

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

21 Tishri 5767

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September 29, 2006



RABBI NATAN GAMEDZE spoke in Providence earlier this month.

## From Swaziland to Jerusalem

By Daveeda Goldberg

PROVIDENCE — Rabbi Natan Gamedze speaks 14 languages, including his native Swazi, but Hebrew is the one that, as he says, "gets at the *isibheke* (innards)."

Besides his blazing intellect, Gamedze is unusual for other reasons — he's a black rabbi with an Oxford education and the descendant of African royalty.

"I know I am a curiosity," he told his audience at Brown Hillel. "I admit that there are many people who only listen to me because I'm black. I would say that's the avenue God chose; people are able to hear something which any Rabbi could have told them."

Gamedze spoke at Hillel September 14th and during a Shabbaton organized by the Providence Community Kollel.

See FROM SWAZILAND, page 14

## U.N. rally: 'Free soldiers'



Photo: Jacob Berkman/JTA

DEMONSTRATORS protest Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad across from the United Nations in New York on Sept. 20 in a rally organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. During the General Assembly meetings, peace in the Middle East was the central topic.

## At U.N., Quartet seeks unity gov't.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The call for a Palestinian national unity government has unified just about everyone except the Palestinians. After navigating sessions clouded over with vituperation and nuclear threat, leaders attending last week's U.N. General Assembly seized upon the faint prospect of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority president, co-opting the Hamas-led Cabinet and moderating its radical Islamist government.

"The world is waiting to see whether the Hamas government will follow through on its promises" of government reform "or pursue an extremist agenda," President Bush said

### NEWS ANALYSIS

in his address to the General Assembly on Sept. 19.

"And the world has sent a clear message to the leaders of Hamas: Serve the interests of the Palestinian people. Abandon terror, recognize Israel's right to exist, honor agreements and work for peace."

The message was startling only because just months ago there was little doubt that the world had waited long enough since Hamas' election in January for a reform platform. A sharp uptick in rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip on Israel's southern region and the June 25 cross-border raid in which

Hamas-affiliated gunmen killed two Israeli soldiers and captured another seemed to close the book on Hamas.

Then, there was little question that the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority would remain isolated and there was open talk in Washington of helping Abbas overthrow the separately elected P.A. Cabinet.

Three months later, the sudden war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iran's steadfast refusal to cede the prospects of a nuclear weapon transformed the prospect of a Gaza Strip collapsed into chaos into an intolerable threat.

The fear was apparent in the statement released last week from the Quartet — the grouping of the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union that guides the Middle East process.

"Taking stock of recent developments in the region, the Quartet stressed the urgent need to make progress towards a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," the statement said. "The Quartet expressed its concerns

## Fighting for green Israel

By Mary Korr  
[mkorr@fjri.org](mailto:mkorr@fjri.org)

PROVIDENCE — Alon Tal, Israel's leading champion of the environment, spoke at Brown Hillel recently; he read the eloquent plea of an earlier environmentalist, Yizhar Smilansky:

"There is no substitute for the ancient tree. He who uproots this tree destroys human roots. There is no building or electricity that is more important than a wide eucalyptus tree, an old sycamore, and a grove of oaks; they are the roots of humanity."

Tal was reading from his newly published work: "Speaking of Earth — Environmental Speeches that Moved the World."

Smilansky's words, spoken before the Knesset in 1962, convinced Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to create a national parks authority and a nature protection authority, rather than a single entity his party favored.

Tal was in Providence at the invitation of Daniel Orenstein, who initiated the Middle East Environmental Futures Project at the university. Speaking to members of the Brown and Jewish communities, Tal said lack of water is, and always

See GREENER ISRAEL, page 15



ALON TAL, Israel's leading environmentalist, spoke at Brown recently.

See QUARTET, page 12

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CHILDREN in native Ukrainian costume sing for Rhode Island visitors from the Jewish community.

### Experiencing Tzedakah

Jews from afar help boost local and Israel campaigns.

See FACES OF THE UKRAINE, pages 8 and 9.

As of Sept. 27, the Annual Community Campaign has reached \$841,804.

The Emergency Israel Campaign has raised \$889,615.

**SAT., SEPT. 30****Israeli and Palestinian advocates for peace**

3 p.m. Beneficent Congregational Church, 300 Weybosset St., Providence. Speakers: Dr. Nurit Peled-Elhanan, whose daughter was killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber, and Hanan Abu-Ghosh, whose brother was killed by an Israeli soldier, will discuss the impact of the Middle East crisis on Palestinian and Israeli societies. Both are members of Palestinian and Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace.

**SUN., OCT. 1  
Memory walk**

8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. walk begins at Roger Williams Park Zoo. EPOCH Assisted Living is looking for walkers to join its team for the three-mile walk. Free admission plus refreshments and snacks. EPOCH walkers will receive a T-shirt. For more information call EPOCH at 275-0682.

**WED., OCT. 4****Cranston Senior Guild**

1 p.m. Cranston Senior Guild will meet at Temple Torat

Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Atty. Gen. Patrick Lynch to speak. He is an advocate for senior citizens. Raffle and refreshments to follow.

**Hadassah:  
stories from Israel**

7—9:30 p.m. At the Temple, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, "Israel: Personal Perspectives," community panel with Rabbi Amy Levin, Nadia MacCabee, Elisa Silverstein Heath and Lorraine Rappoport. Co-sponsored by the CRC-JFRI and Temple Torat Yisrael. For more information, call Torat Yisrael at 785-1800 or

the Hadassah office at 463-3636.

**Klezmer & favorites of the Yiddish theater**

7—9 p.m. An evening with the Klezphronics. Learn about the music of the Eastern European Jews — with dancing and soulful melodies. Singer Amy Olson will perform favorites from the Yiddish theater putting her own spin on some classic songs. With special guest vocalist Janine Weissmann. At the Kinney Bungalow at Sunset Farm, 505 Point Judith Road, Narragansett. For more information call 783-8907.

**THURS., OCT. 5****Emanu-El screening "An Inconvenient Truth"**

7 p.m. in the temple vestry. The temple social action committee and Interfaith Power & Light are sponsoring the Al Gore film, Peter Shulman of MIT and Daniel Orenstein of the Coalition on the Environment & Jewish Life will hold discussions following the filming. Donation: \$2. Refreshments, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. For information, contact Rebecca Kislak rkislak@cox.net or the temple at 331-1616.

**MON., OCT. 9****JORI open house**

2 to 4 p.m. (weather permitting) at the camp, 1065 Worden's Pond Road. Camp tours will be provided, along with music, snacks and a variety of activities. The rain date will be Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 463-4170.

**TUES., OCT. 10****Storytime at Emanu-El**

10:30 — 11:30 a.m. at the temple. "How was the world created? A Simchat Torah program for kids up to age four and their parents. Assistance and ideas are always welcome. For more information contact Lisa or Eric Shorr at pct1@cox.net or the temple, 331-1616.

**'Jerusalem Women Speak'**

7 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 500 Hope St., Providence. The Jerusalem Women Speak tours with Ghada Ageel, Shireen Khamis, and Reli Mazali, three women of different faiths. Mazali is a Jewish Israeli who served with the Israeli military during the 1967 war. Ghada Ageel is a Muslim Palestinian who lives in Gaza; Shireen Khamis is a Christian Palestinian from Bethlehem. Sponsored by the Interfaith Peace Initiative.

**Sukkot celebration**

6 to 9 p.m. Chabad House, 360 Hope St., Providence. Brisk oven kosher pizza, falafel and hot soup. Children's performance at 6 p.m. with Shamar Yonki. Live music and dancing.

**THURS., OCT. 12****JFS annual meeting**

7:30 — 9 p.m. Jewish Family Service holding its annual meeting at The Osleon at Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. All are invited. Sponsored by Rosalie Fain, and the Keetenman Fund. Light refreshments. RSVP needed: to Sara Mavri, 331-1244, or saraf@jfsri.org.

**Brown Hillel speaker on "Jazz Age Jews"**

8 p.m. Edward P. Merwin, Asst. Prof. of Religion, Dickinson College. Program on Judaic studies: Jewish popular culture centering on the Lower East Side

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Marylyn Graff  
Production  
& Graphic Design  
Leah Camara  
Advertising  
Representative  
Frank Zasloff  
Copy Editor  
Gladys Soltosy  
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E-mail:  
voiceherald@jfi.org

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## CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

Sept. 29 6:11

Oct. 1 Yom Kippur 6:08

Oct. 6 Sukkot 5:59

Oct. 7 Sukkot After 7:04

# Dancing diplomats

## Learning each others dances — and culture

By Mary Korr

mkorr@jfi.org

PROVIDENCE — A group  
of dancers joined hands — and  
cultures — last week as they moved  
to the music of Israeli and Lebanese  
folk dances.

The group has been meeting for  
about a decade, said Maxine Rich-  
man, who co-founded it when she  
was the Jewish Federation's Com-  
munity Relations Council (CRC)  
chairperson. "The purpose of the  
group is to build trust," she said.

It's now led by CRC member  
Marilyn Rueschmeyer. "This year,  
with the war in Lebanon, has been  
difficult," she said last Monday  
night to about 20 women at the  
Jewish Community Center. "We  
are together here to promote peace  
and stability."

Nicole Gabriel Nasser belongs  
to a Lebanese church in Fall  
River. She and Rueschmeyer have  
become friends through the group  
— both share a passion to foster  
cross-cultural understanding.

She taught a Lebanese wed-  
ding dance, which went something  
like this: *Left foot, dip, two steps  
and walk. (Repeat twice, boot and  
boller).* One participant, in a uni-  
versal dance gesture, wildly waved  
a white handkerchief with her free  
hand.

Martha Khoury of Johnston  
observed from a chair — at 90, she  
did not feel up to the whirl; instead  
she spoke about Lebanon, where  
she lived in the 1930s.

"When I retired (after 31 years  
as a housekeeper at the Biltmore



AN ISRAELI — LEBANESE dance and discussion group met last week at the JCC.

Photos by Mary Korr

and nine years at Imperial  
Knife) I wanted to return to  
the kind of life I once lived in  
Lebanon," she began. "In the  
summer, we (her parents and  
siblings) would go up and live  
in the mountains in the north.  
We did farm work — I got used  
to that kind of life; it's not a  
rush like American society,"  
she said. "If my son and grand-  
children were not here, I would  
return."

Catherine Gergora is a  
member of the St. George  
Maronite Church in Pawtucket.  
"We are together tonight as sis-  
ters," she said. "We have simi-  
lar cultures. We all have one  
God."

"We are both Semitic peo-  
ples," said Anne Badway. "We  
are not Arabs; we speak Arabic,  
but we are Lebanese."

She was born in Beirut,  
where Christianity was estab-  
lished by missionaries, she  
said. "There's also a synagogue  
in Beirut," another participant



MARTHA KHOURY, at 90, sat out the line dance.

added. "But the Christians, like  
the Jews, are the minority in the  
Middle East."

"Is it true some Jews in Israel  
are treated like second-class citi-  
zens?" a woman asked during the  
discussion period that followed.

"This is an issue openly dis-  
cussed in Israel; the country  
is trying to address it," Merry

Drench said; she then asked  
when Lebanon became indepen-  
dent (1943) and a history lesson  
ensued about the Syrians, the  
Ottoman Empire and British  
Mandate.

The evening ended with a few  
hugs, a few new dance steps and a  
greater understanding of two dif-  
ferent, yet similar, cultures.



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## A MAJORITY OF ONE

*The Pope, Islam and the 6 o'clock news*

Like any good citizen I have had my share of brushes with death from Rhode Island drivers, Halloween ghosts and service in two armies, among other risky activities. But I wonder if Pope Benedict XVI ever imagined the violent reaction he set off among some Muslims when he quoted that famous 14th-century master of the sound-bite, Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Palaeologus who, in 1391, said:



**Yehuda  
Lev**

"Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

Not that the Muslims thought any better of the infidels. From the Koran, Sura 98:51:

"The unbelievers among the People of the Book and the pagans shall burn forever in the fire of hell. They are the vilest of all creatures."

Not to mention a much-quoted Christian approach to unbelievers from Matthew: 10:

"And Jesus said: 'Do not think that I came to cast peace upon the earth; I did not come to bring peace but a sword.'"

We Jews too, have taken matters into our own hands when it came to dealing with our enemies. From 1 Samuel 27: 7-8:

"And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: And

**It must have come as quite a shock to Benedict XVI to learn that quoting the late Byzantine Emperor could arouse such passionate fury.**

David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive."

And we haven't even mentioned the ten plagues. Could it be that only Muslims take so seriously slurs on their religion? It must have come as quite a shock to Benedict XVI to learn that quoting the late Byzantine Emperor could arouse such passionate fury. And as for his "apology," he never said "I apologize for saying what I did" but "I'm sorry that it so upset you." Maybe a skill at wordplay is what it takes to become a pope.

I know what you are thinking. This is typical, wishy-washy, liberal even-handedness. On the one hand this, on the other hand that. Judging by the above, when it comes to equal opportunity hatred of the other, Muslims, Christians and Jews are apparently all alike.

Well, yes and no. I suggest that in two respects there are important differences. First, Muslims seem more likely to react with violence to perceived insults. Second, Christians and Jews seem more likely to use that reaction to stereotype the other. Regarding the first, just open your daily newspaper. Between reports of rioting about the Pope and the Danish cartoons, and the mere existence of Israel, there is scarcely room for the important stories of the day such as who will win

the playoffs, both baseball and political.

The second difference is perhaps the key to understanding from whence the Muslims are coming. There is an assumption by many of us that the sometimes tragically effective attempts at retribution by a small number of Muslim fanatics, are carried out with the approval of the entire Muslim world. We resent it when Muslims claim that a small number of Jewish neocons are evidence of Jewish control of the United States government but we fight such misperceptions through our defense agencies. And Christians certainly resent being linked for all time to the Crusades (although our president's helping to them in denouncing Al-Qaeda was certainly no help in this regard). But we refer casually to "the Muslim world" as if it were a single entity and only occasionally remind ourselves that most Muslims do not support such extremism and that more Muslims are slaughtered by other Muslims, (Sudan and Iraq come to mind), than are western imperialists, infidels, crusaders, Zionists and other unworthy types.

We know how we react to assumptions that the Jews are a united people. The goal may be admirable but the reality is laughable. We tend to regard those who believe this as ignorant of the facts of Jewish life so in turn we ignore what else they have to say. It may be a more sensible response than blowing up mosques and ransacking churches but it rarely makes the six-o'clock news. And making the six-o'clock news and the front page of the daily newspaper is what this is really all about.

*Yehuda Lev is a retired journalist who has worked in Israel, Europe and the United States.*

## EDITORIAL

**Honoring a life by a lifesaving gift**

Maimonides spoke of how the preservation of a single human life is equivalent to saving the entire world. While saving the entire world may seem out of the realm of possibility for many of us, it is within our grasp to save a life.

In recent months, one of our editorial board members has been going through a battle with cancer. We have all been amazed by his strength and spirit, even through the most difficult times. After getting our most recent update on his health, we began to discuss how we, as a newspaper, could show how we are thinking about him. We felt that a fitting way to do this would be to do something that we do best — inform the public about how a gift that any one of us can make can save a life.

There are many donations that we can make that could ultimately end up saving a life. You can call your local blood center about making a donation. In less than one hour, you can save three lives. According to the American Red Cross, fewer than five percent of individuals who are eligible to give actually donate blood. The need for blood and blood products increases each year and the number of donors has not increased correspondingly.

You can register to be a bone marrow donor and, although the actual donation is a surgical procedure, it is one with minimal risk. You can donate an infant's cord blood, a procedure which poses no risk for the mother or baby. Lastly, you can sign up to be an organ donor and potentially save over half a dozen people. Although you may never meet the person or people you help, know that your generosity would help someone's parent, grandparent, child or friend and that someone else's generous spirit could help a family member or friend of yours.

All of our lives, we are taught about the importance of giving, whether that gift benefits an organization, an individual or an entire community. There is a quote from the author, Maya Angelou, which says, "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." Anyone who has given a gift can attest to the validity of this statement; that to give is better than to receive. We ask that you consider making the most significant gift you can make — the gift of life.

**Letter to the Editor****Check the facts before blaming Israel**

George Waterston's letter "Blame Palestinian Plight on Israel" printed in the Providence Journal on Aug. 7 misstates two essential points of the recent history of the Middle East — points that speak directly to the validity of his case against Israel. First, he claims that "Israel took over 78 percent of Palestine." The fact is that Israel "took over" that which was assigned to it by the United Nations General Assembly partition plan (Resolution 181). The percentage Mr. Waterston cites is based on a very narrow definition of Palestine. Historic Palestine, as defined by the League of Nations and placed under British Mandate beginning in 1921, included not just what we now call Israel and the West Bank but also a large swath of land extending far east of the Jordan River. This area, then called Transjordan, comprising about 70-75 percent of historic Palestine, was declared off-limits to Jews in 1921. Hence the Jewish state authorized by the UN Resolution comprised far less than "78 percent of Palestine."

Mr. Waterston further states that "In 1948, after Partition, Zionist militias and the Israeli Defense Force drove

750,000 indigenous non-Jews off their lands..." In fact, immediately after Israel's declaration of statehood — based on the aforesaid UN Resolution — armies of the surrounding Arab nations (which were far larger and better equipped than Israeli forces) invaded the fledgling Jewish state. In the course of this war, large numbers of Arabs did leave. Some were fleeing the fighting; many fled at the behest of their own leaders seeking to manipulate the situation for their own political and territorial aspirations. War has always created refugees; this war — started by the five Arab nations' invasion of Israel — did no less. Were some driven out by advancing Jewish forces? Sure they were. Again, that is something that happens when aggressors invade another country.

Mr. Waterston is entitled to question and criticize policies of Israel in her struggle against Islamist terrorists publicly sworn to destroy her. Many Jews, in fact, do so. But an accurate rendering of historical context is necessary to lend credibility to such arguments.

**Alan Axelrod  
Warwick**

**Submission Guidelines**

Submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or e-mail to: voiceherald@jvh.org.

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

## Rabbis forget Egyptian bondage, wimp out on labor laws

**R**eturning from shul on the first day of Rosh Hashanah I was happy to see that my copy of *The Forward* had arrived in the mail. After lunch, my stomach full, my spirits high, I perused the front page and saw a story about "Top rabbis of Conservative Judaism" who promoted a plan to encourage women to go to the mikveh. "Very nice," I said to myself, totally useless, but very nice. Women who already go to the *mikveh* will continue to do so and those who don't, still won't.

But then, just below this courageously ground breaking legislation I read that "In a separate vote, the committee failed to pass an opinion requiring Jewish business owners to pay hourly workers a living wage and, when possible, to hire union workers." I glanced at the date of the paper. Maybe this was an early or a late April Fools' Day joke or an early or late Purim edition. But no, it was the September 22 edition. I read further.

Of the 25 members of the Jewish Law and Standards committee, only three rabbis voted that workers employed by Jews should get a living wage, 10 abstained; seven voted against and five were absent. The principal opponent of the resolution seemed to have been one Paul Plotkin, described (I hope erroneously) as religious leader of Margate, Florida's Temple Beth Am. The proposal would have made a nice sermon, he patronizingly said, but it's not suitable for an halachic argument. The *Forward* explains that with increased affluence, today's Jews are less sympathetic to the plight of workers. This may be so, but it's a circumstance to be cured, not pandered to.

**"...have they never read the haftarah from Yom Kippur, the one that contains these words: 'Is this the fast that I have chosen?'"**

These rabbis who voted "no" or were brave enough to abstain, have they never read the haftarah from Yom Kippur, the one that contains these words: "Is this the fast that I have chosen?... This is My chosen fast: to loosen all the bonds that bind men unfairly, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke... Clothe the naked when you see him, do not turn away from people in need."

Have they never sat at a Seder and discussed the ruthless exploitation of the workers known as Hebrew slaves in the days of pharaoh? Have they not intoned the words "We were slaves in Egypt, not just our remote ancestors?" Don't they say, "All who are hungry let them come and eat?" Or maybe these Conservative rabbis, fat and happy, representing their affluent congregants, protecting their paychecks, playing golf in Margate while withholding straw from those who need it most read from a different Haggadah, the one that says, "Hey, we've got ours, let's bring in some more Mexicans to whom we can pay bubkes." That Haggadah.

Had they no parents or grandparents who lived in slums on the Lower East Side (now the trendy Lower East Side, I'm told)? Wasn't it the unions that brought the workers the American dream of home ownership, of the opportunity of a college education for their children? Didn't greater prosperity come when more workers had more money to spend on more goods and services? Don't these rabbis who claim to be religious leaders know that they are in an exactly congruent position with the founding fathers of the United States? And I don't mean that as a compliment either.

Those wise men decided that it would be better for the country if they allowed the continuation of slavery. No slavery, bad economy. Our (well, not my) rabbis who argue that the "pro-labor paper would create an undue hardship on Jewish business owners" are arguing exactly as the anti-abolitionists argued in the 18th and 19th century.

As the chief proponent of the paper on "Work, Workers and the Jewish Owner" Rabbi Jill Jacobs put it, "We ask people to do all sorts of things that put them at an economic disadvantage. That's because we believe in Jewish law and we don't believe that making money is the highest Jewish law." Bravo, Rabbi Jacobs, Bravo. You stand for Judaism as an ethical norm, not an upwardly mobile social class looking down at those below.

And you? Where is your heart this penitential season? With the exploitation of labor, or with Isiah? To me, the choice is obvious. If capitalism is going to succeed, wages must be equitable. Workers are what give the things value. As Adam Smith, Ask HaShem. They'll tell you.

*Joshua Stein writes a regular opinion column in the Jewish Voice & Herald. He is a professor of history at Roger Williams University and a member of the Voice & Herald's editorial board.*



**Josh Stein**

## Letter to the Editor Rabbis explain board position on gambling coalition

On Sept. 22 the State Council of Churches held a press conference announcing their opposition to the casino question by joining the Save Our State Coalition. I am writing to explain why the R.I. Board of Rabbis did not join this effort. At a recent Board of Rabbis meeting we had a long discussion of Question #1; it was clear that the majority of rabbis strongly oppose this ballot question for a variety of reasons. Some oppose state sponsored gambling on moral grounds, while others are concerned with the constitutional questions raised by granting one company the right to do business in one particular community.

Others have witnessed the enormous destruction gambling inflicts on individuals and families and the corrosive impact it has on communities; while others think that basing Rhode Island's economy on gambling is a fool's errand. In the end we decided that were we to join with the Council of Churches and Save our State, our opposition would need to be based on moral and theological grounds, and not the political or legal arguments. At the current time, funding for Save Our State comes almost entirely from entities that currently promote gambling. As a matter of principle we could not join this coalition even though we are quite sympathetic to the message.

Though the RIBR will not take a public stand on this issue, I know that individual rabbis will be urging their communities to vote no on Question #1.

**Rabbi Alan Flam**  
President, RI Board of Rabbis

## Tema's wrong about public transportation

While I enjoyed Tema Gouse's article "R.I. Directions: Go to where Almac's used to be..." in the 9/15 Voice and Herald that gently made fun of our state's challenging signage, I do wish to respond to her offhand comment about the "shabby and inadequate status of the state's public transportation (or lack of it)." As a former member of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) and frequent user of that system, it is frustrating to me that our system is really so much better than many non-users think it is. This might be of special concern to the Jewish community, as more use of public transit is one good strategy to help reduce dependence on oil from hostile Middle Eastern countries.

Though it can't compare with Chicago's vast transit system (where Tema is from), besides buses our public transit system now includes, in addition to Amtrak expresses, 14 commuter trains each way between Providence and Boston as well as new commuter train weekend service between those cities. And it is not too late to ride the Providence-Newport ferries that run through October. Rather than "shabby," RIPTA's new general manager has given priority to keeping the buses in good repair so, for example, you rarely see the black diesel smoke any more coming out of their tailpipes. Our system isn't so bad, try it! And by the way, on weekdays there are 41 buses each way to Newport, and 50 buses a day each way to the airport, 26 of them express.

**Barry Schiller**  
North Providence

## Change Israeli strategy so fewer campaigns needed

A few years after the Oslo agreement which enabled Yasser Arafat to create a PLO state in Judea and Samaria; I visited Israel. I personally saw the results of two-state political solution negotiated with democratically-elected Arab terrorists. On the day our group arrived, there was a suicide bombing next door to the hotel where we stayed. Three people were murdered. The hotels and restaurants were all empty; I saw children in Tel Aviv begging for money. The terrorist war organized and financed by the PLO killed and maimed thousands of Israelis and cost the economy billions of dollars.

In 2002, Jewish Federations across America launched an Emergency Campaign to help the terror victims; \$1.2 million was raised in Rhode Island alone. The same year (after the Passover massacre in Netanyahu). Israel had had enough: the IDF took over security in Judea and Samaria, dismantled PLO terrorist infrastructure, and isolated Arafat.

Then came the Disengagement, another "bold diplomatic initiative." Having gleaned lessons from the first one, several American Zionist organizations appealed to the national and local Jewish leadership to defend the right of Jewish people to live peacefully in all parts of the Land of Israel and prevent the destruction of Gush Katif. Their pleas fell on deaf ears. As I watched the expulsion of Jews from their homes in Gaza, I thought to myself "How long do we have to wait until the next Emergency campaign?"

Well, it did not take long. The unexpected victory that the Israeli government delivered to the Arab terrorist organizations, brought the worst one of them, Hamas, to power and started the chain of events leading to the war in Lebanon.

So now we are in the middle of yet another Emergency campaign which, of course, we should all support. The policy of giving Jewish land to Arab terrorists not only harms Israel but drains our local resources as we saw twice already. When our leaders in Israel finally understand this and start acting accordingly, the only Emergency Campaign ever needed will be the one to fund our struggling day schools.

**Yuri Japhet**  
Pawtucket

Yuri Japhet is Chair of the RI Chapter of Americans for a Safe Israel (AFSI)

## ALISON ON ALIYAH

## From soldier to civilian in an instant

Two days ago, my boyfriend, Mikhael, was officially released from his 2.5-year-long mandatory military service in the Israel Defense Forces. While I breathed a colossal sigh of relief, Mikhael was less than enthusiastic. For the past three weeks, he has been at home on what the army calls a "pre-release vacation."



Alison Golub

During this time, soldiers who are about to become civilians are given the opportunity to begin planning for their non-military lives. Those who have money buy airline tickets and plan their itineraries for year-long sojourns to Thailand, India, or Europe. Those who don't have these luxuries frantically look for work that can sustain them as civilians, while knowing that they will probably have to spend at least a couple of years at home, sponging off their parents. With neither extra money nor family in the near vicinity to fall back on, Mikhael spent his "vacation" worrying interminably about whether he would be able to continue to finance his life here after his transition from lone soldier to lone civilian.

Part of the reason for Mikhael's general lack of enthusiasm is the sense of intense insecurity with which his sudden freedom has left him. Army service is a fundamental and irrevocable part of the fabric of Israeli society, and young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 who are in their mandatory service (read: everyone except the

Regardless of the fact that he had been preparing for this for weeks, it was nonetheless quite a shock for him to report to his base, turn in his uniform and gun, and be handed his "walking papers" for good.

ultra-religious and Arab sectors) are entirely immersed in their duties and in their identities as soldiers. Mikhael has been nothing but a soldier for nearly three years, and his four-month break from combat due to medical issues only further solidified his self-definition as a soldier and desire to remain as such. Thus, regardless of the fact that he had been preparing for this for weeks, it was nonetheless quite a shock for him to report to his base, turn in his uniform and gun, and be handed his "walking papers" for good.

The Israeli army spends three critical years of these young adults' lives training and indoctrinating them, teaching them obedience and deference to authority, and creating their airtight identity as fiercely loyal war machines for the state. And then, just before release, this very same state sets its soldiers free and tells them they have three weeks to relinquish everything they have learned, and to adjust themselves — and fast! — to civilian life.

Mikhael is a perfect example of the confusion, identity crisis,

and mixed feelings that can result from this painful process. He can barely remember the last time he didn't have to get up at 6 a.m. on a Sunday morning and report to his base. He can barely imagine his life a year, or even a month, from now without the daily presence of his commander and unit, and without the structure of the army in all facets. Indeed, he has been with the twelve other guys in his unit since the first day of basic training, and they have all learned to depend on each other with their lives—both in training and in real combat situations. They all know intimately the strengths and weaknesses of the others, and to see them working together, or even just lounging together at a picnic, is to watch a well-oiled machine with each cog in perfect position.

I would say they have become a family, but it is so much more. They have become something that has no word attached to it. It is something so intimate, and so forever binding, that it cannot be expressed literally. And it is something that has been tested by war, and death, and pain.

Yesterday, Mikhael and I were at a friend's house for lunch, celebrating his newfound civilian life. As it often happens these days, the discussion descended

into a heated debate about the latest war in Lebanon. It was only halfway through this shouting match, when I saw tears of frustration and pain well up in Mikhael's eyes, that I realized just how deeply rooted his identity as an Israeli soldier truly is.

He spoke about how guilty he feels; how he should have done more; how he is personally ashamed that the war was called off without the return of the kidnapped soldiers. Although all of the decisions are far above his purview, his own shoulders are heavy with the burden of the ramifications, and I do believe that if it were possible, he would pack his bags and gun and head up to the front tomorrow to finish the job. Mikhael laid his own identity and innocence and sense of security down on the battlefields in Lebanon, and was not even allowed the honor and satisfaction of seeing the war resolved in any real fashion. He saw his friends get killed, and brought their bodies back on his own shoulders, and got nothing in return but his "walking papers." No wonder his identity has taken a beating.

Alison Stern Golub is a graduate of Brown University. You can email her at Alison\_Golub@hotmail.com, and read more about her adventures on her website at [www.alisonsterngolub.com](http://www.alisonsterngolub.com).

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## Federation

FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

### The end of the tour

**W**ell, it's just about over, as the baton will be passed next week. As you know, figures talk to me, so I tried to figure out what the devil I've been doing for the 36 weeks that I've been Interim Exec. VP. (In 2000 it was only 13.) And this article is the longest, but it's my last shot.

I attended or conducted just about 600(!) meetings — and frequently a meeting requires a pre-meeting or at least preparation, as events and meetings just don't happen by themselves.

Included are at least 60 meetings with the President — and each lasted one to three hours. There were 35 articles not counting the seven "extras" during the war, and they comprised over 24,000 words. Each article took anywhere from one to three hours to create, research, write and proof.

Some people asked me why, having been in a leadership position here twice before, I accepted the job. The answer is simple: it is because you think you can make a difference. Whether or not I did it for everyone else to decide, but here's what did happen in the last nine months (with thanks to Yehuda Lev, who reported most of this in the September 15th issue of the *Voice & Herald*):

• First and foremost: we responded to our brothers and sisters in Israel when they were attacked, helping them by raising over \$850,000 for humanitarian

needs. This is in addition to the regular Annual Campaign.

• Agewell RI was planned and now has the support of at least two of the four agency boards. Even more important is the spirit of cooperation that now exists among at least these four agencies, but I do feel that there is more of a collaborative feeling than ever before among all the local agencies.

• The Jewish Community Day School was opened, using the Alperin Schechter Day School as a base, but the new multi-denominational Jewish school proposed a program for excellence, including some physical changes (for temporary improvements), and the whole program was embraced by Federation.

• The JCC opened a brand new Fitness Center and their membership increased.

• The Community Relations Council has been reactivated, and frankly I can't keep up with all that they are doing.

• The problem of the long-festering mold at the Bureau of Jewish Education was faced, and, with a lot of money, was fixed.

• We searched, literally world-wide, for a new Executive Vice President. It was worth the long process as we found someone very bright, very talented and certainly energetic.

• We met and met and met and planned a whole new governance system, which will answer the complaints of past surveys and streamline how we make decisions but will still maintain appropriate representation of our constituents.

• We responded to possible

security threats not only at Federation but also for all Jewish organizations.

• And last but not least, we undertook the "7 initiatives," which could have made even more progress, but did result in two planned but unfortunately canceled missions; did produce the first worker training session in years; did make serious progress on facility planning and a community priority process; and, according to many, did increase Federation's visibility in the community, partially through these weekly articles, but also because of our following a professionally designed marketing and communications plan. The "7 Initiatives" also produced now ready-to-roll plans for leadership development as well as programs for previously-requested neighborhood initiatives. And it did create a new plan for increasing the campaign, which had to be changed because of the need to raise money for the Israel Emergency Campaign.

But none of this would have happened without all of you. I was just behind the scenes preparing, writing and monitoring. So my thanks to you many:

First to Herb Stern, who had the faith that I could do the job. I know what it takes to be president, and we are just plain blessed that he is devoting his time, talent and resources into the job. And I was fortunate to be working with him on a daily (and frequently hourly) basis. He is now my new and trusted friend, and I am proud of it and the better for it.

See END TOUR, page 10

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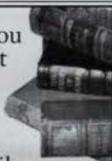
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## Faces from the Ukraine American Jews rescued her family

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@fjri.org

PROVIDENCE — Alina Spaulding was born in Kharkov, Ukraine in 1973 and came to this country in 1979, the year 40,000 Jews were permitted to leave the Former Soviet Union. About half went to Israel, the others to America.

"Thank you for giving me my life," she said at a Federation campaign event held Sept. 17 at the Roger Williams Park Casino. "Everything I have, everything I will ever have is because of you and people like you."

She and her parents lived a protected life in Russia because her father was an athlete training as an Olympic skier. The family had a nice apartment, good food and health care provided by the government. When he smashed his leg on a trial run, the authorities began evicting Alina and her mom from the apartment they lived in, "before my father reached the bottom of the mountain."

He was taken to a "shtetl hospital," she said. There was no doctor, no nurse, no medicine.

He suffered greatly; his leg was fractured in three places. His wife was told by officials he could not be operated on until



**ALINA SPAULDING, right,** spoke at a Federation event about her family's liberation from Russia in 1979 at a Pacesetter event recently. Co-chairs for the evening were Arthur Solomon and Sally Lapidus.

she brought in the medical supplies that were needed for surgery; it took her 10 months of selling all that she owned, to buy bandages, medicine and equipment on the black market.

"My father was a Jew and was considered worthless," Spaulding said.

At about this time, her mother heard that "there were Americans rescuing Jews in Russia through the JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee)."

Although skeptical, her mother found the group's representative in Moscow, who instructed her to "Give me all your documents. I will take care of everything. We are family."

When the trio landed in Kennedy Airport half a year later, after being processed in Austria and Italy, her mother's spirits dropped. "She noticed someone holding up a sign with our name on it in Russian. She thought it was the KGB."

Today, Spaulding is the director of communications at the American Hebrew Academy, a pluralistic Jewish boarding school in North Carolina. She's come full circle; several years ago she had the opportunity to be on a Jewish federation mission to Moldova.

At a summer camp, she was approached by a father who pleaded with her to take his daughter back to America. "As a Jewish woman, she will have no life here," he said.

Spaulding called her husband and he told her they could not say no. This was their chance to pay back the Jewish community for all they had done for Alina and her family.

The young girl, an outstanding student, flew to America three weeks later, to live with them, followed by a sister three years later.

Attending the event were 80 Pacesetter donors, who contribute over \$10,000 to the Federation's annual campaign. Co-chairs for the evening were Sally Lapidus and Arthur Solomon.

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## Faces from the Ukraine

### *Mikhail survives through Jewish generosity*



MIKHAIL BASSMAN, 81, is blind and has an aide help him every day for two hours through donations to the Jewish Federation of R.I. and others nationwide. This summer he was visited in his Odessa apartment by Doris Feinberg, at left, campaign chairperson, and Elisa Heath, campaign director.



CHILDREN in native costume sang for the American visitors.

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

Mikhail Bassman, 81, of Odessa, Ukraine, is blind with multiple health problems, but he is able to remain at home — though it is but a single room in a crumbling building with a shared kitchen and bathroom — because Jewish dollars provide him with the basic necessities and an aide, Anna, to help him two hours a day.

Rhode Island's Jewish community is closer to him than you might think. The annual cost for his aide runs about \$350, and is provided by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). A Rhode Islander, Robbie Mann, serves on the international JDC board. Moreover, thousands of Rhode Islanders donate to the organization through contributions to the Jewish Federation of R.I.'s annual campaign. This year the campaign hopes to raise \$4.3 million to fund a myriad of organizations here and around the world.

To see firsthand how the overseas dollars are spent, Elisa Heath, Federation's campaign director, and Doris Feinberg, this year's campaign chair, traveled to Odessa in July, on a United Jewish Communities (UJC) mission, and met with Mikhail, as well as many others in the Jewish community.

They found that Anna is Mikhail's lifeline. She is cheerful and cooks, cleans and shops for him, and tidily lays out his clothes so he can dress himself. A calendar hangs on his wall, though the passage of time has become confusing to him; he tells Heath that his wife was a Holocaust survivor who died a few years ago. Anna shakes her head; his wife has been long gone.

See FACES, page 10



Etta James  
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## Federation

### END TOUR

From page 7

Then to our Board who, at their September 19th meeting, outdid themselves in saying thank you to me. The piece of art given to me is already hanging in our home. I was and am deeply touched.

And to my fellow professionals, who treated me as an equal, even though my expertise is in other fields. I hope they feel as I do: that we treated each other with respect and together accomplished far more than the creation of AgeWell — a foundation of cooperation and trust that will produce great results for this community.

To all the volunteers in this community who give so many hours to make our community a better place. They are truly the unsung heroes, and I have come to know and respect so many who give so much of themselves.

Thanks also to the Federation staff who also welcomed me as a professional, and I hope they have felt the support I tried to give them. I have new respect for the work they produce — without them, nothing happens. They, too, said thanks with an in-house luncheon complete with a most appropriate roast. I hate to admit it, but they were right on! And everything I had dish out to them, every little vignette of my life that I had shared, came back in poetry and song. Very clever, these staffers.

To Gail Putnam, my Executive Assistant: I just couldn't have done it without her. The expression around here is, "If Gail can't locate it, it doesn't exist." But she's more than that. She supports. She reminds. She knows (but won't say). She just gets it done. In short, if I looked good, she deserves so much of the credit.

And I couldn't have done it

without the support and love of my wife, Myrna. Always there. Always positive. I am lucky to have a partner with whom I can share all experiences.

What will I miss? Well, let me tell you some of the things I won't miss: getting up at 6:00 a.m., coming home later each night later than I wanted; and needing to change dinner or social plans so I could attend a meeting.

But there are things I will miss.

The first sentence of my first article was, "It's an honor to be back as your Interim EVP." True. But it's also been most rewarding to work closely with people I hardly knew, but have come to respect and, yes, love — heads of schools, Hillsle, social service organizations, rabbis and volunteers. I've made new friends for life — but that's what Federation is all about. I'll miss that.

I'll also miss being on the

inside of things. You should know everything — just everything — that happens in the Jewish community passes over the desk of the Executive. It's exciting and fun. I'll miss that, too.

And I'll miss, on a daily basis, seeing all the people who pass through this office.

So there's a great deal I'll miss, but former Presidents are not like old Generals: we don't even fade away. See you around the Federation building and thank you for the opportunity you have given me.

*Shabbat Shalom.*

*Hershey*

P.S. Oh, yes! And what was the supreme compliment I alluded to last issue? I received a call from a head hunter for a job in the mid-west. Yes, it was a compliment, and it made me feel good. And if these articles have made you feel better about our Federation, then I am satisfied. H.

## FACES

From page 9

Feinberg could not help but contrast Mikhail's circumstances with that of her own mother, who spent her later years in a comfortable Jewish facility in New Jersey, with kosher food, and a tremendous support system. "I am so grateful for the care she received," said Feinberg. Her visit to Odessa and Mikhail initially depressed her. "But my spirit lifted; and I witnessed what we do for him, and other Jews in the most remote corners of the world fighting for survival; it is amazing."

Heath speaks of the threads that link Jews worldwide.

Odessa has no social services network to offer people like Mikhail, back in history, with a mostly black-market economy.

Anna told Feinberg: "If Mikhail did not receive help, he would be in a state-run nursing home you wouldn't bring your dog or cat to." She said nursing home residents last about two weeks in these institutions.

The JDC pays for medical care, food and assistance for 900 of the 1300 Jews in Odessa who live alone. While Feinberg and Heath were visiting Mikhail, there was a knock on his door. It was a neighbor. "Why does he get all the visitors from America?" he asked.

The mission group, comprised of 165 other volunteer and professional leaders, stayed for three days in Odessa. In addition to home visits such as the one with Mikhail, they toured Jewish community centers (*bevodi*) and summer camps. They walked the tree-lined streets and visited a synagogue; the juxtaposition of a European-style cultured city contrasted with the poverty evident in apartment buildings such as the one Mikhail lives in.

The group then went on to Israel; they landed at Ben Gurion airport on the same day the war in Lebanon broke out. But that is another story.

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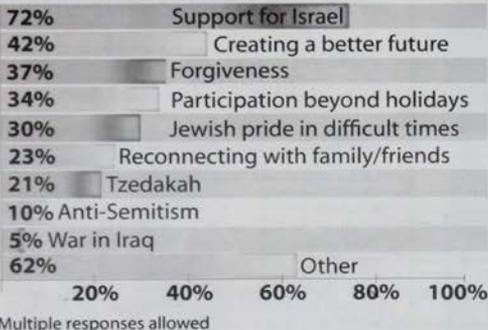
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## News Briefs

## High Holiday Sermon Topics



IN A RECENT SURVEY, the STAR (Synagogue Transformation and Renewal) Foundation asked American rabbis what topics they planned to address in their High Holiday sermons.

## Olmert, Abdullah deny meeting

JERUSALEM: Did they or didn't they? That's been a major topic of discussion in the Israeli media and in its coffee shops for the past week. "They" are Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah and the question is did they or did they not meet secretly earlier this month to discuss Middle East peace and the Iranian nuclear threat. An Israeli newspaper claims they did and the claim was quickly denied by both parties. But unlike most such reports, which tend to fade away after a few days, this one has legs. There have been other reports about the alleged meeting coming from a number of sources, some of them authoritative. As of press time, no official confirmation from anyone, but the reports keep coming. (JTA)

## Presbyterians meet with Ahmadinejad

NEW YORK: You win some...American Presbyterian leaders met with Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during his recent visit to New York, to tell him of their support for Israel and their opposition to his denial of the Holocaust. Earlier this year the U. S. Presbyterian Church replaced a 2004 call for divestment from Israel with a policy of peaceful investment in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. (JTA)

## Irish academics call for boycott

DUBLIN: ...and you lose some. Sixty-one Irish academics have signed a letter to "The Irish Times" citing "Israel's policy of violent oppression against the Palestinians" among other things, and said the moratorium should last until Israel abides by UN resolutions and ends the occupation. Israeli academics were quick to respond. Dr. Alexander Jacobson of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said: "They don't demand a boycott of Sudan or of China and they don't want to boycott the United States or Great Britain over Iraq. There is no universal norm, they are just anti-Israel." (JTA)

## Assad vacillates

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Assad told a German newspaper last week that his country sought peace with Israel but could resort to war if necessary, an apparent reference to Syria's demand that it regain all of the Golan Heights in return for peace. "I don't say Israel should be wiped off the map," he said. "We want to make peace with Israel but my personal opinion, my hopes for peace, could change one day and if this hope disappears, then war may be the only solution." Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, responded: "Assad has to decide what he is looking for. You cannot talk peace and threaten war at the same time."

## No dogs on Shabbat

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y.: Here's one for our "man bites dog" department. The NAACP has filed a complaint accusing a New York dental clinic of religious discrimination because it is closed on Shabbat. The complaint, filed with the New York State Division of Human Rights, accuses the clinic of imposing its religious beliefs on others by remaining closed on Saturday. The clinic's operators declined to comment on the matter. (JTA)

## Int'l Pickle Day

NEW YORK: We all enjoy celebrating National Walk on Stilts Day (July 27), National Second-hand Wardrobe Day (Jan. 5), National Waffle Day (Sept. 3), National Chocolate Mint Day (Feb. 19) and National Dice Day (Dec. 4). Make way for the newest and saniest of celebrations, International Pickle Day which was marked by a pickle fair on Sept. 17 at (where else?) Orchard Street in New York's Lower East Side. Pickle purveyors from every part of the city showed off the usual cucumbers, sour pickles and kosher dills but there were also Korean kimchi, Haitian piklitz, and Syrian pickled turnips for the jet set. (THE JEWISH WEEK)

Briefs compiled by Yehuda Lev



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## World

## QUARTET

From page 1

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at the grave crisis in Gaza and the continued stalemate between Israel and the Palestinians. The Quartet welcomed the efforts of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to form a Government of National Unity, in the hope that the platform of such a Government would reflect Quartet principles and allow for early engagement.

The three Quartet principles are recognition of Israel, renouncing terrorism and commitment to abide by previous accords.

Abbas capped the General Assembly's opening week with a Sept. 21 speech that recommitted to those principles.

"Any future government will commit to imposing security and order, to ending the phenomena of multiple militias, indiscipline and chaos, and to the rule of law," he said.

Hours after Abbas' optimistic speech, Hamas was already saying it would not recognize Israel.

"I personally will not head any government that recognizes Israel," Ismail Haniyeh, the P.A. prime minister, said at a mosque in the Gaza Strip during last Friday's prayers.

As of Monday, Abbas suspended talks over unity, cancel-

**Hours after Abbas' optimistic speech, Hamas was already saying it would not recognize Israel.**

ing a trip from his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah to the Gaza Strip, where Hamas predominates.

Hamas continued to press Abbas to return to talks, desperate for the cash that a unity government could bring even if it was not ready to meet the international community's conditions for the cash.

Elliott Abrams, the U.S. deputy national security adviser, made it clear that the Bush administration was ready to ignore pending congressional legislation that would place strict controls on money headed for the Palestinian Authority or for non-governmental organizations that assist Palestinians.

It is possible, Abrams told reporters last week, "to give humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people through NGOs, and to work with parts of the P.A. that do not report and are not under the control of Hamas, of the prime minister, of the cabinet, but rather are under the control of President Abbas, or are independent agencies that are like the judiciary."

The fact that Abrams, probably Israel's fiercest defender in the Bush administration, was

ready to blur the lines over how money gets to the Palestinians — even before Hamas made any concession on the Quartet's three principles — underscored how much had changed since the low point of June 25, when Hamas was declared off limits and Abbas was dismissed as ineffectual.

At that time, the Quartet did not object to Israel's decision to cut off tax transfers to the Palestinian Authority, as it conformed to an international consensus that Hamas needed to be isolated.

In its statement last week, the Quartet called on Israel to resume the transfer of \$500 million in taxes and customs. "The resumption of transfers of tax and customs revenues collected by Israel on behalf of the Palestinian Authority would have a significant impact on the Palestinian economy," it said.

It was a new reality recognized by Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, in her speech to the General Assembly last week.

"There are no shortcuts on the road to peace, but stagnation is not in our interest and it is not our policy," she said. "It is in this spirit that I met with Chairman Abbas two days ago."

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## Arts & Culture

### REVIEW

# 'The Journalist and the Jihadi: The Death of Daniel Pearl'

By Molly Lederer

On Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 8 p.m., HBO will debut a riveting documentary about Daniel Pearl, a murdered Wall Street journalist, and the mastermind behind his death. Narrated by URI alumna and CNN anchor Christiane Amanpour, the film "The Journalist and the Jihadi: The Death of Daniel Pearl" is equal parts fascinating, horrifying, and heart-wrenching. Knowing how the tragic story will end does not diminish the telling of it. Directed by Ahmed A. Jamal and Ramesh Sharma, "The Journalist and the Jihadi" raises relevant,



HBO is airing a documentary on Daniel Pearl Oct. 10.

provocative questions about cultural divides. And as it meticulously tracks the events leading up to Pearl's kidnapping and subsequent murder, the film creates a mounting sense of horror.

In the winter of 2002, international media attention was on Pakistan, where Pearl had been kidnapped. In keeping with the Wall Street Journal's motto "follow the money," Pearl was hot on the trail of the financiers of 9/11, including a link between Al-Qaeda and Pakistan's Inter-services Intelligence. Pearl's investigation unwittingly led him into a trap set by Omar Sheikh, a British national and Islamic militant. After seven days of captivity, Pearl was brutally slaughtered, his execution deliberately recorded by his captors. In the tape (wisely withheld from the film), Pearl asserts his identity as a Jew and refuses to be sedated, maintaining his dignity to the end. It was five harrowing weeks before the news of his death reached his pregnant wife, family, and an anxiously waiting world.

The facts of the case have been well documented by the press, and the story is dramatic enough to warrant two feature films currently in the works — one directed by Kip Williams and starring Josh Lucas, the other directed by Michael Winterbottom and starring Dan Futterman and Angelina Jolie. What will no doubt set HBO's documentary apart from the pack is its attention to detail and character analysis, both of the doomed journalist and of his remorseless kidnapper. Parallels between the two are highlighted and explored, to chilling effect. Both born of privilege and well educated — Pearl at Stanford, Sheikh at the London School of Economics — they are in some ways similar. But while the Jewish Pearl became a journalist committed to creating cross-cultural understanding between the West and the Middle East, the Muslim Sheikh became a jihadi dedicated to the destruction of the Western culture he despised.

The film is an elegy to Pearl, honoring his memory through interviews with friends, colleagues, and loved ones, all touched by his compassion. Home videos of his childhood antics and jubilant wedding ceremony feature happy and carefree moments, while footage of a 1984 discussion he facilitated with Jewish dissidents from the Soviet Union shows him asking what American Jews can do to help. Raised in L.A. by Israeli parents and trained as a Classical violinist (his music provides a soundtrack for much of the film), Pearl rose through the ranks at the Wall Street Journal to become the Southeast Asia bureau chief. He was known for pursuing hard-hitting stories, like the discovery of a nuclear scientist's ties to Al-Qaeda. But the film reveals how his persistence and dedication to

See DANIEL PEARL, page 14

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From page 1

## From Swaziland to Jerusalem

He also spoke at the Providence Hebrew Day School, which co-sponsored the visit.

He was born in Swaziland in 1963, a small kingdom cut into South Africa at the border of Mozambique. Today, it is one of the poorest nations in the world, where 39 percent of adults have HIV. Gamedze's grandfather was the king of Swaziland, but abdicated under pressure from the British, as well as in answer to a call to the Christian ministry.

Gamedze grew up in a family of devout Evangelical Christians. "The kind that jump and clap," he said. But he was impatient with what he considered to be the simplicity of their faith. "All they said is, 'Return to Jesus and everything is going to be okay. You don't have to worry about your own sins. That, to me, seemed escapist.'"

### A unique language

One day, he was studying translation at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg when, during a particularly boring Italian lesson, he looked around and noticed another student doing homework in some strange language, writing from right to left. "And I thought, wow, they really write in a fancy way."

His idle interest soon became personal. "There is something about the holy tongue of Hebrew that quickly strikes a chord within me," Gamedze said in an interview. "My soul immediately latches on and acts upon what it hears."



**RABBI NATAN GAMEDZE, of Jerusalem, speaks with Nadav Minkin, left, of Pawtucket, and Rabbi Raphael Schochet, of Providence.**

Photos by Frank Belsky

He began to study basic Hebrew but quickly moved on to more advanced Hebrew texts. Years before he ever considered converting to Judaism, he began to carry around with him a chapter of Maimonides' Mishnah Torah, a detailed codification of Jewish Law. "Everything in Judaism, in *halakha*, shows a person how to walk, how to follow the Divine will within the constraints of physical reality," he said. "That you know what the will of God is in day-to-day life — that, to me, is something very unique to Judaism."

After receiving his honors at

Oxford, he studied at Wits University, where he was noticed by faculty members of the Hebrew department. He was offered a scholarship to work on his Ph.D. at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

### Israel

Once in Israel, he met up with Jewish friends who introduced him to the intensive yeshiva world. Though he was becoming more and more convinced he had found the truth in Judaism, he hesitated to convert. He didn't want to be the only black person in the room for the rest of his life. "I thought in my head, 'Hashem

(God), leave me alone. You've got a whole people. Let them deal with it.'"

He left Jerusalem for Rome, and exchanged an environment of rabbis for one of priests and nuns. But one day he went out for lunch and found that he couldn't force himself to eat. He found a calendar and discovered that it was Yom Kippur, the most important day of the Jewish year, a fast day.

"How am I going to rationalize myself out of this one?" Gamedze thought.

He had said to friends that he would only convert if he could

no longer sleep. The nights were long, and he finally converted to Judaism in 1991. A few years later he received his rabbinic ordination in Israel.

Recently, he visited Africa and was reunited with his family whom he had not seen for sixteen years. This was one of the few things that was difficult in his journey to Judaism. "Just because you do the right thing, does not mean you don't have responsibilities," he said.

Today, Gamedze is married, has two children, and lives in Israel, where he teaches Torah. But he has only recently begun to be reconciled to what he at times felt was a "trick" God played on him.

"It's still very painful," Gamedze says. "Hashem didn't make a mistake by bringing me up in a non-Jewish faith. For many people, seeing a black Orthodox rabbi hits a chord. It opens people's eyes as to the universality of Judaism."

On his way to Providence, he was stopped by an African-American police officer. The officer was amazed at the sight of a black man in a wide-brimmed black hat, with dangling fringes at his waist. "Are you Hasidic?" the cop asked in wonder.

"No," he replied with his calm African lilt. "I'm just a Jew."

*Darceda Goldberg is studying for her master's in writing and publishing at Emerson College. She lives in Providence with her husband Daniel and son Meir Betzalel.*



Christiane Amanpour

## DANIEL PEARL

From page 13

truth eventually placed him in a vulnerable and dangerous position.

Where Omar Sheikh is concerned, the film often struggles to scratch the surface of a complicated, frightening man. A former teacher mentions his "impeccable manners," while grainy footage shows him as a youthful chess master and arm wrestling champion. The war in Bosnia and the fatwa against Salman Rushdie played a part in his decision to be trained in militant camps and align himself with radical fundamentalist Muslims. But how he became a skilled kidnapper and a man without conscience is less clear. In a creepy interview in the '90s, imprisoned after taking hostages, Sheikh is asked whether he regrets his actions. With an opaque facial expression, he pauses, then casually allows, "No." His tone is at that

In keeping with the Wall Street Journal's motto "follow the money," Pearl was hot on the trail of the financiers of 9/11, including a link between Al-Qaeda and Pakistan's Inter-services Intelligence.

of a man turning down a refill of coffee. Though Sheikh proudly took responsibility for Pearl's kidnapping and effectively signed his death warrant, he denied being among those who physically killed him. When taken into custody, he is seen yelling, "America is going to be destroyed! Sell your dollars!"

Had interviews with Sheikh's family and friends been presented similarly to Pearl's, a fuller picture might have emerged. As it stands, the closest we get to understanding him is through an interview with Khalid Khawaja, an ex-member of the Pakistan Air Force who provided Pearl with many of his Pakistani contacts. Though helpful to Pearl in life, Khawaja's

reaction to news of the kidnapping is cold and dispassionate. As he tells a Muslim-American colleague of Pearl's, "Thousands of my brothers and sisters have been kidnapped and killed... by your government. Nobody is looking after them and their families." The divide is still so great, and full comprehension so elusive. Viewers of "The Journalist and the Jihadist" are left with a better understanding of how significant the need for continued cross-cultural dialogue is. This, perhaps, is the greatest legacy of Daniel Pearl.

*Molly Loderer is a Providence resident with a bachelor's degree in film studies from Columbia University.*

## Fighting for a greener Israel

### Brief Bio: Alon Tal

- Winner of the \$100,000 Charles Bronfman Humanitarian Award in Israel for 2005
- Author: "Pollution in a Promised Land: An Environmental History of Israel"
- Founder of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies & The Israel Union for Environmental Defense
- Professor of Environmental Policy at Ben Gurion University
- Academic: Degrees in political science (Univ. of North Carolina); law (Hebrew University) and doctorate in public health (Harvard)



ENVIRONMENTALIST ALON TAL speaks during a Jerusalem ceremony in which he received the Charles Bronfman Humanitarian Prize, Jan. 10, 2006.



RABBI SERENA EISENBERG introduces Tal at Brown Hillel talk.

### GREENER

from page 1

has been, the critical obsession in Israel. "It limited the early Zionist settlements. Today, Israel doesn't have enough water to meet its basic needs."

But, he noted, Israel is developing the world's largest reverse osmosis plant (for desalination). And Israel leads the world in wastewater reuse. As a result of Tal's dogged efforts, tough effluent standards are in place; he has also been responsible for many of the "green" laws on Israel's books.

Tal, 45, founded the Israel Union for Environmental Defense when he was 29. It is considered the country's most effective organization fighting for a cleaner Israel; it has won numerous legal actions; a landmark victory was stopping sewage from being dumped from Eilat into the Red Sea. Tal, a lawyer, also has a small private practice where he offers pro bono services to environmental non-government groups.

In 1996, he founded the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, an academic center where students from throughout the Middle East study together. In his talk at Hillel, and later at the Watson Institute at Brown, Tal said Israel, larger than New Jersey but smaller than New Hampshire, has several ecological and climatic zones creating a country of unusual biodiversity for its size. "Israel has more bats than anywhere in the world," he noted humorously.

However, wars, including the recent war in Lebanon, and rapid urbanization have taken their toll on the land and its habitats and species. Tal said satellite images show pollution hovering over Israel; one reason is car density in such a small place.

In 1960, there were 70,000 cars in use; in 1990, a million; today two million, he said.

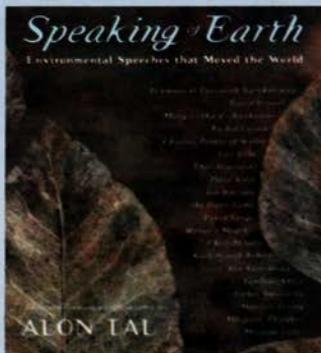
Israel also lags behind the European Union in de-leading gasoline.

And, from "malignant neglect," there are "enormous ruins of toxic waste around Tel Aviv. Industrial solvents have seeped into the soil in the agricultural and rural areas."

"We've seen the enemy and it is us," he said, and posed this question: "We, the Jewish people are all landowners. Are we going to be shun landlords or caretakers?"

When Tal received the Charles Bronfman Humanitarian Award in Jan. 2006, worth \$100,000, Bronfman said: "He set out to change the world and he has done so, impacting not only our world today but the world we shall leave behind for the next generation."

*"The weathered hills and valleys of the Holy Land have seen prophets, pilgrims, conquering armies, and settlers come and go for millennia. Even its most remote corners bear little resemblance to true wilderness."*



### Greening of synagogues

'How many Jews does it take to change a light bulb?'

On Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El Daniel Orenstein will speak about efforts to make synagogues and Jewish schools and homes "greener" in Rhode Island and about his work with the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life's project "A Light Among the Nations." Its slogan is: "How many Jews does it take to change a light bulb?"

One effort will be to purchase and install energy-efficient cost-effective compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) in Emanu-El and other synagogues.

The film by Al Gore, "An Inconvenient Truth," will also be shown. A discussion with Peter Shulman of MIT and Orenstein will follow.



## Food

# Suggestions for Erev Yom Kippur meal

By Marylyn Graff

For this meal, eaten before sunset, you don't want anything highly flavored or salty that might make you thirsty.

**Poached salmon filets**

6 salmon filets, about 6 oz. each, skin on for easy handling.

- 1 large onion, cut up
- 1 large stalk celery, sliced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- Small bunch of parsley
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme or 1 tsp. dried
- 1/4 cup shredded fresh basil

1 lemon, quartered  
Alt. Herb: 1 Tbsp. or more dill seed

1 small, sweet red or green pepper, sliced into rings

Put about 3/4 inch of water or low-salt vegetable broth into a wide, fairly deep skillet or frying pan. (If you have a fish poacher, use that.) Squeeze in two of the lemon quarters. Add onion, celery, and carrots and simmer about 10 minutes. Chop half of parsley and reserve. Put remaining whole sprigs into pan, along with thyme and basil (or substi-

tute dill for thyme and basil).

Bring to a simmer and slide in salmon. (Add more water if needed to barely cover fish. Poach just below boiling for 10 to 15 minutes depending on thickness of filets. Remove carefully to a warm platter and arrange a red pepper ring on top of each fillet.

**Sauce**

3/4 cup mayonnaise  
1 Tbsp. each fresh thyme and basil, chopped, or 1 Tbsp. dill seed if you have used dill in the poaching liquid.

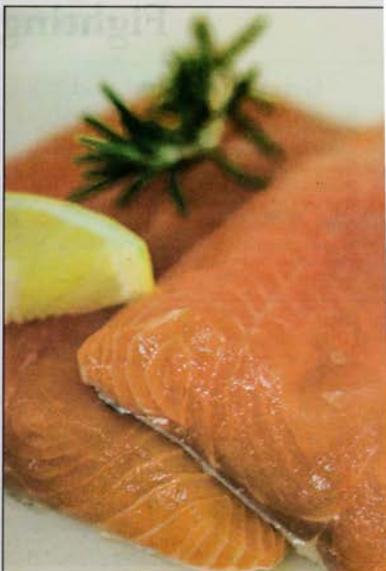
Squeeze in juice from other two quarters of lemon.

Mix herbs into mayonnaise and put a dollop into a pepper ring on each fillet. Sprinkle with rest of chopped parsley.

Note: You can substitute another fish such as scrod, as long as it's thick enough.

**Noodle Kugel**

Who am I to give a recipe for a noodle kugel when everyone already has a family favorite? For this evening, it's a good rib-sticker to carry you through the fast, so in case someone needs a recipe, here it is. By the way, you can substitute low-fat ingredients



POACHED salmon filets

but don't try it with the non-fats unless you really want to repent.

- 1 lb. medium or wide egg noodles
- 1 lb. cottage cheese, drained of excess liquid
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- An 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 stick butter or margarine, melted
- 2 cans crushed pineapple in juice, (14 1/2 oz. each) well-drained.

See KUGEL, facing page

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## Food

## KUGEL

From facing page

1/2 cup sugar (more or less to taste) mixed with 1 tsp. cinnamon

Raisins are optional. If your family is pro-raisin, add about a cup of them.

Have all ingredients at room temperature.

Cook noodles according to package directions, drain and dump into a large bowl.

Stir in rest of ingredients until well-mixed.

Butter a 9 x 12 (approx.) baking dish and spread mixture evenly into it. Sprinkle some more cinnamon and sugar on top. Cover with foil and bake at 350 for about an hour, removing foil for last 20 minutes or so.

## Baked pears

Select firm-ripe pears such as Anjou or Bartlett, 1/2 to 1 per person, depending on size. Peel, cut in half and scoop out seeds and membrane. (A melon baller helps with this.) Take a thin slice off bottoms of halves so they will sit flat. Place in a large, deep skillet or frying pan. Pour over enough sweet Marsala to cover. Put a broken cinnamon stick and about a dozen whole cloves into the pan. (Use a little powdered cinnamon and cloves if you don't have whole ones.) Bring to a simmer and cook for 15-20 minutes or until tender but not mushy. Remove from pan and cool. Remove cinnamon stick and cloves. Cook down Marsala with 1/4 cup honey until slightly thickened. Top with vanilla ice cream and the Marsala syrup.

## Mrs. Nell's apple pudding

(Ivy Nell was my housekeeper once a week when the kids were little and we were living in Salt Lake. It was so long ago that I paid her the going rate of \$12 plus bus fare for a whole day's work.)

3 or 4 medium apples, peel left on and coarsely grated

1 cup sugar  
1 stick butter or margarine, melted  
1 egg  
1 cup flour  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 tsp. cinnamon

Heat oven to 350 and grease a 9 x 12 (approx.) baking pan.

Mix grated apples with sugar and let stand 10 minutes. Beat egg slightly and stir in with melted butter, and vanilla. Stir dry ingredients together and mix into batter.

Best served warm with whipped cream, non-dairy



whipped cream ice cream or the following sauce:

Melt 2 Tblsps. butter (or marg.) in a pan on medium heat. Stir in 2 Tblsps. flour or cornstarch until blended. Add 2 cups apple juice, 1/2 cup sugar, 2 Tblsps. apple cider vinegar, 1 tsp. vanilla, lemon, or other flavoring and cook over medium heat, stirring until thickened and clear. Pour some over each serving.

## Homey recipes for Sukkot

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) — Of all the family-oriented holidays on the Jewish calendar, Sukkot, which entails setting up a temporary house, is probably the most homey of all. There's nothing more inviting than a *sukkah*, the one-room harvest hut whose interior walls are draped with apples and eggplants, peppers and squash, plus handicrafts and children's artwork. With the scent of autumn leaves in the air, these backyard dwellings are perfect settings for chatting and dining during Sukkot's eight days.

"We invite people into our *sukkah* who don't have one," says Sandra Blank, the editor of *"The Kasher Palette II: Coming Home"* (2006). Published by the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston, N.J., this community cookbook of more than 300 recipes features the wildly successful *"Kasher Palette,"* which sold more than 70,000 copies worldwide.

Here is a sweet recipe from *"The Kasher Palette II"*:

## Sweet potato puree with almond streusel



(Parse)

Streusel:

1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup whole almonds  
3 tablespoons dark brown sugar  
2 teaspoons paprika

1/4 cup margarine, chilled and cut into pieces

## Sweet Potato Puree:

4 pounds red-skin sweet potatoes  
1/3 cup fresh orange juice  
2 tablespoons dark brown sugar  
2 tablespoons margarine, softened  
1-1/2 teaspoons grated orange zest  
Salt and pepper to taste

## For the Streusel:

1. Combine all ingredients in order listed in a food processor.
2. Pulse to blend, until mixture forms small clumps. Spoon into a bowl and refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to 2 days.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
4. Grease a 9X13-inch oval baking dish.
5. Pierce potatoes in several places with a fork.
6. Bake directly on the oven rack for 1 hour, or until very tender.
7. Cool and peel.
8. Mash flesh in a bowl with orange juice, brown sugar, softened margarine, and orange zest.
9. Season with salt and pepper.
10. Spoon into prepared baking dish.
11. Raise oven temperature to 400 degrees.
12. Scatter streusel over potatoes.
13. Bake for 40 minutes, until puree is hot and streusel is crisp.
14. Cool 5 minutes, then serve.

Yield: 8-10 servings

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Reviewed by Projo July 6, 2006

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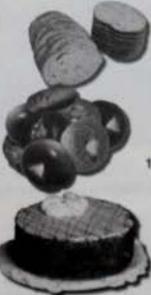
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## Community

## R.I. teens earn medals at Maccabi games

STAMFORD, CT. — Two Rhode Island athletes triumphed in this year's Jewish Community Center Maccabi Games, held in Stamford from Aug. 13 to 17.

For two years in a row, Talia Ringer was a powerhouse in the swimming competitions, winning eight silver and bronze

medals in the butterfly, freestyle, medley, relay and backstroke events. Talia, 16, lives in Providence.

Jacob Berman, 13, also of Providence, won a bronze medal in tennis. Also attending was Aaron Lentz, 14, also from Providence, who played basketball

with Virginia Beach in the 13-14 year-old boys' basketball competition.

The annual Maccabi games brought together 1,200 kids from 40 Jewish Community Centers across North America and around the world.

Next year's Maccabi is planned for the summer in Orange County, California. The JCCRI is looking for athletes ages 13 to 16 in tennis, swimming, basketball and soccer. For more information, contact Darlene or Mo in J-Fitness for more details at 861-8800.



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Photos by JCCRI

TOP, JACOB BERMAN, left, of Providence, shows off his bronze medal at the 2006 JCC Maccabi games.

BELOW, TALIA RINGER exults after winning one of 8 swimming medals at the 2006 JCC Maccabi games.

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AS PART OF TAMARISK'S recognition of "National Assisted Living Week," a group of residents prepared decorative floral arrangements under the supervision of Sally Gruber for their upcoming third anniversary party.



HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS Shirley Hasband and Carolyn Marks enjoy the gardens with Avis Goldenberg.

## Tamarisk celebrates 3rd anniversary

WARWICK — The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Community joined together to celebrate their third anniversary on Sept. 17. All present enjoyed food and entertainment located throughout the residence and the lovely gardens surrounding the first level of the building.

Dotrie Schrock, child prodigy, had the honor to be the first to perform on the baby grand piano donated to Tamarisk by the Kosover family. Also providing entertainment in the arbor was classical guitarist, Matthew Kearns, in the newly dedicated Norman M. Fain Gardens.

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October, 2006

### Senator Rhoda E. Perry Senate District 3

916 Hope Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your State Senator, quality affordable health care for all Rhode Islanders has been a high priority goal of mine. For the past year I have been chairwoman of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This position has given me the opportunity to work even more aggressively towards this goal. Health care reform is a complex challenge and requires an understanding of the problems of our current health care system, as well as knowledge of how to work within the legislative system. I'd like to share with you some of the health care improvements we have enacted.

We passed a package of bills to address the insufficiencies of state oversight of nursing homes and to enhance the quality of care provided in long-term care facilities. This package was developed in cooperation with the Long Term Care Coordinating Council chaired by Lieutenant Governor Fogarty, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Health Care Oversight, and refined and approved by my Health Committee. Many grass-roots advocacy groups provided valuable testimony and suggestions for improvements to the proposed legislation.

To prevent another Hillside Nursing Home tragedy:

- We now require ongoing financial reporting on the stability of nursing homes and permit intermediate level state interventions to avoid unnecessary closures.
- The Health Department may now, more effectively, request the Attorney General to seek a receiver to operate a mismanaged or financially insolvent facility to ensure patient safety.
- The state now requires notification of substandard care to families and patients.
- The state has established tougher requirements for both new and renewal licenses of nursing homes.

This past term, my committee focused on community-based long-term care legislation. The new Long Term Care Service and Finance Reform Act will require the Department of Human Services to refocus its resources on community care, giving individuals an alternative to nursing home care. Specifically, the bill expands the capacity of the long-term care system to support consumer choice and independence, while ensuring that people who rely on Medicaid receive long-term care in the least restrictive setting. Finally, it requires the Department to combine the budgets for long-term care and community care. This will allow better management of long-term care dollars and savings from decreased nursing home bed use will now be used for home care, assisted living, adult day and respite care.

Disabling conditions may limit an individual's ability to go to a dentist's office. It is also very difficult to obtain dental care in nursing homes. This year we passed a measure that allows dental hygienists to practice their normal procedures on patients in nursing homes, as long as they are working under the general supervision of a dentist.

In addition, after the General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto of my medical marijuana legislation, am pleased to tell you that 122 Rhode Island seriously ill patients are legally able to use marijuana to ease chronic pain and other symptoms of their illness.

I am proud of my achievements and those of my committee that have resulted in improvements to Rhode Island's health care system.

I ask you for the opportunity to continue to serve you. Representing the East Side is an honor. Our community wants and deserves a government that is responsible and sensitive to the values of our community: insistence that the environment be respected, that good health care and reproductive choice be available, and that thoughtful, intelligent and honest work be done on the people's behalf.

Many community organizations have honored me for my work. I hope I have also earned your respect and demonstrated to you my ability to successfully translate the values of our community into state law.

Sincerely,

Rhoda E. Perry

DEMOCRAT

Rhoda  
Perry  
State Senator

District 3

## Community

## JORI ends 68th season

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — This past summer, Camp JORI campers participated in archery, swimming, field sports, theatre and dance. Active games such as capture the flag, gold rush and apache relay were also part of the JORI experience.

JORI's new batting cage was used to increase batting skills by many campers. The tennis courts were filled and players were able to experience clay and grass courts during two field trips.

The summer of 2006 brought some new activities to the camp's busy schedule. Campers put on two plays. "Annie" was performed at the end of trip one, and "Grease" was produced at the end of trip two.

In July, campers enjoyed a one day Maccabiah, filled with athletic games, relay races, cheers and spirited competition between the blue and white teams. JORI's athletic coordinator supplied some new programs. Frisbee golf was played on a course set up throughout the site, and a gaga pit was designed to be used indoors or out. Campers and counselors alike enjoyed the game and played individually and as teams.

LITs, JORI's Leaders in Training, participated in a variety of field trips this summer, including hiking at Arcadia Park, a trip to Lake Comounce, a visit to the Boston Science Museum, a Pawtucket Red Sox game, and a visit to Newport's Cliff Walk and beach. They also led evening activities, helped younger campers with their daily camp schedule, built some additions to LIT village, and worked on several clean-up projects at camp.

JORI's swim, basketball, and soccer teams played in inter-camp competition this summer. The swim team brought home four ribbons. Campers fished and boated on scenic Worden's Pond. Many fish, caught from specially outfitted new kayaks, were displayed in special holding tanks to be admired by all. Sailors enjoyed

## JORI to hold open house

Camp JORI plans a registration kick-off event on Oct. 9 (weather permitting) from 2 to 4 p.m. at the camp, 1065 Worden's Pond Road. Camp tours will be provided, along with music, snacks and a variety of activities.

The first applications for the summer of 2007 will be available for each of the camp's five programs: Leaders in Training, for those entering grades 9,10; regular overnight, for grades 2 to 8; two-week overnight, for first time overnight campers only; day camp, for ages 6 to 9; and Reaching Up, for children with disabilities.

The rain date will be Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 463-4170

learning new skills, and other campers had fun kayaking, canoeing, and paddling.

JORI's day camp served a vastly increased number of families and in fact filled the van most of the summer. It was a great first camp experience for the youngest JORI campers. Day campers had weekly overnights and evening activities, along with a daily schedule that included sports, crafts, boating and swimming.

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## Community



Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI) held a communal Rosh Hashanah service at Tamarisk Assisted Living last week. From left are Tamarisk's activity director, Lev Poplow; JERI Assistant Director Ethan Adler; Leo Cohen, resident of Greenwich Farms on the Bimah for an aliyah, and Edward Adler, Torah reader at the service.

### JERI holds community Rosh Hashanah service

WARWICK — Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA), once again invited all the members of the Jewish community living in nursing homes and assisted living sites from around the state to the annual Rosh Hashanah service on Sept. 20.

Ethan Adler, assistant director of the JERI program, and his father, Edward Adler, who did the Torah readings, led the service. The community room in the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living at 3 Shalom Drive in Warwick was the site of the Rosh Hashanah event.

### Israel perspectives at Hadassah

CRANSTON — A community panel with Rabbi Amy Levin, a soldier's mother; Nadia Maccabee from Brown University; Elisa Silverstein Heath, JFRI campaign director and Lorraine Rappoport, representing the National Hadassah Board as facilitator, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston.

The panel members will be relating stories of their experiences during their recent trips to Israel.

The event is co-sponsored by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Temple Torat Yisrael. The public is invited to attend at no charge.

For more information or directions, call the temple at 785-1800 or the Hadassah office at 463-3636.

### Torah event at JCC

PROVIDENCE — In commemoration of Kristallnacht and in honor of a historic Torah now on display at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, a special event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3:30 p.m. at the Providence Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave. The event is titled "From Desecration to Preservation: Kristallnacht and Our Rescued Czech Torah Scroll."

The event will feature remarks by Sam Coale, professor of English at Wheaton College. Coale will be speaking on a new book written by acclaimed Holocaust scholar Martin Gilbert called "Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction."

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact May-Ronny Zeidman, museum administrator, at 453-7860 or rhodeislandhmm@aol.com.

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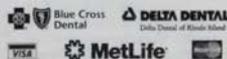
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## Business Profile

By Frank Belsky

**The Art of the Kitchen**  
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Kathy Del Sesto, Designer

### Nature of the Business:

We design kitchens from start to finish. That includes consulting, design and insuring that all client needs are met.

### How many people do you employ?

There are three of us. My business partner, Bill Spoerter, has been constructing houses for 25 years. His specialty is kitchens.

My role is design which has intrigued me ever since I took courses at the Rhode Island School of Design. My background also includes managing a local real-estate business. One day, after a 10-year friendship, Bill suggested that we form a team. Kathy Small is our office manager.

### Where do you turn for advice?

Our most renowned source of advice is the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKABA) which sets the standard which we follow.

### Where do you see your business going in 5-10 years?

By then we'd like to expand this site and, ideally, purchase a three-family house, also on the East Side, and design every room as either a kitchen or bathroom.

### What is the newest trend in your business?

Trends in kitchens go from contemporary to classic and back again. Homeowners now are leaning toward the old-fashioned Victorian kitchen as the center of the home.



Kathy Del Sesto, designer

Photo by Frank Belsky

That way, they not only cook but entertain in the same place at the same time.

Another popular innovation are stoves that are designed to look like the "Viking" that was popular in the 1940s.

### Briefly describe the most important factor for growing your business?

We pride ourselves on customer service. We'll design your kitchen right and go as far as we possibly can to please. That's how we distinguish ourselves from the large chains. So far it's been working as our reputation continues spread by word-of-mouth.

### What's the best thing about your job?

I would say that the two best things about my job are, first, meeting homeowners and second, appreciating the thrill in the eyes of customers after the job is completed.

### What personal connections do you have to the Jewish community?

I'm a member of the JCC and know many members of the Jewish community.

### Briefly, which individual do you admire in your field and why?

I truly admire the work of cabinet maker, Clyde Christian of Edinburg, England.

Frank Belsky is a freelance journalist and Pawtucket resident.

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## Obituaries

**Sanford M. Chorney, 86**

CRANSTON — Sanford M. Chorney, 86, of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Cranston, died Sept. 14. He was the husband of the late Sally Portman Chorney, and the son of the late Harry and Nettie Chorney.

Mr. Chorney was with Morse Shoe Co. for 42 years and was corporate senior vice president upon his retirement. He was instrumental in the founding of Favya Shoes, a Division of Morse Shoe Co.

He was a member of Temple Emeth, Delray Beach; a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston, and founding member of Beth David Congregation, Narragansett.

He was a member of the Olympic Club of R.I. and former member of Ledgemont Country Club, Hunters Run Country Club, and the Two Ten Club of Mass.

He was the father of Alan Chorney of Atlanta, Ga.; Harris and Sally Chorney of West Hartford, Conn.; and Nancy Chorney of Boynton Beach, Fla.; grandfather of Daniel Chorney of New York City and the late Benjamin Chorney; grandfather-in-law of Emily Chorney of Norristown, Pa.; and great-grandfather of Gwendolyn Posic.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Institute, 1475 NW 12th Ave., Miami, FL 33136 or Hospice by the Sea, 1531 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33486.

**Gerhard Lowenstein, 89**

FALL RIVER — Gerhard S. "Gerry" Lowenstein, 89, formerly of Fall River, most recently of Portsmouth, died Sept. 16. He was the husband of Evelyn R. (Isserlis) Lowenstein,

to whom he had been married for over 60 years.

Born in Danzig, he was a son of the late Arthur and Anna (Meuller) Lowenstein. Coming to the United States in 1934, he worked in New York City for a year before moving to Fall River to work for Har-Lee Manufacturing, where he rose his way to supervisor, eventually becoming owner, president and treasurer of Lowenstein Dress Corp. in Durfee Mills for over 25 years. He was also president of Garmet Brokers, Inc. in Fall River.

A member of Temple Beth El, he was a past president of its men's club. He was an associate member of Charlton Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Lowenstein had been president of the New England Trades Employers Association in Fall River. He was a director of the former First Federal Bank of America, now Webster Bank, and chairman of its internal audit committee.

He had also been director of the economic development program of the Chamber of Commerce of Fall River, and a member of Associated Industries of the Fall River Chamber of Commerce.

A 32nd degree Mason, he was past master of the Watuppa Lodge AF & AM and had served as chairman of the Watuppa Foundation. He was a member of the Quequechan Club and of its board of directors.

He had also been a chairman of the United Fund campaign in Swansea and a commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America, Massachusetts Council. He served on the board of directors of the Fall River Rotary Club and received the Paul Harris Fellowship of Rotary International.

An avid yachtsman, Mr. Lowenstein was especially fond

of wooden power boats and was a past commander and an instructor of the Fall River chapter of the U. S. Power Boat Squadron.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Atty. Ronald J. Lowenstein and his wife, Ronna, of Newport; Elliot I. Lowenstein and his wife, Pat, of Coral Gables, Fla.; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Margot Bogus and Kathie Davis.

Burial was in Temple Beth El Cemetery, Fall River.

Contributions may be made to Rotary International Foundation, 1 Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201.

**Florence "Flo" Malatt, 86**

JOHNSTON — Florence, "Flo" Malatt, 86, of Morgan Health Center, formerly of Cranston, died Aug. 29. She was the beloved wife of the late Morris "Moe" Malatt. They were married for 46 years.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Leo and Bella (Rappoport) Levine, she had lived in Cranston for 37 years before moving to Johnston three years ago. Flo was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

She was the devoted mother of Sheila Malatt of Cranston and special friend of Dr. Frank.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The Tomorrow Fund, Rhode Island Hospital Campus, 503 Eddy St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Albert J. Max**

PROVIDENCE — Albert J. Max died Sept. 23. He was the husband of Gertrude (Spungin) Max.

He leaves a son, Fred Max

and his wife Sherry of Danbury, Conn.; two daughters, Marcia Connors and her husband Jerry of South Easton, Mass., and Roslyn Max and her husband Paul Moos of Stevenson, Md.; seven grandchildren, Jeffrey, Jill, Lauren, Seth, Jessica, Helen and Tobias; and two great-grandchildren, Samantha and Zachary. He was the grandfather of the late Joanna and the brother of the late Irving Max and Yetta Ware.

Contributions may be made to the Joanna Allison Connors Charitable Foundation, 11 Jennifer Way, So. Easton, MA 02375.

**Myer Mushlin, 91**

PROVIDENCE — Myer Mushlin, 91, died Sept. 16. He was the husband of the late Beatrice (Krasner) Mushlin. Born in Providence, a son of the late Ely and Cecilia (Sossin) Mushlin, he lived in Cranston for over 38 years before moving to Warwick, then to Providence.

He was a World War II Army veteran serving in England.

Mr. Mushlin was a salesman for the former Narragansett Brewing Company for many years before retiring 26 years ago.

He was a former member of Temple Sinai and was a member of Redwood Lodge #35 AF & AM.

He leaves two daughters, Nancy Mushlin of Warwick and Ellen Mushlin of Millbury, Mass. He was the brother of the late Kay Mushlin, Rebecca Jacobson, Sadye Millman, Ann Russian and Dorothy Pulner.

Contributions may be made

to Tockwotten Home, 75 East St., Providence, RI 02906.

**Priscilla E. Shuman, 64**

SWANSEA — Priscilla E. "Pris" Shuman, 64, died Sept. 13. She was the companion of James Britland of Swansea. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Bernard T. and Natalie R. (Block) Shuman, she was a lifelong resident of Swansea.

She was a 1959 graduate of Joseph Case High School, attended Boston University and graduated from the Katherine Gibbs School in Providence.

Ms. Shuman worked for the Swansea school department for over 30 years as secretary for the superintendent of schools.

She was a trustee of the Swansea Public Library, a member of the Coles River Club and cheerleading coach at Case High School.

She was a past member of Temple Beth El.

Ms. Shuman was an avid New England sports fan and loved spending time with her grandchildren.

She leaves a son, Michael J. Gluckman and his partner, Stephan Charpentier, of Delray Beach, Fla.; a daughter, Stacy P. Laberge and her husband, Bradford D. of Swansea; a brother, Stuart J. Shuman and his wife, Owen S., of Groton, Mass.; a grandson, Austin Laberge of Swansea; a granddaughter, Gabrielle Laberge of Swansea; two nephews, Matthew Shuman of Boston and Marc Shuman of Pepperill, Mass.; and a niece, Adriane Ashton of Worcester.

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## CALENDAR

From page 2

of N. Y. and Yiddish theater and what cultural icons such as Jon Stewart, Jerry Seinfeld, owe to Fanny Brice, Eddie Cantor and George Jessel. In the, C.V. Starr Auditorium, W. Duncan Mac Millan Hall, room 117.

## FRI., OCT. 13

## Yiddish Shmooz meeting

10 — 11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrave Ave., Providence.

The program will feature the members reminiscing about the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur of their youths. Yiddish humor, story-telling and a Yiddish lesson included. All are invited. For more information, call 861-8800, ext. 107.

## SUN., OCT. 15

## Faith walk to end homelessness

2 p.m. Interfaith walk to end homelessness at Colt State Park, Hope St. / Route 114, Bristol. Proceeds for Crossroads, Providence's largest homeless services agency. Alan Shawn Feinstein has agreed to match first \$10,000 raised. To register, or for more information, visit [www.faithwalkforcharity.org](http://www.faithwalkforcharity.org).

## TUES., OCT. 17

## Beth-El Sisterhood observant event

7 p.m. Appetizers and desserts will be served while Reb

Moshe Waldoks, well-known Jewish humorist and raconteur, entertains. Donations begin at \$45. Those donating at the top level (\$100) receive an autographed copy of Waldoks' book, "The Big Book of Jewish Humor." For more information, call Temple Beth-El at 331-6070, R.S.V.P. by Oct. 6.

## SAT., OCT. 28

## Evening of Jewish Renaissance

7 p.m. The Judge Marjorie and Dr. James Yashar with the R.I. Bureau of Jewish Education, celebration of Jewish learning and culture.

For more information contact Jana Brenman, 331-0956 ext 184 or [jbrenman@bjeri.org](mailto:jbrenman@bjeri.org)

## UPCOMING EVENT:

## Temple Sinai auction

Temple Sinai's annual goods and services auction will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance (\$25 at the door/same day, which includes a full dinner and admission. Items this year include gift certificates for restaurants, vacations, jewelry, clothing, toys and much more. Grand Prize Drawing: Tickets (grand prize \$2,000, 1st prize \$200, 2nd prize \$300, 3rd prize \$100) are also available for \$25 per ticket or \$100 per book. For information, call the temple at 942-8350.

## Habonim to participate in service day

BARRINGTON — Temple Habonim will be participating in "Beyond Our Walls," an annual "Great Day of Service" in Barrington, to be held this year on Monday, Oct. 9.

Volunteers may perform tasks at one of more than a dozen public works and local agency sites.

Activities include apple-picking for the R.I. Community Food Bank, landscaping help at the Barrington Senior Center, visiting

senior citizens at East Bay Manor, making sock-monkeys for patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital, baking cookies and pizza for firemen and policemen, local park clean-up and gathering donations for Tap-In. This event welcomes family participation.

Kick-off and registration is 8 to 9 a.m. at Barrington High School, 220 Lincoln Ave., Barrington; volunteers will then proceed to a site where they

will work from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beyond Our Walls (BOW) is an interfaith, outreach and social action organization whose members include those in various faith traditions, as well as those with no religious affiliations. All share a common goal of community betterment. For more information, contact Amy Rovin at 258-6860.

## Healing Center holds retreat

PROVIDENCE — On Sunday, Sept. 10, the R.I. Center for Jewish Healing held its Rosh Hashanah retreat. There were more than 20 attendees.

The retreat's instructor was Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener of Pnai Or in Hartford, Conn. The attendees learned new ways to think about *teshuvah* — repentance and return — in preparation for Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Kiener took them through exercises for reaching a place of forgiveness both of themselves and others and drew a connection with *kabbalah* and the *sephiroth*.

On Oct. 28 the center will present "Songs of Spirituality" at the BJE Evening of Jewish Renaissance, and all are invited.

The center is located at 230 Lantern Lane East in Wickford.

For more information, call Brown at 267-0029 or email [Howard.brown@verizon.net](mailto:Howard.brown@verizon.net).

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Deuteronomy 32:1 — 33:47

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By David Elcott

The story of our people begins with a song of triumph and freedom at the Red Sea and ends with the final song of Moses as we stand ready to enter the Land of Israel. The unequivocal victory over Egypt has given way to ambiguity. Physical survival is assured, but spiritual health is still in question.

Neither God nor Israel have abandoned each other in spite of disappointments and anger, but the frustrations of God are clear, as if God must be convinced to protect the people of the covenant. Israel seems, as always, to be searching for itself, hoping to find in alien gods and other cultures a greater sense of wholeness.

Israel is uncomfortable with its status as a sacred and unique people, its obligations to follow God rather than the commonness of its neighbors. It is against the people's longing for the banal and ordinary that Moses critiques:

O dull and witless nation,

Is not God the Parent who created you

Fashioned you and made you endure? (Deut. 32:6)

The commentators jump on

this, realizing that the rejection of Torah is not toward a higher goal, but a repudiation of the Jewish mission to be a covenantal people. It is not simply that the environment around us is so compelling, but that we are tired of the burden. Sapped of energy, Israel displays spiritual exhaustion and disbelief that the world can be redeemed.

In the last words our tradition attributes to Moses, this prophet of prophets looks into the soul

of the Jewish people and fears our desire to "escape from freedom." Moses calls on mountains and sky, on all the nations and past generations of Jews to witness the choice Israel must make — and he implores us to choose life, to affirm the covenant: "For this is not a trifling thing for you; it is your very life, through it you shall long endure..." (32:47).

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