

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

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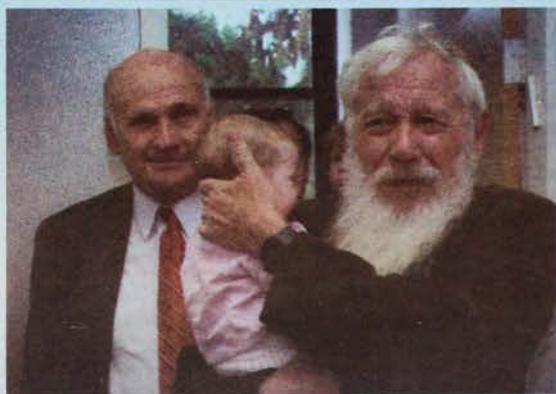


Photo: Hebrew University/BP Images/JTA

HEBREW UNIVERSITY'S Robert Aumann, right, co-winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize for Economics, holds his great-granddaughter while standing with University President Menachem Magidor.

## Israeli wins Nobel for economics

By Dan Baron

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It may sound uncanny, but an Israeli has educated the world on conflict resolution. Such was the praise heaped on Robert Aumann, the Hebrew University professor named Monday as co-winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in economics.

Aumann, 75, and American scientist Thomas Schelling "enhanced our understanding of conflict and cooperation through game-theory analysis," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement. The two will share the \$1.3 million prize.

Game theory is the science of strategy, the study of how various rival groups — whether business colleagues or warring parties — can interact to secure an ideal outcome. Aumann specialized in "repeated games," analyzing conflict over time.

"I am very moved by this honor," he told reporters outside his office at the Hebrew University's Center for Rationality. "I think credit should also go to members of the school of thought who have helped to make Israel perhaps the world's No. 1 superpower when it comes to game theory."

Aumann, who is religiously observant, was born in Frankfurt but moved to the United States with his family in 1938. He took degrees from

the City College of New York and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, immigrating to Israel in 1956.

Aumann is the second Israeli to win the Nobel for economics. Two Israeli biochemists shared the Nobel Prize for chemistry last year, and former Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Menachem Begin have won the Nobel Peace Prize.

"His work is important and a major contribution to the world of economics and to theory," Hebrew University President Menachem Megidor told Israel Radio about Aumann.

Schelling, 84, who shares the prize, is a University of Maryland lecturer recognized for his application of game theory to issues of global security.

Aumann's work has focused on the more abstract principle of "repeated games," or conflict that lasts over extended period.

In a telephone conversation with the academy, he suggested that this could give insight into Israel's struggle for survival in the Middle East.

"I do hope that perhaps some game theory can be used and be part of this solution," he said. But Aumann, who lost a son during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, said an end to the conflict with the Palestinians was far off.

## New growth planned for South County

*"We all benefited from someone who built something when we were kids. Now it's our turn."*

— Richard Winkler, president, South County Jewish Collaborative

By Jonathan Rubin

SOUTH KINGSTON — What's similar between the Jews of South County and the desert dwelling Bedouins of Israel's Negev desert?

"South County parents feel they have a nomadic existence" in terms of Jewish life, said Richard Winkler. They need to travel to one city for a bar mitzvah, another for Hebrew class and someone's home for a knitting class. The results: the majority of the Jewish population isn't getting involved.

Winkler is the president of the South County Jewish Collaborative (SCJC), a lay-led organization that is trying to build the first Jewish center to service the 1,000 or so Jewish households in the area. They've purchased the land, built a small constituency of donors and are now plowing through numerous legalistic and zoning hurdles towards the planned \$1.5 million dollar facility.

Winkler has community building in his blood — his grandfather helped found the Providence Hebrew Day School in Providence more

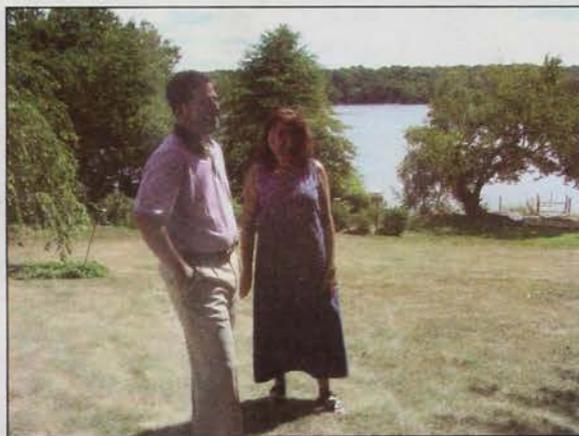


Photo by Jonathan Rubin

South County Jewish Collaborative President Richard Winkler, left, and communications director Miriam Ladin.

than 70 years ago.

"We all benefited from someone who built something when we were kids. Now it's our turn."

### Summer community

What used to be merely a "summer Jewish community" for Providence and New York Jews is now an area that sports a year-long population.

But the infrastructure hasn't caught up yet; the Hebrew school rents a few classrooms at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston and puts up magnetic mezuzahs before each class begins. Rhode Island's remaining Hadassah chapter holds its meetings in various synagogues.

And the area synagogue,

Congregation Beth David, couldn't hold the Hebrew school there if it wanted to; it isn't much more than a kitchen, a small sanctuary and a set of bathrooms. It holds High Holiday services at a nearby church or a high school when things get too crowded.

"Every year we need to carry the Torahs and all the prayer books over there," said Sara Nelson, president of Beth David. "People say, 'Gee, it'd be nice if we didn't have to do this every year.'"

### Southern Snapshot

South County, officially known as Washington County, includes towns such as North Kingstown, Narragansett and Westerly. Jews there are comparatively young (according to the 2002 R.I. Jewish demographic study, the median Jewish age in Southern Rhode Island is 40.8 years old, compared to 43.8 years old in Providence and 50.8 years old in Newport) but also typically lacking in Jewish ritual observance — only 60 percent participate in a Passover seder, 12 percent light Shabbat candles on Friday and 8.4 percent keep kosher, some of the lowest rates in the state.

Sprawling and largely decentralized areas like South County often face other Jewish community building chal-



V+H File photo

Part of the property purchased by the South County Jewish Collaborative, which includes a home which is planned for use as a meeting space, a library and day care center.

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# Community Calendar

## ONGOING

OCT. 14 - 31

### Exhibit at Gallery 401

JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Howard Chaim Brown photography exhibit: "Ten weeks in Jerusalem." Reception Sun., Oct. 16, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Gallery

Hours: Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointment. Call 861-8800.

### Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club

Mondays, 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.  
Event listing: Oct. 17: "Tattoos and Body Piercing: What does

Judaism say about this trend?" — Miriam Abrams Stark

Oct. 24: "Backyard Birds" — David Clayton, URI Speakers Bureau

11:10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Oct. 17, 24, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5:

"Jewish Memoir and Autobiography" — Claire Roche, BJE

Oct. 31: Book reviews: "Love with Noodles" by Harry Freund, and "Thoughts from a Queen-sized Bed" by Mimi Schwartz — Mara Sokolsky, temple librarian

## SAT., OCT. 15

### Collaborative dinner & silent auction

6:30 p.m. Event of the Jewish Collaborative at the home of Richard & Maureen Winkler, 20 Fresh Meadow Rd., Wakefield. RSVP with \$36 check per person by Oct. 3 to Jewish Collaborative, PO Box 5771, Wakefield, RI 02879. For more information or to donate, call Amy at 295-7505. See Community.

## SUN., OCT. 16

### Miriam Hospital's fall festival

8:30 to 10 a.m. "Rhode to Health" walk, 1 or 3 miles starting at the hospital and ending at Festival Ballet. Noon to 5 p.m. on Hope St. between Fifth St. & Rochambeau Ave. Entertainment and food. Sponsored by The Miriam Hospital & Hope Street merchants. For more information, visit [www.miriamhospital.org](http://www.miriamhospital.org) or

See CALENDAR, page 13

**Correction:** In our Sept. 30 issue, an incorrect name was listed next to the winner of nine swimming medals at the 2005 JCC Maccabiah games. The correct winner is Talia Ringer, right. We regret the error.



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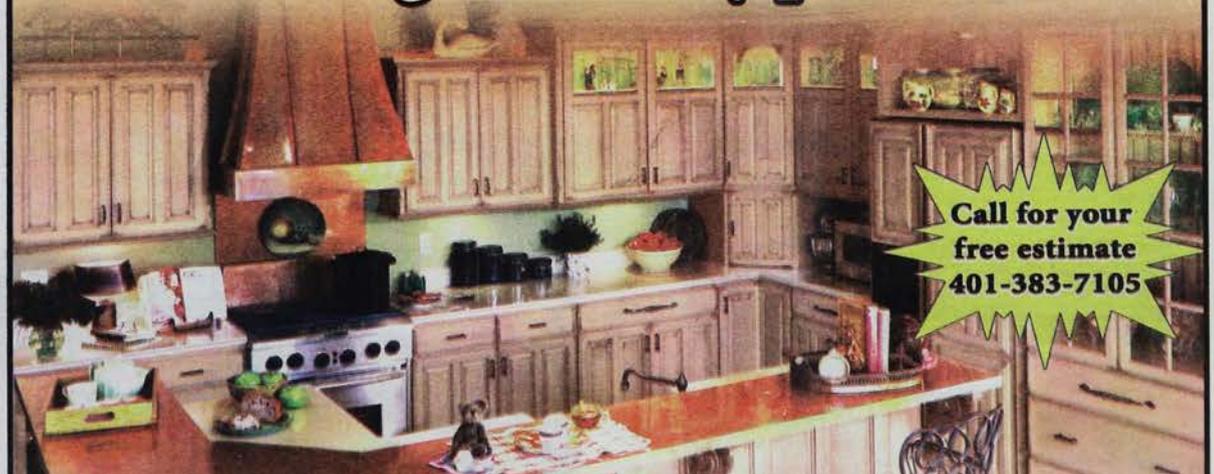
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# New growth planned for South County

From page 1

lenges as well — 54 percent of Jews there are intermarried; two in five have a Christmas tree in their homes.

"There's no population center," said Miriam Ladin, communication director for the Collaborative. "The need is absolutely there — I know by the kvetching!"

The 40 or so families enrolled in the South County Hebrew School face similar challenges, but people put up with it because "they want a Jewish education without having to drive for an hour," said Nelson.

She said the community does occasionally receive assistance for its senior population from Jewish Family Service, located in Providence, but that "there's no real place to house it."

The area also briefly had a Jewish teen program, Geshet, a satellite extension from The Harry Elkin Midrasha Hebrew High School in Providence, but the program dissolved a few years ago.

### Building a dream

So for the past six years, community members have been trying to build something that could bring all the community's religious, educational and social activities together under one roof.

In 1999 the organization bought a piece of scenic lake-side property from the First Baptist Church of Narragansett for \$190,000. Located near the rotary where Routes 1 and 108 intersect, on the South Kingstown-Narragansett town line, the property included a small home; after updating the electrical, water and heating systems, it's now used to hold meetings and small functions. After a period of some drop-off in activity, Winkler said that now the SCJC is seeking the zoning ordinances to expand the property and drain some swampy areas.

The Collaborative is the most recent of many groups that have tried to raise the level of Jewish activity in the area. Winkler said that it's a very diverse community — from retirees to young families, including many educators at the University of Rhode Island looking to join a Jewish community.

They sport a listserv of about 600 emails and have knitting circles, book clubs, speaker events, *sukkah* buildings and pre-Passover potlucks; their next event is a winter gala on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. (see [www.jewishcol](http://www.jewishcol)

*"People [here] want a Jewish education without having to drive for an hour."*

— Sara Nelson, president of Congregation Beth David, Narragansett

laborative.com for more details)

Thanks to a number of donors who have stepped up to the plate, and a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the mortgage has been paid off.

The plan would further call for Beth David, a former Orthodox synagogue that now serves about 130 mostly Conservative families, to relocate their congregation to the new facility.

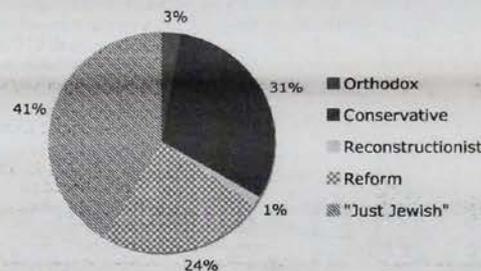


Photo by SCJC

Attendees mingle at a function in the South Kingstown house purchased by the South County Jewish Collaborative.

Plans for the Beth David building are undetermined.

### Religious affiliation in South County (of 965 households)



Source: 2002 RI Community Demographic Study

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## Opinion

## A MAJORITY OF ONE

The elusive road map to *aliyah*

One of the bonuses of appearing in each issue of the *Voice & Herald* is sharing these pages with Alison Golub. True, at times she reminds me of just how ancient I have become but she also has the pleasant effect of reminding me of experiences worth recalling that I had almost forgotten.



Yehuda Lev

My Israeli years extended from 1948 to 1965, including four in Chicago with the Israeli Consulate. It was, of course, a very different country than that which

Alison writes about but for new arrivals there were certain similarities.

One of them, which Alison described in her most recent column, involves "the difficulties inherent in coping with a culture different from that in which one has grown up." This was especially true for me during two years spent on a Negev kibbutz in which I was the only one of 70 *haverim* who had not been born in the country. (We met when I served alongside them during the War of Independence.)

On the one hand I was treated with a certain respect, having come from the land of plenty to share with them the sand, flies and heat of the desert. On the

other hand there lingered the question, rarely voiced, "Couldn't you make it in America?"

There were political issues as well. Riding on the back of an open truck on a trip to Beersheba to see a movie one afternoon, I began reciting the brands of automobiles passing in the opposite direction. I was treated to an angry lecture by one of the *kibbutznikim* on the evils

*The most successful American immigrants were those who came with no illusions, no pre-conceived opinions about what to expect. Those who arrived with a Zionist background, usually reflecting a political perspective, were most likely to become disillusioned and return home.*

of materialism and my doleful inability to throw off the shackles that bound me to capitalism and the exploitation of the masses. While no one else joined in, it was evident to me that they were in agreement.

Alison writes that she loves "everything about Israel, the land and its people." I might not have taken it that far but I never lost the sense of excitement that pervaded my associations with the country. Israel was a fascinating place to live and its people, so varied and sometimes (yes, Alison) so direct and even rude, were a constant source of irritation

and interest and, in some instances, became good and lasting friends.

From my own experiences and those of others it seemed to me, living in Israel for those 17 years, that the most successful American immigrants were those who came with no illusions, no pre-conceived opinions about what to expect. Those who arrived with a Zionist background, usually reflecting a political

perspective, were most likely to become disillusioned and return home.

That the opposite has occurred in Alison's and my cases is disappointing to me personally but at the same time, is a measure of the changes for the better that have taken place in the absorption of Israel's American immigrants during its 57 years.

Alison's problems in adapting to a foreign culture, and mine two generations earlier, were variations on a theme common to all new immigrants. In this Alison had a great advantage over me; she came to her new home

well-prepared both in knowledge and in background (although perhaps less so than she imagined) and determined to make a success of her new life.

I drifted into it, the result of experiences with Holocaust survivors in Europe and arrived in Israel as a volunteer for the army knowing one word of Hebrew (guess which one) and without a clue as to the history of or the conditions within the country itself.

My experiences living in Israel were not always positive, any more than are Alison's, but I wish that today I had a written record of them as Alison will when her children ask her how life in Israel was in her "good old days." If I ever write a diary of those years it will be titled, for better or for worse, *An Accidental Life*.

...

In my most recent column I discussed my wife's and my desire to welcome into our home a family evacuated from the Gulf Coast. Our request to do so was acknowledged by e-mail but since then there has been silence from the officials in charge. We are looking at other sources and if we succeed you will be the first to know.

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

## Alison on Aliyah: Happy anniversary to me!

Tomorrow is the two-year anniversary of the day I made aliyah, and I've been feeling very contemplative about the occasion.



Alison Golub

We have just celebrated the Jewish New Year, and I am about to celebrate the beginning of my third year here in Israel — as a citizen, as an immigrant, and as an individual struggling to find her place in her new world.

I spent the past hour looking back at some of the first few articles I wrote, back in July of 2003, and being struck with awe at how different everything looks now. I remember having no idea where I would live or when I would be able to start my schooling. I remember that on that first cab ride from the airport, I didn't know enough Hebrew to ask the driver to roll up his window. I remember not having a place to go for some of the holidays, and spending the first three months sleeping on an air mattress on the floor of my apartment. I remember worrying if I would ever meet anyone in this "foreign country" with whom I could envision sharing my life.

And now here I am, living in Be'er Sheva, about to begin my second

year of a combined master's and Ph.D. program in social psychology at Ben Gurion University. I have a thesis advisor who supports and believes in me, and a research project that embodies many of the reasons I came here in the first place. I have a car and a real home, complete with furnishings, cooking supplies, and framed pictures of friends and family on every surface.

My Hebrew is nearly fluent, and I have begun doing translating work for some of the professors in my department. I have a great and varied support system of friends and a slew of adoptive families who take me in on every occasion. My dog has adjusted happily to her new surroundings and is in love with all of my friends here. And speaking of being in love, I may very well have found that "special someone" myself.

In short, things are good. My life has fallen into place, in the perfect place, in a way I could never have predicted or even hoped for. Just two short years ago, I had more "unknowns" staring me in the face than I had things of which I was certain, and I had nothing to rely on but a ten-year-old dream that I was desperately hoping to fulfill. I now see Israel as the key to what has become my true happiness.

When I look back on how many years I struggled to build a life and to be happy in America, and how many years I failed

at doing so, I can see now that the essential building blocks simply weren't there. I was attempting to construct something on top of a faulty foundation, and continually watching everything tumble to the ground. I was trying to create the life I thought I wanted in a place that I knew simply wasn't for me. Moving to Israel was my first step toward constructing the foundation for the life I truly want to lead, and I have watched as the succeeding levels have sprung up with gusto from that foundation.

Even with so much time here in Israel under my belt, one of the most common questions I still get is whether I will or would ever go back to the U.S. Sometimes the question is framed even less optimistically, as in, "How long are you going to stay here?" It continually amazes me that so many people consider aliyah to be so temporary, and assume that it is only a matter of time until most of us new immigrants cave in and ship back to our "real" homes.

I suppose this may be true for many of us, but not for me. I always respond swiftly and emphatically that I am here for good and would never consider returning to America for anything more than a visit (and a short one at that!). I say that I cannot imagine putting in this much work—the moving and the adjusting and the constant and sometimes painful lesson learning—only to throw it all away. The roots I am in the process of setting down have been hard-won, and are as strong and enduring as steel. They aren't going anywhere. And in two, or ten, or twenty years, when I am looking back on this article, they will still be firmly rooted in Israeli soil.

*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

Letters to the editor 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

# Escaping the creationism vs. evolution debate

By Rabbi Elyse Wechterman

According to Rabbinic teaching and a linear – some might say fundamentalist – reading of the Torah, the world, this planet, is exactly 5,766 years old. So here we are, just after the Jewish New Year, 5,766 years later, remembering that day, that sublime moment of our collective birth from the Divine Mind.

Or are we?

I am sure that most of us, raised and educated in the American educational system, also find compelling, if not self-evident, the theory that the world is not in fact 5,000 years old, but more like 4.5 billion years old and that human life has existed for only an infinitesimally small portion of that time.

I am not a scientist but I am not intimidated by the theory of an evolutionary process that transformed single-celled organisms into the building blocks of life that eventually became you and me. Neither am I particularly embarrassed at the notion that we descend from apes. Looking around at the mess we have made of many things, I often wonder if they are in fact,

the superior species. The theories of Darwin and his cohorts stand up to the scrutiny of scientists far more experienced than I and they just seem to make sense.

Some would have us believe that faith in divine origin, in a greater purpose and meaning to life, is somehow in direct opposition to a scientific understanding of biology. Some would say that the Torah's account of creation and Darwin's theory of evolution are mutually exclusive; that you can't "believe" one and "believe" the other.

In setting creationism as equal to or debatable with evolution, those who frame this discussion create the appearance of a debate that must, inevitably, have one correct answer.

And therein lies the problem. For choosing a side in the creation/evolution debate is not only an inauthentic Jewish response to these questions, it borders on idolatry.

A core teaching of the Jewish tradition is *Adonai Eloheibchem Emet*. The Unknowable God is Truth. This is part of the Shema – we say it twice a day in our liturgy.

Therefore, to dare to suggest that any one group, one text, one person can claim to possess truth is to set that group, that text or that person up next to God.

Instead, a multiplicity of paths is necessary to gain even a glimpse of truth.

The opening chapters of the Torah give not one but two radically different accounts of the creation of humanity. And they are radically different accounts.

In Genesis 1, God says, "Let us create man in our image." And God created man, male and female God created them. We have as story of the creation of male and female at the very same time – in the very same act of creation. Some commentators have suggested that the first human was, in fact, both male and female – two creatures fused together back to back.

In Genesis 2, however, we have the far more well-known story of Eve created from Adam's rib; and the accompanying lines about a woman cleaving to her husband and a man leaving his home. Two separate creatures, one subservient to the other. This is a very different picture of humanity than that presented in

the previous chapter.

Throughout Jewish history, commentators and students of Torah have struggled to reconcile these two accounts. These discussions live side by side in our history and they are joined by others. The Kabbalists imagine a completely different version of creation; one in which divine energy is first pulled back from itself to create an empty space and then poured back into that empty space in holy emanations that become the building blocks of the physical universe.

In the Middle Ages, Jewish scholars struggled to understand biblical accounts of creation in light of the contemporary philosophies of their day. Maimonides, struggling with Aristotelian thought, concludes that the world was created *ex nihilo* – out of nothing, as Torah teaches, but not in the way Torah teaches. "The Torah is written in the language of men," he wrote. And therefore, some things are not within human comprehension.

Gersonides, on the other hand, concluded that the world could not be created out of nothing and pushed to adopt the view that the universe is eternal (i.e. not created at a single divine act of creation some time in history). A radical notion for traditional Judaism, but still within an observant, religious and faithful context.

More recently, a lead scholar

of Kabbalah, Daniel Matt has a book entitled "God and the Big Bang" in which he shows just how similar some of the theories of contemporary physicists are to the thinking of the traditional Kabbalists and takes the reader on a magical ride through quarks and atoms that can only be described as spiritual.

From the Jewish point of view, science itself is understood as a divine gift. The ability to reason and think for ourselves is presented in the Jewish tradition as part of God's original plan.

The scientist looking through the microscope may tell us how; the mystic focused within herself may attempt to tell us why. But it is in the heart of each one of us, in hearing those stories and walking the many paths that we can begin to formulate a response to the next obvious question: the question of "so what?"

Those framing the debate as creationism vs. evolution are asking the wrong question. The question that we struggle to answer today – the question I think all humans should struggle to answer – is not "how was the world created?"

The real question we should be asking is: Given that the world exists, what are you going to do about it?

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman is rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro.

Viewpoint

# Quieting the *sukkah* 'buzz'

By Scott Turner

Once again, a handful of regional residents contracted either West Nile virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis during the warmer months of the year. I am mindful of mosquito-borne illnesses during Sukkot, when our family comes into the house each night covered in mosquito bites and vowing to end our cavalier attitude toward the tiny vampires.

One of the roots of Sukkot is as a festival to give thanks for life's abundance. In that vein, I have no quarrel with mosquitoes, which play an important role in the environment. They are flush with protein and serve as vital food for young fish and birds. Mosquitoes also sip flower nectar, pollinating plants in the process.

Many mosquito varieties rarely attack humans. Instead, they feed on birds or other animals. And it's only females that go for blood. They need its energy to lay eggs.

The problem is that once in a while mosquitoes can carry serious disease and a little prevention can reduce the odds of illness, neurological damage or death.

You'd think I understand

this. On a warm, late-summer afternoon in 1966, I developed a fever and chills. That night my mother called the family physician. "You're being a nervous mother," the doctor said. "The boy (I was eight) has a cold. Call me in the morning."

I sweated abundantly. My neck stiffened. My temperature reached 106. At dawn, my mother called a second physician. He whisked in for a house call. "The boy is dying, and must go to a hospital now," he said.

Like a contractor carrying a 2 by 4, my father placed me in the back seat of our Chevy. A few minutes later, we were in the ER. Using a tap, a doctor withdrew fluid from my spine. I felt the sharpest pain of my life, saw stars, and fainted. That was Sunday morning.

On Tuesday evening I awoke in an isolation room. During my six days there, the doctors could not determine the source of my encephalitis. But I had survived, which, they said, was good news enough.

I lost the hearing in my right ear from encephalitis, which left a deeper mark. I read by age four. Instead of playing with blocks in kindergarten, I scrutinized *The New York Times*.

In first grade I tested out of elementary school. Plans were made for me to skip a grade, but those never came to pass. Encephalitis means inflammation of the brain, and my infection braised the inside of my skull. After mending, I was an intermediate student, at best.

Now I'm no nature-fearing city dweller, who drops yard-fogging bug bombs at the sight of a hornet or who calls 911 when a raccoon rattles the trash cans. Yet after defying death and sharing our sukkah with mosquitoes for years, you'd think my family and I would show some common sense.

This new year will be different, we say. Our first step to a safer Sukkot will be to rid the yard of water-collecting items where mosquitoes might breed. Then we will try to limit outside activities when the pests are thickest, which is in the early morning, at dusk and nighttime. When practical, we will cover our skin with pants, long sleeves and hats, or use an appropriate insect repellent, if necessary.

Call me a nervous father, if you like. Just say it in my left ear.

Scott Turner is a writer at the Brown University News Bureau.

# Dry Bones HAPPY HOLIDAY



# "Mitzvah of the Month"

## Knitting is Back!



The Mitzvah for October is knitting!

Help decide who will be the lucky recipients of our scarves.

**October 28<sup>st</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. — Noon  
At the Jewish Federation**

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### Future Community Service Projects

November	Turkey Collection
December 18	Gift Wrapping
January	Community Day School
February	Volunteer at Children's Museum
March	Hamentaschen Baking
April	Collect Food for Passover
May	Community-wide Drive at Annual Meetings

Information for above projects will be provided at a later date.

Yarn generously donated by



This mitzvah opportunity brought to you by the Community Service Committee of the Women's Alliance.

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island  
Live generously. It does a world of good.

## Federation

### Federation hires asst. campaign director

PROVIDENCE — Amy Seigle is the new assistant campaign director and director of fund distribution at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. A recent transplant from Texas, she worked for six years at the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston in the areas of Young Leadership, Women's Campaign, and as Assistant Campaign Director.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Seigle previously worked in public relations and event planning in Cincinnati.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Indiana University. She is married to Clay Seigle, an oil market analyst with CERA. They are looking forward to sharing a "real winter" with their 16-month-old daughter, Abby, and are living in Providence.



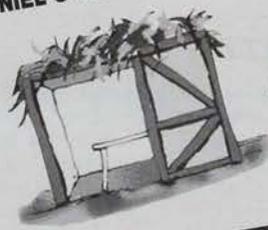
At right: Amy Seigle

# Babies Kids & Kibbitzing

## SUKKOT PARTY

Friday, Oct. 21, 2005  
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2005-2006

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### Future dates:

- Friday, Nov. 18, 2005 • "Shalom Bayit"
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 2005 • "Jewish Dilemma"
- Friday, Jan. 20, 2006 • "Jews Around the World through music"

- Friday, Feb. 17, 2006 • Tu B'Shevat
- Friday, March 17, 2006 • Purim
- Sunday, April 9, 2006 • Passover
- Friday, May 19, 2006 • Israel



Bring your own toys and snacks



BKK is a playgroup run by the Gateway Committee of the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of RI

## Federation

FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

### New Year and new beginnings

**"Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."**

— John F. Kennedy

This is a time of change for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and for our community.



Herbert B. Stern

As you know, Janet Engelhart, our Executive Vice President, has announced her resignation, and I wish to express, once again, how thankful we all are for Janet's contribu-

tions to our community over the past five years. During her tenure, Janet has set in motion significant changes with kindness, generosity and integrity, and I know that we all wish her well as she moves forward in her life.

Although change can be challenging and difficult, it can also be a true opportunity. As we move forward to conduct a search for a new Executive Vice President, under the generous leadership of our past president, David Hirsch, we will be purposeful, thoughtful and open.

We are reaching out to all of our partner agencies and synagogues to ask for input, insight and direction. We are working with United Jewish Communities at the national level as well.

Given our new circumstances at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, it is clear to me that we must

be introspective as an organization — and it is my priority, as JFRI's president, to listen closely to our community's ideas, concerns and hopes.

As your President, I want to reassure you that the JFRI staff and volunteer leaders are moving forward with our work to raise significant funds for Jews in need — locally, in Israel and around the world — and that we are also actively engaged in community planning, through our

Partnership efforts.

During this time of profound reflection, as we all consider our lives and our relationships, I am heartened by the tremendous outpouring of support from you, our community. As our search committee moves forward during this time of transition, I will be sure to keep everyone informed.

I wish you and your families health and peace during the New Year.

### Upcoming Jewish holiday schedule

**Sukkot**

Oct. 18 and 19

**Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah**

Oct. 25 and 26

**Hanukkah**

Dec. 25 to Jan. 1

**Purim**

March 14, 2006

**Passover**

April 13 and 14

**Concluding Days of Passover**

April 19 and 20

**Shavuot**

June 2 and 3

*A service of the Jewish Voice & Herald*





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**Nation**

**Textbook rejected for bias against Jews**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (JTA) — In a surprise move, an advisory body to California's board of education rejected a sixth-grade history program that Hindu and Jewish groups blasted as biased, erroneous and culturally derogatory.

During a two-day hearing last week before the state's curriculum development and supplemental materials commission, Jewish critics lambasted the Oxford University Press textbook and related materials for subjecting early

Jewish history to a more rigid standard of proof than Christian or Muslim history; for including stories that have traditionally fomented anti-Semitism; and for misstating key concepts of Judaism, presenting it as a religion of reward and punishment rather than one of social justice and morality.

The rejection was a major upset for the prestigious publishing company, which for the first time was trying to enter the lucrative California market for

teaching materials for kindergarten through eighth grade.

California is the nation's largest textbook purchaser, and often sets the tone for what is adopted by other states.

David Gershwin of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles laid out for the commissioners Oxford's depiction of the Exodus. Not only, he said, does the Oxford text note that there is no historical record of the Exodus — a caveat not included in descriptions of the seminal religious events of other faiths — it incorrectly states that the story is important to Jews mainly as a way to set themselves off from other people. When Jewish groups asked Oxford to change that passage to reflect the importance of the Exodus as a story of national and personal liberation, they were rebuffed.

"It is difficult for us to comprehend why the beliefs of other religions are presented without critical comment, while the essential event of Judaism is subjected to a historical analysis that can only be described as disdainful and highly subjective," Gershwin testified.

One Hindu speaker pointed to a chapter called "Where's the Beef?" and said it offended him to have his faith presented "in the manner of an outdated television ad." Following the public criticism, 14 commissioners voted last Friday against adopting the Oxford materials, and one commissioner abstained. Their rejection came as a surprise because a special review committee had recommended its adoption to the commission.

California has mandated the study of religion since 1987. Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism are studied in sixth grade, and Islam is covered in seventh grade.

Oxford is one of 12 publishers whose programs were being considered for adoption by the state of California, which means school districts can use state money to purchase them. The curriculum commission rejected the programs of two other publishers as well, but those had not been recommended by the review committee, which said they did not meet state standards.

The state board of education will make its final decisions on all the programs on Nov. 3.

Although Jewish groups picked out Oxford's materials as the most egregious, none of the publishers escaped criticism.

Berman said that while other publishers "worked well with us" to resolve issues of concern to the Jewish community, the Oxford team did not.

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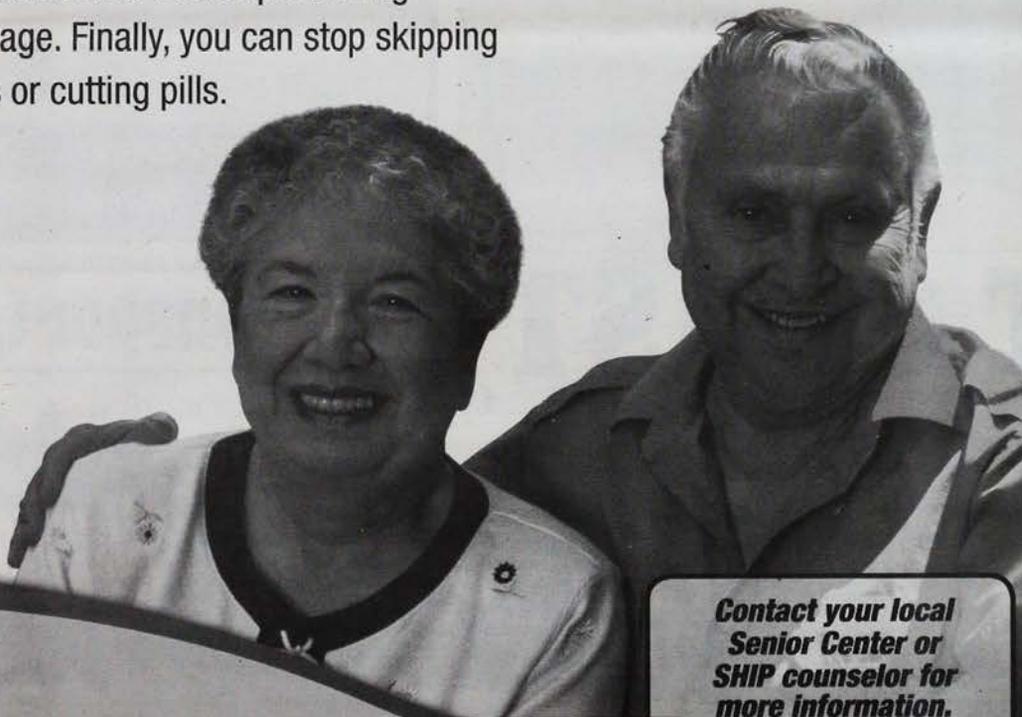
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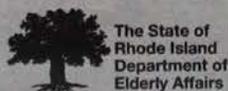


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**Enrollment  
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The Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs (RIDEA) is committed to assisting RIPAE members in making the right decision about prescription drug coverage.

## Court nominee an unknown quantity

NEW YORK (JTA) — Perhaps it was Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) who best summarized the American Jewish community's position on Harriet Miers.

"We know even less about this nominee than we did about John Roberts," Schumer said after President Bush nominated Miers, his White House counsel, to succeed Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

When Roberts was nominated to the high court in July — he later was promoted to chief justice after the death of William Rehnquist — most American Jewish groups said they would have to wait until his confirmation hearing before casting judgment, citing his limited judicial record. Because Miers, 60, has never been a judge and has not weighed in on most controversial issues, her political and judicial philosophies are even less known.

"We're in somewhat the same position as we were in with Roberts, in that the hearings will be very important," said Mark Pelavin, associate director of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism.

Two major differences between the nominations already have emerged. First, Miers lacks the universal praise Roberts received for his intellect and experience. Miers also would be replacing O'Connor, who served as the swing vote in many contentious issues since 1981, raising the stakes of the confirmation.

"This is the battle that is going to swing the court one way or another," said Phyllis Snyder, president of the National Council of Jewish Women.

"I think we all have to sit back and pause and see what we know about her and don't know about her," Snyder said. "We have to do our research."

But it's unclear where the information will come from. A former president of the Texas State Bar Association, Miers spent most of her career in private practice, and her work at the White House could be protected as privileged.

One tidbit has emerged: In 1992 Miers worked against an American Bar Association resolution supporting abortion rights. But reports said she did not speak to the merits of *Roe v. Wade*, only to the appropriateness of the lawyers' group taking a stand.

Fred Zeidman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, noted Miers' reputation for integrity when she was chairwoman of the Texas Lottery Commission from 1995 to 2001. She is reported to have cleaned up an institution with a history of questionable practices.

"The deal with Harriet was, whatever was right was going to happen," said Zeidman, who also

is from Texas. "No compromise politically."

Miers would not be an "activist" judge — either from the right or the left, Zeidman said.

"If she doesn't fit the suit of the Republican right, that's fine with me," said Zeidman, one of the top Jewish contributors to past Bush campaigns.

Marlene Gorin, community relations director for the Greater Dallas Jewish Federation, said

Miers had been slated to join a civic leadership mission to Israel run by the federation in 2000. However, Miers cancelled three days before the trip because her law firm had taken on a major case.

Gorin said Miers was remarkable for her lack of profile on issues affecting the Jewish community. "She has absolutely no profile on those issues," Gorin said.



Harriet Miers at her nomination with President Bush.

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## World

### News briefs

#### Sharon, Abbas meeting postponed

JERUSALEM: A meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, scheduled for mid-October, has been postponed until last October or possibly November. The delay is due to a surge in violence in Gaza and also because neither side can agree on procedures or anticipated results. (JTA)

#### NPR critic to head Public Broadcasting

WASHINGTON: Cheryl Halpern, a former chair of the Republican Jewish Coalition, has been chosen to head the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, replacing Kenneth Tomlinson, whose term of office expired. Halpern is a New Jersey attorney and developer and an influential Republican donor. As a corporation board member she has been critical of Middle East reporting by National Public Radio which the board oversees. (JTA and the Forward)

#### Lost tribe in Burma?

MIZORAM, INDIA: Seven hundred members of the *B'nei Menashe*, a group living in an area that straddles Burma, northeast India and Bangladesh, whose members believe they are descended from one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, underwent Orthodox conversion last month. It was carried out by a special rabbinical court sent by Israel's Chief Rabbinate. The group expects to immigrate to Israel, joining 800 already there, with an additional 5,000 to follow

with the next five years. (Jerusalem Report)

#### Chabad telethon raises \$6.2 million

LOS ANGELES: The 25th annual Chabad telethon raised \$6.2 million in just nine hours last month, a record sum for the event which features Hollywood personalities alongside Hasidic rabbis dancing to klezmer music. This year the funds raised went partly to aid those who suffered in the twin hurricanes, and partly to Chabad programs on campuses and its social service programs. (The Los Angeles Jewish Journal)

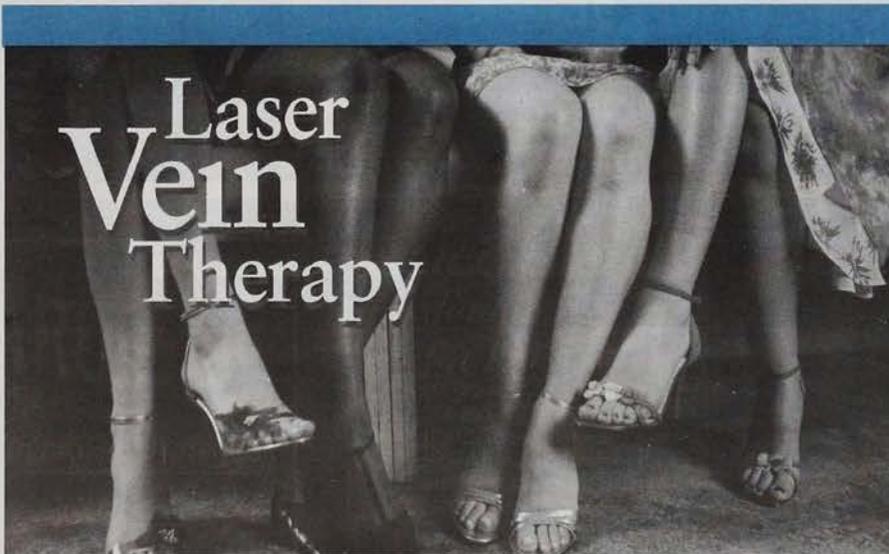
#### Jewish Funds for Justice

NEW YORK: Two progressive national Jewish organizations have agreed to merge. The Jewish Fund for Justice and the Shefa Fund will join together as the Jewish Funds for Justice with an annual budget of \$3.8 million. Both organizations have raised funds in the Jewish community and used their funds to give grants and loans to low-income, mostly non-Jewish communities. (Forward)

#### Divining Madonna

LOS ANGELES: Continuing our saga of the adventures of Madonna and the search for Kabbalah, the pop star is about to release a record album featuring a track called "Isaac" and dedicated to Itzhak Luria, a 16th-century mystic and Kabbalah scholar. Rabbi Rafael Cohen, head of a yeshiva named after Luria, suggested that this could lead to divine retribution. "Her act is simply unacceptable

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



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**News briefs**

CONTINUED

and I can only sympathize with her because of the punishment she is going to receive from the heavens." (*The Los Angeles Daily News*)

**Hamas cells cracked**

JERUSALEM: Israel cracked three West Bank terror cells. The Shin Bet security service announced Monday that it had arrested members of three Hamas cells based around Ramallah and Hebron. They are suspected of the recent kidnapping and killing of an Israeli from Jerusalem, and attacks that claimed four other lives.

The Shin Bet said interrogation revealed that Hamas apparently is capitalizing on the relative calm in Israeli-Palestinian fighting by attempting to build up its infrastructure in the West Bank.

**Groups collect for earthquake relief**

NEW YORK: U.S. Jewish groups are collecting donations for victims of the earthquake that struck

Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. Donations through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee should be made payable to JDC: Pakistan Earthquake Relief and can be made to the group at Box 321, 847A Second Ave., New York, N.Y., 10017.

Donations through the American Jewish World Service can be made by sending checks to the group at 45 W. 36 St., New York, N.Y., 10018, or online at [www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org). At least 30,000 people died as a result of Saturday's earthquake.

**Strategic dialogue resumed**

JERUSALEM: Israel and the United States are resuming strategic dialogue after a long hiatus. The first new round of bilateral talks will begin next month, based on an agreement between Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and visiting Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch, Jerusalem officials said Tuesday.

The strategic dialogue, seen as an important means of maintaining the Israeli-U.S. alliance, was suspended three years ago amid Pentagon anger at Israel's arms technology exports to China, Haaretz said. (JTA)

**House commemorates Wiesenthal**

WASH. D.C.: The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution commemorating the life of Simon Wiesenthal. The resolution passed last Friday was initiated by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.).

It also reaffirmed Congress' commitment to fighting anti-Semitism and urged the world to prosecute Nazi war criminals. A similar resolution sponsored by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) passed unanimously in the Senate on Sept. 21, the day after Wiesenthal died in Vienna. (JTA)

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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**If you are a Jewish victim of domestic abuse, where would you go for help?**

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Photo: Brian Hendler/JTA

Worshippers hold lulavs as they pray during the Sukkot holiday at Jerusalem's Western Wall in a file photo.

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**As Sukkot nears, lulav shortage looms**

NEW YORK (JTA) — American legislators, Israeli officials and Jewish groups are working diplomatic channels in an effort to stave off a looming lulav shortage ahead of Sukkot.

Their efforts follow a surprise move by Egypt, which — after years as the world's primary supplier of the palm fronds that form the spine of the ritual lulav — said it no longer would provide the leaves to suppliers in the United States, Israel and beyond.

"We've got everybody on the case, and I told them to shake a leg," Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) told JTA, pun intended.

Ackerman has raised the issue in meetings with the Egyptian ambassador to the United States and America's ambassador to Egypt, and says he also has put a

call in to Osama el Baz, a top political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In addition, Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) has sent a letter to the Egyptian ambassador urging Egypt to "consider the needs of Jewish communities around the world and allow for a sufficient number of these palm fronds to be exported this year."

Israel's Ministry of Agriculture also is in contact with its Egyptian counterpart, which has said that palm-leaf exports had to be cut because removing the fronds damages the trees.

The pressure seems to be having some effect: Israeli officials say they now believe some lulav shipments from Egypt — the source in past years of about 1 million lulavs worldwide — could go forward, and Rabbi Abba Cohen, Washington director and counsel for Agudath Israel of America, said Monday he'd received word from the Egyptians that "a partial release" was in the works.

"The Egyptian action will not only create a tremendous shortage, so that some people won't have lulavim, but those who do might

have to pay an exorbitant price," Cohen said.

Cohen said his group has been in contact with the Egyptian Embassy, the White House and the State Department on the issue.

Egypt's concerns are backed up by horticulturalists, who say removing the fronds could damage a tree's ability to produce fruit and thrive. "It is detrimental to the health of the palm to remove the green, productive leaves," said John Begeman, a horticulture agent with the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, in Tucson. "They are doing the work of the palm in manufacturing food through photosynthesis. Date palms typically have 15-20 healthy green leaves at any one time."

The Encyclopedia Judaica translates the Hebrew word lulav as "a young branch of a tree" or "a shoot." The lulav is one of the *arba'ah minim*, or four plant species, that are joined together and shaken on Sukkot. The others are willows and myrtle, which are bound to the lulav with strips of palm; and the etrog, or citron, which is held beside the lulav as it is waved.

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**Calendar**

**Community Calendar**

From page 2

**SUN, OCT. 16, CONT.**

call Monica Anderson at 793-4040.

**Breast cancer walk**

7 a.m. registration at the Temple of Music in Roger Williams Park, or meet at \* a.m. in the Temple Torat Yisrael parking lot. 2nd annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk to support the American Cancer Society. 5 kilometer walk.

RSVP Linda Gerstenblatt at 942-6699, Deb Gerstenblatt at 739-3529, or Amy Stein at 739-0567.

**Sukkah building**

10 a.m. to noon. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston.

**Am David pizza in hut**

Noon to 2 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.

**Chilean Jewish writer**

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Fall meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. Marjorie Agosin, writer, poet, editor and professor of Spanish at Wellesley will speak. Free, open to the public. For more information, call Anne Sherman at 331-1360.

**MON., OCT. 17**

**Bake Sale for animals**

11 a.m. A group of Eighth-grade students at the Alperin Schechter Day School will be selling dairy baked goods to benefit the Hurricane Katrina Animal Relief Fund. Brownies, cookies, cupcakes, cakes available. At the school, 85 Taft Avenue, Providence.

**TUES., OCT. 18**

**SUKKOT (TO OCT. 24)**

**Gathering in the sukkah**

7:30 p.m. Chabad Chai Center, 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. A farbrengen (informal gathering) of men and women in the sukkah to

discuss Torah insights and Hasidic traditions. Also singing and refreshments. RSVP 884-7888.

**Sukkah bash**

6 p.m. Come to the largest sukkah in Rhode Island. Chabad House of Providence, 360 Hope Street. Special children program with Shmar Yonke, and music to dance the night away with the Sukkah Shteeple Hoppers at 7 p.m. Pizza and falafel. 273-7238.

**WED., OCT. 19**

**Temple Beth-El Sisterhood**

7 p.m. Annual donor event. Temple Beth-El Silverstein meeting hall. Featuring vocalist Wensday Greenbaum accompanied by pianist Michael Miller. Tickets \$46, \$54, \$100. Contact Joyce Leven at 508-761-0789 for more information.

**THURS., OCT. 20**

**Caregiver's support group**

7 p.m. at EPOCH Assisted Living, at 1 Butler Ave., next to the East Side Marketplace in Providence. This takes place on the third Thurs. of every month. A facilitator for expertise and advice in addition to peer support. For more information, call 275-0682.

**Pizza in the sukkah**

7 to 8:30 p.m. Chabad Chai Center, 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. Learn more about Sukkot, pizza with friends. Donation \$5. RSVP 884-7888.

**Golden Ager's Luncheon**

Noon. Temple Emanu-El. Jewish seniors in Rhode Island are invited to this annual event, with presenter Cantor Bryan Mayer of Temple Emanu-El. Free lunch

provided. Call 331-1616 to RSVP.

**FRI., OCT. 21**

**Beth-El Nosh & Nach**

Noon to 1 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Fridays once a month, bring lunch and study the Hebrew Bible, beginning with Prophets and Writings. All are welcome. Also, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

**Sinai new member Shabbat**

5:45 p.m. potluck dinner in the social hall; Shabbat services at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. For new members to meet and mingle. For membership information, call Temple Sinai at 942-8350.

**Torat Yisrael installs cantor**

6 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael will hold a family Shabbat service to include the installation of Cantor Coleman Reaboi. A family Shabbat dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m. Open to the community. Cost for the dinner is \$15 per adult and \$7 for children under age 10. Call the temple office by Oct. 18 at 785-1800 to RSVP. See community.

**SAT., OCT. 22**

**Holocaust composers**

8 p.m. at the URI Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Kingston. Six-person "Western Wind" a capella ensemble performing songs by composers who celebrate having survived the Holocaust, including "Hatikvah" and "Somewhere." Tickets: \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$5 for children and students.

**SUN., OCT. 23**

**Sukkot for kids**

10 to 11:30 a.m. Chabad Chai Center, 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. "Mommy, Daddy & Me" pizza and spaghetti in the sukkah. Make an edible sukkah or create a stuffed Torah. Storytelling. All ages wel-

come. RSVP to 884-7888.

**Breast cancer meeting**

10:30 a.m. in the Temple Sinai Social Hall, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. For breast cancer awareness month, Hadassah & Temple Sinai open meeting for breast cancer survivors, families and supporters.

A social worker from the oncology Dept. of Women and Infants Hospital and a volunteer from Reach to Recovery will lead the discussion. For more information or to RSVP call Corey Fink, 941-5303; Linda Miller, 828-2900; or Amy Stein, 398-0567.

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**Efendi's Mediterranean Grill & Bar**  
 Address: 1255 Reservoir Ave., Cranston  
 Phone: 943-8800  
**Reservations:** Accepted for 4 or more.

**Hours:** Mon. to Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
 Fri. & Sat., Kitchen open until 10:30, dining room and bar until 1 a.m.

**Website:** www.Efendis-MedGrille.com

This Mediterranean-style restaurant offers culinary fare from southern France all the way to Turkey, with dishes both exotic

and familiar. There is a patio when weather permits. Dinners range from \$12.95 to \$18.95. Catering in the restaurant or at another venue is available. Full bar, wine list.

**Federal Reserve**  
 Address: 60 Dorrance St., Providence  
 Phone: 621-5700

Hosts receptions, accommodates 25 to 350. They offer a wide menu from meats and fish to vegetarian, and an elegant atmosphere for all special occasions.

**Website:** federalreserveri.com

**Garden Grille Cafe**  
 Address: 727 East Ave., Pawtucket (Blackstone Plaza)  
 Phone: 726-2826

**Reservations:** For parties of 6 and up.

**Hours:** Lunches: Mon. through Sat., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dinners: Daily, 5 to 10 p.m.

Sun. brunch: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Website:** www.gardengrille-cafe.com

True to its name, this is a strictly vegetarian restaurant. They have adapted various dishes from Asian, Italian and Mexican cuisines using beans, soy, and flavorful accompaniments to the vegetables. There is a selection of soups, salads and sandwiches for lunch and elegant entrees. Wines, kosher beer, juices, smoothies, coffees and teas. Dinners from \$10 to \$14.

**Gianfranco's Ristorante & Bar**  
 Address: 183 George Waterman Rd., Johnston  
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**Reservations: Accepted**  
**Hours:** Tues. through Thurs. 4:30 to 10 p.m., Fri. & Sat.: 4:30 to 11 p.m.

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Hours: Open daily, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

This casual restaurant has been a fixture of the Hope St. neighborhood for the past six years for lunch, dinner and late-night. They serve a variety of soups, pasta, salads, pizza, grinders and spinach pies, along with daily specials for the whole family until 10 p.m., and pizza and appetizers at the bar, which stays open until 1 a.m. Takeout. Full bar, wine list.

## L'osteria Ristorante

Address: 1703 Cranston St., Cranston (Knightsville)

Phone: 943-3140

Reservations: Accepted

Hours: Dinners: Tues. through Sat., 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., 4:30 to 10:30 p.m.

L'osteria features Italian cuisine, from antipasti to dolci, specializing in veal and pasta dishes, grilled pizzas and chicken "under a brick" for a unique presentation. Entrées range from \$13.95 to \$19. Casual atmosphere, family friendly. Full bar and wine list.

## LOT 401

Address: 44 Hospital St.

Phone: 490-3980

Reservations: Accepted

Hours: Dinner Tues. through Sat.: 5 p.m. to close

Website: www.lot401.com.

Changing to match the flavors of the seasons, Lot 401 utilizes local produce and specialty ingredients to create Asian influenced cuisine. Fare includes innovative plates like the grilled pear appetizer and classic dishes such as Caesar salad and filet mignon. Extensive wine list, over 80 bottles available. There is a reserved wine list for serious wine connoisseurs. Nightclub on premises. Full-menu, wine list online at www.lot401.com.

## Spiced Pear Restaurant at The Chanler

Address: 117 Memorial Blvd., Newport

Phone: 847-2244

Reservations: Accepted

Hours: Lunch: Daily, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Dinner: Daily, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Website: spicedpear.com

Opened in 2003, The Chanler, a small luxury hotel along Newport's Cliff Walk, is home to the award-winning Spiced Pear Restaurant, which features seasonally inspired cuisine in its elegant dining room with ocean views. Chef Spencer Wolff changes the

menu daily. Chef's Table with advance reservations; tableside carving is a specialty. The wine list is extensive, with many selections by the glass. Full menu online.

(The dining guide listings do not represent the endorsement of The Jewish Voice & Herald or its publisher, the Jewish Federation of R.I.)



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Photo courtesy First Run Features  
 Henry Hubuchenm Hannelore Elsner and Anja Franke in *Go for Zucker*, a film by Dani Levy.

**'Go for Zucker' at film fest**

BERLIN (JTA) — When Germany's new Jewish-themed film comedy reaped the most nominations for the country's highest film awards in May, hardly anyone was more surprised than the filmmaker himself.

*Go for Zucker* swept the awards, winning six prizes — including best film, best director and best actor.

"I am not used to such attention," the Swiss-born director, Dani Levy, 47, said. Levy has had several other moderate suc-

cesses in Germany but never a film "that everyone loves. For me, it's a miracle."

*Go For Zucker* will be shown as part of the 2005 Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Theatre, 270 Broadway in Providence. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Marsha Horovitz at the BJE/RI at 331-0956 or [mhorovitz@bjeri.org](mailto:mhorovitz@bjeri.org).

What's funny about an extended family in which fervent

Orthodoxy is pitted against ultra-assimilation, the communist is pitted against the unscrupulous businessman, the lesbian against the Chasid, and the mama's boy against the supersexy cousin?

What's funny about the conflict between former East and West Germany played out through the eyes of Jews? And what's funny about a Jewish gambling addict who blames his failures on anti-Semitism?

Everything, it seems.

"Naturally, Jews always know how to laugh over themselves. It's in our nature," said Levy, who now lives with his wife and child in Berlin, the city where his mother was born. "What maybe is new here is that Jews are presented with self-confidence. The older generation was afraid to broadcast such images of themselves because they were afraid of anti-Semitism and prejudice. With the new generation, these fears are not so widespread."

In Germany, a film has to appeal to non-Jewish audiences to be a success, and this one does.

"You can watch *Zucker* and know nothing about Jews and still enjoy it," said Nicola Galliner, the founder and director of the 11-year-old Jewish film festi-

See FILM, page 29

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# Strudel for Sukkot

*(The Jewish Kitchen by Clarissa Hyman, Interlink Publishing Group, Inc., Northampton, Mass., paperback, 160 pps., www.interlinkbooks.com)*

By Mary Korr

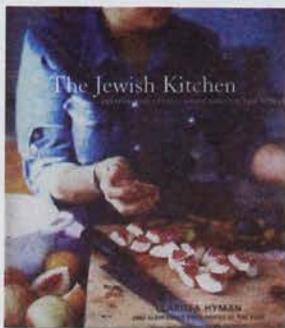
You don't have to be a cook to enjoy *The Jewish Kitchen* by Clarissa Hyman. The photographs of the Jewish Diaspora by Peter Cassidy are a treat in themselves.

In the introduction to recipes from around the world, the author notes, "Jewish cooking is more than just food on a plate. It is a map of the past, as well as a continuing story..."

The book focuses on the stories and recipes of nine different families in very different parts of the world — from Cuban Jews in Miami to Polish Jews in Australia to Jews on Curacao, where the first Jew arrived in 1643 as an interpreter. The kosher recipes come from the Sephardic, Ashkenazic and the American Jewish cultures.

Soups like "Café Scheerazade Borst" and "Green Marsala Chicken Curry" are two of the many adaptive and exotic dishes that have found their way into Jewish kitchens.

Classic Jewish recipes are here as well, from blintzes to bagels to



brisket.

The author gives a short history of kashrut and designates recipes by dairy, meat and pareve. She also reviews food for the holidays; for example, during the holiday of Sukkot (celebrated next week) both sweet and savory stuffed foods — strudels, kreplach (ravioli with a meat stuffing) and stuffed cabbage, onions, peppers and eggplants are eaten to emphasize and celebrate the abundant nature of the harvest festival.

The following is her recipe for apple studel.

### Easy apple strudel

Serves 4-6.

1 package (13 oz.) ready-made and rolled puff pastry

apricot jam

1 lb. Granny Smith apples, peeled, sliced and tossed in lemon juice

2 TBSP. golden raisins, soaked in 2 TBSP Calvados or Amaretto

2 TBSP. toasted sliced or chopped almonds

2 TBSP. brown sugar

2 tsp. apple pie spice

margarine or butter

1 egg white whisked with 1 TBSP. water

Preheat the oven to 350. Schmear the pastry with apricot jam. Mix the apples, golden raisins, almonds, sugar and apple pie spice and make an off-center, log-shaped filling parallel to the wider side of the pastry rectangle. Dot with a little margarine or butter, then roll up the pastry and tuck in the sides to keep the filling from escaping. Place on a baking sheet with the seam on the underside.

Brush with the egg white and bake for about 40 minutes. Let stand for at least 15 minutes before gently cutting into portions — this can be tricky as bits of pastry invariably make a bid for freedom, but most of the strudel should hold together.

Serve either warm or at room temperature.

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*As we grow older*

**Seniors**

# Would you really want to know?

Patients expect their doctors to be open and trustworthy with them. Faced with treatable illness, we would be very angry if they were not completely honest about diagnosis and prognosis. Whether it is cancer or serious heart disease, the

patient expects the doctor to be candid about the nature of the illness, the severity of the illness, available treatment, and even the inevitability of the failure of treatment.

But, what if the study of your symptoms implies the probability of dementia, senility, Alzheimer's disease or other similar syndromes that could eventually result in significant untreatable mental deterioration? Would you want to know that eventually you may be unable to comprehend your status and may become dependent on others? Or would you rather be unaware of the possibility of that unpleasant future?

It is an enigma. To know is to constantly carry the knowledge that the future is bleak. To know is to be burdened with the awareness that some day you will be reliant on your family to determine what is in your best interests and who will supervise your daily living. The outlook is very grim because you know that not only will you be suffering but everyone who cares for or cares about you will also be suffering. And, realistically, you must face the fact that no matter how much they love you, eventually they will (however secretly) begin to resent your dependence, because YOUR problems will impact and change their lives.

On the other hand—is it right—or fair for you to not be informed of life's prospects? It could be argued that no good comes of burdening you with the lousy deal that fate has dealt you. Why should you carry such information when such information offers so little hope?

Lengthy arguments can be made for each position. Being aware of the outlook can sometimes propel you into maximizing each day and indulging yourself in delights you might normally begrudge yourself. Being aware of life's prospects can prompt you to plan and make decisions that you would usually postpone until you are older and more likely to face your inevitable mortality. And doing it when your mental functioning is very intact. You can make decisions about issues such as medical directives, distribution of

your assets, and generalized planning for your time of disability. The arguments for not knowing what you may have to face can be equally convincing. Given dire predictions, the senior may become very depressed, discouraged, and constantly anxious about the future. Fear can prematurely direct the senior to make life alterations that are really premature and often unnecessary. Since the world of medical research has had only limited success in avoiding or delaying or even slowing down the symptoms of dementia, being unaware of the problem is not necessarily robbing you of opportunities to "do something about it." It could be argued that it is perhaps better to let life evolve and deal with its complications only when they surface.

There is no right or wrong in this quandary. The options and decisions cannot be spelled out without pushing the affected senior in directions, hit or miss; this is a no-win situation. Ideally we should be able to discuss our feelings about "knowing" or "not knowing" with trusted loved ones because ultimately they may have to be our life-planners, without input from us. But that rarely happens and the media has printed so much unscientific data on this issue, that discussion is usually avoided rather than confronted. And interestingly, our offspring find the whole problem more difficult to discuss than we do.

The major problem with planning in this situation is that whether we do our own planning or leave it for others to deal with, none of the options are pleasant. Home care, nursing home care, or long-time institutionalization, are all too painful to anticipate but that does not diminish the reality that they may need to be considered.

If we have the courage to map out what we want while we are still able, we relieve others of the responsibility of choice. Will knowledge of the less pleasant future mar the present? Will not knowing impair relationships with loved ones who have difficulty adapting to the changes we are undergoing?

There is no right or wrong formula. We must each deal with this worst of life's problems in the manner in which each of us is most comfortable. Destiny will take over, one way or another. Forgive the morbidity of the dialogue. I just felt it was important to address.

*Tema Gouse writes a regular seniors column for the Voice & Herald.*



**Tema Gouse**

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# Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival

November 10-20, 2005



The Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival is a project of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

The Festival is made possible by the generous support of its Director's Circle Donors as well as a grant from The Partnership, the community-planning arm of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

**TICKETS**

- \$150 Festival Sponsor\*
- \$100 Festival pass
- \$10 general admission
- \$7 students & seniors

\* includes 2 Festival Passes and 2 invitations to the Opening Reception at the Columbus Theatre on November 10th at 6:30 pm



**Gloomy Sunday**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 8:00 PM • COLUMBUS THEATRE, 270 BROADWAY, PROVIDENCE

As the turmoil of World War II engulfs Hungary, a Budapest eatery, Restaurant Szabo, hosts its own conflicts. Its restaurant owner, Laszlo, hires pianist Andras, and both men love Ilona, which is further complicated when their regular customer Hans, an SS colonel, begins to pursue Ilona's affections. Winner of Best Cinematography and Best Direction, 2000 Bavarian Film Awards.

**Paper Clips**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (VETERANS DAY), 12 NOON • PROVIDENCE HEBREW DAYS SCHOOL, 450 ELMGROVE AVE., PROVIDENCE

Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee is the setting for this documentary about an extraordinary experiment in Holocaust education. Struggling to grasp the concept of six million Holocaust victims, the students decide to collect six million paper clips to better understand the extent of this crime against humanity.

R.I. JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRS  
Linda Fain and Joyce Starr

**Go For Zucker**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7:30 PM • COLUMBUS THEATRE, 270 BROADWAY, PROVIDENCE

Down on his luck, conniving pool shark Jaecie Zucker must make up with his estranged Orthodox Jewish brother Samuel in order to meet the terms of his mother's inheritance — the only thing that could save him from jail, ruin and divorce. *Go for Zucker* is Germany's first Jewish comedy and a box-office smash. Winner of six 'German Oscars,' including Best Picture and Best Actor, and winner of the Ernst Lubitsch Award for Best German Comedy.



**Watermarks**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2:00 PM • COLUMBUS THEATRE, 270 BROADWAY, PROVIDENCE

Sixty-five years after being forced to flee by the Nazis, the members of the women's swimming team of the Hakoah Vienna Sports Club reunite in their old swimming pool in Vienna, a journey that evokes memories of youth and femininity and strengthens lifelong bonds.

**My Land Zion & My Terrorist**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 4:00 PM • COLUMBUS THEATRE, 270 BROADWAY, PROVIDENCE

In *My Land Zion*, filmmaker Yulie Cohen Gerstel questions her own decision to return and raise her family in war-torn Israel, while challenging the myths of Zionism.

**My Terrorist**

describes how in 1978, filmmaker Yulie Cohen Gerstel was wounded in a terrorist attack by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Twenty-three years later Gerstel began questioning the causes of violence between Israelis and Palestinians and started to consider helping release the man who almost killed her. Winner of the special jury prize at the 2002 Jerusalem Film Festival.



**Mechina: A Preparation**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 7:00 PM • TEMPLE SINAI, 30 HAGEN AVENUE, CRANSTON

In the summer of 2004, Maital launches a journey to Israel to discover what it means to be eighteen in Israel. Living with Amitai and his five friends as they prepare for their army service, she uncovers the complexity of being young and idealistic in a time of war.

**King of the Corner**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 7:00 PM • GREENWICH ODEUM, 59 MAIN STREET, EAST GREENWICH

Leo (Peter Riegert), a middle-aged New York advertising executive, has tried to be a decent employee, husband, and father. Now everything seems to be falling part. Based on the book *Bad Jews* and *Other Stories* by co-screenwriter Gerald Shapiro. Eli Wallach shines in the role of Leo's father and won Best Actor at the Newport Film Festival for his role.

**Campfire shown with West Bank Story**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 4:00 PM • LECTURE HALL 157, ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY, BRISTOL

The year is 1981. Rachel Gerlik, a 42-year-old widowed mother of two beautiful teenage daughters, wants to join the founding group of a new religious settlement in the West Bank. Winner of five Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

*West Bank Story* is a musical comedy set in the fast-paced, fast-food world of competing falafel stands on the West Bank. David, an Israeli soldier, falls in love with the beautiful Palestinian cashier, Fatima. Can the couple's love withstand a 2000-year-old conflict?

## Ticket Order Form

Make checks payable to the BJE/RI. Ticket orders must be received by November 4.

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General admission seating for all films; no reserved seating. Seniors are ages 62+; students must have valid IDs. See ticket information at left.

Send to: BJE/RI  
attn: Film Festival  
130 Sessions Street  
Providence, RI 02906

FILM OPTIONS	PRICE	NUMBER	SUBTOTAL
Festival Sponsor*	\$150		
Festival Pass	\$50		
THU • NOV 10 • 8 PM Gloomy Sunday	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
FRI • NOV 11 • 12 NOON Paper Clips	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
SAT • NOV 12 • 7:30 PM Go For Zucker	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
SUN • NOV 13 • 2 PM Watermarks	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
SUN • NOV 13 • 4 PM My Land Zion / My Terrorist	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
WED • NOV 16 • 7 PM Mechina: The Preparation	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
THU • NOV 17 • 7 PM King of the Corner	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
SUN • NOV 20 • 4 PM Campfire / West Bank Story	\$10 adults \$7 students / seniors		
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>			

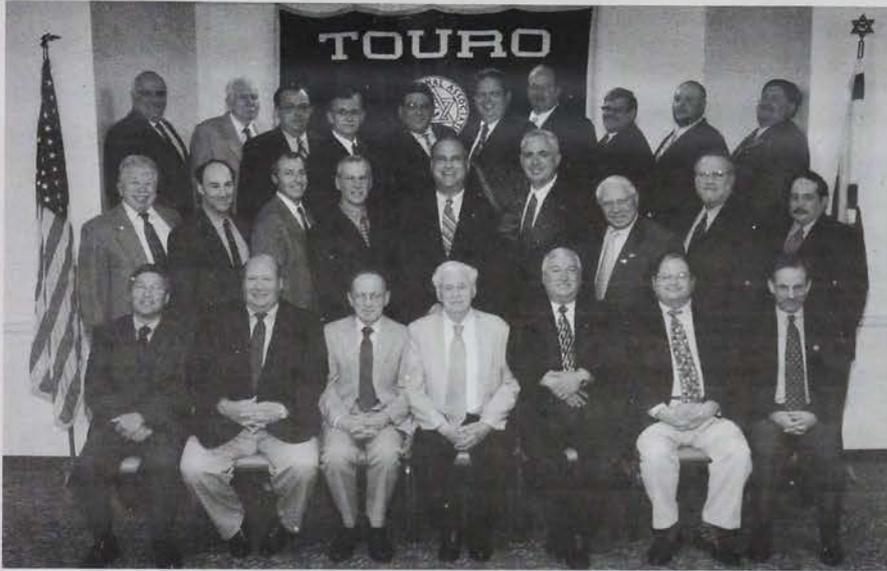
**TICKET INFORMATION**

**Seating:** Seating is not assigned. Seats are limited, so advance sales are recommended.

**Refunds:** Available only for cancelled or rescheduled programs. Due to circumstances beyond our control, all films and guests are subject to change.

**Purchasing tickets in person:** At the JCCRI reception desk or at the door at time of event (based on availability). Tickets will be available at the door if not sold out. Credit cards will not be accepted at the door.

All ordered tickets must be picked up at the theater on evening of performance. Please arrive 30 minutes before showtime to pick up pre-paid tickets.



**Touro Fraternal elects lodge leaders**

CRANSTON — The Touro Fraternal Association has elected leaders of its two lodges for the next year. They were installed recently at the organization's headquarters at 45 Rolfe Square.

First row, from left: Edward Deluty, president Friendship Lodge; Barry Shaw, Morton Coken, Milton Bronstein, Michael Smith, directors; Barry Schiff, president, Harmony Lodge; Lester Nathan, director.

Second row, from left:

Nathan Lury, director; Jed Brandes, vice president, Friendship Lodge; Steven Waldman, secretary, Harmony Lodge; Steven Dinerman, director; Robert Miller, board chairman; Andrew Lamchick, board vice chairman; Judah Rosen, association chaplain; Rodney Locke, director; Adam Halpern secretary, Friendship Lodge.

Third row, from left: Peter Hodosh, treasurer, Harmony Lodge; Gerald Hodosh, asso-

ciation treasurer; Arthur Poulton, board chairman emeritus; Gerald Tebrow, association secretary; Stevan Labush, and Jeffrey Davis, directors; Steven White, vice president, Harmony Lodge; Andrew Gilstein, director; Steven Shaw, treasurer, Friendship Lodge; Alan Lury, director.

Not shown: Joel Pressman, Dr. Aaron Sherman, Bruce Weisman, Irving Wolpert, directors.

**Lecture on Holocaust and N.Y. Times**

WARWICK — Author, journalist Laurel Leff will speak about her new book, Buried by the Times, The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St. Books will be available for signing. Leff is a professor at Northeastern University.

The program is presented by the R.I. Holocaust Museum. It is free, but reservations are required; call 453-7860 or email rhodeislandhmm@aol.com.

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Drawing to be held **Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005 at 12:00 p.m.** At the Little Brothers Christmas Party, Smithfield Elks Lodge, 326 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, RI (winner need not be present to win)

Big Brothers of R.I. is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization designed to meet the mentoring needs of fatherless boys by providing guidance and positive role models during an often turbulent time in the lives of young men ages 7 to 14. All taxes, fees, licenses and any other related expenses are the responsibility of the winner. We reserve the right to cancel the raffle and return payments to ticket holders.

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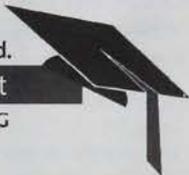
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## D'var Torah

### The Simchas Torah 'Love in'

By Rabbi David Aaron

According to Jewish mysticism, life is an evolving process of awareness, whereby, we gradually discover who we really are and how we have always been one with God and with each other. The realization of this oneness is the experience of love, and this is the greatest joy we can ever feel.

The great Kabbalistic master, Rabbi Isaac Luria, explains that the story of Adam and Eve is a good paradigm for understanding this process of awareness, especially in reference to what is spiritually happening during the High Holidays.

The Torah teaches that

Adam was not just a man, he was androgynous, both male and female, connected back-to-back. Neither part knew the other existed — each was alone.

This dual-being certainly could not experience love because to experience love you must, through challenge and choice, become conscious of your oneness.

Rabbi Luria explains that the story of Adam and Eve is the quintessential love story and it parallels the love story between us and God. Just as in the case of Adam and Eve, the feelings of loneliness and alienation, actually create the yearning and the anticipation for the final conscious reuniting, so we too must go through this process before we can experience the ultimate oneness and love we share with God.

Similar to Adam and Eve who began as one entity joined back-to-back, yet knew nothing of each other's existence, we too are, so to speak, joined back-to-back with God. In other words, we are intrinsically connected to God whether we know it or not. But without knowing it, we cannot experience the blissful joy of oneness. Until we experience alienation from God, yearn for oneness and consciously choose to reconnect to God, until we move from back-to-back to face-to-face with God, we will not know the ecstasy of love.

With people, we experience intrinsic connection almost daily. For example, at those times when you show kindness to another person, the amount of connection you feel with that person may far surpass the act you did. Similarly, when you meet your soul mate, you may feel as if you have known him or her for many years. The reason for these feelings of connectedness is that we are not only one with God but we are all indeed one with each other; we just do not know we are one. Our challenge is to make the right choices and behave in ways that will reveal the oneness that we already existentially share.

This is an essential idea. It means that we do not have to do anything to earn our connection to God. And we do not have to earn God's love. We are one with Him this very moment and that connection can never be broken, no matter what we do. Our only problem is that we do not live a lifestyle that enables us to feel that truth. We have to behave in ways that acknowledge our oneness with God and experience God's love. All the Commandments of the Torah empower us

to know this truth and experience the love we share with God.

When we are not conscious of our oneness with God and each other, we feel at loss. We feel alienated, sad and lonely. In truth, we would never feel lonely if we had never been connected in the first place. You cannot miss something that you never had.

When we do a mitzvah — when we choose to follow God's Commandments — we reveal our oneness with God and others. We then begin to feel the mutual love between us, the greatest joy possible.

Rosh Hashanah and the days of penitence that follow help us with this preparation by focusing us on how we have failed and how we are judged. During this time, we feel the pain and bitterness in the distance that we have created between God and ourselves. We feel far from God — alienated and lonely. And we feel embarrassed by our misdeeds. We wonder how we can ever face ourselves and God.

In order for us to feel love, we have to first experience loneliness. All of the bad dates we have gone on help prepare us for the best possible date. All the mistakes that we have made in relationships, whether between people or between ourselves and God, can help us discover our true self and prepare us for a real and fulfilling relationship with God and each other.

On Yom Kippur, we finally come face-to-face with God and experience His forgiveness. Once the painful load of our wrongdoings and the embarrassment is off our heads, we begin to feel confident and joyful as we approach and prepare for Sukkot.

On Sukkot, God embraces us with an embrace of love. We prepare joyously throughout Sukkot for Simchas Torah — when we celebrate the ultimate intimate connection with God as we dance joyously with the Torah. On that great day, we experience the unparalleled joy of knowing that God is one and we are one with God and each other. We then experience our own Godliness and our true selves radiate with love. And we understand that love was always in the air, we just didn't know it was there.

*Rabbi David Aaron, Founder and Dean of the Israelight Institute, is internationally recognized as an expert on the Kabbalah and is the best selling author of Seeing God: Ten Life Changing Lessons of the Kabbalah.*

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**Community**

**Touro Foundation accepting applicants for Slom scholarship**

NEWPORT — High School seniors in Rhode Island and across the United States are invited to apply to Touro Synagogue Foundation's Aaron and Rita Slom Scholarship Fund for Freedom and Diversity. The fund will award up to two \$500 scholarships to winning applicants.

In 1790, George Washington wrote a letter "To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island," promising that the new government would "give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." Scholarship applicants will submit an interpretive work (i.e. written submission, audio visual or documentary film) focusing on the George Washington Letter in context with the present time.

Applicants should submit their completed applications and interpretive work no later than

April 1, 2006. Awards will be determined by May 17, 2006. The presentation for the award will take place at the annual reading of the Washington Letter at Touro Synagogue in August, 2006.

The Aaron and Rita Slom Scholarship Fund for Freedom and Diversity was established in March, 2003. Both participants in the ongoing vitalization of Touro Synagogue, Aaron, who died in May, 2003, was president in the 1960's and Rita became the first women president in 1999.

Scholarship guidelines, along with additional resources, can be found online at [www.tourosynagogue.org](http://www.tourosynagogue.org). For additional information, contact Robin Kauffman at the Touro Synagogue Foundation at 401-847-4794 x 14 or [robin@tourosynagogue.org](mailto:robin@tourosynagogue.org).

**Jewish storyteller at WaterFire**

PROVIDENCE — On Oct. 15 and 29 the American Story Theater will perform "WaterFire Presents Tales for October," sponsored by Citizens Bank. Mark Binder, a Providence resident who has written Jewish serial-novels and brought Jewish storytelling to venues around Rhode Island, joins storytellers Judith Black, Jeanne Donato, Marvin Novogrodski, David Mello and . Performances are at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. on Steeple Street, between North Main Street and Canal Street in Providence.

The early evening shows will be family-oriented; the later shows will have more mature content. Chairs will be provided.



MIRIAM DEDICATION — Members of the Bornstein family stand in front of the newly unveiled Koffler Bornstein Family entryway at The Miriam Hospital's \$35-million capital campaign kick-off held recently; from left are C. Scott Chernick, Jo An Krivitsky, Sandra Bornstein and Richard Bornstein.

**Hebrew Day plans family trip to Israel**

PROVIDENCE — Providence Hebrew Day School has announced its second family mission to Israel from Dec. 25 to Jan. 3. The Jewish Federation of R.I. has partnered with the school by providing subsidies for early applicants for the trip.

Participants will travel to the north of Israel, touring the cities of Tzefat (Safed), Meron and Tiberias. The trip

will also feature a boat ride on the Kinneret, and exploring the bunkers in the Golan Heights and the water caves of Rosh Hanikra, with accommodations at Kibbutz Lavi Hotel. In Jerusalem, tours will include the old city, and Kotel

tunnels. There will be a one-day trip to the Dead Sea, Ein Gedi nature reserve, and Masada.

For more information and pricing, contact Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman.

**JCC seeks donations for kid's sale**

PROVIDENCE — The JCC Early Childhood Program is looking for donations for the annual Kid's Stuff sale to be held on Sunday, Nov. 6.

All donations should be in good working condition and can include clothing, books, toys, games, videos, baby items, and furniture. Donations can be dropped off at the Early Childhood Department (in the back of the JCC) during the week of October 31st between the hours of 8 and 5.

All proceeds benefit the Early Childhood Program. Tax deduction forms will be available. For more information, contact Shirley at 861-8800, ext. 130.

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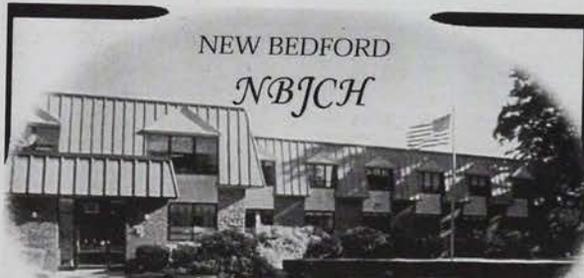


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**Community**

**Torat Yisrael welcomes cantor**

CRANSTON — Cantor Coleman Reaboi, whose career has included performances with some of the nation's leading opera companies, will be installed as cantor of Temple Torat Yisrael on Friday evening, Oct. 21.

The cantor will officiate at Shabbat and festival services throughout the year, teach music in the Hebrew School, and teach adult and family education workshops.

Most recently, he has been the cantor for several Florida con-

gregations, including Congregation B'nai Emmunah in Tarpon Springs, and Temple B'nai Israel and Congregation Aliyah in Clearwater.

He has sung with the Boston Lyric Opera, Opera New England, Greater Miami Opera, the Pensacola Opera, and the Sarasota Opera Company. He has also appeared on Broadway.

Temple Torat Yisrael is located at 330 Park Ave., Cranston.



Cantor Coleman Reaboi

**Four rabbis in three sessions**

PROVIDENCE — God, self and community is the theme of a three session program designed to discuss ancient and modern texts that relate to being Jewish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The sessions will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14.

Participants will engage in text study and participate in discussions facilitated by four area rabbis: Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, Conservative; Rabbi Mitchell Levine, Orthodox; Rabbi Sarah Mack, Reform; and Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Reconstructionist.

The program is cosponsored by Temple Agudas Achim, Attleboro; Temple Beth-El,

Providence; Congregation Beth Sholom, Providence; Temple Emanu-El, Providence; the R.I. Board of Rabbis; the Jewish Community Center of RI; and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

**Job Lot donates to food banks**

NO. KINGSTOWN — Ocean State Job Lot's co-founder, Alan Perlman, announced that Job Lot has donated 10 tons of food to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and is making another 10-ton food donation to food pantries throughout the state.

The donations are part of a commitment Job Lot made earlier this year to donate 50,000 pounds of food in 2005 to help feed the hungry in the state. The donations were made possible by the funds raised recently at Job Lot's second annual Charity Golf Classic.

The most recent food donation was made to 10 food pantries located throughout Rhode Island.

Perlman said that the food donations are part of the company's ongoing effort to address the serious hunger problem that exists in Rhode Island and to give back to the community which has allowed Job Lot to grow from a single store to a multi-state retail chain.

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**Community**

**Sampling a 'taste of Judaism'**

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — Ask Sarah Forrester about her religious observance, and she'll tell you that she "grew up Jewish," but never attended Sunday school or religious school. She didn't feel particularly knowledgeable about her heritage. Last year, she opened her local daily newspaper and heard about a class that changed all of this — now she's learning Hebrew, joined a congregation and is still "yearning for more."

Forrester represents one-half of the audience for the national Taste of Judaism program, run locally at Temple Sinai in Cranston and Temple Beth-El in Providence; the other half are non-Jews looking to learn more about what goes on in a synagogue, or about Jewish customs, such as why mirrors are covered when a family sits shiva.

The class, in its second year at Beth-El but more than 10 years old nationally, attracts people interested in learning more about the philosophical aspects of Judaism, retirees, and a large number of interfaith couples, married or otherwise, who may be thinking about conversion.

The three-session class is only open to non-synagogue members, and gives a very basic introduction through three important elements of Jewish life — God, Torah and community. There's a tour of a synagogue as well.

Rabbi Sarah Mack, of Temple Beth-El, led a class last week about what makes a Jewish community. She touched on a number of oft-used Jewish maxims, including "All Israel is responsible for one another."

"This is something you might see on letterhead that's asking you for money," she joked.

For an introductory class, the 20 students waded into questions such as: Why do Jews need to go to synagogue to pray? Can't prayer be done alone, in a serene setting?

"There's a difference between watching the Red Sox in your living room alone and going out and seeing it with a roomful of people with the same intention as you," one participant said.

"You need the community to create the spirit to create the moment to find God," another said.

Many of the attendees decided to continue in a 16-week course that covers Jewish history and spirituality more

completely, and many of those who complete this course elect to convert to Judaism.

"When my boyfriend first heard that I was going to classes, he was afraid I was going to start dragging him to services," said Linda McPartland, of Seekonk, who says she grew up Catholic. "Now, he's going to his father and his friends saying, 'Hey! Look what Linda is doing!'"

Leslie Tatar, of Barrington,

is taking the course for a different reason.

"I've married two Jews — including one former Orthodox Jew — neither of whom wants anything to do with Judaism," she said. However, she has a 14-year-old son, and "There's something about good Jewish boys that study hard that I like."

The class was made possible by an anonymous donor and a grant from the Union of Reform Judaism.

**Bureau of Jewish Ed. adds staff**

PROVIDENCE — The Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) has added Shira A. Garber, Marsha J. Horovitz, and Andrea R. Katzman to its professional team.

**Teen, Israel programming**

Shira Garber, the new coordinator of teen programs and the Israel desk, has recently completed two master's degrees, in Jewish communal services and in non-profit management, from Brandeis University. She has had volunteer and work experience with the elderly, Jewish youth, and the arts. Garber will work with the community education department on projects such as the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School, the March of the Living, Gift of Israel, and the Israel desk. She can be contacted at sgarber@bjeri.org.

**Special Ed. Director**

Marsha Horovitz will be filling two roles: special education director and coordinator of the Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival. She brings years of expertise in working with students with special needs to the BJE, building on her past experiences at the Groden Center, Meeting Street School, and most recently at Temple Beth-

El. The Rhode Island Jewish film festival is scheduled for Nov. 10-20.

Horovitz has been working with a group of volunteers and professionals to select the films to be included in this year's festival. The BJE is coordinating the film festival together with the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Horovitz can be contacted at mhorovitz@bjeri.org.

**Tzedek Program**

Andrea Katzman, the new B'nai Tzedek youth philanthropy program coordinator, is a Providence resident with experience working in the fields of social justice and education. She has a master of arts from the University of Kansas in American studies and has most recently served as an adjunct professor of education at Rhode Island College. In addition to her professional experience, Katzman has served as the coordinator of the Alperin Schechter Day School's volunteer program. Katzman can be contacted at akatzman@bjeri.org.

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**Nation**

**Bush's pain may be Abbas' gain**

WASHINGTON (JTA) — It's one of Washington's many unwritten rules: A return call from the White House is urgent. A cold call from the White House stops clocks.

The Palestinian Authority got two unsolicited calls from President Bush and his staff in two weeks, and the message was unambiguous: Clear your schedule, you need to make progress in peace with Israel.

Reeling from a series of political crises at home and abroad, Bush needs to show results, and his best bet might be in the area that has bedeviled a string of former presidents: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In addition to Israel's smooth withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, there are other small signs of rapprochement in the region. The Palestinian Authority is showing a new, albeit hesitant, willingness to confront terrorists, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is willing to discuss sensitive issues that have been shelved for months, including prisoner release.

Bush's hand is behind much of the nudging. In the final days of September, P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas, on a visit to Egypt, got a surprise call inviting him to a Washington summit with Bush on Oct. 20. Abbas aides said he was caught off guard by the invitation, not expecting movement before Palestinian legislative elections on Jan. 25.

Instead, Bush promised a busy agenda at their meeting.

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

"The president looks forward to discussing with President Abbas Palestinian efforts to improve governance, revive their economy, institute security reform, and fight terror," Bush's office said in a statement. "The two leaders will also discuss a range of other bilateral and regional issues." Last week, Abbas' chief of staff, Rafiq Husseini, who was in Washington to meet lower-level bureaucrats in preparation for the Oct. 20 meeting, got his own surprise call from the president.

Bush was having lunch with Karen Hughes, a long-time adviser now running U.S. public diplomacy efforts in the Islamic world, he told a stunned Husseini, who was in meetings at the State Department. Why don't you drop by?

"It's just up Pennsylvania Avenue," Bush joked, according to someone familiar with the conversation. "We had a very pleasant meeting," Husseini told a gathering of Arab Americans a few hours later at the Palestine Center think tank. Bush discussed his "commitment to the Palestinian cause in terms of establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian state. He said he does not want a state that looks like Swiss cheese."

That was a signal that Bush is getting ready to re-emphasize his opposition to Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank, contrary to assurances that other White House offi-

cially reportedly gave to Jewish leaders in recent weeks.

Bush was hardly letting Abbas off the hook: The mention in the White House statement of the fight on terrorism was a sign that the Palestinian leader should not get too comfortable. The Bush administration, like Israel, is holding Abbas to P.A. commitments to dismantle terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Even in that area, however, there are slight differences between the American and Israeli administrations. Israel wants Hamas barred from the legislative elections, but U.S. officials are more ambivalent.

"We've been very clear that Hamas is a terrorist group and it has to be disbanded, both for peace and security in the Middle East and for the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority," Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said in a Sept. 30 address at Princeton University.

But then she added, "There are periods of time of transition in which one has to give some space to the participants, in this case the Palestinians, to begin to come to a new national compact." Still, the tough talk from the United States and Israel appeared to have some affect on Abbas.

A series of recent raids in Gaza and the West Bank show some new P.A. willingness to confront Hamas. Abbas would wait to disarm Hamas until after the elections, Husseini told Jewish leaders in Washington, because he feels he needs the political capital that a sound victory for moderates would bring. But Abbas would disarm militants affiliated with his own Fatah Party before the elections, Husseini said.

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## RI Jewish Film Festival

### Festival to feature award-winning works

PROVIDENCE — The second Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival will run from Nov. 10-20 at venues throughout the state. It will include award winning and provocative films and documentaries, family films, and guest speakers. Last year, there were over a thousand participants.

The festival is organized by the Jewish Community Center and the Bureau of Jewish Education and grew out of a successful mini-series for Israel education month several years ago. Co-chairs are Linda Fain and Joyce Starr.

The schedule and locations are:  
 • Thursday, Nov. 10 at 8 p.m., *Gloomy Sunday*  
 Columbus Theater, 270

Broadway, Providence

• Friday, Oct. 11 at noon, *Paperclips* (appropriate for families)

Providence Hebrew Day School, Elmgrove Ave., Providence

• Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m., *Go For Zucker!*

Columbus Theater, 270 Broadway, Providence

• Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m., *Watermarks* (appropriate for families)

Columbus Theater, 270 Broadway, Providence

• Sunday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m., *My Land Zion and My Terrorist*

Columbus Theater, 270 Broadway, Providence



'Watermarks' will be showed at the RI Jewish Film Festival.

• Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m., *Mechina: A Preparation* (teens and up)

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

• Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., *King of the Corner*

Odeum Theater, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich.

• Sunday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m., *Campfire* shown with *West Bank Story*

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For a brochure with film details, ticket prices, and other information, contact Marsha Horowitz at mhorovitz@bjeri.org or call the JCC at 861-8800 or the BJE at 331-0956.

### Zucker film

From page 16

val in Berlin, which also thrives on non-Jewish crowds. "I don't think there are many German films on a Jewish subject that are lighthearted."

"I loved that movie," said Irene Runge, the founder of the Jewish Cultural Association in Berlin.

"It used to be that everything about Jews was always about the past," said Runge, who invited Levy and his co-writer, Holger Franke, to talk at the association's center earlier this year. With this film, "German Jews have fun; non-Jews have fun. And I think you go out of the film with a more positive feeling, not like what we had before. It's how we see ourselves, and that's what I like about it."

There's a great curiosity among many non-Jews in Germany about Jewish life, but many people here still associate Jews with victimhood. They may be familiar with Woody Allen's self-effacing Jewish humor, and they may have seen the award-winning Holocaust tragicomedy "Life is Beautiful."

They may have visited or seen Jewish institutions. But German Jews themselves remain a mystery. And they need not be, said Levy, who suggests that laughter may be the best way to ease tensions between Jews and non-Jews in Germany.

*Zucker* tells the story of a contemporary German Jewish family in which two warring brothers — formerly separated by the Berlin Wall — are reunited after the death of their mother. The nonreligious, communist brother is addicted to gambling, the Orthodox, capitalist brother

is a real-estate tycoon.

Through a comedy of errors, the characters rediscover each other's essential humanity. In the process, their own prejudices — and those of the audience — are systematically exposed and blasted.

Normality between Jews and non-Jews in Germany is elusive, for good reason, Levy said.

"One cannot come to terms with what Germany did 60 years ago. It will take many generations. It is a still a stigma," he said.

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## Obituaries

### Al Abrams, 87

WARWICK — Al Abrams, 87, of Boca Raton, Fla., previously of Warwick, died Sept. 27 at Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton. He was the husband of Arlene (Swartz) Abrams. Born in Providence, a son of the late Max and Celia (Rice) Abrams, he had lived in Warwick for many years before moving to Boca Raton seven years ago.

He was the owner of the former Max Abrams & Son Cabinet Makers, retiring in 1983.

He was a Navy veteran of WW II, serving in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of Touro Fraternal Association and was a former member of Temple Emanu-El and Temple Sinai.

He was the father of Barry Abrams of New York City and Marsha Feitel of Warwick. He was the brother of the late Fred and Ben Abrams and Sadie Saltzman. He was the grandfather of Betsy and Harry Hirschorn, Nicole and Jordan, and the great-grandfather of Owen, Chase and Hadley.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions in his memory may be made to Hospice by the Sea, 1531 West Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486.

### Reba Brier, 96

RESEDA, CALIF. — Reba Brier, 96, died Oct. 3. She was the wife of the late Max F. Brier. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Louis and Mollie Kaufman.

She and her late husband were founding members of the Providence Hebrew Day School and she was a past president of the Ladies Association.

She was the mother of Alan D. Brier of Providence, William

Brier of Trinity, Texas, and the late Arnold H. Brier. She was the sister of Harry Kaufman of California, Nettie Tolin of Newton, Mass., and the late Ralph Kaufman. She was the grandmother of seven and the great-grandmother of four. She was the grandmother of the late Charles Brier.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Religious School Fund, c/o Temple Emanu-El.

### Harold J. Harris, 76

PROVIDENCE — Harold J. Harris, 76, of Providence and Newport, died Sept. 28 at his residence. He was the husband of Nancy (Siegal) Harris.

Born in Providence, the son of the late William H. and Ruth (Make) Harris, he was a graduate of Classical High School and Brown University, class of 1950.

He was the retired chief executive and president of William H. Harris, Inc. Furs, founded by his father in 1908 in Providence.

He was an avid tennis player and boater and was a member of Carnegie Abbey, in Portsmouth, the University Club and Temple Beth-El. He also served for many years as a member of the boards of the Fairchild Corporation of McLean, Va., and Capital Properties, Inc., in Providence. He served on the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of R.I., and was actively involved with Hospice of R.I., Project Aids of R.I., RISE and First Night.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Elizabeth Baird of McLean, Va., and Amy Talkow of Boca Raton, Fla.; four grandsons, William, Sam, Jack and Benjamin; and a sister, Bernice Levine of Rehoboth, Mass.

He was also the brother of the late Muriel Bregstein.

Contributions may be made to Dr. David Steele, c/o MGH, Renal Assoc., GRB1003, 55 Fruit St., Boston, MA 02114.

### Henry Husserl, 82

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Henry Husserl, 82, of West Palm Beach, Fla., a retired jewelry manufacturer, died Sept. 30 in Oak Park, Ill. He was the husband of the late Priscilla (Priest) Husserl. Born in Vienna, Austria, the son of the late Walter and Mimi Husserl, he had lived in Rhode Island since 1938, spending his winters in Florida for the last 25 years.

Mr. Husserl was the former president and an owner of the former Berger, Inc., of Providence, retiring in 1980. He was an active member of the Masons for many years and he was a former member of Temple Beth-El in Providence.

He leaves one son, Jeff Husserl, and his wife, Valerie Ware, of Oak Park, Ill., and two grandchildren, Tyler and Jeremy.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 222 Richmond St., Providence, RI 02903.

### Larry Mandell, 55

WARWICK — Larry Mandell, of 3687 Post Rd., died Sunday at Riverview Nursing Home, Coventry.

Born in Providence, a beloved son of the late Frank and Ethel (Finkelstein) Mandell, he had lived in Cranston before moving to Warwick 20 years ago.

He was a graduate of Cranston High School East.

He was a long time employee of Sunnybrook Farms and was a

former member of Temple Sinai. He was the brother of his twin, Stephen Mandell of Warwick, Dr. Robert Mandell of Petoskey, Mi., and Shelley Marcus of San Diego, Cal. Graveside service Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI, 169 George St., Pawtucket, RI 02860.

### Stanley E. 'Babe' Morse, 76

BOYNTON BEACH, FLA. — Stanley E. 'Babe' Morse, 76, of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Cranston, died Sept. 26 at home. He was the husband of Sylvia (Gratt) Morse and the late Marilyn (Kaufman) Morse.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Benjamin and Pauline (Pepper) Movsovit, he was senior vice president of Pickwick International of Somerset, Mass., until his retirement. He was a member of Crestwood Country Club and Hunters Run Country Club. He served in the U.S. Army during the occupation of Japan following WWII.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Larry E. Morse of Johnston, Paul E. Morse of Jamestown; a daughter, Debra E. Rosen, of Allentown, Penn.; and the children of his second marriage, Cindy Teverow, Linda Gratt and Mar-

shall Gratt; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and a brother, Gilbert Morse of Cranston. He was also the brother of the late Arthur Morse.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach, 5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

### Sharon (Mittleman) Sarill

CRANSTON — Sharon (Mittleman) Sarill died after a long battle with cancer on Sept. 21. Born in Cranston on May 18, 1959, she attended Cranston public schools and the Rhode Island School of Design, earning a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Buffalo State University. She earned a master's degree in art therapies from Lesley College.

For 18 years, she was director of a nonprofit mental health center in Cambridge, Mass., where she was admired and appreciated by clients and colleagues. The daughter of the late Dr. Joseph Mittleman, she was a loving wife, mother, daughter and sister.

She leaves behind her mother, Shirley Mittleman of Cranston, her brother, Alan Mittleman of Allentown, Penn., her husband, William Sarill, and children, Miles and Kiera, of Arlington, Mass.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Tomorrow Fund for Children with Cancer at Hasbro Children's Hospital, 593 Eddy St., Providence 02903.

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*My Voice*

**Bringing the '60s home to students of today**

By Paul Buhle

(The following is an excerpt of talk delivered by Paul Buhle to an audience of 150 Brown undergraduates preparing to watch the first night of the Bob Dylan film special directed by Martin Scorsese, *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, on Sept. 26.)

In my young political lifetime, from being your age to twice your age, there were three great individual singers who expressed the ideas of the age.

The third one was Bruce Springsteen, who told us all about the disillusionment sweeping across America during the 1970s.

The second was one not all of you have heard, Jimmy Cliff, whose work on the soundtrack album of the film *The Harder They Come* was the last but most inspirational tone of what might happen, or might have happened, if the world could be redeemed by the Reggae beat.

But the first was Bob Dylan. I'm a historian of popular culture, so I will take up a few minutes of your time to talk about Bob Dylan's importance to American culture and the world culture of youth 40 years ago, about his determined effort not to be made into a symbol instead of a creative artist, and what he meant to us, my generation, through a decade of civil rights, antiwar movements, marijuana, LSD, love, sex, friendship, struggle, and despair.

Your generation is bound to enjoy and absorb his work differently. But as the work of Shakespeare, or Louis Armstrong, or Katherine Hepburn is also going to retain many of the same artistic and social messages through the passage of generations and centuries, so does and will the work of Bob Dylan.

I find myself playing "The Chimes of Freedom Flashing" and other civil rights material in classes at Brown, in order to explain the evocation of emotion around the bombing of the schoolchildren in Birmingham, Alabama, because, to this day, the sensitivity of Bob Dylan's interpretation of racial events shaking the country, with repercussions far beyond, is astounding. He really captured something about the civil rights struggle pushing the whole society forward as it compelled Americans to look at themselves in the mirror the way they had not wanted to do.

The emerging Bob Dylan who broke with that Bob Dylan by turning up the amps at the Newport Folk Festival, 40 years ago, was already speaking to something different, to something that was not just political protest, peace, and love. If we

didn't know that "Rainy Day Women" was about marijuana, we learned pretty soon, and the songs that were cryptically about his affair with folkie Joan Baez were expressing some of the tensions between men and women that would acquire articulation, from women's side, in the women's movement.

Something else happens within him, too, of course. The so-called Bob Dylan of underground comix, my friend Robert Crumb, observed to me that when a million young people call you God, you are lucky just to be alive in a few years. The pressure is too much.

We may hear Bob Dylan say, somewhere in this documentary, what he told a reporter around 1990, to the effect that he didn't know what he had when he had it, he didn't know how he lost it, and he didn't know if he'd ever get it back.

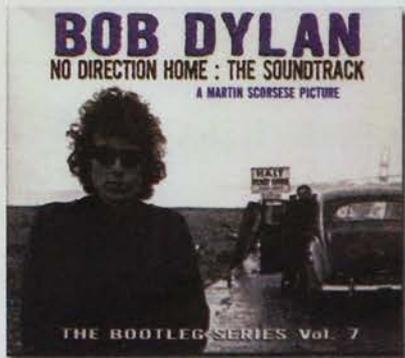
My own view is that he hadn't yet looked as deeply inside himself, analytically, as he might if he were someone else, a different kind of person. And that's all right. We should not demand that an artist who is a lyricist and musician also be a deep political thinker, any more than we should expect him to be a film director, or anything else.

What we do know, what we can say, is that he is an American Jew, but to say that is to say something potentially large. Jewish Americans, in polls conducted during the 1960s, were more completely against the U.S. war on Vietnam than any other population except for African-Americans, and that fact remains the same today, in regard to the U.S. war on Iraq. Official Jewish institutions overwhelmingly supported the war then as now. The preparations for war that was bound to come had already alerted Bobby Zimmerman before he became Bob Dylan — he had to deal with some deep, deep contradictions within America and within American Jewishness.

Young Jews Dylan's age in the early 1960s and those younger also embraced the principle of anti-racism in ways that shocked and offended large parts of the older generation, Jews along with Gentiles. He was already looking at American culture upside down, from their point of view, and rejecting the suburban prosperity of two automobiles in the garage that defined the consumer way of life by 1960.

Bob Dylan is a person of many contradictions. But he is a serious artist, a universal artist as well as a Jewish artist. Listen and learn. Thank you.

*Paul Buhle is a lecturer in history and American civilization at Brown University.*



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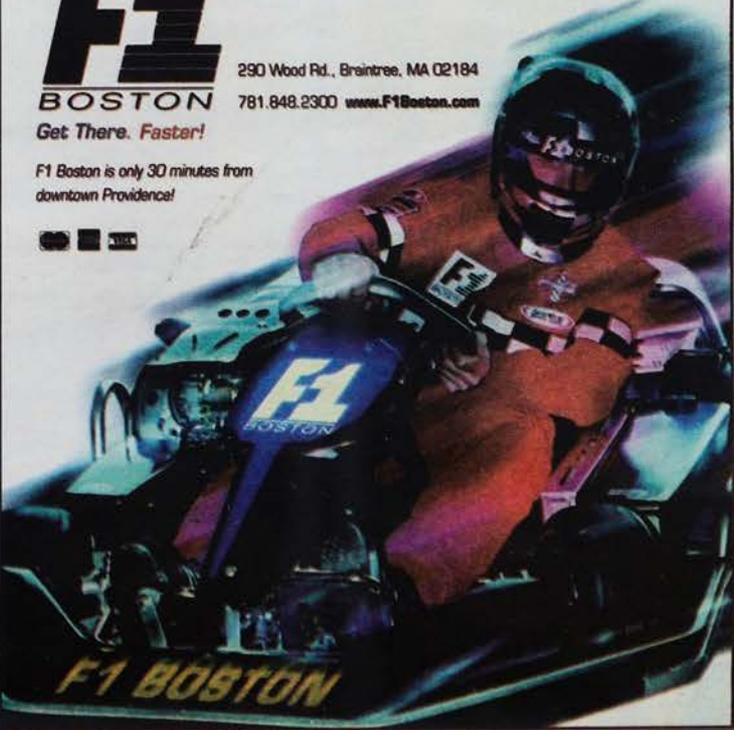
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