

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

28 Iyar 5766

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May 26, 2006

## NEWS ANALYSIS

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A soccer mitzvah. See page 17.

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Photo: Ron Sachs/CNP/ITA

VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY, left, and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), right, applaud a point made by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as he spoke to both houses of the U.S. Congress in the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

## Olmert and Bush meet in middle

### Agreement on Iran, unilateral 'realignment' as second option

WASHINGTON (JTA) — On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress, an honor afforded to few foreign leaders. In his speech, which was interrupted several times by warm applause and standing ovations, Olmert reiterated that he is ready to negotiate with Mahmoud Abbas, the elected president of the Palestinian Authority but would not entertain contacts with the Hamas-led Palestinian Cabinet until

the group renounces terrorism and recognizes the State of Israel.

"I intend to exhaust every possibility to promote peace with the Palestinians according to the road map, and I extend my hand in peace to Abbas," the prime minister said, referring to the peace plan backed by the United States. "I hope he will take the necessary steps, which he committed to, in order to move forward."

See OLMERT, page 12

## Civil suit filed against Am David

### Molestation victim, family sue

By Mary Korr

[mkorr@fjri.org](mailto:mkorr@fjri.org)

PROVIDENCE — A case of pedophilia reared its ugly head again last week, when Temple Am David in Warwick was sued by a victim of child molestation and his mother. The plaintiffs, identified only as "John and Jane Doe" in the law suit, seek compensatory and punitive damages.

The suit stems from the conviction of Stanley Rosenfeld, a cantor, religious school instructor and tutor formerly employed at the temple, on two counts of second-degree child molestation in May 2001.

The Warwick victim, "John Doe," then 12, was studying for his Bar Mitzvah at Am David; Rosenfeld was his tutor. According to documents filed in the suit last week, the sexual molestation occurred for approximately six months, beginning in 1999, during "private, closed-door sessions at the temple."

Rosenfeld pleaded to contest and received a 10-year suspended sentence; he was placed on probation, which expires May 2011.

### Allegations

The civil suit alleges negligence and misconduct on the part of Temple Am David in the hiring, supervision, training and retention of Rosenfeld, stating the temple hired him "without any formal interview, screening or review process." It also alleges the temple "performed no background check" on Rosenfeld and "had no personnel file" on him.

Temple Am David's legal counsel is reviewing the suit which was filed in Superior Court May 16 by Providence attorney Timothy J. Conlon, whose firm has handled almost 40 Roman Catholic priest abuse cases.

See AM DAVID, page 31

## Groups plan Jewish center in So. County

By Jonathan Rubin

[jrubin@fjri.org](mailto:jrubin@fjri.org)

NARRAGANSETT — Living in Narragansett and being Jewish can be a tricky geographic combination — the nearest Jewish preschool is 25 miles away in Warwick, the nearest Hebrew school meets in the College of Nursing at the University of R.I. and High Holiday services are celebrated in a church.

But a partnership between the two largest Jewish organi-

zations in South County could change all that.

On May 7, plans were unveiled for a new facility on the Narragansett/South Kingstown line that would house Congregation Beth David, a 125-member Conservative synagogue in the area, and the South County Hebrew School, an independently run school which holds classes at URI on weekends.

A group called the South

See SO. COUNTY, page 31



AN ARTIST'S RENDERING of a possible new synagogue and community center in South County.

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## Community Calendar

### SUN., MAY 28

Jewish veterans  
to hold service

11 a.m. The Jewish War Veterans annual Memorial Day service at Lincoln Park Cemetery. The public is invited. See Community.

### MON., MAY 29

Midrasha graduation

7 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Student graduation from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School. Ari Alexander will deliver the commencement address. For information, contact Shira Garber at 331-0956, ext. 181 or sgarber@bjeri.org. See Community.

### WED., MAY 31

"The Lunatic, the Lover,  
the Poet"

6:30 p.m. Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. "Shakespeare's Greatest Hits!" Richard Clark in a one-man

show. Refreshments. RSVP to Gina at 732-0037.

### THURS., JUNE 1

Perspectives dinner show

6:30 p.m. "Meatballs, Meshuganahs and Murder." A Jewish-Italian murder mystery dinner show. \$30 per person. Reservations by Mon., May 29. Call 861-8800, ext. 205 or Tavlin@jccri.org. See Community.

### FRI., JUNE 2

Perspectives blintz blitz

7 p.m. Bring Favorite blintz (s) (to be cooked on site,) or a cheese dish to share. Soft drinks provided or BYOB. RSVP to Tavlin@jccri.org or call 861-8800 ext. 205, with dish info by 1 p.m. of the day for Providence location.

Habonim confirmation

8 p.m. At the temple, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. Confirmation service for 10 students. A reception will follow.

### SUN., JUNE 4

Habonim annual carnival

11 a.m. — noon at the temple, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. Games for children and parents following regular classes, to conclude the school year and raise *Tzedakah*.

Klezmer group at Fall River Yiddish Club

1 p.m. Adas Israel Synagogue, 1647 Robeson St. Christina Crowder and Amy Olson will present "Jewish Soul Music." For more information call Renee Lipson, (508) 678-4273.

Authors lecture in New Bedford

7:30 p.m. Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell St. Justin Kaplan and Anne Bernays will speak on "Growing up Jewish in New York," Zaskind Memorial Lecture. Free and open to the public. Dessert reception follows. For more information, call (508) 997-3171. See Community.

See CALENDAR, page 13

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### Corrections

In the "Clergy for Pro-Choice" article in our last edition, the correct email is rircrc@yahoo.com.

In an article about Mr. (Edward) Adler in our May 12 issue, it should have said that Mr. Adler has seven grandchildren; and that Ethan Adler and his fiancée Lorrie were married this past March.

In the gambling article, Susan Adler's title was omitted. It is director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program at the Jewish Seniors Agency.

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### CANDLE LIGHTING For Greater Rhode Island

May 26 7:48

June 1 7:53

June 2 7:54

June 3 7:55

Shavuos 2<sup>nd</sup> Day

# Beth Sholom to celebrate Centennial

By Laura Bertlinsky-Schine

PROVIDENCE — Congregation Beth Sholom, a Modern Orthodox synagogue located on the East Side of Providence, will celebrate its Centennial next month, as well as a merger with Congregation Shaare Zedek in South Providence and Rabbi Mitchell Levine's 10 years as Beth Sholom's spiritual leader.

The triple celebration will take place on June 11.

The synagogue's milestone events commemorate 100 years since its institution in 1905, when it was called Ahavath Shalom and was located on Howell Street. The celebration will begin with presentations and music at Shaare Zedek at 3 p.m. A procession of members will then carry the Torahs, accompanied by klezmer music and simcha dancing, to their new home at Beth Sholom, where they will be welcomed.

See BETH SHOLOM, page 8



Photo by Fred Kalmun. Courtesy R.I. Jewish Historical Assoc.

TORAH SCROLLS beginning their journey from Congregation Ahavath Shalom to new location at Camp St., in 1949. Louis Zarchi is holding the Torah on right.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

# School weighs Warwick, Providence sites

*Community Day School holding final site forum on June 13*

By Jonathan Rubin  
jrubin@jfri.org

WARWICK — In some ways, schools are like businesses — the most important factor in their success can be one thing: location, location, location.

Over the past two weeks the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) has been holding focus sessions concerning where the school can best find success — in its traditional home on the East Side of Providence, or a relocation to Warwick, where younger Jewish families appear to be moving.

"This is one of the most important decisions the school has to make," said Bruce Wolpert, president of the board of trustees.

School leaders say they are at a crucial decision point — on one hand, they have two new heads of school, are reevaluating staff and are seriously revising the school's educational and spiritual components, on the other hand, Jews are moving south for numerous reasons (lower taxes, better public schools, higher economic growth) and the school's enrollment is declining

— from a high of about 200 to 181 now. (Note: the all-time high was actually 240 students, but this included an unanticipated rush of Russian immigrants in the 1990s, who have since graduated or moved on).

In the past few weeks two plans and artist renderings were presented to parents and the community for feedback at each of the potential locations — one at the Jewish Community Center in Providence and one at the Sipsterstein Tamarisk Assisted Living center in Warwick.

### Warwick and Providence

The Warwick idea would involve using large portions of unused land currently owned by the Jewish Seniors Agency to build a new school from scratch. Located off Route 95, the school would back up to the highway and its front would face a grove of trees, fields and wetlands. The school would be located close to Shalom Apartments, a senior retirement apartment building, and Tamarisk, creating a campus of sorts. Of the two options, it's the cheapest and easiest to build.

The Providence-area search process has been much more grueling. "Real estate is just too scarce," said communications chair Alan Harlam. He added that the Nathan Bishop school, located 150 feet from the school, is not yet on the market and that

preliminary visits have shown it to be too expensive to renovate. Searches into a possible East Providence location were halted by parents last fall over commuting, cost and safety concerns.

### JCC option

This brought the facilities committee back to their original location — the Jewish Community Center (JCC). The second plan called for large additions behind the JCC site. This plan would have the benefit of putting the school in the midst of many other Jewish agencies, not to mention the JCC, which could yield a pool and a basketball court.

It would also require the most logistics — this plan would add additional floors to the building, and require zoning approval; in addition, there could be neighborhood resistance. Plus, it requires a massive shuffling of organizations — the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation would be moved to the upper floors, the Rhode Island Mikveh (ritual bath) would have to be relocated, and arrangements with Brown University would have to be made in regard to parking (see sidebar for pros and cons).

Addressing the issues of fundraising for the project, Wolpert said that the pre-campaign

assessment done a few years ago revealed that the community has the potential to raise \$30 to \$45 million, "but with a clear bias towards new projects, not improving old ones."

### Kinks

The tricky part is that there isn't a lot of room for compromise — Jews in the West Bay have been clamoring for serious recognition of their population for years — they have 7,600 Jews and are increasing, Providence has 8,400 and is showing a slight decline.

"The Jews in Providence, however, cite the higher population density there and the fact that 70 percent of the school's current enrollment lives in the Providence area. Having a school in a suburban location, some say, is moving it from the center of a community to a non-residential location. "How can you create a school community when you can't even walk home to a friend's house?" asked Lisa Bergman, of Providence.

Basing would certainly be an option — the JCDS already has students based in from New Bedford, Barrington, and Southern Rhode Island.

And one of the hardest questions — will the extra 100 or so students that the school plans to

See DAY SCHOOL, page 9

## Opinion

## A MAJORITY OF ONE

## 3 little reasons to cross the Great Divide

**M**uch of what they say about Los Angeles is true; it is different from New England. The Red Sox rate a paragraph and a box score in the local newspapers. Drivers do not blast their horns if you fail to jumpstart a green light. Fruits and vegetables are fresh, inexpensive and tasty; they don't have to travel across the continent before they reach your table. Political reports from the Middle East



**Yehuda Lev**

take second place to the latest fashion news from Tokyo. And the women, well, quite a few of them, look like the female leads on *Law and Order*. I mention this only in passing. My purpose in flying west was to visit children and grandchildren and I am pleased to report to you that both generations are doing well and exhibit a proper concern for the state of my health and due respect for my advanced years. But I will not bore you with family details; you certainly have your own wallet size photos to show off and who's to judge about winners and losers in such a competition?

This journey over the heartland is

## For the Jewishly ambitious, Rhode Island is a jumping off point, Los Angeles is a goal.

brought to you by Nurture, the human attribute that drives us to sit for hours in impossibly noisy and uncomfortable airplanes when we could easily have remained at home, comfortably ensconced in our recliners and admiring those impeccably dressed women on *Law and Order*.

The reward for this sacrifice of energy, time and treasure comes when the grandchildren curl up beside you on the couch and you read to them from the likes of "Winnie the Pooh," the original version before the Disney Corporation got its corrosive hands on the 100 acre wood. Somewhere in the seventh circle of Dante's inferno there is a special superheated room reserved for those who suck the life out of children's classics, leaving behind the broken husks of cutesy-pie cartoon animals suitable only for inclusion in Happy Meals.

But I digress. Jewish Los Angeles also differs from Jewish Rhode Island. In pilgrim country matters are less confusing. The 18,000 Jews in Rhode Island have one central address, the Federation, on whose primacy most Jewish

organizations agree. In Los Angeles, with 600,000 opinionated and often conflicted Jews, there are dozens of institutions; universities, synagogue movements, ethnic groups and political and cultural organizations all competing for attention, funds, talent, followers and whatever else it takes to keep the offices open and the staff paid. If an editor of the Los Angeles Times wants comment on a story involving a Jewish religious issue, to which movement or to which leader does that editor go? And for comments on Israel? Or Jewish approaches to political developments? You see the problem.

These profound reflections have not taken up much of my time during this visit and I don't expect that they will take up much of yours either. In Rhode Island we have a state-wide newspaper whose editors know how to connect with us and, as a tiny minority, we have a sense of communal responsibility that (usually) curtails extreme positions and softens harsh responses. The restraints that work for a small community are not so effective in a larger one; the stakes are

higher, the potential for effecting change more of a goal, the possibility of national recognition sometimes too tempting to be ignored. For the Jewishly ambitious, Rhode Island is a jumping off point, Los Angeles is a goal. Only New York and Washington offer larger Jewish playing fields than Southern California.

For the week, my playing fields are limited to a back yard in Pacific Palisades where Asher, 7, is training to be a basketball star. On my last visit we studied baseball box scores and in a couple of days we will watch the Dodgers play the Angels in Dodger Stadium. Dahlia, 3, is still content with listening to books in the reading of which her Saba gets all of the names wrong and is constantly in need of correction.

Which leaves Tanner, age 2. His hobby is throwing food, often cereal bowls, at which, if it should ever become an Olympic Sport, he will certainly be a gold medal winner. Next visit we'll try reading but so far he is more interested in turning pages than reading them.

So farewell from Los Angeles where the women are strong, the men are good looking, and my grandchildren are above average.

*Yehuda Lev is a retired journalist in Providence who has worked in Europe, Israel and this country. He writes a regular opinion piece for the Jewish Voice & Herald.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Sharing expertise — Miriam's partnership with Israeli hospital

A recent issue of *The Jewish Voice & Herald* included an interview with the physicians and nurses from Afula, Israel visiting The Miriam Hospital. We are most appreciative *The Voice* chose to do the interview; however, I would like to share the overall purpose of this program.

Over the past year lay and professional leadership at The Miriam Hospital have worked closely with the professional leadership of Emek Medical Center of Afula in planning an exchange program. Building a program with an Israeli hospital, funded entirely by The Miriam Hospital, is consistent with The Miriam Hospital's commit-

ment to its Jewish foundation and in Emek Medical Center we have a great partner. Both hospitals have received national awards in recognition of their leadership in healthcare. What we have in common brought us together, however, we operate in very different environments, both financial and geographical, and from this we learn from each other.

Our first group of visiting nurses and physicians from Afula had a wonderful experience. They spent most of their time meeting and working with the nurses, staff and physicians of The Miriam. They were impressed with the high quality of care delivered at The

Miriam and with our sophistication in measuring quality. Throughout their three weeks at The Miriam, they were most appreciative of the openness of our staff, as well as to the warmth they felt from the Rhode Island Jewish community.

The Miriam Hospital is committed to continuing this program as well as our very successful program with Moi University in Eldorot, Kenya. Nurses and physicians from The Miriam will be visiting Emek Medical Center in October 2006.

**Jeffrey G. Brier**  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
The Miriam Hospital

### High hopes for Olmert-Bush meeting

As Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert now visits our nation's capital and our president, it is my deepest hope, as an American Jew and supporter of a safe and secure Israel, that they will explore ways to engage in proactive diplomatic engagement with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other Palestinian moderates.

While I'm happy to see any Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory, I'm worried that the pursuit of a unilateral solution to the conflict such as Israel is

currently suggesting will only lead to a renewal of violence like there has been in Gaza since last summer's disengagement.

I share the concern of many in the Jewish community that Hamas hasn't recognized Israel yet, or forsown violence. However, Hamas adopting these positions should not be preconditions that prevent Israel from entering into negotiations with President Abbas.

The only sure path to a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians is a

negotiated, two-state solution.

President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert have both expressed their willingness to meet, and polls show that Israelis and Palestinians alike prefer negotiation to one-sided measures. I hope that President Bush and PM Olmert will use this opportunity to make this hope a reality.

**Judy Kaye**  
Providence

### Thanks to Touro Fraternal

As a certified old-timer with the Touro Fraternal Association, I would like to thank Touro for the great evening they provided for the twenty-five year plus members. It was a pleasure sitting with the brothers of the association and sharing not only in the meeting, which was very well run, but in the great meal they provided to all who attended, which included not just the old-timers but future old-timers as well.

The renovated Touro Hall is outstanding: clean and very well maintained. The full kosher kitchen has everything needed to feed well over a hundred hungry brothers.

Touro Fraternal should be very proud of their charities, as well as the funds provided for educational purposes such as loans and grants for students.

Having served on the board for many years in the past, I know that work and effort behind the scenes are not easy and members should appreciate the hard work that goes into many events, such as the old-timers' night.

I am very proud to be a member of such a group. If any Jewish man would like to join, he should just call Touro, on Rolf's Square in Cranston. You will be happy and proud, as I am, that you joined Touro Fraternal Association.

**Barry E. Newman**  
Warwick

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

## A matter of 'pro-choice'

Two weeks ago there was a story in these pages headlined "Pro-Choice clergy take to the airwaves" announcing that a group of Jewish and gentile clergy was forming a chapter of Clergy for Choice.



Josh Stein

"The clergy group has begun to monitor legislative activity as well [as broadcast its opinions over the air]; in fact, it was formed as a response to a bill passed overwhelmingly last year by the R.I. Senate threatening to eliminate a woman's right to choose." I also favor reproductive rights (the right of fetuses to be born) and would have phrased it, "a bill passed overwhelmingly reflecting the will of the people of the state of Rhode Island to eliminate a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy."

The Clergy for Choice spokesperson also said that "the Hebrew bible and rabbinic writings support individual choice according to one's own conscience and religious beliefs." They do? The Hebrew bible supports a woman's right to terminate pregnancy according to her conscience and religious beliefs? In a book filled with the joy of mothers who give birth, the agony of the infertile? The Hebrew Scriptures I read includes this from Deuteronomy 30:19: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." That Hebrew bible? The rabbis? They permit the dismemberment of the fetus at the last moment if the birth is threatening the life of the mother, and yes, there are more recent responses extending that principle to cover cases affecting a mother's physical and mental health or in the case of rape and incest, but according to Isaac Klein, in his "A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice": "When abortion is desired for reasons of convenience, however, it is forbidden."

**I'm a liberal because there is poverty out there that must be eradicated, because there are workers being exploited, because there are rain forests being cut down and rivers being polluted.**

Barbara Kavadias from the national group of clergy for choice skips the text-based rhetoric and opts for stridency: "We [Jews] are pro-choice because of our faith. Pro-choice is an individual choice and it is not necessarily pro-abortion. We believe that no one; not pharmacists, not doctors, not hospitals, not the government should be able to impose their religious beliefs on us." And what of those who base our pro-life sentiments on other than religious dogmas? Does Barbara really speak for Jews? Or only for Jews who agree with her? The quotation leaves us to assume that Jews favor the right of mothers to terminate their pregnancies if they are of a mind to. We do? I'm a Jew and I don't.

By now, most of my friends are appalled. I can hear them even before they collar me at *uhah*, school or supermarket. "Josh, how could you, a liberal, a progressive, an advocate of human rights be pro-life?" (Yes, I know, they'll be smart enough to say "anti-choice" but it's more fun the way I've phrased it.)

In fact, I do believe in choice. I believe that women can choose to have protected or unprotected sex or abstain from sex. I believe that men should choose to take responsibility for their sexual acts. I believe that a woman whose baby is, to a medical certainty, going to live a short, painful, life may choose to terminate her pregnancy to spare the child inevitable suffering and early death. I believe that a woman raped may legitimately choose to abort. I believe that no one, not even she, has the right to choose to deny her child the right to smell the scent of fresh cut grass, to hit a home run, to meet and marry someone they love. Advocating state-sanctioned abortion announces to the world that men and women are not responsible for our actions, that our actions have no consequences, that do-overs are permitted. Sometimes they are, but never in anything important, never in taking a life.

Let me answer the question of how, if I'm a liberal, can I be in the pro-life camp? I'm a liberal because there is poverty out there that must be eradicated, because there are workers being exploited, because there are rain forests being cut down and rivers being polluted. Liberals take the side of the underdog, of the voiceless, of black people in the south under segregation, of the Jews in Germany under the Nazis and in Russia under the Communists. I'm a liberal because I believe government must act to defend the defenseless. Is there a more defenseless group of human beings than those developing in the wombs of their mothers? They have no vote, they have no voice. But they have life. That's why I'm a liberal who is pro-life. That's why I'm deeply saddened when clergy and laypeople choose expediency over morality, death over life.

Clergy for Conscience, anyone?

Josh Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. He can be reached at [jstein@rwu.edu](mailto:jstein@rwu.edu)

## Dry Bones BUSHWHACKED?!

VIEWPOINT  
On God at 80

As a little girl I always prayed to God. Please God don't let my mother know I did (whatever was so terrible at the time) because she would kill me, send me to an orphanage or never buy me a new pair of shoes. Unfortunately, He betrayed me quite often, and one year I had to wear my brown shoes all summer long instead of the white ones I usually got every spring.

A young Jewish girl was brought up with a long lexicon of things she couldn't do as well as what she had to do. Whenever I mixed up the towels to dry the dairy dishes with the meat towel or somehow rode the bus on a Saturday, I knew that if God did not strike me dead on the spot my mother would when she found out. So I never told her and prayed to God to keep my secret.

When I became a teen, things got more dicey, as I wanted to do all the things my friends whose parents were not Orthodox did and had to figure out how to get away with my indiscretions. Of course I prayed to God to keep my secrets. Then came the Passover when my friends were going to the Paramount Theatre in Manhattan to hear Frank Sinatra sing in person. I had to go.

I knew that was the day God would strike me dead. I handled money, rode on the subway and, even worse, ate a hot dog on a roll when all I was supposed to eat was matzah. But, I came home in the early evening, my mother none the wiser of how I spent the day. And I was still alive.

My mother had to work many Saturdays when she handled money, rode a bus or subway and maybe even ate lunch in a non-kosher establishment but she

must have had a dispensation from God to earn a living. It appeared that God made rules and gave exceptions.

Time went on and I found myself not praying to God as much. Many of the boys and girls I knew from school and the neighborhood were very concerned about being good for Santa Claus to bring them a zillion presents for Christmas. They prayed to him, sent letters to him at the North Pole and never really received the particular toys they had asked for. Was Santa their God too? That confused me even more because some prayed to Jesus; some prayed to Mary who was said to be his mother and a Saint; and to God.

Was this the same God I knew as a child? There were a couple of Muslim kids who prayed to a different God and needed to have a little rug so they could pray on their knees many times a day facing East. I wondered how many really knew where the East was.

I had a couple of black friends who also said Jesus was their God but he didn't seem to be the same as the white kids, but what did I know? I knew that Jesus was born and died a Jew. How did he become a Christian? No one has answered that question in two thousand years.

Now I'm a grown woman approaching my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and find a world consumed not only with God and what he decrees, but also confused by the topic of heaven. Which God decides if I go to heaven or hell? Does my religion believe in either real estate?

Rose Epstein  
Wickfield

## ALISON ON ALIYAH

## Henna and Heartbreak

There were times that I felt like I was in a zoo (the wild animal section), and other times that I had tears in my eyes...

Last night I attended my first Moroccan "henna celebration," for the bar mitzvah of a cousin of my boyfriend, Mikhael. I have always



Alison Golub

known this word, henna, as referring to the natural mud-like substance with which temporary tattoos are drawn (painlessly) on the hands and arms of immature teenagers wanting to pretend that they have enough guts and a high enough pain threshold to get real tattoos.

What I didn't know about is the long Moroccan Jewish tradition of full celebrations using this material, that take place after simchas such as weddings and B'nei mitzvah. This generally involves

a huge, extravagant meal, with breaks-in-between each course for dancing and general merriment, followed by the henna ceremony itself. Here, the grandmothers of the individual(s) of honor cover a gold coin in a liquid henna mixture and press it onto the palms of both of his or her hands, then bind each hand and coin together for 30 minutes so the color will seep in and stay on the skin for at least two months. From what I can gather, this is to mark the fact that a happy event occurred, and to bless the celebrant(s) with years of continued joy and luck.

For most of the evening, I simply sat in my chair with my eyes wide and my mouth gaping open ever so slightly. There were

times that I felt like I was in a zoo (the wild animal section), and other times that I had tears in my eyes from emotions I don't know if I have ever had. When the main course came out—complete with fireworks on each tray and accompanied by an actual musical introduction by the DJ—many of the guests actually clapped and hollered.

And this wasn't normal hollering. In fact, I'm not even sure there is a word for what this was. I suppose it was more of a shriek—a top of the voice, mouth-wide open, "Ay-yi-yi-yi-yiiiil!" kind of thing. I actually felt a little embarrassed. I mean, I'll admit that the food turned out to be pretty good, but I have still never

seen humans react to being fed with such fervor. Of course, the waiters did not seem surprised by the reaction; on the contrary, I frequently was the recipient of strange looks because I was not clapping, yelling, or dancing.

Most of all, I was totally struck by how ill-prepared I felt to experience these types of events, coming from what I now recognize as such a stunted and stilted culture. I think it was the dancing that illuminated this most strongly for me. I watched, with my hands politely folded in my lap, as every member of Mikhael's family clambered onto the dance floor with total abandon throughout the evening. Whether it was a traditional Moroccan tune (to which everyone seemed to know all the words), an Elvis swing song, or even "The Macarena," they all threw themselves into their dancing, regardless of skill, sense of rhythm, or appearance.

As I caught sight of my own slightly disapproving stare in the mirror opposite the table, I saw what American culture has done to me. I felt utterly incapable of getting onto that dance floor and not feeling self-conscious, and I realized that in America I would be sure that there were at least

five people in the room watching me dance like an idiot and commenting on it to their friends. As I watched Mikhael's 70-year-old grandparents pounding on their table and bouncing to the Moroccan beat of the music, I realized that in 28 years, I don't think I ever saw my grandmother dance. And I sat in my seat, paralyzed by my own insecurities, wishing I could join in but knowing I couldn't. I imagined the shock Mikhael would experience at attending an American wedding, where everyone would sit politely and quietly in their chairs, eating courteously and dancing in a controlled and refined manner. When I mentioned this to him, his first response was, "Where is the fun in that?" And I realized, really, it isn't much fun at all.

There is something so warm, and so open, and so free about Moroccan culture. I love the idea of it all, but my American critical and closed-off nature just can't let me join in. I hope that someday I will be able to truly bridge these cultural chasms between me and Mikhael, and overcome what seem like deficits in my own cultural upbringing.

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](mailto:Alison_Golub@hotmail.com), and read more about her adventures on her website at [www.alisonstern-golub.com](http://www.alisonstern-golub.com).



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## Emanu-El to hold annual meeting

PROVIDENCE - Temple Emanu-El will hold its 81st annual meeting on June 9, beginning at 5 p.m. with a business meeting in the Bohnen vestry, at which the slate of officers and trustees for the coming year will be presented. A Kabbalat Shabbat service in the main sanctuary will follow at 5:45 p.m. Shabbat dinner will be served in the Alperin Meeting House at 6:45 p.m., after which the newly elected officers and trustees will be installed. Synagogue President Robert Landau will reflect on the past year's events at the temple.

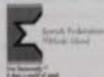
Robert Hill, Emanu-El's Executive Director since 2000,

who will retire in June, will be honored.

Awards will be presented to two graduating high school seniors. Rebekah Mer will receive the Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen Youth Award, and Susan Landau will receive the Leila and Leo Rosen Youth Award. Outstanding volunteers of the year will also be recognized.

Everyone is welcome to any part of the meeting; reservations are necessary only for the dinner. The event is being chaired by Ruth Page.

For more information or to make Shabbat dinner reservations, call the synagogue office at 331-1616.



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## FROM THE JFRI PRESIDENT

## Reflections after one year

It is difficult to believe that an entire year has gone by since I was installed as your President.



**Herbert B. Stern**

When I was first asked to serve, my wife asked me why I'd want to take on a task of this magnitude. I said I wanted to be a part of making a difference. Well, be careful what you wish for!

We at Federation are in the midst of major transition. The challenges during this year have been many, that is for certain, but when challenged, our team of lay and professional leaders rises up with generosity, vision and action — and I am proud to say that we are an organization on the move.

Let me give you an idea of what "on the move" means:

- We revitalized our Community Relations Council and its programming and presence is being felt throughout Rhode Island.

- We facilitated conversations among the Family Service, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and the Seniors Agency in their quest to provide seamless service to the elderly.

**I have realized more deeply than ever that the relationship between the Federation and the community is so critical — the Federation really is at the fulcrum of it all.**

- Our annual campaign took on the challenge of losing a number of our major donors and still raised \$4.1 million; we are planning a bigger and better campaign for this coming year.

- We oversaw the transition of Alperin-Schechter to the new Jewish Community Day School and are helping them with their financial planning

- For the JCC, we guaranteed and are paying most of the interest on the loan on the new Fitness Center.

- We helped the Bureau of Jewish Education during its trying hours of battling a mold problem which resulted in its having to vacate the premises for some 3 months.

- Through the Bureau we are developing a funding strategy that takes into account that not only is there the new Community Day School, but also the Providence Hebrew Day School and both schools must continue to exist.

- We helped URI Hillel move into new quarters on the Kings-ton campus.

- We are working with the Holocaust Museum, on possibly creating a Holocaust memorial downtown.

- On the move means we created and updated Mission and Values statements — a Governance Committee that will report out an updated structure to better manage ourselves, and a Chazon or solicitor training mission this summer, along with a President's mission in the Fall, and on and on!

This year we have become more than just funders. We have facilitated, we have counseled and we have overseen. We have guided, we have created and we have helped.

We're more than involved. We're on the move. And that's what your Federation should be.

I have realized more deeply than ever that the relationship between the Federation and the community is so critical — the Federation really is at the fulcrum of it all. The issues I have dealt with range from small and almost silly to big and urgent — and our community is a dynamic matrix of organizations. We have incredible opportunities to collaborate and evolve — and we have gained so much momentum this year.

I have been humbled as I have had to cultivate patience with myself. I have been coming to terms with the fact that I cannot provide answers instantly. I am accustomed to hearing a problem or an issue, and giving an answer immediately — but it just doesn't work like that in a volunteer-driven organization. I have learned on a deeper level that the process of coming to agreement and making sure there is buy-in for a decision is critical to our health and well-being as a community.

Finally, I truly appreciate that I am part of a strong team — and I pledge to you that your team will continue to protect, preserve and enhance all that we hold dear.

And to all of you... thank you for trusting me to be your president and allowing me to enjoy the incredibly rewarding experience of this office.



**Federation and the BJERI are partners?**

**Who knew?**

**Eitan Levine, a student at the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of R.I. and one of 75 participants from the New England Region, at Auschwitz on the 2006 March of the Living.**

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Be an important partner in the power of community. Give generously to the 2006 JFRI campaign and invest in our future. You can give directly and immediately through a gift to the campaign, or you can ensure that you continue to build a strong community after you are gone through an annual campaign endowment that funds your annual campaign pledge in perpetuity.



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## BETH SHOLOM

From page 3

A gala dinner, celebrating the synagogue's centennial and Rabbi Levine's decade of service, will follow. At the dinner an overview of the history of the synagogue is planned, as well as the reflections of congregants.

"This congregation has a long history and a proud heritage of service to the entire Jewish community," said Rabbi Levine. "I have considered it my own personal challenge to live up to the legacy that our forebears started 100 years ago. And now with the merger, really a *shiddukh* (marriage), between our congregation and Shaare Zedek, our congregation's history grows that much richer."

A number of celebratory events have been held during the past few months, including a lecture series entitled "About 100 Years Ago," honoring the synagogue and its history.

## History

The congregation traces its roots to Sept. 24, 1905, when Congregation Ahavath Sholom opened on Howell Street as the first synagogue on the East Side of Providence. At that time, Providence had a Jewish population of about 2,000. Rabbi David C. Bachrach was the synagogue's first rabbi, and remained there until 1925.

Needing more space, the

See CENTENNIAL, page 9



Photos by Fred Kaiman. Courtesy R.I. Jewish Historical Assoc.  
SISTERHOOD OF AHAVATH SHOLOM, circa 1940. A Mrs. Adler was president.



OPENING CEREMONIES of Ahavath Sholom on Camp St. & Rochambeau Ave. in 1949.

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Photos by Fred Kelman. Courtesy B. J. Jewish Historical Assoc.

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OPENING CEREMONIES of Ahavath Sholom on Camp St. & Rochambeau Ave. in 1949.

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## Community/Providence

### Comparing Providence to Warwick

#### URBAN — The Providence JCC site

##### Pros:

- In heart of large Jewish community
- Surrounded by Jewish organizations — JCC, Federation, Holocaust Museum, Bureau of Jewish Ed.
- Walking access for some students
- Good location for 70% of current students who come from Providence
- Use of JCC pool, gym
- Large fields available

##### Cons:

- Likely neighborhood resistance to expansion
- Complicated zoning variances required
- Parking a concern, no deal yet over Brown parking lot
- Minimum 3-4 years to build
- 15-20% more expensive

#### SUBURBAN — Warwick at Tamarisk site

##### Pros:

- Nearly 8 acres of scenic land
- Campus construction — synergy between school and Jewish senior facilities
- Minimal zoning restrictions
- Room for full-size soccer field, other Jewish agencies
- Minimum 2 years to build
- Follows demographic shift southward

##### Cons:

- Moves school farther away from core base of Providence students
- In decentralized location — no residences within walking distance
- May be tough sell for Providence donors

## DAY SCHOOL

From page 3

attract materialize — is still being addressed.

The school will be holding its next open meeting on Tuesday, June 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagan Ave., Cranston. The site committee will lead an open forum.

In addition there will be a panel discussion by local and national leaders in Jewish education. The panel will consist of Marc N. Kramer, executive director of RAVSAK, the Jewish community day school network; Jennifer Miller, Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE); Make your Mark Consulting Services; Alice Goldstein and Sidney Goldstein, Professor Emeritus Brown University.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

For more information, call Meredith Einsohn at 863-1510.

Information about the site search is available at [www.jcdsri.org](http://www.jcdsri.org).

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## CENTENNIAL

From page 8

expanding congregation, under Rabbi G. Silk, moved to its new and present location on Camp Street and Rochambeau Avenue in 1949. The synagogue then resumed its Hebrew school, which it had been unable to accommodate at its old location.

In 1959, Ahavath changed its name to Congregation Beth Shalom, and a new sanctuary was added at the new location in 1962. During the 1960s, Beth Shalom, a previously Orthodox synagogue,

became Conservative.

In 1978, the congregation merged with Sons of Zion, and later returned to its Orthodox affiliation. The synagogue's sanctuary and social hall underwent major renovations in 1989.

The gala dinner begins at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$6 and require reservations by June 2. For more information, contact Beth Shalom at 621-9393.

Intern Laura Berlimsky-Schine will graduate in June from the Lincoln School, and will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall.



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## The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum's Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers & Board of Directors

Monday, June 5, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Center  
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Program

## "THE GUARDIAN ANGELS OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN"

All will tell the fascinating story of his late grandparents, Providence native Martha Sharp and her husband, the Rev. Waitsill Sharp, who will be honored as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem, Israel's premier Holocaust authority.

Their daughter, Martha Sharp Joukowsky, a retired professor at Brown University, will accept the award in Israel on their behalf.

The Sharps are being recognized for saving Jewish refugees, many of them children, fleeing Hitler's Nazi regime. The couple secured shelter, visas and safe passage on secret missions in Europe undertaken for the Unitarian Church. She personally escorted a group of 27 children across Europe and then to America, at great personal risk.

Following the program,  
Providence Mayor David Cicilline will present a tribute in their honor.

Lynn Friedman, Chair 2006-07 Annual Meeting



Martha Sharp



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CAROLYN RUTH MICHAEL from Dartmouth High School receives a first-place award from Stan Abrams for her 2-D artwork, at right.



Photos by Julia McCann

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## Holocaust Museum fetes students

WARWICK — On May 21st, a crowd of over 70 people gathered at the Warwick Mall to honor middle and high school student award winners in the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum's 18th annual Art and Writing Contest. The ceremony was the culmination of the week's display of contest winners' essays, award stories, poetry, 2-D and 3-D art. Several students read their work aloud at the ceremony where this year's contest theme was "trapped in your own country." Two students will be awarded the Gastfreund writing award and the Singer art award, which will be presented on June 5th along with \$100 prizes at the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum's annual meeting.

— Julia McCann

Julia McCann is a freelance photographer and writer who lives in Newport.



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**Community/Providence**

*Federation presents  
Riesman, Hassenfeld awards*



MARCIA RIESMAN, left, presents the Riesman Leadership Development Award to Bonnie Steinberg Jennis at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's 61st annual meeting held last week.



MELVIN ALPERIN, right, presents the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Community Service Award to Danny Warshay at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's 61st annual meeting.

Photos by Jonathan Rubin

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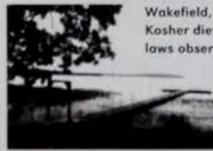
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**OLMERT**

From page 1

If negotiations fail, Olmert said to Congress, he is ready to conduct a unilateral withdrawal from parts of the West Bank.

Bush administration officials, while clearly focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, want to slow down a process that seems to be careening out of control, both in the region and in the halls of Congress.

For his part, Bush warmly endorsed the possibility of unilateral action, as long as Olmert exhausted all other options.

"I would call them bold ideas," Bush said, referring to the unilateral actions Olmert outlined. "These ideas could lead to a two-state solution if a pathway to progress on the road map is not open in the period ahead."

It was the firmest endorsement to date of Olmert's plan to go it alone should all else fail.

The two leaders also agreed on the threat posed by Iran's nuclear program. "We're determined that the Iranian regime must not gain nuclear weapons," Bush said. "I told the prime minister what I've stated publicly before: Israel is a close friend and ally of the United States. And in the event of any attack on Israel, the United States will come to Israel's aid."

**News Briefs****Yad Vashem: Let Darfur refugees stay**

Yad Vashem's chairman reportedly called on the Israeli prime minister to let refugees from Darfur remain in Israel. Avner Shalev wrote to Ehud Olmert on Sunday that "as members of the Jewish people, for whom the memory of the Holocaust burns, we cannot stand by as the refugees from the genocide in Darfur hammer on our doors," Ha'aretz reported. Most of the refugees are being held in prisons or army bases because Sudan is considered an enemy country. Shalev, however, said security reasons cannot be used as an excuse, noting that countries such as Australia, Canada and Britain cited security concerns when they sent Jewish refugees to detention camps during the Holocaust.

**Alleged predator rabbi indicted**

A Maryland rabbi was indicted on charges relating to sexual overtures toward a minor. Rabbi David Kaye, 56, is scheduled to be arraigned June 9 by a U.S. district court on charges of "coercion and enticement" and "travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual contact with a minor." The charges stem from a "Dateline NBC" investigation last fall of alleged Internet predators. Kaye resigned his position as vice president of programs for the Rockville, Md.-based Panim: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values days before the "Dateline" episode aired. According to a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney, the rabbi is in federal custody pending trial, the Washington Jewish Week reported. JTA

**American teen dies of bomb wounds**

Daniel Wultz, 16, died May 14 of wounds sustained in an April 17 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, becoming the sole American fatality of the attack. Wultz, of Weston, Fla., was traveling with his father during Passover when they were hit. Wultz was the 11th fatality from the bombing, which was carried out by the Islamic Jihad. JTA

**Poet Stanley Kunitz dies at 100**

Stanley Kunitz, a former U.S. poet laureate who made metaphorical use of the Talmud and other Jewish images in his poetry, died May 14 at age 100. A pacifist, Kunitz was a strong opponent of the Vietnam War and, later, U.S. military involvement in Central America and Iraq. Kunitz received a Pulitzer Prize in 1959. JTA

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## CALENDAR

From page 2

## MON., JUNE 5

## Holocaust museum annual meeting

7:30 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Installation of board and officers. Speaker will be Artemis Joukowsky III. See Community.

## TUES., JUNE 6

## JCDS first annual meeting

7 p.m. Brown Hill, 80 Brown St., Providence. Guest speaker: Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of "Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education." The JCDS 2006-07 staff will be announced; a special *Kol HaKavod* for community partners & volunteers; presentation of educational excellence; to be followed by a dessert reception. For more information, call Meredith Einsohn, 863-1510. See Community.

## WED., JUNE 7

## Cranston Senior Guild

Noon, Venus DiMilo Restaurant, Swansea, Mass. Cranston Senior Guild annual installation luncheon. Installation officer will be Atty. Gen. Patrick Lynch. Norm Conrad's Mini Minstrels, starring "Mr. Tambo" and "Mr. Bones," will provide entertainment. \$18 per paid member. For reservations, call Mal Ross at 723-8580.

## THURS., JUNE 8

## NCJW

## Centennial celebration

5:30 p.m. Providence Marriott. National Council of Jewish Women 100th anniversary year celebratory evening. Cocktails followed by dinner. Guest speaker Nat'l President Phyllis Snyder. Distribution of A Goodly Heritage: A History of the R.I. Section of the NCJW. Contact Nan Levine, 351-8791 or Naley197@aol.com for information & reservations. \$100 minimum.

## FRI., JUNE 9

## Agudas Achim "Relay for Life"

6 p.m. Fri. to noon Sat., June 10. American Cancer Society relay of greater Attleboro. \$10 registration fee. Fri. night will include a Shabbat service and a picnic. For more information or to register, contact Susan Bradie, (508) 541-8552 or email sbradie@mindspring.com.

## SUN., JUNE 11

## Jewish Community Day School graduation

10:30 a.m. Temple Emanuel, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Eighth-grade graduation in the main sanctuary. Keynote speaker will be Rabbi Alvin Kaufman.

For information, call Meredith Einsohn, 863-1510.

## Chased Schel Amess meeting

11 a.m. Samuel Priest Memorial Chapel, Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Rd., Warwick. Annual meeting and election and installation of officers. Refreshments to follow.

## TUES., JUNE 13

## Community Day School presentation

7 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagan Ave., Cranston. Site committee open forum and panel discussion. Open to all interested persons. For more information, contact Meredith Einsohn at 863-1510 or meinsohn@jcdsri.org. See Community.

## MON., JUNE 19

## JCC golf tournament

Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk, 21st

## Jewish War Veterans to hold Memorial Day service

WARWICK — The Jewish War Veterans, Department of Rhode Island, will hold its annual Memorial Day service at Lincoln Park Cemetery on Sunday, May 28 at 11 a.m.

Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty will be the guest speaker at the event. The Jewish War Veterans will honor all the Jewish

annual charity golf tournament to support JCC scholarship fund. For more information, contact Lisa Mongeau 861-8800, or jccri.org/golf.

## SAT., JUNE 24

## 60th Classical High reunion

4:30 p.m. University Club, 219 Benefit St., Providence. Reunion of Classical High School Class of 1946. For more information, call Mel Zurier at 272-9571 or Pauline Denning at 781-479.

## SUN., JUNE 25

## Perspectives tennis tournament

1 p.m. at Hope High School, off Hope St. in Providence. For beginners or advanced players. Fans also invited. Snacks and soft drinks provided. \$5. Sign up by Fri., June 23 at noon to tavlin@jccri.org or call 861-8800, ext. 205.

veterans who have died since April, 2005.

Over 30 names will be inscribed on the Wall of Honor. A memorial bench will be dedicated to honor the past Department Commander Irving H. Levin.

The public is invited to attend.



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## TRAVEL

## Make kids Jewish sleuths in summer travels, day trips

By Larry Katz

"Summertime, and the living is easy..." and Jewish!

The song "Summertime" from Porgy and Bess has a Jewish connection; it was written by Jewish brothers, George and Ira Gershwin. Your summertime can have a Jewish connection, as well.

More meaningful and long lasting than anything learned from a teacher are the example and values imparted by parents to their children. Parents do not even have to be heavy-handed about important matters. In the normal course of life, there are many opportunities that can become teaching moments, including summertime activities. Just pointing out Jewish connections when you visit places can have an impact on children. This is one way of showing, in a casual manner, that you care.

If you decide to travel around New England this summer, there are a few options to consider. Obviously, in this column, you would expect a mention of the newly restored Touro Synagogue and the Jewish cemetery in Newport

(where you can read and reflect on Longfellow's poem). The National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass., is another option. However, there are many places that are not Jewish in nature that still hold Jewish significance.

### Shapiro House

You might visit the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, N.H. While there, be sure to stop at the Shapiro House. Not only can your children amaze others by reciting the alphabet, but you can learn about the challenges faced by a Jewish immigrant family a century ago.

Mystic Seaport is a popular spot in this area. Consider stopping by the fishing boat that rescued a couple of hundred Danish Jews from the Nazis.

For a break from shopping at Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market in Boston, you can stroll over to the nearby Holocaust Memorial.

If you visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, be sure to begin with the introductory film. Note Kennedy's comments in early 1950s as to why the Arab



SHAPIRO HOUSE in New Hampshire was the home of Abraham and Shiva Shapiro, Russian Jewish immigrants, and their American-born daughter Mollie, from 1909 to 1928. It is furnished and interpreted to 1919, to show how the Shapiros sought to balance their strong cultural identity with new opportunities in America.

world hates the U.S. Israel does not even come to his mind as a reason. You can also check out memorabilia of Jewish interest in the collection, including gifts of a Torah scroll, menorah and the papers of James P. Warburg, Theodore H. White, and Arthur J. Goldberg. Unfortunately, not all of these items are always on display.

Do you plan to visit a zoo? As you walk around, you could make a game of guessing which of the animals are mentioned in the Bible. Upon your return

home, you could check a book or website to see who was most correct.

### Biblical place names

As you pass through towns, notice their names. Compile a list of the towns with Biblical place names (Galilee, Jerusalem, Rehoboth, etc.). Perhaps you could photograph the family next to a commercial or public sign bearing the place name and prepare a bit of a scrapbook of such pictures.

Reading on the beach or in a hammock near a cabin is a favorite pastime in New England. You might consider including a book with Jewish content. Synagogue libraries and the Judaica shelves of bookstores have innumerable selec-

tions for summer reading. The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island can supply reading lists for any age.

Before you know it, "one of these mornings" will come when you start singing to the children that, "you'll spread your wings and take to the sky." While they are still with you, spend some summertime with them exploring in a fun and casual way some of the Jewish heritage that they can bump into.

Should you have your own favorites to share, please send them to Larry Katz, at LKatz@jberi.org.

Larry Katz is Asst. Exec. Director/ Educational Services at the Bureau of Jewish Education.

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# Boat or bike in Amsterdam, rich in Jewish history



Photo by Soriya Daniels

The author and her husband outside the Anne Frank House.

## By Soriya Daniels

Here is a geographic riddle that might just send you packing: What is one of Europe's most energetic cities, its terrain marked by 17th century canals and floating houseboats, home to a relatively small percentage of Jews despite its rich Jewish history, and lastly, it's a city where culture abounds and permissiveness pervades?

By now, you have probably guessed Amsterdam, the Dutch capital.

Before planning a visit to what the Dutch refer to as "Anne Frankhuis," you'll need to decide upon a mode of transportation. There are many options (but bear in mind that it rains on most days): on foot, by bicycle, canal boat (of which there are many to choose from), tram, or a combination of the above. Bicycles are by far the most popular choice by tourists and residents alike, adding another element of charm to an already charmed city. The city offers bike lanes, so that pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles don't accidentally mingle. If peddling is not your thing, information, maps and tickets for canal travel or trams can be obtained at Central Station, which is a short train ride from Amsterdam's airport.

While there are many organized cruises and canal buses to choose from, I recommend "Canal Bus" (Tel. 020-623-9886, www.canal.nl) due to its low cost and convenience. With 14 stops, visitors can hop on and off all day long and even until noon the next day for only 16 euros.

Package is also available that include museum passes. Pick up the Canal bus at the Central Station, and enjoy stops at many

sites of interest, such as The Rembrandt House, Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum, and the Waterlooplein, which is just a short walk from the Jewish Historical Museum (Joods Historisch Museum.) at the heart of the former Jewish Quarter of Amsterdam.

The museum, open daily from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., includes a permanent collection displaying the religion, culture and history of the Jews in the Netherlands. Admission is 6.50 euros, and the museum is easily accessible by tram and boat. The complex of buildings comprises four synagogues, which were painstakingly reconstructed following their

destruction during World War II. Once there, visit The Great Synagogue, which is the earliest recognizable synagogue in Western Europe. The museum serves as a cultural center for today's Jews living in Amsterdam, though only comprising a small fraction of its 120,000 pre-Holocaust Jewish population. Opposite the museum is the 17th-Century Portuguese Synagogue, which is still in use despite its lack of electricity. Shabbat services are held by candlelight.

Emanating from the corridors of the museum are pleasant sounds of Dutch families singing Hebrew songs to the tune of a guitar, with little Jewish children frolicking around. The museum also offers a bookshop, tours of the adjacent Jewish Quarter, and a kosher café which can be accessed separately without paying an entrance fee for the museum. While the food is all kosher, the café's kosher certification is limited because it is open on the Sabbath. There is also a Glat Kasher, Israeli-style meat restaurant around the corner from the Jewish Historical Museum, and the museum staff is happy to direct visitors to its doors.

Just outside the entrance to the Jewish Historical Museum is home to a bustling flea market at Waterlooplein, the site where the Jewish community once thrived.

## Beware pickpockets

While traveling from site to site, beware of the pickpockets, which are notorious in Amster-

dam for preying on tourists and the elderly.

The Anne Frank House is a 10-minute walk from Central Station on Prinsengracht in the western portion of the Canal Ring. In her now-famous diary, Anne Frank wrote about exciting modern-day visit to a vibrant, beautiful city, while also paying homage to a difficult past.

hardship. This house can only be visited by those with the ability to climb steep steps, for it is not handicapped accessible.

Despite its turbulent Jewish history, today's Amsterdam offers the Jewish traveler an exciting modern-day visit to a vibrant, beautiful city, while also paying homage to a difficult past.

*Soriya Daniels is a freelance writer who lives in Atlanta.*

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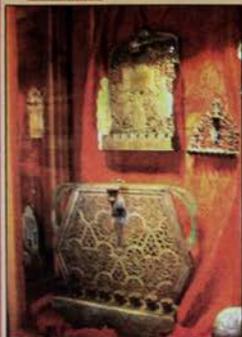
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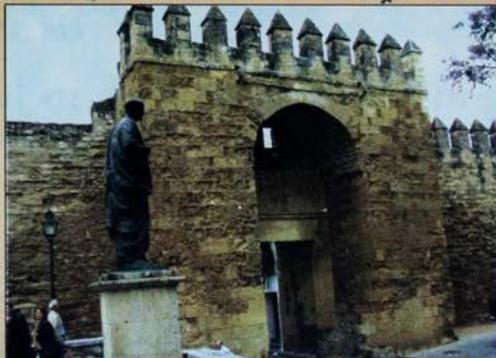
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## Travel

# Cordoba's Jewish past



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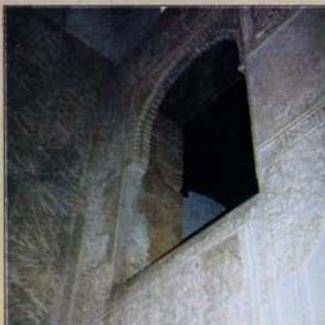


WROUGHT IN STONE — Above, turreted medieval walls surround the ancient city of Cordoba. Inside, along its cobbled and crooked streets, spectacular remnants of Moorish, Jewish and Christian cultures converge.



NATIVE SON — The plaque beneath this sculpture reads: "Ben Maimonides. Teologo, Filosofo, Medico" (Theologian, Philosopher, Doctor). It gives the places and years of his birth and death: "Cordoba 1135, El Cairo 1204."

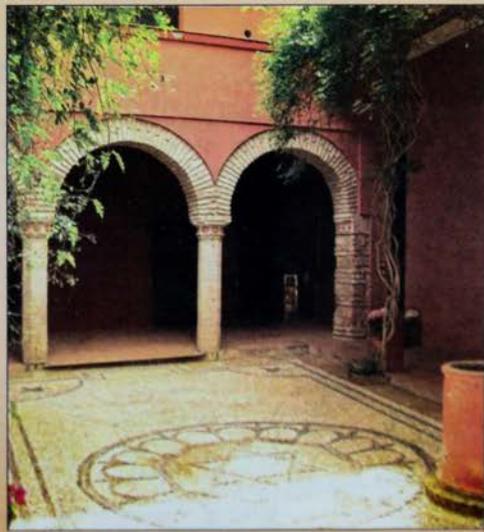
**L**A SINAGOGA — "La Sinagoga" in Cordoba is one of three extant medieval synagogues in Spain. An inscription on the ornately decorated walls of the sanctuary, which faces east toward Jerusalem, indicates it was built in 1315 (5075 in the Jewish calendar). Thought to be a private or family synagogue, it was hidden for hundreds of years and is the only medieval synagogue in Spain not adapted for other uses. A small stairway leads to the women's balcony. The arches are decorated with Hebrew inscriptions. Within the design of the plasterwork are stars, plants and Hebrew epigrams and numerical content yet to be deciphered.



Photos by Mary Korr



CASE DE SEFARAD — Above right, the Casa de Sefarad, the House of Memory, is located near the old synagogue. The former Sephardic dwelling is now a small museum which shows the daily life and accomplishments of Jews in pre-Inquisition Spain. Many were merchants; in the room, above left, garments threaded with silver and gold are on display.



## Project GOAL — a mitzvah multiplies

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — For Darius Shirzadi, Project GOAL, a combined soccer/academic program for disadvantaged youth held at the Nathan Bishop School, is a mitzvah.

The importance of performing mitzvot was taught to him as a boy by his grandparents, survivors of Nazi Germany, he says one afternoon on the soccer field behind the Jewish Community Center.

It's one good deed that has scored big. This year, several of the middle-schoolers in Project GOAL, an acronym for "Greater Opportunity for Athletes to Learn," have been accepted into prestigious private schools in the state — one with a full scholarship.

And this week, Shirzadi is meeting in Washington D.C. with a national soccer association, which may fund the team as a pilot project for inner city youth. He hopes this happens — he would like to expand the program, now in its second year, and hire staff. Expenses have run about \$30,000 a year for buses, uniforms, a tournament, and academic and administrative costs. When funding was cut in the first year of the program, a private donor came forth to show that one good mitzvah deserves another.

With Nathan Bishop sched-



Photo by Mary Korr

**DARIUS SHIRZADI**, second from right, stands with the Project GOAL team which meets Mondays and Fridays at the Nathan Bishop School and then on the field behind the Jewish Community Center.

uled to close next year, Shirzadi is worried about securing a site — he needs a school near a field the boys can walk to.

"It's not about soccer," explains co-founder Javier Centeno, a former player with the R.I. Stingrays. "It's about their future."

The boys, mostly from Central Falls, Pawtucket and East Providence, are in a tandem academic program at school. They meet 90 minutes in the classroom

before stepping onto the field; they have to keep their grades up to stay on the team.

On the sidelines of the field behind the JCC, on the kind of spring day when it's great to be young and kicking around a ball, Centeno poses a math riddle to sideliners. "Pick a number," he says, "now multiply that...." They try their best and some get it.

Meanwhile, on the field, the players are intense. "Yo nino, aqui... Arriba, arriba, arriba...

cross it!" Many of the players are originally from South America and a few are from Liberia, brought here by a church group.

Anders Kelto, a 2001 Brown grad and former soccer team player, shows up to help coach. He's also tutored the boys throughout the year. Next year, his premier soccer team will help out as well — with soccer skills and preparing for the SATs standardized tests private schools use for admissions.

Who: Darius Shirzadi

Soccer stats:

- Exec. Director, co-founder of an after-school academic and soccer program, Project GOAL. Partners with Central Falls and Providence school districts.
- Former director of Latino and Cape Verdean Community Affairs with the New England Revolution professional soccer team in Foxboro.
- Former general manager of R.I. Stingrays
- Coach in middle and high schools in Providence and Pawtucket
- College soccer team

In a testimonial to the program, Oretta Karfar, mother of Phillip and Wilfred Ghanyea, said, "Project GOAL helped my children to be more disciplined, to show respect, and treat everyone equally... it does not matter where you come from, you can make all your dreams come true..."

For more information on the program, visit [www.projectgoal.org](http://www.projectgoal.org), email [darius@projectgoal.org](mailto:darius@projectgoal.org) or call 258-2300.

## Arts & Crafts

### Shavuot pressed-flower Torah pin

Late springtime brings the holiday of Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, which recalls the giving of the Torah and the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. Decorating with seasonal flowers has developed as a Shavuot custom.

Early spring blossoms include pansies and azaleas. It is easy to dry press them in this special Shavuot Torah pin craft project.

Level: Easy to intermediate  
Materials: Pressed, dried flowers 4 inch by 4 inch cardboard square

Permanent colored markers  
Toothpicks  
Scissors

Tacky glue  
Imitation gemstones  
Clear acrylic sealer (spray or liquid)  
Pin back

#### Step-by-step:

Prepare flower blossoms. Pick them from the plants during the driest, warmest time of day, gently flatten, and place inside a folded paper. Place a heavy, flat object on top of the paper for several days. Remove each flower carefully, using tweezers or with a gentle touch. Use a toothpick to loosen any spots that may be stuck to the paper.

From cardboard, cut out the shape of an open Torah scroll, about 2 — 3 inches on each side.

Color the cardboard with markers.

Put a few dots of glue on the cardboard and spread to a thin film with your finger.

Gently place the flowers

into the glued area. When overlapping flowers, use a toothpick to apply extra small dots of glue to help the top layer stick.

Caution: Too much handling of the delicate petals may make them fall apart!

When the glue has dried, use a clear acrylic product to seal the flowers and cardboard.

Apply imitation gemstones to the tops and bottoms of the Torah rollers.

Glue a pin back onto the reverse side of the decorated Torah.

Thinking further: The practice of using flowers to decorate the synagogue on Shavuot represents the Torah being given to



the Israelites as a "wedding gift" from God at Mount Sinai (The Encyclopedia of Jewish Symbols, Frankel and Teutsch).

Find out more about the special meanings of, and uses for, flowers in connection with different celebrations and customs. Explore their use in different cultures and in literature.

Charlotte Sherr, a Foxboro resident, writes a regular Jewish holiday arts & crafts column for the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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## Food

# Picnic fixins' for Memorial Day

By Marylyn Graff

This can be a vegetarian picnic. Just leave out the chicken, and maybe add to the veggies.

These recipes can be made a few hours ahead and served at room temperature, except for the chicken wings, which should be grilled and served while still hot, or cooked and chilled for carrying to a picnic site.

1 tsp. herbs de Provence or other herbs of choice.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Light grill and heat. Place foil-wrapped garlic head on grill. Leave skins on and cut onions in half through centers. Brush liberally with olive oil and place on grill, skin side down. Cook until they begin to soften and brown and turn over. Cook until browned and cooled but still firm and remove from grill. When cool scoop out centers to make a shell. Chop centers.

At the same time, cut radicchio in half, oil and grill with onions until browned and tender. Chop.

Cut pepper in half, remove seeds and membrane and cook on grill skin side down until blackened. Put into paper bag for about 10 minutes to steam, and then remove blackened skin and dice.

Dice tomatoes.

Mix oil, lemon juice mustard and herbs in a jar and shake well. Unwrap garlic and squeeze out softened centers onto a small dish. Mash and add to dressing or directly to salad to your taste. (The garlic will be sweet & mild.)

Mix chopped and diced vegetables with cooked grain or lentils. Stir in dressing to taste (If any is left, save for another use.)

Season with salt and pepper.



Pile salad into onion shells. Sprinkle chopped scallions or chives.



*Grilled portobellos*

**4 large portobello caps**

Make an Italian vinaigrette of 3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar, 1 tsp. Dijon mustard, 1 tsp. chopped garlic, 1 tsp. each thyme, basil & rosemary or herbs of your choice.

Rinse mushrooms quickly in cold, running water and pat dry with paper towels, or brush off any loose dirt. Place in shallow dish and pour dressing over. Marinate for about an hour. Grill until a fork tender. Remove and cut into thick diagonal slices. These are delicate so handle with care.

(You can also use pre-liced portobellos from the market.)

Alternative — The portobellos are also good for stuffing. Before marinating & grilling, scrape out the gills with a teaspoon to make room for the stuffing

See PICNIC, next page



4-6 servings

**Grilled stuffed Vidalia onions**

4 large Vidalia onions

1 head radicchio

1 sweet red pepper

2 firm tomatoes, preferably plum

1 head garlic, top trimmed off, wrapped in foil

1/2 cup chopped flat leaf parsley

1 cup barley, bulgur or lentils, cooked according to package directions.

1/2 cup olive oil

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

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## How to plan a picnic

You've spent many a cold night gathered around the kitchen table, sipping soup. You've played board games huddled around the fireplace, guzzling hot chocolate. And you've rented just about every movie at the local video store. Such are the rituals of winter.

Well, it's finally getting warm out, and there is no better way to welcome the season than with a picnic where you're surrounded by the sight of trees and the sounds of birds.

When planning a picnic, the first thing you should do is pick a location. It can be anywhere you want it to be, but choose someplace with a scenic view that can enhance the experience. It should be someplace where you'll

be able to relax and have fun, like a park, the beach, a meadow, or even a rooftop.

Now it's time to plan the menu. Base it on how many mouths you have to feed and how much you can all carry to the picnic spot. (You can bring everything yourself or make it potluck and ask each guest to bring a dish.) Since you won't have a refrigerator outdoors, you'll need to bring a cooler.

When packing your food, line the bottom of the picnic basket with a towel or plastic wrap to absorb and contain any spills. (If you can't find a picnic basket, you can put everything in a picnic backpack, available at specialty stores.) Then put the

heavy stuff on the bottom and the lighter items on top.

Don't forget to bring along all the accessories. You'll need cups, plates, flatware, napkins and maybe even a bottle opener or corkscrew. Also pack some garbage bags so you'll have a place to toss your trash.

Think about other items you may want to bring to enhance the experience. How about a portable stereo to play some tunes (or maybe you'd rather let the chirping birds provide a harmonious background)? Don't forget insect repellent, a mesh tent, a fly screen, sunscreen, extra layers of clothing and a poncho, all of which can help you brave the outdoors and its elements.

Remember to bring along your camera to capture those special moments. That way, you can relive the experience when you are huddled in front of that fireplace on a cold winter's night.



A PICNIC is a great way to enjoy the outdoors.

## PICNIC

From page 18

### Chicken wings

4 lbs. chicken wings (About 1 lb per person, since these are mostly bone)

1 cup soy sauce

1 cup pineapple juice

1/2 cup white wine or white vermouth

2 or 3 cloves garlic, chopped

1/2 tsp. hot pepper flakes, if you like them a bit spicy

Rinse wings well and pat dry on paper towels. Cut off wing tips at the joint then separate the two parts at the center joint. Place in a large bowl or plastic bag and pour marinade over. If bowl, cover, if bag, tie. Refrigerate for at least 24 hours, moving around a couple of times so all are evenly coated.

### Strawberry tarts

This is a good way to carry dessert if you are picnicking away from home.

Use a muffin tin for large muffins. Line each section with a

paper muffin cup or with foil, by shaping pieces over the back, then fitting carefully inside. Leave the corners sticking up to facilitate removal of tarts. Fit a plain cookie into the bottom of each cup and line sides with ladyfingers.

1 qt. strawberries, washed and hulled. Shake off water and dry on paper towels. Cut up large ones and put all in a bowl.

1 eight oz. jar clear strawberry jelly

1/3 cup orange juice

Good squeeze of lemon

Melt jelly with orange juice and squeeze of lemon over low heat. Cool slightly.

Pour over berries and mix carefully to coat.

Spoon berries into muffin tins.

Melt a bar of white chocolate and drizzle a little over tops.

Chill and cover

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## Community/Providence

# Social isolation, not blindness, is his toughest hurdle

By Yehuda Lev

The answer to the question is "A van."

A second answer to the same question: "Someone to call occasionally to see how I'm doing."

And a third: "More opportunity for recreation."

The question, asked of Alan Temkin, was, "What can the Jewish community provide that would be of most help to you?"

Temkin is tall, muscular and looks a decade younger than his 53 years. He was born in Providence and had his bar mitzvah and confirmation at Temple Emanu-El. He graduated from Pawtucket West High School, was a camper at Camp JORI, obtained his bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology from Rhode Island College and his master's in Mental Health and Substance Abuse from Cambridge College. Then, while still in his 20s, Tem-

kin's retinas degenerated and over the course of several years he gradually became blind.

Temkin has an informal support group. Friends shop and run errands for him; he celebrated the first seder this Passover at the home of rela-

tives and shared in the second with some friends. He attends religious services at the Providence Chabad House to which one of the rabbis drives him four or five times a week. He used to attend most morning services at Temple Emanu-El, which required taking two buses very early in the day, but except for the High Holy Days he has stopped that; people, he said, just didn't seem to care

whether or not he was able to make the journey. Three years ago a friend introduced Temkin to Chabad and the ultra-Orthodox organization has since become his main contact with and source of support from the organized Jewish community.

Temkin regards himself as a Conservative Jew but he has no trouble in following the rapid pace of the Hebrew service at Chabad. He could, of course, do equally well at Emanu-El, but, he says, Chabad has become an important part of his life and he gets a warm feeling of interaction at their services. Temkin adds that one of the issues he has with the general Jewish community is a lack of interaction as, for example, he would like to receive a telephone call once a week from a Jewish organization to see if he is all right and if there is anything he needs.

Except for an uncle who invites him occasionally for lunch at Gregg's Restaurant, Temkin has minimal contact with his immediate family. A younger sister, who lives in Los Angeles, calls him on his birthday and his mother, also on the West Coast, telephones him every Friday. His father is no longer living.

There are financial resources available to Temkin, provided both by the government and the Jewish community. From the former he receives a monthly Social Security check that covers his rent, food and phone bill. His



ALAN TEMKIN lost his sight in his 20s.

apartment is subsidized by the state and federal governments and RIDE, the state-sponsored transportation system, provides him with bus service to medical appointments.

From the Jewish community he recently received from the Jewish Family Service pre-paid vouchers to purchase Passover foods at Stop and Shop. Temkin does not keep a kosher kitchen and one of his favorite eating places is a local Dunkin' Donuts where the women behind the counter already know his preferences; coffee, (sometimes tea

and a bagel with vegetable cream cheese.

Temkin is both willing and able to earn his living. He has had a series of positions with social service agencies counseling clients on family relationships, independence issues, loneliness and grieving. He has organized and facilitated men's discussion groups and worked with people interested in conflict resolution. His most recent assignment was at Oasis, a private agency in Wakefield, counseling clients who have mental health issues.

See TEMKIN, facing page

providence public library

## the library



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Nelson Henderson

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## Community/Providence

## NEW BEDFORD

## Pulitzer winning authors to speak in New Bedford

NEW BEDFORD - Justin Kaplan, prizewinning author, and Anne Bernays, author of eight best-selling novels and co-author of three non-fiction books, will present "Growing up Jewish in New York," at Congregation Tifereth Israel in New Bedford on Sunday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Kaplan won a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award for "Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain," and an American Book Award for "Walt Whitman: A Life."

The synagogue is located at 145 Brownell Ave. in New Bedford. The event is free and open to the public. A dessert reception will follow.

## TEMKIN

From page 20

Today Temkin is looking for a job working with "talking" computers which respond to voice commands. The state has an office which provides services for the blind and it is attempting to find him work in his field. A privately funded organization, Insight, is also looking for work suitable for him. Meanwhile Temkin has not held a job for four or five years.

It is not really possible for anyone who has not been sightless, to understand how different and how difficult it makes even life's most routine activities. Before total blindness set in, Temkin spent a week at a special rehabilitation center learning how to adjust to his new condition. But moving around, while it cannot be easy, pales as a problem compared to the social isolation that can accompany a loss of sight. One of Temkin's more serious complaints about the Rhode Island Jewish community is his certainty that there are no social programs for handicapped single Jews; he says that it has been five or six years since he last attended such a singles program and that one took place in Brookline.

One obvious question occurs: A generation familiar with the story of Helen Keller might wonder if Temkin has a guide dog or has learned Braille.

In each case the answer is no. He says that he can hear as well as any dog can and besides, dogs have to be walked, fed, washed and otherwise cared for. Reminded that dogs also offer companionship, Temkin says he has many friends who provide him with that. As to Braille, he says he tried to learn it, broke his wrist, and never continued with his lessons.

The *Voice and Herald* discussed these issues with Erin Minion, interim director of the Jewish Family Service and found that Temkin's feeling that the Jewish community does not meet his needs is in part, justified. Providing transportation for the disabled and the elderly has been a subject of much discussion among the Jewish communal agencies but every time the issue is raised it comes up against two unbreakable barriers, expense and scheduling. The cost of providing drivers and insurance, let alone the vans and their upkeep, is well beyond agency budgets. And scheduling would be a massive problem; Jews live throughout the state and have to be at many different places at many different times.

As for programs for disabled Jewish singles, Temkin is absolutely correct; they simply do not exist in Rhode Island. The third

## Students mark Yom Ha-Atzmaut

PROVIDENCE — Students of the New England Academy of Torah in conjunction with the school's Israeli emissaries from the Bureau of Jewish Education, coordinated a special program to celebrate Yom Ha-Atzmaut, the Israeli Independence Day.

The students used a "time machine" skit to illustrate the history and geography of Israel as well as the spiritual aspects of the holiday.



of his issues, being called on a regular basis to see if he is well or in need of something is more easily dealt with. The Jewish Family Service will find someone to call him weekly, or even daily if he wishes, to check on his condition and to provide a friendly voice from the outside.

Meanwhile, Alan Temkin hopes for a job, follows the Boston sports teams closely, and listens to classical music. He favors music for the trumpet and the flute. When he was young and sighted he played the drums but that was a lifetime ago and under very different circumstances.

*Yehuda Leo, a retired journalist, writes a regular opinion column for the Jewish Voice & Herald.*

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**FOCUS ON ISSUES**

**Gambling hits men and women differently**

(Part 2)

By Nancy Kirsch

When it comes to a roll of the dice or that final card in Texas Hold 'Em, there is an experiential gender gap taking place. Men who gamble are stimulated and pumped up by the experience, said Dr. Sheila Blume, an addictions expert at State University of New York at Stony Brook, especially in regard to the Jewish community. Male gamblers, she said, like to be noticed and seen, and it is all very social. Male compulsive gamblers often feel others have to work for a living, but not them. Gamblers are gambling and losing money, but they only remember the wins, even if the wins were three years ago.

Women, on the other hand,

**"Gambling is a terrible affliction, it's worse than smoking...We've seen clients who have lost \$300,000 to \$500,000 in a few months."**

— Bankruptcy attorney Russell Raskin

often gamble to avoid feeling depressed. "They play slot machines more as an escape," Blume said. "The quintessential compulsive female gambler is one who is lonely without many family members or friends nearby, whose husband may be away a lot. She may be isolated from society, and lack strong social skills or supports. With casinos readily available and legalized gambling advertised on television, for example, gambling is now more socially acceptable than in the past. Women are increasingly indulging in gambling. In the past, when it was illegal or only available at the horse races, women didn't gamble as much as they do today."

Agreeing with Blume, in part, is Henry Lesieur, Ph.D., a psychologist who treats patients with gambling problems through Rhode Island Hospital's gambling treatment program. "Those differences are less common in states with Video Lottery Terminals ("VLTs"), such as Rhode Island," said Lesieur. "So, here and in other such states, the gambling patterns of men and women are overlapping more, and both men and women now play to escape their problems. While the stereotypical Damon Runyon-esque man with a pinky ring gambling at the tables and the depressed woman playing at slots still exist, both men and women will use VLTs as escape mechanisms."

Lesieur said that he and Breen see a total of about 150 to 160 patients a year for gambling

problems.

Breen explained why seniors are yet another population, along with adolescents, at risk for gambling problems. "In our society, the elderly have become invisible, and the casino industry caters to that market. At the beginning of every month (after Social Security checks have been received), the Connecticut casinos offer free transportation to the elderly."

**The Jewish Ethicist**

The Business Ethics Center of Jerusalem website offers a Jewish perspective on gambling. Its "Jewish Ethicist" column explains the Talmud's two key problems with gambling. First, habitual gambling encourages a

careless, easy-come, easy-go attitude and approach about money which erodes values of conscientiousness. Second, gambling often takes advantage of unsophisticated or addicted individuals who falsely believe that they have a realistic chance of winning.

The Jewish Ethicist continues, "At a deeper level, a person should recognize that there is something fundamentally phony about gambling. Greed, an important motivation for economic activity, is a source for unethical behavior. Life's uncertainty encourages a 'more is better than less' attitude that may also stimulate unethical behavior."

**Express train to financial ruin**

Local attorneys have witnessed the havoc that gambling debts wreak on their clients. For example, David Sholes, with the Warwick-based Sholes & Sholes Law Firm, said, "I've not had Jewish clients file for bankruptcy (because of gambling problems), but some have maxed out their credit cards. When they gamble, they take cash advances against their credit cards and think they'll be able to pay back the cash advance from their winnings. Those who do win often don't have enough sense to leave. Those who don't may gamble away their savings and cash available on credit."

Emphasizing that he was speaking about his clients in general and not specifically about those who are Jewish, bankruptcy attorney Russell Raskin, with

**How to get help**

**Seniors gambling seminar  
June 2**

On June 2nd at Salve Regina University, there will be a day-long event on elder gambling. It is open to the public. Call 401-277-0721 for more information about the conference.

**Gamblers Anonymous**

The Rhode Island directory of Gamblers Anonymous ("GA") lists ten weekly GA meetings, typically held in churches. Literature indicates that, though there is a spiritual component to these 12 step groups, and an expectation that one will adhere to a belief in some Higher Power, there is no religious aspect to it. One's Higher Power might be the group itself or nature, for example. The Rhode Island GA Hotline is 886-6850.

**Jewish Family Service**

Though not equipped to handle addiction issues, they can provide referrals. Contact information is: 331-1244, jfs2@conversant.net.

**The National Association of Social Workers**

Their Rhode Island Chapter can refer those in need to a social worker specializing in addiction issues. Contact information is: 274-4940, rinasw@aol.com.

**The Rhode Island Council on Problem Gambling**

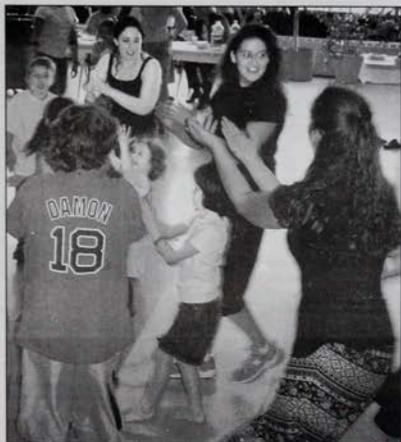
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Raskin & Berman in Providence, said, "We see a lot of gambling debts, divorces, bankruptcies, and more. Gambling is a terrible affliction, it's worse than smoking. I don't know why the gambling industry gets a free pass. We've seen clients who have lost \$300,000 to \$500,000 in a few months, just at VLTs."

Raskin said that most of the firm's Jewish clients represent business concerns. "While it's an accepted reality that we make a living from people who don't pay their bills, we're not in favor of putting a bottle in front of an alcoholic. In fact, a group of bankruptcy attorneys is considering forming a consortium to oppose casinos in Rhode Island."

Nancy Kirsch is a freelance writer in Providence. She can be reached at nkirsch@net.net.

## Community/Providence



STUDENTS AND TEACHERS try out some Israeli folk dances.



Photos by Jonathan Rubin

CASEY ROSE PARKER, 11, of Lincoln, plays Emma Lazarus in a performance piece about influential Jewish historical figures.

## Friday School holds end-of-year bash

PROVIDENCE — The Friday School closed its Hebrew school year with a bash. Students put on an educational ver-

sion of "American Idol," in which they presented colonial Jewish notables. Others told about their accomplishments on various

Jewish themes. The school held a pizza party / Israeli music festival at the Jewish Community Center in Providence.

## Holocaust Museum annual meeting

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum will be holding its annual meeting and installation of officers and board at the Jewish Community Center at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 5.

The speaker will be Artemis Joulowski III, the grandson of Providence native, the late

Martha Sharp and her husband, the late Reverend Waitstill Sharp, minister of the Unitarian church in Wellesley, Mass. The Sharps are being recognized by Yad Vashem as "Righteous Among the Nations" for their missions to Europe during the Holocaust to rescue Jewish and non-Jewish children from the Nazis.

Joulowski will relate the story of those missions and show an excerpt from a film being made about the heroism of his grandparents.

## Murder Mystery dinner show

PROVIDENCE — Perspectives director Tavlin Hogan will change identities to perform in "Meatballs, Meshuganahs and Murder!" a mystery dinner show to be presented on Thursday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. The show brings together two cultures, Jewish and Italian, with their similarities and differences, in a hilarious original performance.

Cost is \$30 per person. Contact Tavlin at [jccri.org](http://jccri.org) or call 861-8800, ext. 205 for location and to make reservations.

Reservations are required by Monday, May 29.

See Calendar for more Perspectives events in June.

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## Community/So. County

### CAMP JORI NEWS

## Beth-El spruces up camp

WAKEFIELD - On May 7, members of Temple Beth-El in Providence met at Camp JORI to fulfill a Mitzvah Day commitment. With good weather, 10 families raked, cleaned, collected rocks, dumped leaves and completed a general cleanup of one of JORI's main areas, and worked on building up a stone wall.

#### Match funds

Meet Your Match, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that matches donations to Jewish camps, helped Camp JORI raise \$15,000, allowing the camp to make renovations.

#### BBYO convention

During the weekend of April 28-30, Camp JORI hosted the regional B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) convention. Teens from all over New England, including several chapters from Rhode Island, enjoyed the early spring weather at the camp in Wakefield.

The members campaigned and elected officers. The group sang, celebrated Shabbat and enjoyed a Saturday night dance.

### Habonim softball

BARRINGTON — Temple Habonim of Barrington is fielding a softball team to join the Churches of Barrington co-ed softball league.

Men over the age of 30 and women over 16 who are interested in joining should contact Barry Newman at 247-1751.

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OUTGOING URI HILLEL BOARD PRESIDENT, Henry Winkelman, center, was presented a gift in honor of his years of service to the Hillel board at its annual meeting on May 15. Standing with Winkelman are URI Hillel Executive Director, Amy Olson, at left, and newly elected URI Hillel Board President, Barbara Sokoloff.

## URI Hillel elects officers, announces awards

KINGSTON — The Hillel Foundation at the University of Rhode Island recently elected the board of directors for the 2006-2007 academic year. Newly elected president is Barbara Sokoloff of Providence; vice presidents are Juel Plutkin of Peacedale and Anna Prager of South Kingstown; treasurer is Ron Freeman of West Warwick; secretary and Leslie Marks Hershey of Pawtucket; and the immediate past president is Henry Winkelman of Brookline, Mass. Student board president is Leah Schechtman of Barrington.

#### Awards

The Lawrence Hopfenberg Award: For a first year student who has demonstrated outstanding participation and leadership at Hillel, was awarded to Jessica Wolchok of Albany, N.Y. Jessica will serve as the social chair on Hillel's 2006-2007 student board.

The Peppi Silverstein Memorial Scholarship: For a URI student or students to attend a Hillel leadership conference, was awarded to Jessica Wolchok and Alina Zolotitskaya of Needham, Mass. Alina will serve as community service co-chair on Hillel's 2006-2007 Student Board.

The Ruth Brith Plantation Unit 5339 Award: For an outstanding student leader, was awarded to Alex Hershey of Pawtucket. Alex was president of the 2005-2006 Hillel Student Board.

The Bertram and Phyllis Brown Award: For the most active graduating senior, was awarded to Seth Finkle of Gloversville, N.Y. A theater major, Seth will attend graduate school in theater education at New York University in the fall.

The Joseph Block Award: For the most supportive board of directors member, was awarded to David Gitzlitz of South Kingstown. Gitzlitz is a professor of Spanish language and literature at URI and a lifetime member of the Hillel Board of Directors.

The Rabbi Benjamin Marcus Award: For the most supportive faculty or staff, was awarded to Louis Kirschenbaum of South Kingstown. Kirschenbaum is a professor of chemistry at URI and a lifetime member of the Hillel Board of Directors.

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Tema Gouse

It's a mess! I must add that I have used my hospital, my pharmacy, and numerous physicians over the past year and rate them all as top grade. That makes me unique, or at least fortunate,

in my selections. Basically, that is true. But they were my options ONLY if my HMO supplemental insurance approved of them. The one time I defied them to utilize a very respected specialist, who was not on their rostrum, I paid a costly price for it.

It is impossible to remain apolitical when evaluating the overall condition of how the powers-that-be have been derelict in overseeing health care in America today. And sadly, when they have intervened, things have often gotten worse rather than better.

The number of families and individuals in the richest nation in the world lacking health and pharmacy insurance increases monthly as employers cancel programs that were previously incorporated employment benefits. Lower-income families cannot afford to buy private plans.

Government subsidies for health care for the needy are reduced annually. This is planned again in the 2006 federal budget, in which cuts are also planned for hospital and physician compensation. An alternate proposal (from Guess Who) is that the uninsured should save their money and buy low cost (a.k.a. low level of care) health insurance. How they can

### The USA is the only developed nation without universal health care.

afford to save is never addressed.

We must address the government's latest bit of genius that affects senior citizens: the Medicare Rx program, which was touted as the solution to high-priced medications for their largest consumers, the elderly.

It was a great idea. Unfortunately, it came with as many problems as solutions. Enrolling is a nightmare. The legislation created such an incomprehensible program that many seniors gave up on enrollment because they did not understand the procedure. Many pensioners who had drug coverage from previous employers lost it the day the Rx program passed in Congress. Why should private employers pay premiums, when Uncle Sam wants to assume the responsibility (from OUR taxes, of course)?

Whoever dreamed up the plan that there be multiple private insurance companies (with multiple different premiums, benefits, and denials) from which to choose should be horsewhipped. There are benefits to competition, but aged individuals struggle to keep their affairs in order and most of us lack the sophistication to differentiate what is most beneficial for us.

Legislators boasted that special benefits for needy seniors would be effective immediately without enrollment requirements. The only thing wrong was that the computer that operates that program was "down" for several months.

As of mid-April more than one half of the Medicare eligible

have not enrolled in Medicare Rx. In general, physicians are so overloaded with the demands for justification on service to the elderly that many have decided to not participate in Medicare. Many pharmacists (who have been intermediaries and suffered the most abuse) have quit their jobs in drug stores and work in hospitals and clinics, so as not to be victimized by Rx.

Bottom line: Who is benefiting most? Easy answer. First (but not foremost) are the insurance companies who have revenue handed to them, with minimum effort and investment. But foremost is the pharmaceutical industry, which successfully lobbied that the legislation ban any negotiation on the prices of their products. Man — that's *Chutzpah!*

Now I will tell you a great story. Recently, after I enrolled in Rx, (yes, I spent my entire professional career in the health field, so I was able and stubborn enough to enroll) I went to get a new prescription filled. I was told that it was not covered by my plan and cost \$150 PER PILL. (I did not buy it.) Mind you, I did not have a life threatening illness. A substitute prescription answered the need and was on my list of approved drugs.

When my son heard the story, he went online and discovered that I could have ordered the pills from Canada for \$89 for TEN PILLS. Enough said.

The USA is the only developed nation without universal health care.

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My prescription is: eat and sleep well, and wash your hands frequently. And, if I survive, I will update you next year.

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

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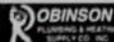
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## Obituaries

### Ruth (Baker) Arons, 88

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Ruth (Baker) Arons died May 4. She was the wife of the late Morris Arons. Born in Woonsocket, she was the daughter of the late Jack Baker and Sadie (Gertner) Schachter and the stepdaughter of the late Jacob Schachter.

She attended Central High School and was a long time resident of Providence and Cranston before moving to Boca Raton in 1985.

She was an assistant buyer of junior wear at the Outlet Co.

During World War II she served as a volunteer driver for the Red Cross Motor Corps.

Mrs. Arons was vice president of the Cranston chapter of the American Medical Center and a member of the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association.

She leaves a daughter, Barbara Arons Lewis and her husband, Donald, of Boca Raton, several nieces and a nephew. She was also the mother of the late Edward Arons.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Hospice by the Sea, 1531 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33486 or Hospice Care of RI.

### Michael E. Baron, 59

SEEKONK — Michael E. Baron, 59, died on May 5. He was the husband of Robin (Platt) Baron. Born in Taunton, Mass., a son of Robert Baron of Taunton and the late Janet (Fried) Baron, he had lived in Seekonk since 1985.

Mr. Baron was a graduate of York College in York, Pa.

He was the owner of the

former Baron Brothers Furniture in Taunton.

He belonged to Temple Beth-El in Providence and the Rotary Club of Taunton.

He loved sailing and spending time at the family home on Cape Cod.

Besides his wife and father, he leaves a son, Zachary Baron, and a daughter, Amanda Baron, both of Seekonk; a brother, Peter Baron of Duxbury, Mass; and a sister, Patti Baron of Tampa, Fla.

Contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.

### Lena Benlifer, 87

NEW BEDFORD — Lena Benlifer, 87, a former resident of New Bedford, died May 12. Born in New Bedford, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Meriam Modiano and lived there until 1997.

She graduated from New Bedford High School in 1937, worked as a practical nurse at St. Luke's Hospital and later worked in fashion and cosmetics in several area stores.

Mrs. Benlifer took great interest in the genealogy of her father's family, spoke several languages, and enjoyed playing the piano, gardening and traveling.

She was a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

She leaves two daughters, Marcia Divona of Tustin, Calif., and Arlene Mindus of Columbia, Md.; a daughter-in-law, Ginger Benlifer of South Salem, N.Y.; a brother, Jack Modiano of Cranston, two sisters, Rebecca Feld and Ruth Barash, both of New Bedford; six grandchildren: Katherine Russek of Tustin, Calif., Lisa Gotlieb of Lake Forest, Calif.,

Suzanne Shin of San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Jason Mindus of Redondo Beach, Calif., Brooke Benlifer of San Diego, Calif., and Adam Benlifer of New York City; and seven great-grandchildren. She was also the mother of the late Brian Benlifer and the sister of the late Janet Feld.

Contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 6th floor, New York, NY 10001.

### Louis Bilow, 93

EAST PROVIDENCE — Louis Bilow, 93, died May 16. He was the husband of the late Gertrude (Orleck) Bilow. Born in Russia, he was a son of the late David and Sheindel (Cohen) Bilow.

He was the co-owner of "Coffee An' Service" restaurant for 40 years, retiring in 1988.

Mr. Bilow was a member of Touro Fraternal Association.

He leaves a son, Jay Bilow and his wife, Sandra, of Rumford; and a daughter Sherry Dudek and her husband, Maurice, of Providence; three grandsons, David Dudek and David and Eric Bilow. He was the father of the late Sheldon Bilow and the brother of the late Jack Bilow and Miriam Tragar.

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

### William Gerstenblatt, 93

CRANSTON — William Gerstenblatt, 93, a retired attorney, died April 15. He was the husband of Frances (Bander-Priest) Gerstenblatt and the late Etta (Tobin) Gerstenblatt. Born in Providence, a son of the late David and Sarah Gerstenblatt, he was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

He was a graduate of Classical High School, Providence College and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Gerstenblatt practiced law for over half a century. He was a member of the Rhode Island and American Bar Associations, and the Providence College and Harvard Law School Alumni Associations.

He served as liquor control commissioner under Gov. Dennis J. Roberts.

A member of Temple Emanu-El, he was also active in the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Sheila R. Shaulson and her husband, Gerald, of Cranston; and Rayna P. Katz and her husband, Lester, of Florida; five grandchildren, David, Joseph and Samuel Shaulson, Mitchell Katz and Jill Ginsburg; and 10 great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Nathan and Raymond Gerstenblatt.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906; or Autism Speaks, 2 Park Ave., 11th Floor, New York, NY 10016.

### Leon Goldstein, 83

CRANSTON — Leon Goldstein, 83, died May 13. He was the husband of Evelyn (Block) Goldstein. They were married for 53 years. Born in Reading, Pa., he was the son of the late Abraham Irving and Gussie (Berson) Goldstein.

He lived in Cranston for 41 years.

Mr. Goldstein was president of the former Block Artists Materials Company for 40 years, retiring in 1994. He previously was a decorator with the former Roitman Furniture Company.

He was a World War II Army veteran serving in the European Theater.

He was a charter member of the East Greenwich

Art Club, a member of Temple Emanu-El and a former long-time member of Temple Am David.

He leaves a son, Marc Goldstein and his wife, Rhonda, of Warwick, and a daughter, Rena Goldstein of Cranston; two sisters, Dorothy Kravetz of Providence, and Elizabeth Lovett of Florida; three grandchildren, Daniel, Andrea and Maxwell. He was also the brother of the late Julius, Paul and Harold Goldstein and Anna Halsband.

Contributions may be made to R.I. Parkinson's Disease Association, P.O. Box 41659, Providence, RI 02940 or Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02903.

### Ruth Kimmel, 95

PROVIDENCE — Ruth Kimmel, 95, died May 6. She was the wife of the late Abraham "Al" Kimmel. Born in Odessa, Russia, a daughter of the late Isadore and Jennie (Gederman) Gershman, she had lived in Providence since 1923.

Mrs. Kimmel was the co-owner of The Gob Shop in Providence, for 25 years.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Kulanu, a life member of Hadassah and one of the founders of the Hadassah gift wrap project at Warwick Mall. She was an avid knitter and enjoyed traveling.

She had three brothers, George Gershman of Rutland, Mass., Edward Gershman of San Francisco, Calif., and Abraham Gershman of Providence; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews. She was also the sister of late Paul and Harry Gershman, Anna Gerson and Edith Matusow.

Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El.

See OBITUARIES, next page

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## OBITUARIES

From page 28

## Michael Jay Klar, 53

EAST PROVIDENCE — Michael Jay Klar, 53, died May 10. Born in Providence, a son of Arden B. and Harriet (Kosofsky) Klar of East Providence, he had lived in that city most of his life.

Mr. Klar was an insurance salesman for over 28 years and had the professional designations of C.L.U. and C.H.F.C.

He was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, class of 1974.

He leaves two brothers, Jeffrey and Brian, both of St. Louis, Mo.; two sisters, Lynn of East Providence and Joyce of Natick, Mass.; three nephews, Coby, Brandon and Aaron. He was the companion of Joanne Carnevale of Providence. Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

## Gabriel H. Lavay, 89

NORTH W KINGSTOWN — Gabriel H. Lavay, 89, died May 14. He was the husband of Sylvia (Margulies) Lavay. Born in New York City, a son of the late Isaac and Sarah (Hasson) Lavay, he had lived in North Kingstown for 41 years.

Mr. Lavay was the head of aircraft maintenance for the U.S. Navy at Quonset Point for three years. He had previously served in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. He also served his country during the Korean Conflict and Vietnam and many stations during his 28 years in the Navy, retiring in 1968.

He was a member of the Fleet Reserve Association, Disabled American Veterans, Nat'l Assoc. of Federal Employees, North Kingstown Senior Center, Cranston Senior Guild, Warwick Senior Centers, and the former Majestic Guild and was a former member of Temple Torah Yisra'el.

He leaves a son, Barry Lavay and his wife, Penny, of Cypress, Calif.; a brother, Manuel Lavay and a sister, Allegra Clementi, both of New York City; and two granddaughters, Nicole and Danielle. He was also the brother of the late Leon, Jack and Victor Lavay and Tina Feinberg. Contributions may be made to Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 42, P.O. Box 184, No. Kingstown, RI 02852.

## Beatrice Mossberg, 78

CRANSTON — Beatrice Mossberg, 78, died May 16. She was the wife of the late Irving Mossberg. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late William and Blanche (Abraams) Aron, she had lived in Cranston for 45 years.

Mrs. Mossberg was a graduate of the Roger Williams School of Nursing and received her anesthetist training at Yale Hospital.

She was a registered nurse anesthetist at Rhode Island Hospital for 38 years, retiring in 1989.

She leaves a son, Paul Mossberg of Cranston and a daughter, Rose Malkin, and her husband, David, of Providence; three brothers, Samuel Aron of Cranston, Edward Aron of Providence, Donald Aron of Florida; and two grandchildren, Sam and Jack Malkin. She was the sister of the late Jerry and Sylvia Aron.

Contributions may be made to the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

## Joseph Silberman, 89

WARWICK — Joseph Silberman, 89, died May 14. He was the husband of the late Bertha (Gordon) Silberman. Born in Boston, he was a son of the late Frank and Rose (Wenetsky) Silberman.

Mr. Silberman was a salesman for Continental Baking, Pawtucket, retiring in 1976. He then became a postal clerk in Warwick, retiring in 1986.

He was a World War II Army veteran serving in the Pacific Theater.

He leaves a son, Gerald Silberman, and a daughter, Arlene Silberman, both of Warwick; two sisters, Ruth Diatri of Warwick and Jeanette Roth of Cape Cod; two granddaughters, Kristin and Lori; and a longtime companion, Sally Spencer. He was also the brother of the late Sumner Silberman.

Contributions may be made to The Miriam Hospital.

## Ruth Silberman, 90

WARWICK — Ruth Tenenbaum Silberman, 90, a former social worker, died May 16.

She was the wife of the late Howard D. Silberman. They lived in East Greenwich and Warwick for nearly 60 years. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of Samuel and Sophia Tenenbaum.

She was a graduate of Classical High School, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Penn State College (Class of 1936), and earned a master's of social work from Smith College in 1938.

For eight years Mrs. Silberman was the intake supervisor and a social worker at the Sophia Little Home in Cranston, where she specialized in adoption. She moved to Jewish Family Service, continued her work with adoptions and became a clinical social worker specializing in issues and aspects of aging. She retired from Jewish Family Service in 1986.

She leaves two sons, Stephen of Washington, D.C., Fred of San Francisco; and two grandchildren, Leah and Nathan Silberman.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

## B'har/B'chukotai, Leviticus 25:1-27:34

The Torah: A Modern Commentary, pp. 946-970; Revised Edition, pp. 849-879

Haftarah, Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

The Torah: A Modern Commentary, pp. 1,006-1,008; Revised Edition, pp. 880-882

## Jubilee: A reminder of how the world can be

*"But the land must not be sold beyond reclaim, for the land is Mine; you are but strangers resident with Me. (Leviticus 25:23)"*

## Daniel E. Bridge

In the double Torah portion for this week, we read of the Sabbatical year (*Sénuat Shabbaton* or *Sémitab*). It tells us that one year in every seven the land must rest, just as God rested on the seventh day of Creation. Following this comes the description of the year of *yovel*, "jubilee," which begins on the tenth day of the seventh month of the forty-ninth year that ends seven Sabbatical-year cycles, and continues into the fiftieth year. During this year, all land reverts to its original owners, all Jewish servants find freedom, and all loans are cancelled.

We have no evidence that the *yovel* was actually ever practiced—it would have been an administrative nightmare. It's an ideal that we're told to aspire to. Why? Because "the

land must not be sold beyond reclaim, for the land is Mine; you are but strangers resident with Me" (Leviticus 25:23).

The text tells us that we are only guests in God's world, something we too often forget. It's easy to get caught up in thinking that the more money, property, and power we can collect, the greater we are. Like the builders of the Tower of Babel who tried to top God in the heavens, we have tried to take God's place through acquisition. There's little wonder that in such a materialistic culture there is a popular phrase that encapsulates this notion: "The one who dies with the most, wins."

In the *haftarah* of *B'chukotai*, Jeremiah warns that we will be cursed if we place our trust primarily in human desires (Jeremiah, 17:5-7). The *yovel* helps

us recognize that our attempt to feed our egos through the pursuit of material goods is truly idolatrous. It reminds us that regardless of our material wealth, we should behave as God's guests in this world. Therefore we would do well to show more humility and act as if nothing on earth actually belongs to us or to our offspring.

The year of *yovel* offers a profound message of hope for our future. It can help us put life in perspective, releasing us (at least to an extent,) from the worship of "things," and freeing us to move to a higher spiritual level by sharing the gifts we've been given. Although the *yovel* might never have been carried out, it is no theoretical challenge. Rather it can be seen as an active call to share our gifts according to our tradition.

## Hebrew Day School plans annual dinner

PROVIDENCE — Providence Hebrew Day School's annual Amudim dinner will be held on Sunday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Providence Hebrew Day School.

This year the school will be paying tribute to Samuel and Rosalyn Shafner of Sharon, Mass., and to Dr. Morris Keller and to the memory of his late wife, Rebecca.

The Amudim Award will be given to the Shafners, who have four children who graduated from the school. The Shafners' involvement in PHDS/NEAT spans many years. He served as counsel for the school on many occasions and served on the executive board. She volunteered and spearheaded many projects for the school.

The Founders Award will be given to the Kellers for their decades of outstanding commitment to PHDS/NEAT. They were among the first families to move to the East Side of Providence and were among the founders of the school. Dr. Keller's selfless and unfailing generosity to the community and to the school and

Mrs. Keller's years of devotion to building and maintaining the school from its inception, make them worthy candidates for the Founders Award.

The awards program will also feature the PHDS band and a

special presentation entitled "An Education That Lasts A Lifetime."

The dinner is open to the public. For reservations or information, call the school at 331-5327.

## JCDS plans annual meeting

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island will be having its first annual meeting on Tuesday, June 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Brown Hillel.

The event will include the announcement of the JCDS staff for 2006-07, a special Kol HaKavod for the community partners and volunteers, and the presentation of Educational

Excellence.

The guest speaker will be Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE).

A dessert reception will follow the meeting.

Brown Hillel is at 30 Brown St. in Providence. For more information, call Meredith Einsohn at 863-1510.

## Unveiling notice

The unveiling of Samuel L. Wik, formally of Providence, will take place on Monday, May 29th at 11 a.m. at Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick. Family & friends are welcome.

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What are you most proud of? Personally and professionally?

Personally, I am most proud of the four children that my wife, Amy, and I have raised. Professionally, I am most proud of the people who work for my other family at LGC&D. Our firm recently received the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility in the Greater Providence area.

What is your professional background?

I became a Certified Public Accountant in 1974. I received my designation as a Personal Financial Specialist from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in 1988.

What's a great day in the office? Out of the office?

A great day in the office is meeting with clients and helping them achieve their financial life goals. Out of the office, I get the most pleasure from watching my children grow to be mature young adults.

What are your ties in the Jewish community?

I currently serve on the Board, Executive Committee and Finance committee of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. I also am the chair of the membership committee of Temple Emanu-El. I am a past president of the Jewish Family Service, vice president of Temple Emanu-El and board member of the Jewish Seniors Agency.

Nancy Kirsch is a freelance writer in Providence.



Jerrold Dorfman

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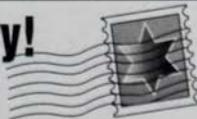
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From page 1

## Groups plan Jewish center in So. County

County Jewish Collaborative (SCJC) represents the interests of the two parties, and has created plans to meet the needs of both, and the general community as well.

The location is a good one — it's right next to a lake, and a bike path, with easy access to Route 1.

From the outside, the proposed new Congregation Beth David looks more like a lodge or a community center than a synagogue, with wood paneling and slanted roofs. Inside, it contains about 5,000 square feet with a 400-person sanctuary, numerous classrooms and offices, a social hall and both meat and dairy kitchens.

Designers see the building as a resource for the whole community, and if it takes off as expected, there is room for expansion. They envision education for young children, an area for teens, and facilities that can bring meals to the elderly as well.

"This is a home run," said Richard Winkler, president of the SCJC. He said the need has been identified for a long time, and he's building on the work of previous leaders to create a single place for Jews of all ages.

The new building will also benefit from the recent closing of Congregation Shaare Tzedek, in South Providence. The synagogue donated many of its handsome mahogany pews and a large Ten Commandments plaque to Beth David.

### Growth

The Jewish community in Southern Rhode Island has been sparse for many years, having been chiefly a summer community. Starting around 15 years ago, organizers say, incoming faculty at the University of Rhode Island began forming a year-round Jewish population. The current synagogue, which was built in the 1960s, has grown considerably since the mid-90s, recent demographic studies have confirmed the fact that the number of Jewish households in the area has been growing, and the trend is expected to continue.

Most synagogues do not actively recruit from the South County area, project coordinators said, but Temple Torat Yisrael's decision to explore a possible move to East Greenwich could provide some unlooked-for competition.

As it currently stands, Congregation Beth David is basically a one-room synagogue. There is little room to hold a *hidush* or luncheon, or a *Bat/Bat Mitzvah*. The synagogue board pledged to sell its building when the time came, form an endowment for the new building, and to assist in the fundraising. The Hebrew School will bring in its student population and its principal, Ethan Adler, who also is the spiritual leader at Beth David.

### Challenges

These days, whenever an ambitious project is announced, the question immediately following is, "OK, but how are you going to pay for it?"

"It's going to be a challenge, but I like challenges," Winkler says.

He and others say that the money is there, but an amount has not been earmarked for the project.

Winkler said he is putting together a fundraising plan for the project, and expects to start the serious work by early next year.

The other question is: Will Jewish families join? The population may be a tough one to engage — it is decentralized, largely unengaged by outreach efforts and historically has had access to few Jewish institutions.

Only 8 percent of Jews in South County are members of Jewish organizations, and only 39 percent feel like a part of the Jewish community at all, the lowest level in the state. The intermarriage rate in South County is 54 percent, higher than most areas in Rhode Island.

Another challenge has been that since many Jews in the area go to services only once or twice a year, they are reluctant to pay for synagogue membership.

"People sometimes escape even our very low dues by going to free Hillel services at URI," said congregant Morris Levin.

But because the need is so apparent, and the area's only synagogue is widely agreed to be inadequate, Winkler is still optimistic.

"Without support, however, this project will not happen," he said.

## Civil suit filed against Am David

From page 1

In response to the suit, Ron Freeman, immediate past president of Am David, issued a statement last week that read, in part: "In August of 2000, Temple Am David of Warwick, R.I., terminated the employment of Stanley Rosenfeld, after his arrest on criminal charges..."

On Wednesday, Paul M. Feinstein, past president of Am David and a board member, issued a further response. He said, "Temple Am David had no knowledge of any allegations of misconduct concerning Stanley Rosenfeld at the time he was hired. All references consulted were extremely positive. It is also important to note that many of those involved in the hiring process did themselves have children in the Hebrew School and in the Bnei mitzvah preparation classes."

He also said the temple continued to provide support services "to the plaintiff child and his family throughout the period of the criminal prosecution and beyond. The child continued his studies and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah and his immediate and extended family has remained members of the congregation."

On Wednesday, Rabbi Alan Flam, president of the R.I. Board of Rabbis, responded to the suit as well.

"The R.I. Board of Rabbis was deeply saddened to learn of the legal proceedings against Temple Am David in Warwick... The Board of Rabbis and the entire Jewish community are very much aware of the issues that surround clergy abuse and have worked very hard to see to it that all congregations and their families are safe."

He noted that in December 2000, four months after the dismissal of Rosenfeld, Cantor Richard Perlman was hired as spiritual leader and education director at Am David. "Cantor Perlman is a respected and effective community leader. Under his leadership, Temple Am David has been steadily growing, and the congregation has developed a reputation as a caring, safe, warm and friendly community."

He further stated that "all the temples and synagogues in R.I. and southeastern Massachusetts consider the spiritual, emotional and physical health of its members and, indeed, the entire Jewish community, to be their highest priority, and have developed policies and procedures to ensure that this is the case."

### Rosenfeld, wife, others named in suit

In addition to Temple Am David, the suit also named Rosen-

feld, his wife, Ann Lea Adler — also a former employee at Am David, hired in 1998 as a religious school instructor — and as yet unnamed defendants, referred to in the suit as "John/Jane Does 1-20" and "XYZ Corporations 1-20."

In reference to Adler, the suit alleges negligence, stating she should have informed the temple of her husband's proclivities and propensities but failed to do so.

In reference to the unidentified defendants, the suit alleges they "engaged Rosenfeld as a teacher... and failed to appropriately report his misconduct."

### Background

According to a Providence Journal report in 2001, Rosenfeld worked in the public school system in New York for 20 years, as well as in a Jewish academy, before he came to Rhode Island.

A probation report of 11/01/01, filed with the suit last week, stated, "he (Rosenfeld) was asked if he had molested children while teaching in New York. Subject stated: 'There have been other incidents but I was never charged.'"

The same report also stated (Rosenfeld) has "acknowledged other victims within this state [R.I.] as well as victims in differ-

ent states..."

### Probation provisions

At his sentencing in 2001, the Court ordered Rosenfeld to have no contact with the victim, or with minors without supervision, and to undergo appropriate counseling. Several months after his conviction, Rosenfeld tried to secure permission to serve his probation in Israel, which was ultimately rejected by the Israeli consulate in New York City. Court papers show his probation officer was adamantly against him leaving, feeling he was at too high a risk of recidivism.

At one point, Rosenfeld violated his probation by "having contact with two other young boys," according to the press release issued by lawyer Conlon, and spent 18 months in prison.

### Worked elsewhere

Rosenfeld also taught for a brief time, less than a year, at Temple Sinai in Cranston about a decade ago, said Rabbi Peter Stein, the temple's spiritual leader.

Bill McCarthy, head of the Jewish Community Day School in Providence, formerly the Alperin Schechter School, also confirmed that Rosenfeld had worked as a Judaic studies teacher

there from the spring of 1999 until early in the fall of 1999, when he resigned.

After Rosenfeld's arrest, the issue was addressed within the Schechter School community, McCarthy said.

He added when a teacher is hired today, personal references are checked and a criminal background check is done.

After his conviction, according to the complaint, Rosenfeld told his probation officer he went on the grounds of the Schechter School twice to return materials; the school was then duly informed.

The complaint also shows Rosenfeld daily attended a synagogue in Pawtucket. Probation called the rabbi when Rosenfeld made some disturbing remarks about children there. The rabbi responded with concern and said he would ask him (Rosenfeld) not to attend services on Saturdays when children were present.

Rosenfeld, of Hillside Ave., Providence, is listed on the R.I. Parole Board's website ([www.paroleboard.ri.gov](http://www.paroleboard.ri.gov)) as one of 22 high-risk sex offenders. "The site, with his photo, describes him as being 5 ft. 9 in., at 240 pounds, with gray hair and hazel eyes.

# PEOPLE

## RIC honors Dr. Aronson

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island College presented **Dr. Stanley Aronson** with an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at its 152<sup>nd</sup> commencement for advanced degrees on May 20. Dr. Aronson delivered the commencement address.

Brown University Dean of Medicine Emeritus Stanley Maynard Aronson, M.D., founding dean of the university's medical school, is a physician, educator, historian and the author of more than 400 publications including books, scientific and medical articles and texts, and essays published for local readership. He has served on the editorial boards of several professional journals.

Born in New York City, Dr. Aronson was educated at the City College of New York, New York University College of Medicine, and Harvard University School of Public Health. His hospital training included several major New York hospitals and the Armed Services Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C.

He has served on the faculties of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; the Downstate Medical Center of the State University of New York; and the Brown University Medical School, and as a visiting professor and adjunct faculty at institutions in the United States and around the world.

His professional associations include the American Academy of Neurology, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy, the International Society of Neuro-pathology, the Rhode Island Medical Society, the Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Deans, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Foundation for Neuromuscular Diseases, the Committee to combat Huntington's Disease, the Medical Advisory Committee of Planned Parenthood of R.I., the National Tay Sachs and Allied Diseases Association, and others.

His community service comprises numerous board and corporation memberships, trusteeships and leadership in such bodies as Butler and Women and Infants Hospitals, Hospice Care of R.I., the Jewish Federation of R.I., Interfaith Health Care Ministries and more.

Dr. Aronson's extensive service has also been recognized with numerous awards and honors. Among them are the Rhode Island Medical Society's Charles Hill Award, the Sturgis award of the Hospital Association of R.I., the American Heart Association's John H. Chafce Award, and the Founder's award of Hospice Care of R.I. He is a member of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and holds an honorary doctorate from Tougaloo College of Mississippi.



Stanley Aronson M.D.



Joshua Zucker

## Local gymnast is gold medalist

BARRINGTON — **Joshua Zucker**, a sixth grader at Barrington Middle School and member of Temple Hahonim, won the gold medal in All-Around Level 7 gymnastics at the Regional Championships of New England.

Zucker, who came in third place at the Massachusetts State Meet, just 0.05 of a point between the two boys who tied for the gold medal, won first place in the championship, finishing with three gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the series of events.

Zucker is a member of the East Bay Gymnastics Team.

## Dr. Fine receives Crossroads award

PROVIDENCE — **Dr. Michael Fine**, a member of Temple Emanu-El, received the Dr. Sharon Zapko award for dedicated service to the Crossroads R.I. Health Center at its annual meeting April 27.

He is physician-in-chief of the Department of Family Community Medicine at the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals and a member of Crossroads board of directors.

Crossroads President Anne Nolan thanked him for the time and energy he dedicates to the center.

Sen. Elizabeth Roberts, also a member of the Crossroads Health Advisory Board, presented the award.

## Schoenberg's "Amidah" performed

**Bob Schoenberg's** musical composition, "Amidah," was recently performed by the Community College of R.I. (CCRI) Chamber Ensemble at the Warwick Campus, under the direction of Professor Cheri Markward.

The Amidah is a prayer that is said at almost every service.

Schoenberg composed this piece based on a melody that was sung by the late Cantor Jack Smith, who performed at Temple Torat Yisrael. The piece was dedicated to the memory of Cantor Smith and members of his family were in attendance.

Schoenberg, who plays French horn with the Chamber Ensemble, joined the ensemble at the performance.

## New associate director at Brown Hillel

**Jonathan Nierman**, a former business executive and Jewish professional, has been appointed associate director of Brown Hillel. He lives on the East Side of Providence with his wife and two children. He can be reached at [jonathan\\_nierman@brown.edu](mailto:jonathan_nierman@brown.edu).

## Send us your Simchas

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Dr. Michael Fine

## Hadassah presents leadership award

PROVIDENCE — **Betty Ann Israelit** of Providence was the recipient of the R. I. Chapter of Hadassah's National Leadership Award at its annual donor dinner. The citation pays tribute to members whose leadership accomplishments within Hadassah reflect the organization's dedication to the principles of the volunteer ethic.

Ms. Israelit is recognized among her colleagues as valuing the growth and evolution of the R.I. chapter and works toward that end.

## E. Kaunfer receives degree

NEW YORK, N.Y. — **Eliczer Kaunfer**, a former resident of Providence, received a master of arts degree from the Graduate School of The Jewish Theological Seminary at its 112th commencement on May 18.

## Birth

**Carol and Harris "Marc" Vederman** of Bethesda, Md., announce the birth of their daughter, Cecilia J., on April 25. She weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Cecilia is named in memory of her paternal great-grandmother, Cecilia Hyman and [Jlate.com](http://Jlate.com) where her parents met in 2003.

Paternal grandparents are Irwin and Susan Vederman of West Warwick and maternal grandparents are Alan and Toni Mason of Rockville, Md.

## SIMCHA



Cecilia J. Vederman

## SEND IN GRADUATION PHOTOS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Jewish Voice & Herald will publish graduation announcements and photographs of area students graduating from high school or college in its June 23rd edition.

E-mail color photo and announcement to [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org) by Friday, June 9.

Or send to: The Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906. Announcement should contain: student's name, town, name of school graduating from, name of college to attend or future place of employment, and honors received.

