly by members of the audience for answers to the intifada, and he didn't offer any particular cure-all solution, although he felt education seemed like a good place



WALID SHOEBAT, an ex-PLO terrorist, spoke at the JCC in Providence last week.

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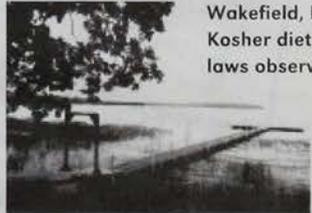


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Middle East

Progress, wariness after summit

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The dust is still settling after last week's summit at the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik, but early signs on the ground are highly contradictory.

Last week, just 48 hours after the summit, Palestinian terrorist groups fired more than 50 mortar shells at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip — yet now Hamas, the largest and most important of the terrorist groups, says it's committed to the cease-fire announced at the summit.

Israel's security service, Shin Bet, says the cease-fire won't last, but the Israel Defense Forces say everything must be done to give Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas a chance to



Pool/BP Images/JTA

SHARM SUMMIT — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, second from right, hosts a photo-op with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, second from left, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Jordan's King Abdullah at a summit Feb. 8 at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik

impose law and order.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is doing all he can to help Abbas, but right-wing efforts to subvert Sharon's policy are taking on a more menacing character. And while Israeli officials say peacemaking will succeed only if the terrorist groups are disarmed — a key component of the internationally backed "road map" peace plan — Abbas makes clear that he has no intention of moving against the terrorists any time soon.

Not surprisingly, assessments differ as to whether this

latest Israeli-Palestinian peace bid will succeed. Sharon is accentuating the positive. He returned from the summit in high spirits, emphasizing two major achievements: All the key players, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Abdullah and Abbas, now recognize that terrorism must stop before peacemaking can begin. They also all accept Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank as the basis for a new dynamic leading to peace talks based on the road map.

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Arthur Miller dies at 89

NEW YORK (JTA) — Arthur Miller will be remembered for his deft dramatic rendering of the American everyman, yet his writing was infused with Jewish characters and themes, both explicit and implicit. Miller died Feb. 10 at age 89.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and author, he reached his greatest professional fame with the creation of Willy Loman, the doomed protagonist of 1949's "Death of a Salesman."

The play won the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony Award for best play and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. Miller wrote the play in just six weeks.

Though Loman was not specifically identified as a Jew, heated debate ensued through the decades over whether or not he was in fact Jewish, with many insisting he was a composite of Jewish characters Miller had known as a young man.

Miller was born on Manhattan's Upper West Side in 1915. As a young man whose family was deeply affected by the Great Depression, he worked as a clerk in an auto-parts warehouse and as a truck driver.

Miller had a Bar Mitzvah in 1928. After finishing high school, he left for college at the University of Michigan, where he met his first wife.

Following "Death of a Salesman," "The Crucible" opened in 1953, followed by 1955's "A View From the Bridge."

In 1956, Miller married actress Marilyn Monroe. The marriage to the film superstar gained him further international fame, but it was a rocky union and ended in 1961.



Arthur Miller

The next year Miller married photographer Inge Morath, who died in 2002.

"Broken Glass" was Miller's first play to deal explicitly with the American Jewish experience.

"Incident at Vichy" addresses the round-up of Jews in wartime France. In it, a French Jewish psychiatrist, asked what it means to be a Jew, says, "Jew is only that name we give to that stranger, that agony we cannot feel, that death we look on like a cold abstraction."

Chertoff to head homeland security

The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Michael Chertoff on Tuesday to head the Department of Homeland Security. Chertoff, a judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia who is Jewish, ran the Justice Department's criminal division from 2001 until 2003 and was involved in drafting the U.S. Patriot Act. He also was U.S. Attorney in New Jersey from 1990-94, and he and his wife were active in the Jewish community. Chertoff is the second Cabinet-level Jewish appointee; Josh Bolten heads the Office of Management and Budget.

U.S. recalls Syria ambassador

The United States recalled its ambassador from Syria. The State Department announced the move Tuesday, a day after a suicide bomber killed Rafik Hariri, a former Lebanese prime minister, in Beirut. Hariri was active in efforts to end Syria's long-time occupation of Lebanon. Some Hariri supporters blame Syria for the killing, but Syria denies involvement. Ambassador Margaret Scobey will return to

Washington for consultations, the State Department said. The Bush administration, which imposed sanctions against Syria last year for its failure to crack down on terrorists operating from Syria and Lebanon, has threatened to impose further sanctions. One possible option would be to permanently downgrade relations to the consul level. "We're looking to stop the flow of arms through Syria to groups that are violently opposed to the peace process, that are trying to kill the Palestinian leadership as well as the Israelis," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday.

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Photo: Brandeis University

FORMER BRANDEIS football coach Benny Friedman, who was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, celebrates with his team in a photo from the 1950s.

Jewish QB named to Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (JTA) — Benny Friedman has been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, perhaps with a little bit of help from his former players at Brandeis University. When Friedman, a Jewish quarterback who was a pioneer in developing the forward pass, was elected to football's shrine two weeks ago, it came after several years of effort by those who knew Friedman as a coach at Brandeis from 1951 to 1959.

The alumni group effort was based not just on what Friedman achieved in building a short-lived football program at Brandeis — he was the school's first athletic director and its only football coach — but also on what he contributed to his players' lives.

Headed by former team manager Bob Weintraub, the group of Brandeis grads sprang into action. They had a lot of accomplishments to promote. Though the Brandeis alumni knew Friedman as a coach, he made his mark as a player by introducing the forward pass as a legitimate weapon.

Friedman first started for the

University of Michigan, where in 1926 he became the first Jew to captain the football team. He is believed to have led the NFL in touchdown passes during the years he played, 1927-1933, though statistics for the period are spotty.

A sportswriter for the *New York Daily News*, Paul Gallico, wrote that Friedman was the "greatest football player in the world." He was named to the National Football League's All-

Time team in 1951.

Friedman, Fritz Pollard and more recent stars such as Dan Marino and Steve Young were voted into the Hall of Fame this year. Friedman becomes one of only a few Jewish players in the hall, joining such luminaries as Sid Luckman. Friedman left Brandeis a few years after the school disbanded its football program in 1960. He died in 1982.

Israeli rabbi to speak at Temple Shalom

MIDDLETOWN — Rabbi Lee Diamond, an American-born Conservative rabbi, and a citizen of Israel, who served as chief rabbi of the Jewish community of Hong Kong, will speak on the Israeli experience for interfaith families, at a special program March 7 at 7 p.m. at Temple Shalom.

In Israel, he has been the principal of the Alexander Muss

High School and then served as the Director of Israel programs for NFTY, where he created the Eisendrath International Exchange high school program for American students.

For more information or to register, call the temple at 846-9002, or Ruth Page at the Bureau of Jewish Education at 331-0956 or email rpage@bjeri.org.

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Nation

Dershowitz defends Israel at polarized Columbia

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israelis and Palestinians may one day manage to resolve their differences — but it's likely that their supporters at Columbia University will still be fighting each other.

It sounds like a sad joke, but Alan Dershowitz is serious.

"The kind of hatred that one hears on campuses like Columbia, and especially Columbia, is a barrier to peace and encourages terrorists," the Harvard law professor told hundreds of students at Columbia University's student union last week, comparing the progress being made in the Middle East with the polarized atmosphere at the Manhattan university.

Ever since the public screening a few months ago of "Columbia Unbecoming," a documentary



JTA Photo

DERSHOWITZ AT COLUMBIA — Outside the Columbia University student union, a Marxist group protests a speech by Alan Dershowitz on Feb. 7.

film in which pro-Israel students claim they have been harassed for their views by their Middle Eastern studies professors, the

campus has been embroiled in a crisis that has captured national attention.

Columbia's administration

has responded to the charges by appointing five faculty members to a committee that is hearing testimony and is slated to report its findings by the end of the month.

Dershowitz's speech Monday was sponsored by the David Project, the Boston-based advocacy group that produced "Columbia Unbecoming."

Dershowitz lambasted the university for a culture of extremism that he said silences pro-Israel students. He also gave audience members some pro-Israel information they might not have learned in school. Give the committee a chance to provide an unbiased result, he said. If it doesn't, he said, then an external committee of Nobel laureates should be appointed to investigate the matter.

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Bush budget ups Palestinian aid

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Bush's controversial \$2.57 trillion budget includes no surprises in aid for Israel and a

dramatic increase for the Palestinians.

Under the Bush plan, Israel would receive \$2.58 billion in

military aid and \$240 million in economic assistance. Israel would also receive \$40 million for the resettlement of Ethiopian refugees.

The administration says the Palestinians would receive a total of \$390 million in the coming year, including money from the supplemental budget request. The White House also doubled economic assistance to the West

Bank and Gaza Strip, to \$150 million. A State Department report said the new money will focus on longer-term development, including revitalizing the Palestinian economy in Gaza after Israel's planned withdrawal later this year.

The budget calls for \$1.795 billion in aid for Egypt, and \$456 million to Jordan.

U.S. aid to Israel, Egypt and Jordan for 2005 and 2006



AMERICAN FOREIGN AID in the Middle East, as proposed in President Bush's 2005 and 2006 fiscal year budget requests. Israel is also slated to receive \$40 million to aid in settling Ethiopian refugees.

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Community



Who's Who in 'The Way We Were'

In the last issue, we ran this picture of the Pawtucket Aleph Zadik Aleph basketball team, and asked if anyone could identify the figures. Sheila Perlow, of Pawtucket, certainly could — the man in the back with the Jewish star on his chest was her father. "It blew my mind," she said. "I have this exact picture in my scrapbook... My father

played poker with them every Thursday!"

Milton Rosen, of Pawtucket, also provided some missing names.

Pictured are: Back row: Jack Harriet, Babe Perlow, Jacob Farber, Fred Kalman.

Front: Henry Solomon, Irving Harriet, Arnold Freidman.

Pack 104 Cubs perform mitzvot

The leaders of Cub Scout Pack 104 strive to educate their scouts about the obligation to help others. Since September, Pack 104 has collected funds for victims of the hurricanes in Florida; the R.I. Good Neighbor Energy Fund and the Pack 104 Tsunami Relief Fund; sent greeting cards to soldiers; stuffed animals for

their Bears From Bears program for patients at Hasbro Hospital; co-sponsored a life-saving program to teach people what to do in the event of a house fire; sponsored the Read-to-Feed program to raise funds for Judy's Kindness Diner and encourage children to read; adopted a U.S. soldier whose

brother is a Bear Scout; and sponsored the Bear Car Safety program to promote awareness about aspects of car safety which are often overlooked.

Pack 104 plans to continue its projects to achieve personal goals while helping others and having fun.

NCJW to present speaker

PROVIDENCE — The R.I. Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) will present Shari Eshet, director of the NCJW Israel Operations, as guest speaker at a luncheon meet-

ing at noon on March 8 at Temple Beth-El.

Eshet will speak on Israel and its social dilemmas. Under her leadership, NCJW works to promote Israeli civil rights issues,

particularly as they relate to equality of opportunity for Israel's Arab citizens, divorce rights, and the prevention and termination of trafficking women.

The cost is \$18. To register, send a check to NCJW, 57 Capwell Ave., Pawtucket, RI, 02860. For more information, call 726-1577.

Am David plans singles' workshops

WARWICK — Temple Am David is hosting a four-week workshop for single adults. Participants will learn about the concept of "basherte" (Jewish soulmate) and what one can do to enhance a search for this special person.

The workshop will take place on four Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning March 1. There is no charge for this program, but registration is required by Feb. 23. To register, call Joyce at the temple at 463-7944.



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Winter/Spring 2005

CENTERPIECE

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Message from the JCCRI Exec. Director

Friends,

As many of you know, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island has been working on a business plan to assist us in planning for our future. In addition to examining the business portion of the JCC, a task force is also working on evaluating our current programs. Pam Vogel has agreed to chair our Program Review Task Force, which will utilize standards set by the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and look at local competition. Currently three programs are being reviewed: Health and Physical Education; Children, Youth and Camping; and Early Childhood Education.

Part of our recent evaluation of the Early Childhood program included an observation by a consultant specializing in the field. The report came back highly complimentary. It highlighted Sue Connor and our staff, as being "extremely efficient, warm and caring." The overall program was described as being "impressive, well thought out, and developmentally appropriate for children."

Of course there were recommendations for improvement, including: additional parent education opportunities, a more aesthetically pleasing space, further collaborations among community partners, and the addition of some new technology.

Our program evaluation process is open, and designed to provide to our membership and community the best product we can deliver. We encourage involvement from anyone who would like to contribute to our effort. Please feel free to call me, or stop by to discuss your thoughts.

We expect many new challenges and opportunities and anticipate an exciting and proud future. We will continue to inspire Jewish journeys, and look to realize our future.

Rick Nelson

Bingo! We've Got A Winner!

Jen and Kent Thaler, co-chairs of the Casino Night fundraiser were very pleased with the results of the JCCRI's first ever Casino Night, which took place on Dec 4th, 2004. "It was awesome," said Kent.

The fundraiser brought out close to 300 people and raised over \$50,000 for the Center's Scholarship fund. The huge auction of over 250 items that were procured by Marisa Garber and her committee, along with parents of the Early Childhood Department, also enjoyed much success. "People were very generous with their donations," says Garber. "We had such an overwhelming response from the committee, and the generosity of local businesses really helped make this event successful."

Some highlights of the evening included Chris Erickson being named Grand Champion of the No Limit Hold Em' Texas Tournament; and birthday boy John Scoliard holding dice for a full thirty-three minutes. For those of you who don't

understand casino talk, that means he was doing very well! Participants had such an enjoyable evening, that tables had to be closed while folks were still gambling.

Many thanks go to Caplink Technology, the corporate sponsor for the evening, as well as the over fifty volunteers and the JCC staff, who made sure everything went smoothly and on schedule.

"What I keep hearing" says Kent Thaler, "is that people can't wait to do this again next year." Plans are in the works for Casino Night Two, so keep an eye out for this exciting event to return in December 2005.



Mayor David Cicilline at JCCRI's Casino Night 2004

Shabbat Across America

On Friday, March 4th, a new community building program is coming to the JCC. Through a partnership with the Providence Kollel, the JCC will present Shabbat Across America. This program is sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program and aims to encourage people to appreciate the beauty of observing Shabbat. It offers the unique opportunity for the entire community to come together for a Friday night traditional service and Shabbat meal. Assistance will be available for those who may not feel familiar with the customs of a traditional service, and all are welcome to

attend regardless of prior experience.

Rabbi Raphie Schochet and his band of merry scholars moved to Providence from Baltimore MD this past fall to open up the Providence Kollel, which calls itself an "organization without walls." The Kollel strives to be an organization that is open to all who are interested in learning and be a community resource for all denominations, ages, and levels of observance. Shabbat Across America is only one of the many programs being offered by the Kollel, many of which are free.

The evening on March 4th will begin with candle lighting at 5:23pm, and will be followed by a user-friendly service. After the interactive service, guests will enjoy a kosher catered meal. The admission cost is \$10 per person, and will not exceed \$50 per family. Advance registration is required and seats are limited, so reserve yours today! Call Raphie at the Providence Kollel, 401-383-2786.

The Community is invited
2005 Annual Meeting
Jewish Community Center
of Rhode Island
 Wednesday, May 11th, 2005
 2 Iyar 5765
 7:15pm

Our mission

To strengthen Jewish identity, family life, community and the connection between the local Jewish community and Israel is the mission of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. The JCC provides for social, cultural, educational, recreational and health-related needs of the Jewish community. With commitment to Jewish tradition, the JCC provides a common meeting place for all Jewish individuals and groups, and welcomes the general community to join and participate in its activities.

JCC
 rhode island

February Fun for Little Ones

School may be out of session, but that doesn't mean that learning and playtime has to stop. Check out the Early Childhood Department's February Vacation Camp from Monday, Feb 21st- Friday, Feb 25th. Half day and all day care is available for your children ages 2-5 and will include days filled with music, a carnival and puppet making.

As part of this exciting, fun-filled week, we are also offering three special programs that are available to parents who wish to bring in their child for an hour of fun.

On Tuesday, Feb 22nd, join award winning storyteller Cindy Killavey who will read from her delightful children's books. Magic will be in the air on Wednesday the 23rd when "Magician Extraordinaire" Skip Daniels thrills audiences with tricks that seem to come out of thin air. Thursday the 24th will feature a morning of movement as Jen Thaler of Gym Bears provide children with the opportunity to exercise and try out new skills. These programs start at 10am and snacks will be provided.

For more info on these individual programs or the entire week of camp for your child, contact Shirley @ x130.

Back by popular demand, Little Green Thumbs, a favorite springtime class, introduces children to the wonderful world of growing things, from flowers to vegetables to trees. Children will plant indoors and outdoors, with a focus on ecology. Maximum enrollment is 10 so make sure to enroll early! The class is for kids ages 3-5 and meets on Thursdays from 12:30-1:15 pm.

Due to inclement weather, the always popular "Steve's Songs" was cancelled. However, this fun and exciting event for little ones is being rescheduled, and is due to return to the Center before the summer.

Contemporary Comic Rendition of a Classic Tale

Coming this May is the long awaited and latest musical parody by Jules Gelade, one of the original founders of the Jewish Theatre Ensemble of Rhode Island. Gelade is known for his unique, often outrageous interpretations of biblical stories, and the upcoming production of *Samson and Delilah's Wedding* will be no exception. The well known story of Samson and Delilah is told here with fast paced witty dialogue and nineteen contemporary musical numbers.

The show features choreography by Melody Gamba who taught at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York. Musical Director, Heidi Burchett, recently returned from Africa where she toured with the Continental Singers. This show will also present the comedic genius of Sonny Dufault, who was last seen in Gelade's *The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup* where he wowed audiences with his hilarious impersonations of various celebrities.

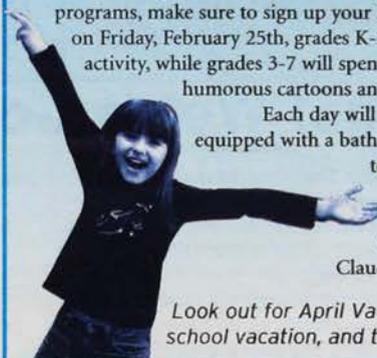
Samson and Delilah's Wedding runs May 12-22nd, with performances on Thursday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday matinees. Seating is limited so make sure to order tickets early by calling the JTE @ x189.

Kids on Vacation

It's the middle of winter, the kids are out of school, now what will you do? Sign up for February Vacation Camp, of course! This action packed week of fun and educational activities will leave your children happy and fulfilled, and looking forward to their next school vacation.

The program starts off on Monday, February 21st with various types of dance for children grades K-2, and kids up to Grade 7 will enjoy an interactive, educational program about one of the greatest artists of Jewish history, Marc Chagall. On Tuesday, grades K-7 will participate in a live petting zoo and hit a few balls at Ken Ryan's Baseball Academy. Midweek brings in lots of activity, with Gymnastics for K-3rd graders, while the older kids go off to play the always popular Laser Tag. Snow Tubing at Yawgoo Valley is on the schedule for Thursday, and since this is one of the most popular programs, make sure to sign up your K-7th grader early so they'll be guaranteed a space. Finally, on Friday, February 25th, grades K-2 will get out all those last bursts of energy with a jumping activity, while grades 3-7 will spend the day with a professional artist learning how to draw humorous cartoons and caricatures.

Each day will also include swim time, so make sure your children come equipped with a bathing suit, towel, and their dairy lunch. Programs run from 9am to 4pm with an early arrival time starting at 8am, an extended day to 6pm, and an extended day on Friday until 5pm. Most programs do have limited space; so don't get left out in the cold! Sign up for individual days or the entire week by calling Claudia or Evelyn @ x147.



Look out for April Vacation Camp to coincide with Passover, school vacation, and the coming of Spring!

It's Never Too Early to Think Ahead

The Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Program assists children in developing memories that will last a lifetime. Rich Judaic experiences help children to learn the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feel of the Jewish culture. Children learn Jewish values as they participate in our Peer K program, a curriculum based on the Pirke Avot (Ethics of the Fathers).

The JCCRI's Early Childhood Program presents a comprehensive, Jewish developmental program, that is committed to creating a sense of community for our families. For Jewish and non-Jewish families alike, we focus on community, sensitivity to individual needs, and sound early childhood programming, thereby offering a positive experience for your young child. Our goal is to create and maintain a warm, caring environment that will foster positive Jewish identity and values while respecting the diversity of our families. The curriculum blends secular and Judaic programming to provide a wide range of hands-on

learning experiences that will enhance the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth of each child. We provide

developmentally appropriate individual and group experiences that enable each of our children to progress at his/her rate while building self-esteem and confidence. We welcome parental input and have a thriving committee of dedicated parents who are intimately involved with their children's daily progression.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2005-2006 school year. To set up a tour and/or to learn more about our unique program for children ages 3 months- 5 years, please call Shirley @ x130.



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Perspectives Gains New Leadership

Shana Newman, 26, is the new chairperson for the Perspectives planning committee. After earning her degree at Emory University in Atlanta, spending a year volunteering in Israel, and three years studying and working abroad in Paris, she was excited to get back to her home state of RI. And one of her first projects was to become integrated into the RI Jewish community.

"I was looking for a way to get involved (with the Jewish community) that would be age appro-

priate," says Shana. "When I found out about Perspectives, it was a great way to meet others with similar interests and backgrounds."

It's important for young Jews, who have lots of options in this day and age, to be able to find a niche for themselves, and an outlet that is fun and allows them to meet others who are looking for the same thing.

"If you don't yet have a family, and you don't belong to a synagogue," continues Newman, "then you really need a way to find other Jews who are in the same position."

Shana Newman has always been interested in planning events and mobilizing others. In high school she was President of the Service Committee and organized a school wide Earth Day Festival involving speakers from local and national organizations. In college, she was the major force behind implementing an in-room recycling program that changed the face of the entire campus. Given her determination and organizational skills, she was an obvious choice to lead the Perspectives committee to success.

Already she has spearheaded a few fresh ideas, including a guestbook, a new website, and more

effective board meetings. So why is it important to Shana to be on the planning committee for Perspectives?

"It's a good way to take on a leadership role without a huge time commitment. We get to share ideas and try to make the organization better for everyone. Working with other people in such a close knit group really builds strong friendships," says Shana.

Past committee members have gone on to marriage, business alliances, and life long connections.

"Whether or not you already know many people in the organization," continues Newman, who joined the planning committee after only attending two events, "it's a great way to develop your leadership skills and meet a whole new network of friends."

The Perspectives planning committee meets on a monthly basis and is always open to having prospective members sit in on a meeting and see if it is the right fit for them. To find out more about Perspectives, the unique organization for Jews in their 20's and 30's, check out the website, www.providenceperspectives.org, or contact Tavlin, Program Director at x205.

FITNESS NEWS

Macabbi Seeks Winners

If you're an athlete between the ages of thirteen to sixteen, you'll want to sign up for the Maccabbi Games 2005, to be held this year from August 14th-19th in Richmond, VA. Participants of this exhilarating trip will receive housing with a host family in the Richmond area, all meals, and the opportunity to contend with over 1,400 of their peers in exciting sports competitions throughout the week.

I Heart Hoops

Men's League Basketball resumes in March on Thursdays with games starting at 6:15, 7:30, and 8:45 pm. You must be on a team to play, and you must sign up by March 3rd.

If you love to play basketball and want to improve through practice, then come to the JCC's new class: Strictly Basketball. Alex Turek, Health & PE Director, will go over the basics to help you improve and referee the games that will be played. The class meets on Mondays from 3:45-4:45 pm, and is for ages 7 and up.

Kicking it Up a Notch

John Tinalut of USA Karate has been teaching at his current location in Lincoln, RI for the past 5 1/2 years. However, he has been studying martial arts since 1992, and holds two fourth degree black belts and one second degree black belt. Here at the J, where John's classes run on Monday & Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:15 pm for kids, and from 6:15 to 7:00 pm for adults, the focus is on melding traditional values with modern day teaching techniques.

"We use martial arts as a vehicle to success," says John, "and we're dedicated to constant and never ending improvement."

For information on these and other fitness programs contact Alex Turek @ x49

Babysitting on Sundays

If you'd like a morning workout on the weekend but need to find a way to entertain the kids, then you'll be happy to hear that the JCC is offering Babysitting on Sundays from 8:30am-12:30pm for the month of March. The cost is \$7 per hour and you need to make a reservation.

Personal Training Gives A Boost

If you are interested in getting the best results in the shortest time, need someone to keep you motivated, are looking for variety in your current routine, or are under a physician's care for rehabilitation, then consider booking a private session with one of the JCC's nationally certified trainers. These inspirational and personable individuals can provide you with the structure and motivation you need to keep your focus and reach your fitness goals.

Our professional staff will assess your needs and find a trainer that will best suit you! Sessions are available Sunday through Friday whenever the Center is open. To get started on the road to fitness success, please contact Lisa Mongeau @ x210.

Must Have Massage Therapy

The JCC welcome two new massage therapists to our Center!

Wayne Cotnoir retired after years in the radiology field to pursue his dream as a massage therapist. He received his degree last year from the Community College of Rhode Island, and is now nationally certified in RI and MA. His abilities run the gamut from Swedish relaxation massage, to muscular therapy and injury management.

Sheri LaChance attended Headhunter Spa Tech Institute where she became licensed in Therapeutic Massage Therapy. She is also certified as a personal trainer, and strongly believes in combining massage and training for overall health and well being.

To book your massage session at the J, please contact the Fitness Desk @ x152.



Wayne Cotnoir and Sheri LaChance

Healthy Back Series

On Tuesdays in March, the JCC will offer a Healthy Back Series open to the entire community. Participants who are non members will receive a free pass on each of the days of the Healthy Back Series. All sessions are FREE, except the Yoga Flow class which is \$9 for JCC Members and \$12 for non-members.

March 1st, 7:30pm: Dr. Harry Feld, Chiropractic Physician, will discuss anatomy of the back and explain what we can do to maintain a healthy back.

March 8th, 12:00pm: Jennifer Davis, Physical Therapist of the Rhode Island Rehabilitation Center will provide screenings to identify reasons for back pain, exercises and body mechanics to help reduce back pain

March 16th, 6:30pm: Participants of the Yoga Flow Class with Naama will experience an incredible practice focusing on positions to strengthen the back.

March 22nd, 7:30pm: Lisa Mongeau, Assistant Health and Phys. Ed. Director of the JCC, will show participants exercises that will help strengthen the back.

For further information, please contact Amy Stein, Membership Director, @ x117

Visit us on the web:
WWW.JCCRI.ORG





In The Arts

On February 14th, an innovative and exciting exhibit will make its way to the JCC's Gallery 401. "Herzl: Up Close and Personal" is a traveling exhibit sponsored by the American Zionist Movement, that will be at Gallery 401 through March 8th. The presentation celebrates the life's work of Theodore Herzl, founder of Zionism, on the 100th anniversary of his passing. The exhibit, comprised of 28 placards depicting Herzl's life and vision, will engage those visiting in an inquiry into the meaning of Zionism today. Regardless of one's personal feelings on Zionism, this exhibit is an significant educational tool for anyone interested in learning more about its history.

"A Distant Shore" an engaging exhibition by local artist Dorothy Abram, provides an experience of disability that expands awareness through perceptual play with natural elements. Offered in conjunction with the National Multiple Sclerosis/RI Chapter's Evening of Fine Arts, Abram's exhibit will be presented March 8th through April 8th at the 401 Gallery. As part of this exhibition, the Gallery will be open on Saturday evening, March 19th for a special performance of "Duet for One," an award-winning play by Tom Kempinski. On Sunday, March 20, from 2-3 p.m., Abram will offer an artist's talk in the gallery.

In April, we look forward to revisiting last year's original exhibit of Passover Seder tables, entitled "Passover Contemplated." Various community organizations such as the Jewish Seniors Agency, JCC's KidSpace, Alperin Schechter Day School, and the Bureau of Jewish Education, set a personalized table for a Passover seder. Due to past success, this year the display will be expanded and families are invited to set up their own table. This is a great opportunity to show the Rhode Island community the richness and diversity of our Jewish culture. The tables are provided by the JCC, and the display is contained in Gallery 401 and the JCC lobby. Be on the lookout for an opening reception for this inspirational and beautiful display.

For more info on Gallery 401's programming, please contact Sue Suls @ x108.

Senior Happenings

On Thursday April 7th, join in with your fellow JCCers as we take a ride down to the Foxwoods Casino for an entertaining afternoon with world famous comedian Yakov Smirnoff! Yakov's entire show is jam packed with comedic tall tales and witty perceptions, funny facts and huge laughs! Price includes the motorcoach ride departing from the JCC at 8:15 am, breakfast buffet, tickets to Yakov's 11am show, and \$15 worth of Keno bets. Cost is \$52 by March 1st or \$57 after. Seats are limited, reserve yours today!

Programs with Michele Kier of Jewish Eldercare of RI

Sunday, March 13th: Purim Costume Party! Come in costume and enjoy hamantashen and holiday cheer.

Wednesday, April 13th: Exodus Trivia Game Test your Jewish history trivia skills with this fun and interactive game.

These programs all start at 10:30am. Call Sue Robbio @ x107.

Donate your Used Computer to the JCC

Your trash could be our treasure! If you've recently gotten a new machine, please consider putting your old one to good use! We are looking for computers that support Windows 98 or higher and are Pentium 3 or higher. Tax deductible letter available upon request. Please contact Susan Greenhalgh at x105 or sgreenhalgh@jccri.org

JCCRI CENTERPIECE

Published quarterly

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island
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Linda Singer-Berk
Assistant Executive Director

Tavlin Hogan
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Silver Sock Graphics
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Coming Soon!

The brand new computer lab will be having its Grand Opening in the next few months. The lab will offer many new classes for children and adults, including Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Ebay, Computer Arts Graphics, and Web Design. Classes will be taught by George Hartshorn of Down City Digital. Look for a brochure in the upcoming months to find out more about this exciting new addition to the Center. The computer lab is being kindly donated to the JCC by RSVP, a senior organization that provides volunteer opportunities to those over sixty, mostly in computer technology. Classes designed specifically for seniors will continue as per usual. For more info, please contact Sue Robbio @ x 107.



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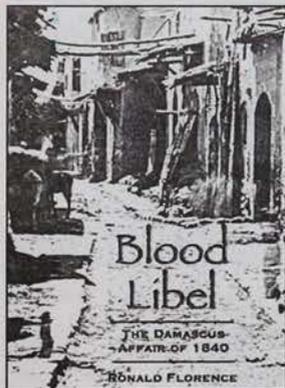


Josh Zuckerman

Jewish rocker to appear

PROVIDENCE — Jewish rocker Josh Zuckerman will appear at the Westside Arts Center, 168 Broadway, on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 9 p.m. He has just finished his second European tour.

He has traveled with the international group, *Up With People*, and performed in over 15 different countries, at the Olympics and backing B.B. King. Zuckerman and his previous group released their debut CD "Confessions" in 1994 and were opening acts for 80's rockers including Joan Jett & the Blackhearts and Warrant. More information on Zuckerman is available at: www.JoshZuckerman.com.



Beth-El adult ed features author

PROVIDENCE — Providence author Ronald Florence will be the keynote speaker at the kickoff event of the Temple Beth-El adult enrichment spring semester on Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Florence will speak about his new book *Blood Libel: The Damascus Affair of 1840* and about the Jewish community of Damascus today.

The book explores the events following the disappearance of a Capuchin monk and his servant in Damascus in February, 1840. The event is free and open to the public. Temple Beth-El is at 70 Orchard Ave. For more information, call 331-6070.

Community Calendar

From page 2

Providence. The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island's second Israel Trips forum. For more information, call Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director, at 331-0956.

Torat Yisrael workshop

10 a.m. - noon. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, will hold a workshop entitled, "Prayer Services: An Owner's Manual" for those who would like to understand more about services: Why do we stand when we stand? Why do we sit when we sit? How do I have an aliyah?

TUES., MAR. 1

Temple Torat lunch downtown

Noon to 1:30 p.m. "Downtown Lunch and Learn" with Rabbi Amy Levin at Joe's American Bar and Grill, Providence Place Mall. Order lunch individually. Study session on the ethics of retail is free.

Touro spring lectures to celebrate 350th

6 p.m. Touro Synagogue, 72 Touro St., Newport. Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Gurock to speak on "The Challenges of Eastern European Adjustment to America." For information, call Marla R. Dansky at 847-4794, ext. 14. See Community.

Searching for your Basherte: workshop for single adults

7-8:30 p.m., 4 weeks. Temple Am David, Warwick. No charge, registration required.

RSVP by Feb. 23. Call Joyce at 463-7944.

WED., MARCH 2

Author at Beth-El

7 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Speaker will be author Ronald Florence on his new book *Blood Libel*. Free and open to the public. For more info, call 331-6070. See Community.

Jewish Literature series

7 p.m. Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope St., Providence. David Jacobson, associate professor of Judaic Studies, Brown University, will lead a discussion on *Out of Egypt* by Andre Aciman. Jewish Literature series. For more information, contact Sarah Weed at 455-8111.

THURS., MARCH 3

Israeli Army Col.

to speak at Beth Shalom

7 - 9 p.m. Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence.

Miri Eisen, former IDF officer and expert on the history of Israel, will be guest speaker. The event is free and open to the public. See Community.

"Exodus' education at Am David

7:30 p.m. First of four-part

program on themes of the Exodus, joint program of Temple Sinai and Temple Am David. Speaker is Father Ron Brassard. Call 463-7944.

FRI., MAR. 4

JCC, Kollel

Shabbat across America

5:20 p.m. Jewish Community Center and Jewish Community Kollel are holding a Shabbat service, part of "Shabbat Across America" celebrations, in the senior adult lounge of the JCC. A kosher Shabbat meal will follow in the social hall. For information or to register, call 1-888-Shabbat or the JCC at 861-8800. All welcome at the service, advance reservations are necessary for the meal. See Community.

Shabbat across America at Temple Am David

6:15 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Shabbat service followed by a kosher dinner. Open to the community with special invitation to Jewish singles of R.I. and nearby Mass. Adults \$12.50, children \$6.75. RSVP by Feb. 28 at 463-7944.

SAT., MARCH 5

BJE to honor Ruth Duffy Page

7 p.m. Jane Pickens Theater in Newport. Fundraising event for scholarship fund will include silent and live auction and raffle. Will honor Ruth Duffy Page, who will be retiring in June. \$54.

Payable to the BJE before March 1. For more info, call 331-0956 or bjeri@bjeri.org. See Community.

SUN., MARCH 6

Fall River Yiddish Club

1 p.m. Adas Israel Synagogue, 1647 Robeson St. Rosanne and Sayre Litchman are presenting a program titled "Gib a Kook" Mish Mash! All are welcome. Refreshments. For more info, call (508) 678-4273.

Beth-El film festival

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. "The Harmonists," film about a singing group in pre-war Germany, followed by discussion with Cantor Judith Seplowin. Refreshments. Free, all invited.

Men's Club, Sisterhood dinner at Torat Yisrael

5 p.m. The Men's Club and Sisterhood of Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, will hold a paid-up membership dinner at the Temple.

TUES., MARCH 8

Nat'l Council of Jewish Women

Noon lunch, meeting at Temple

Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Speaker, Shari Eshet of NCJW Israel Operations on social issues in Israel. \$18. Check to NCJW, 57 Capwell Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860. For more info, call 726-1577. See Community.

WED., MARCH 9

Hamantashen baking

7 p.m. at the Chabad CHAI Center, Warwick. Women invited to bake and take home for Purim and explore the drama of Purim and the decisive role of Queen Esther. Donation \$5. RSVP to Shoshana Laufer at 884-7888.

THURS., MARCH 10

Women of the Talmud

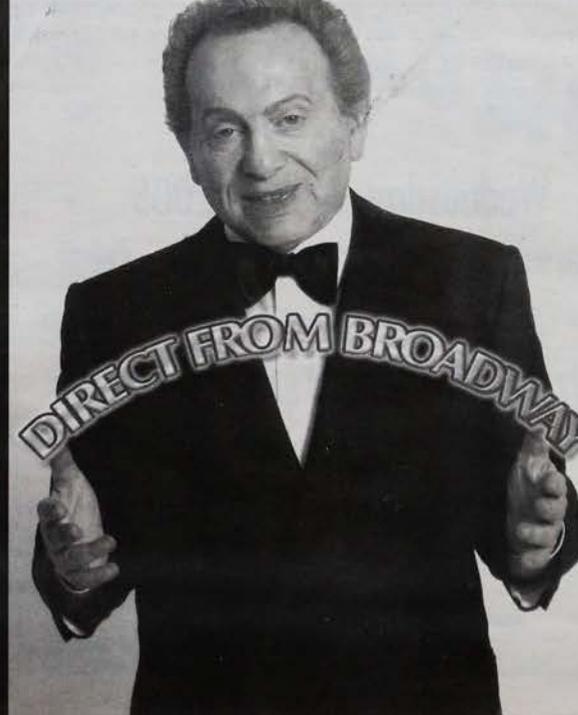
7 - 9 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Rabbi Sarah Mack will discuss "Subversive or Subverted: Forgotten Women of the Talmud." Sponsored by Women's Alliance of JFRI, BJE/RI and sisterhood of Temple Beth-El. \$5 (dessert included). For information, call Robin Kauffman at 477-4313 or rkauffman@bjeri.org.

SEND CALENDAR LISTINGS

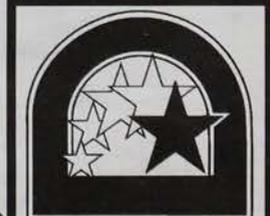
Include time, date, location and telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date.

E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org; Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 - Attn: Calendar

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Food

Keeping kosher at 35,000 feet

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Orthodox Union is limiting its certification of kosher meals aboard El Al flights after two incidents in which nonkosher food was brought onto planes. Officials at the union, which certifies the kashrut of meals provided by El Al's New York-based food service subsidiary, Borenstein Caterers, will certify only Borenstein's double-wrapped "Regal" meals that are prepared and packaged under the supervision of Rabbi N.E. Teitelbaum.

O.U. officials say the move is an effort to ensure the kashrut of the food served to passengers following incidents in Newark and Budapest in which it was compromised.

El Al passengers are offered a choice between the double-wrapped food and meals served in single-sealed or open trays. The Orthodox Union, the largest kashrut certifying agency in the world, previously certified Boren-

stein meals served open or with a single seal.

The union never certified all of El Al's food, only that prepared by Borenstein for flights out of New York, Chicago and Miami. Other El Al food remains under the overall supervision of the chief rabbinate of Israel.

"El Al goes so far above and beyond to maintain the world's only kosher airline," El Al spokeswoman Sheryl Stein said, adding that the airline even makes sure to observe the special kashrut laws for Passover. "The food meets the highest standards of kashrut."

Recommending that observant passengers only eat meals that have been double wrapped is "the only way we can guarantee the integrity of that meal," said Rabbi Leonard Steinberg, the rabbinic coordinator overseeing the O.U.'s Borenstein account. Because the double-wrapped meals are fully sealed, they can theoretically be heated even in a

nonkosher oven without risk to their kashrut status.

The O.U.'s Web site notifies visitors of the changes. The Orthodox Union has been engaged in discussions of kashrut issues with El Al for some time, but the policy change was sparked by two specific incidents.

O.U. officials remain supportive of El Al, but say there may be systemic deficiencies in the airline's overall approach to issues of kashrut. "We found many serious problems," said Rabbi Menachem Genack, the O.U. kashrut division's rabbinic administrator. "When things go wrong, you have to investigate it."

For example, Steinberg noted, El Al warms up both meat and dairy meals in the same ovens. While crew members use special inserts to cover the meals, theoretically there could be problems of food spillage, he said. Steinberg also said El Al crew members were known to serve wine to first-class passengers in a manner that does not meet stringent kosher standards. El Al officials continue to defend the airline's kosher food services.

"All ingredients, preparation and delivery of all of Borenstein's meals remain the same," El Al said in an Oct. 27 statement, which also noted that "every ingredient is certified by the Orthodox Union and is of the highest quality."

Stein told JTA that the special "Regal" meals El Al passengers can order 24 hours before a flight already had been an option for observant passengers. El Al will continue to offer the open meals as well.



REGAL, OPEN MEALS

— El Al's New York-based food service subsidiary, Borenstein Caterers, will certify only Borenstein's double-wrapped "Regal" meals that are prepared and packaged under the supervision of Rabbi N.E. Teitelbaum. El Al passengers are offered a choice between the double-wrapped food and meals served in single-sealed or open trays. The Orthodox Union, the largest kashrut certifying agency in the world, previously certified Borenstein meals served open or with a single seal.





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Chinese recipes from a kosher cookbook

By Marylyn Graff

Here are some Chinese recipes taken from my old, faithful "Chinese Kosher Cook Book" by Ruth and Bob Grossman (Paul S. Eriksson, Inc., New York).

This soup will warm you on a cold night.

Hot and Sour Soup

1/4 lb. shredded or ground chicken or turkey
2 tsp. vegetable oil
1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed
10 oz. bean curd, diced
1 oz. transparent rice noodles
1 oz. dried mushrooms
1 small carrot, shredded or julienned
A handful of green beans, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
A small stalk of celery, finely sliced
2 pints chicken broth
2 tsp. sugar
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
3 Tbsp. vinegar, preferably Chinese white vinegar
1 tsp. sesame oil or to taste
Chinese hot oil, start with 1/4 tsp. and add to taste
1 Tbsp. cornstarch mixed with 1 Tbsp. cold water
1 egg, well beaten with a tsp. of water
2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro

(coriander) leaves, coarsely chopped (opt.)

2 Tbsp. scallions, in 1/4 inch slices

Soak dried mushrooms in about 2/3 cup of warm water for 1/2 hour. Drain, cut off stems, slice thinly and reserve. Soak rice noodles in warm water to cover for 5 minutes, drain, cut up and reserve. Shred carrot, then cut up green beans and celery and reserve. Also prepare scallions and cilantro, if using.

Heat oil in a pot and sauté garlic for a minute. Add chicken or turkey and stir-fry until it loses its raw color and is well broken-up. Pour in broth, add sugar, soy sauce, vinegar, sesame oil and hot oil.

Bring to a simmer. Add vegetables and rice noodles and simmer for 5-10 minutes, just until tender-crisp. Stir in cornstarch/water, and slowly dribble in beaten egg, while stirring rapidly. Sprinkle on scallions and cilantro and serve at once.

Orange-Flavored Beef

3/4 lb. lean beef, thinly sliced
Put into a bowl:
2 tsp. soy sauce
2 tsp. dry sherry or rice wine
1 tsp. fresh ginger, chopped
1 tsp. cornstarch
1 tsp. vegetable oil
Peel (zest only) from 1 orange,

cut into strips

Add beef slices to bowl and mix; let sit for 20-30 minutes. Heat wok or frying pan, add 2 Tbsp. oil. Cut in half 1 or 2 dried chilies and stir fry briefly in wok (opt.). Remove meat from marinade and drain well. Stir fry quickly in hot oil with orange peel. Stir in 1/2 tsp hot pepper flakes, or to taste, 2 tsp. soy sauce, and 1 tsp. sugar. Serve at once with steamed broccoli.

This is my version of a dish I had years ago in a Chinese restaurant in New York. It is simple, delicious and healthy.

Lemon Chicken

Four boneless, skinless chicken breasts.

About 2 cups chicken broth
Juice of one lemon
2 Tbsp. light soy sauce
2 tsp. sugar
2 Tbsp. cornstarch mixed into
2 Tbsp rice wine or dry sherry

Place breasts into a large frying pan. Pour over chicken broth, lemon juice and soy sauce. Simmer until barely cooked through. Place on a heated platter and keep warm. Cut breasts through in diagonal stripes about 3/4 inch wide but do not separate. Stir cornstarch into wine and add to broth in pan. Simmer until reduced and thickened. Pour over chicken. Garnish with julienned,

barely cooked snow peas in a ring around chicken.

Green beans

You can make these Cantonese or Szechuan style, depending on how spicy you like them.

1 lb. fresh or frozen whole green beans
1/2 lb. ground chicken, turkey or beef
2 tsp. vegetable oil
3 or 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 Tbsp. soy sauce or to taste
1 tsp. sugar
1 tsp sesame oil or to taste
Hot pepper flakes to taste

Heat oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add meat and stir fry until it loses its raw color. Add

garlic and stir for a minute or two. If you are using fresh green beans, trim stem ends and blanch in boiling water for about two minutes. Drain. Frozen beans are ready to use. Add beans to meat and stir-fry until crisp-tender. Stir in soy sauce, sugar, sesame oil and pepper flakes, if desired.

Simple fruit dessert

1 cup canned lychee
1 cup fresh or canned pine apple chunks
1 cup orange sections
1 cup seedless grapes
1 cup banana chunks
Mix in a fruit bowl and pass toasted coconut for garnish.

Marylyn Graff is a copy editor and food editor for the Jewish Voice & Herald, and lives in Warren.

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Howard Weiss

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Scarves for children



Photos by Mary Korr

'KNITZVAH' — Knitters have been participating in the Women's Alliance "Mitzvah of the Month" project at the Jewish Community Center this month. Above, Barbara Feldstein (center) knitting project chair, teaches Tracie Goldman (left) the "ropes" while Hope Hirsch (right) looks on. At right, Sue Kahn and Susan Sussman work on the scarves which will be sent to the children in Afula and Gilboa, a partnership community with the Jewish Federation of R.I. The final session will be held Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at the JCC.



Author to present Holocaust stories

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum is presenting Ina R. Friedman of Brookline, Mass., who has traveled the world to talk to people who escaped the Holocaust and who resisted the Nazis. She will present a few of their stories at

four performances on March 14 and 15.

The program, entitled: "Stories of Courage and Commitment: Christian Resistance to the Holocaust" will be presented free of charge for adults on Monday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the

Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. A dessert reception will follow. For information about a pre-performance patron reception with the performer, call 453-7860.

Three performances will be given at schools around the state as the feature event of the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum's annual Student Awareness Days. Approximately one thousand students will participate.

Friedman is currently working on her fourth book about the Holocaust for young readers. Her three previous books have won many awards, including a Best Book selection by the American Library Association, Young Adult Division, and by the American Booksellers Association as a "Pick of the List." Copies of the books will be available for purchase at each performance.

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Community

PHDS planning annual fundraiser

PROVIDENCE — The Providence Hebrew Day School is holding its annual extravaganza, "The Prize is Right." The event, featuring hundreds of prizes to be awarded in a raffle and a live auction, will be held on Saturday, March 12, starting at 8:15 pm. In addition to the auctions, the evening will feature a Klezmer music concert with Rhode Island-based performing artist, Fishel Bresler, and a variety of foods.

Among nearly 100 prize packages in the live auction are: airline tickets, autographed

sports equipment, vacations, electronics, shopping sprees, diamond jewelry, a whiskey package, restaurant gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, and more. The live auction, with auctioneer Ted Loebenberg, will feature a Red Sox World Series Championship baseball, fishing trips, a stay at the Providence Marriott Hotel, and more.

Participants need not be present at the event to win prizes. Prize packages can be previewed on the Internet at www.phds-event.com and event booklets, featuring full descriptions of all

of the packages, can be requested by calling the school at 331-5327. Tickets to be put into the drawings for individual packages can be ordered online or by calling the school. Charge cards are accepted. Individuals purchasing tickets online this year will have the option of charging them on Paypal and Charity Box as well.

The event, with concert and food, is free. It will be held at the Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. For more information, call 331-5327.



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Temple Shalom to hold musical evening

MIDDLETOWN — Temple Shalom is planning a song-filled evening as its spring fundraiser. On Saturday night, March 19, Cantor Fredric Scheff, with soprano Kathryn Jennings and tenor Gannon McHale, accompanied by pianist Dr. Matthew Larson, will present a program titled "A Few of our Favorite Songs." The songs will be selections from Broadway musicals to opera.

Tenor Fredric Scheff, has appeared locally with Theatre-By-The-Sea and Trinity Repertory company and has toured the country in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera."

He is the cantor at Temple Shalom, and is on the faculty at Rhode Island College.

Tenor Gannon McHale has appeared on Broadway in numer-



CANTOR FREDRIC SCHEFF to sing favorites at Temple Shalom

College where he sang in the college's Cabaret Theatre.

The concert will be preceded by a reception.

The reception will begin at 7 p.m. and the concert at 8 p.m. Seating is limited to 150. The cost is \$30 per ticket, plus \$10 for the reception, payable to Temple Shalom.

Mail to Edward Scheff, 210 Brookhaven Rd., No. Kingstown, RI 02852. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Community

Touro continues 'Freedom' lecture series

NEWPORT — The Touro Synagogue Foundation continues its celebration of 350 years of Jewish life in America with a special installment of its Journey to Freedom lecture series. Each spring the Touro Synagogue Foundation presents a series of three lectures in partnership with Salve Regina University, Newport Historical Society and the Newport County Chamber of Commerce.

For the 2005 season, the following lectures are offered:

Tues., March 1, at 6 p.m.

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock will speak on "The Challenges of Eastern European Adjustment to America," in the Touro Synagogue at 72 Touro St., Newport. This program is free and open to the public. Gurock is the Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University. He was the associate editor of the academic journal American Jewish History. He is also a former chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society and is presently on the Academic Advisory Board of "Celebrate 350."

Wed., April 6, at 6 p.m.

"Growing Up Jewish in the South" and "The War between Brothers in America," presented by Eli N. Evans at The Pell Center at Salve Regina University on Bellevue and Ruggles

Aves.

Evans is the author of *The Provincials: a Personal History of Jews in the South*; *Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate*; and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner*. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked as an aide and speechwriter in the Lyndon B. Johnson White House.

Tues., April 19, at 6 p.m.

"Newport and Charleston: Early Connections," presented by Joseph Opala at The Historic Newport Colony House, Washington Square. Opala is an American anthropologist who lived in Sierra Leone for 17 years. He is known for his research on the "Gullah Connection," the

long historical thread that links Africans in Sierra Leone and other parts of the "Rice Coast" of West Africa to the Gullah people in coastal South Carolina and Georgia. In 2004, he was a research fellow at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University. He currently teaches at James Madison University in Virginia.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

This program is supported by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, call 847-4794, ext. 14 or email info@touro synagogue.org.

Youth services at Beth David

NARRAGANSETT — Congregation Beth David began holding Jr. Congregation Services on Feb. 12. The youth services are also scheduled for March 26 and April 30. The services will start at 10 a.m. and are expected to run until 11:15 a.m. Light refreshment will be included.

to participate in Jewish services and become comfortable and familiar with the Synagogue setting, affording them the opportunity to put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

Congregation Beth David is at 102 Kingstown Road, Narragansett.

For further information, contact Ethan Adler, eadler3@cox.net.

The purpose is to provide the children with the skills necessary

Ex-Israeli officer to speak at Beth Sholom

PROVIDENCE — Miri Eisen, a retired colonel of the Israeli Army and expert on the history of Israel and current events will be a guest speaker in Providence on Thursday, March 3 at Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., from 7-9 pm.

The Boston Globe, CNN, USA Today Radio, Fox News, 60 Minutes, and NBC and ABC national news programming, as well as Boston's local TV news.

Eisen, whose family made aliyah when she was nine, is a well-known speaker with a background in political science. Both in Israel and here, Eisen has been featured in *The New York Times*,

The Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston are sponsoring Eisen's presentations in the southern New England area for one year.

The event is free and open to the public.

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AS WE GROW OLDER

My State of the Union Address

Our constitution says that all citizens are equal and enjoy equal rights. If that is true, then



Tema Gouse

I have the same rights as our president. And if he is entitled to a State of the Union address, then so am I. As a matter of fact, I have been voting for presidents for several decades longer than he has. It would seem that perhaps I have some pearls of wisdom to share that he may not have available for his annual greetings to the nation.

I proudly voted for president for the first time in 1944 and have voted in every presidential election since then. (Yes—the old lady is as old as she looks). Let me share my voting record. In that time, I picked seven winners and nine losers. It should not be difficult for my astute older readers to guess my political inclinations.

Despite my poor political batting average, I am not hesitant to express my biased position on issues of great significance. I shall invoke my rights and demand your attention to my evaluation and recommendations. Anyhow—here is my Address for 2005.

The State of the Union is in need of improvement. That understatement was resorted to because I feel that stronger words might label me as a liberal, a label I used to relish.

As befits the theme of this column, let me first address current senior issues. On average, we are older than we ever were. Medical strides have kept us around longer. We have multiple diagnoses, prescriptions, and medical specialists. We rarely understand the doctors who do not bother to explain the diagnoses and we blindly fill the prescriptions even

though they are too costly and frequently ineffective.

For the New Year I recommend that we each buy the latest medical dictionary and a copy of something called the PDR which tells the contents of, indications for, and possible side-effects of every pill we pop. We should also do price checks for drugs in India, Ghana, New Zealand, and, of course, Israel. Cancel all appointments with specialists who keep you waiting for more than an hour for your scheduled visit. That will result in an immediate correction of your blood pressure level. In terminating your relationship with them, tell them what you think of the quality of the magazines in their waiting rooms.

Incredible good news is that if you are old enough, your Social Security will continue until—well, you know when. The bad news is that your 50-year old offspring better inherit a boodle from you because Social Security will bomb less than five years after it is privatized. (Who on earth dreamt up that abomination? I know—but I will not tell.)

If given the authority (Hal) I will hire scientists with no political or corporate affiliations to straighten out the environmental disasters that politicians and corporations have created. They will set up a commission of chronic sinus sufferers and bleeding hearts who are more invested in preservation than profit. They will restore the currently denied proof that there is global warming and corporate greed. This may rock the economy but I will get to that next.

The media reports great interest in changing the tax structure. I do not know what that means or how it will be beneficial. I am looking for the economic maven who knows how you can lower taxes, increase benefits, and eliminate the federal deficit, all

with one piece of legislation. If perchance he or she says this is impossible, then I shall recommend that we do what every other respectable democracy does—declare bankruptcy.

And then there is the political scene. Scary, isn't it? For those fatalists who are anticipating the end of the world because their candidate lost in '04, let me say that we will survive. We will be more hated by other nations. But we will survive. The rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer. But we will survive. The environment will get smoggier and the forests will get sparser. But we will survive. And if all else fails, we can join those politically successful fundamentalists and pray more often.

I was going to expound on the war in Iraq but have been told that it is politically incorrect to criticize that incursion while American kids are dying on that battlefield. So I won't. And I will not discuss my Israel policy as my cardiologist tells me that might jeopardize my health.

Both issues will be still be around next year. I hope I will be too.

Tema Gouse of Cranston writes a regular column for the Voice & Herald.

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Simchas

Attorney Chazan named partner

PROVIDENCE—Michael J. Chazan was recently named as a partner at the law firm of Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.

Prior to joining the firm in 1996, Chazan spent over 10 years in the insurance industry providing legal and tax planning advice for several major insurance companies. He received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy in 1982 from Trinity College, his law degree from Vermont Law School, and his LL.M. degree in taxation from Boston University School of Law. Chazan is a board member and past president of the R.I. Society of Financial Service Professionals.

Currently, he serves on the Professional Advisory Council of the Jewish Federation of R.I., as well as the board of



Michael J. Chazan

directors of AS220, a nonprofit forum for the arts located in Providence. Previously, he had been a member of the board of trustees of Temple Beth-El, and past president of the Women's Center of Rhode Island. He resides in Providence with his wife, Leslie, and their children Blake and Sydney.

Dean's list

Serena Shapiro of Peabody, Mass., was recently named to the Dean's List at Lasell College in Newton, Mass. A 2004 graduate of Peabody Veterans Memorial High School, she is a freshman majoring in fashion design.

Serena is the daughter of Tom Shapiro, formerly of Cranston, and Lillian Shapiro.

She is the granddaughter of Freda Shapiro of Delray Beach, Fla., and the late Sheldon Shapiro; and Marion and Max Singer, also of Delray Beach.

Mazal Tov

Goldstein named laureate

WARWICK — Sidney Goldstein of Warwick has been named the 2005 Laureate of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the preeminent organization of demographers worldwide. The awards ceremony will take place on March 30 in Philadelphia at the organization's annual meeting. The Laureate Award is presented annually to a population scientist for outstanding contributions and distinguished service to the advancement of the population sciences.

Goldstein was on the faculty of Brown University, in the Dept. of Sociology, for 47 years and was the director of the Population Studies and Training Center there for 25 years. He is an expert on urbanization and population shifts and served as a consultant to the United Nations, the Rockefeller Foundation, and developed population training and research centers in Asia, Africa and South America.

Early in his career, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and was named a Fulbright Scholar.

Goldstein has been integral in the development, implementation and analysis of several Jewish population studies, and has been honored for this work by national and international Jewish organizations and universities.



Sidney Goldstein

Birth



Hudson Elijah Goldman

Jay and Pam Goldman, of Santa Monica, Cal., announce the birth of their son, **Hudson Elijah**, on Dec. 28, 2004. Grandparents are Eddi and Dan Goldman of Lake Worth, Fla., formerly of Rhode Island, and Ann Forman of Stanfordville, N.Y.

Rabbinical College honors Yavners

PROVIDENCE — The New England Rabbinical College will host its annual dinner on Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Jewish Community Center at 5 p.m. This year's honorees will be David and Esta Yavner. Featured speakers will be graduates of the college presenting their views on the impact that the yeshiva has had upon them.

For information and reservations, call Miriam Lipson at 273.4907.

PERSONALS OF THE JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

ABBREVIATIONS	B	Black	n/d	non-drinker
	D	Divorced	n/drugs	no drug
	F	Female	n/s	nonsmoker
	H/W/P	Height	P	Professional
		weight proportionate	S	Single
	J	Jewish	T/LC	Tender
	LTR	Long-term relationship	W	White
	M	Male	WW	Widowed

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Are you my prince? DJF, 5'5", slim, curly hair, seeking a financially and emotionally secure prince, 55-65, to laugh and enjoy the moment with. Golf, movies, walks, sunsets. I'll be waiting. ♫49006

Male seeking Female

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English Jewish chap, cute, cuddly, caring, sensitive, professional, 50s, 5'10", 175 lbs, easygoing, nice-looking, variety of interests, relocatable, seeks professional, outgoing, sincere, kindhearted, marriage-minded Female, 40-55. Animal lover a plus. (NY) ♫49000

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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My Voice

A good Jewish education enables us to soar

On the wings of partnerships, new day school can take flight

By Rabbi Mitchell C. Levine

Editor's note: This d'var Torah was given before a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island recently.

Legend has it that, at the time of the creation, the birds were the most upset over the attributes that the Creator had seen fit to bestow upon them. "All of the other animals have been given such wonderful features," they cried. "Some are fast or sure of foot, others see in the dark, some grow to a gargantuan size, whereas others have the ability to burrow under the earth. Some are granted sharp teeth and claws; some have thick fur for warmth, while others can climb any tree. But we have been given only these heavy appendages, which hang uselessly at our sides."

"Not to worry," God comforted them, "I have only to teach you how to flap those appendages, and then you will soar above all the rest of my creation."

Sadly enough, far too many of us regard our Jewish identities as "useless appendages" that have more to do with holding us back in life than with raising us up. To the Jewishly unsophisticated, Jewish identity is at best an irrelevant social impediment, and at worst a provocation of violent anti-Semitism. That is why it is incumbent upon all Jewish communities to guarantee the best possible Jewish educational opportunity for all who seek it. Judaism without Jewish education is a meaningless burden, a chore that I undertake to please others at the expense of my own happiness. A good Jewish education enriches us, it inspires us. It enables us to soar. Education makes the difference between a mere "appendage" and a "wing."

Of course, education involves formal education. Formal education means institutions. Institutions plus community equals politics. It is all well and good to wax praise on the value of education, the trick is how best to provide it in the real world. No one gets an education, without also getting a "lesson" in compromise. Too much compromise, however, and I am forced to search for alternatives. Compromise, but without sacrificing integrity: This dialectic forms the basis for any communal venture, including the establishment of its schools.

In Rhode Island, a new venture has been proposed — uniting a diverse Jewish population into a single, brand new school. Consolidating our community into a single school entails moderating some cherished views

and expectations. Without compromise, a school risks becoming a place of tension, and even, God-forbid, discord. In politics, this line of reasoning is called "diplomacy." In religion (ours being no exception), it is called "hypocrisy." How can I refrain from insisting on what I believe God demands for my child's education without being a hypocrite? On the other hand, compromise, too, is a Jewish value.

What is the basis for entertaining compromise in the establishment of a Jewish school? In a rather striking Talmudic passage, Rabbi Akiva admonishes his son "never to live in a town governed by sages." The preeminent commentator, Rashi, explains that because the sages are preoccupied by their learning, they will be distracted from municipal tasks, and the population will suffer from their neglect. Taken as a paradigm for community leadership, this teaching demonstrates that an appropriate division of communal responsibilities is a prescription for excellence. Rabbis do best when unencumbered by mundane matters, institutional maintenance fares better when directed by those who possess a more "this worldly" orientation. This insight was not lost in the Jewish tradition.

Rabbeinu Nissim (14th century) pointed out that Torah Judaism would compare poorly with gentile political systems, were it not for the Torah's allowance for the appointment of a king. The king, though ideally devout, was typically the "lay," rather than the "religious" leader of our people. He would collect taxes, marry the daughters of foreign kings, perhaps build a Temple, and generally run the country. The religious leader, the prophet, would struggle to keep the king (and his subjects) in line with the demands of Torah. Kings, of necessity, had to be practical, though excessive compromise was met with enthusiastic denunciation from the decidedly uncompromising prophets.

Applied to the modern Jewish educational setting, rabbis have a mandate to speak forthrightly about what sort of Jewish education we ought to have, but lay leaders need to stay focused on building educational institutions for which they can reasonably expect to raise sufficient funds and broad-based support.

As a rabbi, I have a very clear idea of precisely what sort of Jewish education should be provided for the children of our community. Regrettably (or, depending on your point of view, thankfully), I am not the only rabbi.

My synagogue would be too small to single-handedly sponsor its own day school, and certainly not the type of school that is capable of providing the range of high quality educational resources and opportunities that truly excellent schools must provide.

When I was in grade school, not much seemed to be known about differing educational needs. Students were assigned to either the "advanced/gifted," "intermediate," or "remedial" group. Of course, out loud, they were referred to as the "blue," "red," and "yellow" groups, so that nobody would get the right idea.

Today, educators know so much more about the children they serve. Research on developmental stages and the pedagogic implications of interests and abilities have spawned a vast array of teaching techniques and program strategies. Parents feel empowered to ask for in-depth and professional student evaluations. Schools are called upon to provide "state of the art" high-tech learning options, as well as wholesome "green spaces." Field trips, class trips, after-school clubs and activities complement the engaging electives and challenging core courses that are designed to enlist the student as a full partner in his or her education.

To borrow the slogan of a Boston area Jewish school, students are now understood to be "wicks to be lit, not vessels to be filled." In all honesty, I am not convinced that even a much bigger synagogue could realistically provide a school of today's caliber. The pragmatic course would be to forge partnerships.

To provide the education that turns appendages into wings is a noble calling. As a rabbi, I am grateful for this opportunity to thank and congratulate all of you for the hard work, generosity and spirit of partnership that enables our children to soar.

Mitchell C. Levine is the rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom in Providence.



Rabbi Mitchell Levine





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