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May 11, 2007

Mideast peace, a delicate balance

Oslo, Geneva negotiator walks conflict tightrope

By Mary Korr
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Israeli peace negotiator and policy analyst Daniel Levy, speaking the King's English, punched out a fusillade of Middle East facts, figures and analyses April 24 at Temple Beth-El. A London native, he made *aliyah* to Israel in 1991.

"I come to speak with a sense of urgency for several reasons," he told the 50 or so gathered at Beth-El.

Levy is currently a senior fellow and director of the Prospects for Peace initiative on the Middle East at The Century Foundation (www.tcf.org), a policy think tank, with offices in New York City and Washington D.C. The Mideast program was created in September to focus on conflicts in the Middle East; central to this is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

He described the mood in Israel. "People are losing hope on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and a society bereft of hope is adrift. We've tried everything — negotiation, wars, and unilateralism — and achieved nothing. The default is the status quo."

Israel's domestic problems,

See MIDEAST PEACE, page 16



Photo: Brian Hentler/JTA

ISRAELIS CARRY SIGNS during a mass protest calling for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's resignation May 3 in Tel Aviv.

Olmert digs in, despite war report

By Yehuda Lev

It was not so much the accusations, those were expected. But what followed their publication in Jerusalem last week surprised even Israelis accustomed to political upheavals in their country. The surprise? With just a few exceptions, there were no upheavals. What there was, was apathy.

Give the Israeli government credit. When it appointed a commission to investigate its decisions made during the 34 days of the Second Lebanon War last summer, it chose five respected jurists headed by Justice Eliyahu Winograd to carry out the task. Part One of the report covered the period of the build-up to the war and the first five days of the war

NEWS ANALYSIS

and without asking for one. He made his decision without systematic consultation with others, especially outside the Israel Defense Forces and despite not having experience in external political and military affairs."

Part One was even more critical than expected, of decisions taken by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Amir Peretz and the military Chief of Staff, Dan Halutz. (Halutz has since retired.) JTA reporter Dina Kraft cited the words of the scathing report: "The Prime Minister made up his mind [to go to war] hastily, despite the fact that no detailed military plan was submitted to him

and without asking for one. He made his decision without systematic consultation with others, especially outside the Israel Defense Forces and despite not having experience in external political and military affairs."

Of Peretz, the report stated; "Peretz is reprimanded for not having 'knowledge or experience in military, political or governmental matters' and for his failure to seek better counsel." And further, Halutz "... is criticized for not having the army properly prepared and for failing to inform the politicians about internal army considerations."

The visible results of these judgments, as we go to press,

See OLMERT, Page 16

Sarkozy seen as a friend to Israel

New French president grandson of Greek Jew



Nicolas Sarkozy

PARIS (JTA) — Optimistic and celebratory, Jewish groups were quick to offer congratulations to Nicolas Sarkozy after his victory in French presidential elections.

Sarkozy, of the ruling Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), defeated Socialist Party candidate Segolene Royal in Sunday's runoff. He garnered some 53 percent to Royal's 47 percent in the election, which featured a huge voter turnout.

The former interior minister was seen by Jewish voters as a friend to Israel and an important figure in the fight against anti-Semitism. Soon after his opponent conceded, Jewish groups came out with their good wishes.

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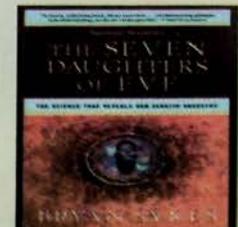
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Calendar

SEND US YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS — include time, date, location and telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date. E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org; Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: Calendar.

FRI., MAY 11

Simchat Shabbat at Torat Yisrael

5:45 p.m. — Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. A program for young families consisting of a kid-friendly Shabbat dinner followed by an interactive service with stories, songs and prayers. Cost: \$10 per family. 785-1800.

Sinai honors members

7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai will honor congregants who have been members of the synagogue for 25 years or longer with a special Shabbat service and Oneg reception.

SUN., MAY 13

Odessa Memorial concert at Emanu-El

3 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, Taft Ave., Providence. Benton A. Odessa Memorial concert; original story of three friends in the early 20th century who leave their *shetl* to seek musical fame. Cantors Brian Mayer and Joseph Ness with mezzo-soprano Lynn Torgove sing the leads with Prof. Raphael Shargel as narrator, and the orchestra and choirs of Temple Emanu-El.

MON., MAY 14

Emanu-El Leisure Club

10 — 10:50 a.m. "What's up Downcity? Everything Old is New Again," Barbara Barnes, RI Historical Society

11:10 a.m. — noon. Music by Mike Miller

Federation annual meeting

7 to 10 p.m. Jewish Community Center social hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 62nd annual meeting. Installation of JFRI officers and board members. Special remembrance of Charles Samperil; presentation of leadership and service awards. Reception to follow.

World Refugee Day to honor Sharps

5 — 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, corner Benevolent and Benefit Sts., Providence. Diocese of Providence, the Mayor of Providence and numerous other organizations will salute the late Waitstill and Martha Sharp for their lifesaving work during the Holocaust. See Community.

Sinai Sisterhood book review

8 p.m. Temple Sinai Sisterhood will host their book review. Discussion will be on Lisa See's "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan."

TUES., MAY 15

Torat Yisrael's Lunch & Learn

12 — 1:30 p.m. Topic: What's on your mind? Join Rabbi Amy Levin from Temple Torat Yisrael at the Grille on Main, 50 Main St., East Greenwich. Each participant orders from the menu. Program studies Jewish sources addressing current issues. Everyone is welcome.

WED., MAY 16

Miriam Hospital Women's Association annual meeting

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk. 110th annual meeting, 24th annual recognition award honoring Tillie Selenger. Installation of officers and board. See Community.

JCC annual meeting

7 to 9 p.m. Jewish Community Center social hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

THURS., MAY 17

JSA annual meeting

7 to 9 p.m. Tamarisk, Shalom Dr., Warwick.

SAT., MAY 19

Sinai Brotherhood concert

7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai Brotherhood will present their spring concert, featuring the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble. Desserts from Ursula's will be served. Cost is \$15 per person. For information, call the temple at 942-8350.

SUN., MAY 20

JCC community event

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Multi-activity open house, open to all. Fitness, sports, swimming, arts & crafts, etc. For information call 861-8800 or email lbalaban@jccri.org.

Hebrew School open house at Agudas Achim

9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. 901 North Main St. in Attleboro. The synagogue will be holding an informational open house for its Hebrew School. See community.

Hadassah donor event

5 p.m. R.I. Hadassah will hold its annual donor event at The Village Inn, Narragansett. Musical program with Cantor Fred Scheff; speaker is Carole Goodman-Kaufman, president of the western New England region. Gift bazaar. Members and guests are welcome. For information, call the Hadassah office: 463-3636.

Midrasha graduation

7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Twenty-five students will receive degrees from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.

Holocaust Center arts & writing awards

7 to 9 p.m. Warwick Mall.

MON., MAY 21

Emanu-El Leisure Club

10 — 10:50 a.m. "Separation of church & state," Prof. Josh Stein, Roger Williams University

11:10 a.m. — noon. "Along the Pleasant Streams of Providence: the changing roles of the Rivers," Barbara Barnes, RI Historical Society.

FRI., MAY 25

Yiddish Shmooz with Mayor Cicilline

10 — 11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Regular program plus Mayor David N. Cicilline as guest speaker. All are welcome. For more information, call Elly at 861-8800, ext.107.

SUN., MAY 27

Jewish War Veterans Memorial Day service

11 a.m. Rain or shine, tent, at The Memorial Wall of Honor, Jewish War Veterans, at Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick. Deceased veterans' roll call, ceremony, public officials will speak, Sen. Jack Reed, Adj. Gen. Bray. Religious event with military details including a bugler and firing squad. For information, contact Sanford H. Gorodetsky at 942-5656. See community.

WED., MAY 30

Touro Fraternal installation

6:30 p.m. Touro Fraternal Association meeting, installation of officers, board at its headquarters (45 Rolfe Square, Cranston). Catered kosher dinner, open to Touro members only. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Touro at 785-0066. See community.

MON., JUNE 4

Historical view, discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict

7 p.m. Channing Memorial Church, 135 Pelham St., Newport, facing Touro Park. "A Brief History of the State of Israel and Prospects for Arab-Israeli Peace." The speaker is Dr. David E. Matz, founder and director of the Graduate Programs in Dispute Resolution at UMass Boston. Dr. Matz's experience includes assisting the Israeli Ministry of

See CALENDAR, page 27

CLARIFICATION

To reach the volunteer coordinator of Judy's Kindness Kitchen at Congregation Beth Shalom, Harriett Frank, email: billharriettfrank@cox.net. The website address is: www.judyskindnesskitchen.org.

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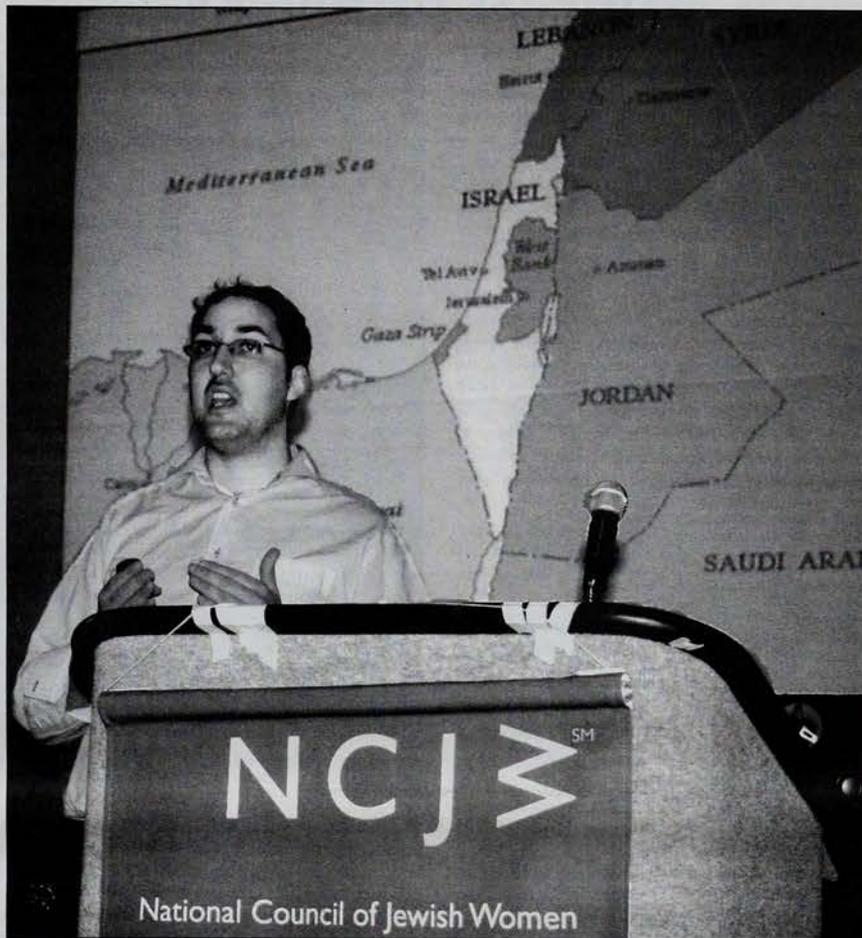
CANDLE LIGHTING
For greater Rhode Island

May 11 7:34
May 18 7:40
May 22 7:44 Shavuot
May 23 8:52 Shavuot after



David Project teaches 'How to be pro-Israel'

Community



LAWRENCE MUSCANT, manager of Campus Support for the David Project, speaks at an Israel workshop at the Jewish Community Center April 24.

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Reini Silverman believes in Jewish education. She made sure her children had one, but when they went off to college, they were floored when some classmates called Israel a "white colonialist state."

"They were totally unprepared to answer these kinds of things," said Silverman, of Plymouth, Mass. She and more than 70 others gathered in the Jewish Community Center as a way to sharpen their Israel advocacy skills, courtesy of the David Project, in a joint program of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Center.

Lawrence Muscant, manager of Campus Support for the David Project, called one of Israel's biggest problems "the big lie" — false statements that, if repeated enough times, are believed to be factual. Israel has quite a few of these statements leveled against it that appear constantly in articles and speeches around the world. Some of the most popular and damning of these are:

- "Zionism is racism."
- "Israeli is an apartheid state."

"The occupation is the cause of the Middle East Conflict."

These and other accusations, vocalized repeatedly by Former president Jimmy Carter, political scientist Noam Chomsky, and others are changing the nature of American public opinion on the subject of Israel.

"American support of Israel is currently at 55 percent," Muscant said. "Not too long ago, it was 60 and 70 percent."

The David Project, a group that promotes Israel advocacy to college campus and adults, recommends those budding Israel advocates use a system called "Address, Reframe and Message," (or ARM) for responding to these remarks.

The tactic, according to the group, is "to address accusations directly, reframe them in terms of the bigger picture, and send a message about the conflict's root causes."

Take the "apartheid state" comment, for instance, one made increasingly popular by Carter in his recent book "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid."

"This is crazy — it trivial-

izes real apartheid," Muscant said, which he defined as institutionalized racism enforced by law.

First, he said, focus on the accusation, and steer it away from Israel and the emotional context associated with the term apartheid (or Nazis, or the Holocaust, or whatever term is being used).

He said that in South Africa, blacks were legally disenfranchised — they couldn't vote, couldn't protest or wield political influence.

Israel, on the other hand, gives its citizens the right to vote, freedom of religion and the press. It even has 11 Arab Knesset members, some of whom, Muscant pointed out, have even called the state of Israel itself illegitimate.

"Can you imagine a U.S. congressman saying something like that?" he said.

Israel — like any democracy, Muscant said — does have discrimination, including amidst its Russian and Ethiopian populations, but "it's getting better."

There is, in fact, apartheid in the Middle East, but not where the accusers say it is. For example, — Jews can't be citizens

of Jordan; a Christian cannot openly practice his faith in Saudi Arabia.

"Israel is the freest country in the Middle East," said Muscant.

The important targets of these conversations are the many Americans who are undecided on the Israel-Palestinian conflict, not people who have already made up their minds.

"Israel advocacy is not just standing in front of an audience," he said — there's also talking with friends, or writing letters to the editor or to congressmen.

"Not many people can talk like Martin Luther King or Bill Clinton. But you don't need to be like them, you don't need to be perfect."

"The best way to be an activist is to practice."

For those wishing to brush up on their Israeli history in preparation for possible arguments, Muscant recommended reading "The Case for Israel" by Alan Dershowitz, and "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East" by Michael Oren, or visiting www.davidproject.org.

Rubin to leave Voice

PROVIDENCE — Jonathan Rubin, managing editor of the Jewish Voice & Herald, will be leaving his position at the end of May. He will be moving to Chicago in June to attend Northwestern's Medill Graduate School of Journalism.

Rubin served as the editor and then managing editor of The Voice, where he has worked for the last five years. In 2002, he was among a group that helped form the Jewish Voice & Herald from two other Rhode Island Jewish newspapers — the Jewish Voice and the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, where he also served as editor.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, he was raised in Pawtucket and Providence.

A search process has begun for a replacement.

Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE Mideast prophecy

Readers of this column have come to expect accurate and thought-provoking analyses of Middle East issues that clear the air of fear and doubt. If that was your expectation for this week, forget it.



**Yehuda
Lev**

We are about to enter the mystic realm of Mideast prophecy and the last people to attempt this successfully found their names inscribed on various books of the Bible.

Some time around the beginning of this year we began to hear rumors of an impending attack on Iran. Not an invasion, as happened with Iraq, but air strikes against Iranian facilities under construction that were to be used in the production of nuclear weapons. Also included among the possibilities were air strikes severing Iranian lines of supply serving Shi'ite forces in Iraq and Palestinian extremists in Gaza and the West Bank.

The only two countries to which the rumors might apply are the United States and Israel and neither is in a position to mount a ground attack, the former because it has no army divisions to spare from Iraq and Afghanistan and the latter because before reaching its goal the Israeli Army would have to cross both Syria and Iraq. The indigenous populations, you may rest assured, would not be friendly.

Of course there is always the Turkish option but the Turks are too interested in being accepted into the European Union to run any risks that could lead to a general Mideast conflagration and a war that could involve their secular society, already threatened by a growing Islamic movement. So remove Turkey from the

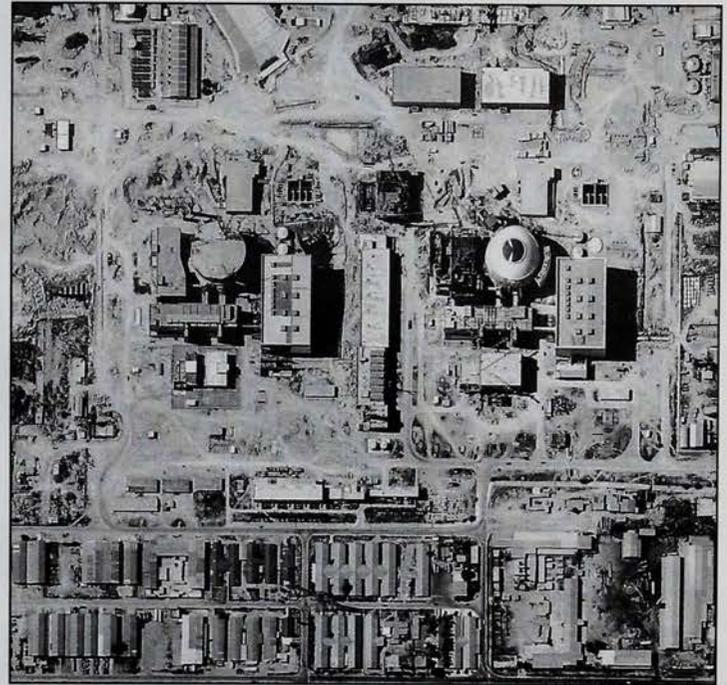
list of possible routes to Iran.

Iran is not Iraq. It has almost three times Iraq's population and four times its land area. An invasion of Iran is simply not going to take place. But air strikes? Israel has tried the tactic twice, once against the Osirak nuclear facility in Iraq with spectacular success and once against the Lebanese in last year's brief war with much success in destroying Muslim towns and Muslim areas in Beirut, but without achieving its war objectives. You need only recall the experience of Germany, whose arms production reached its height in 1944 and whose soldiers were still fighting in Berlin in 1945 to realize the difficulty in trying to beat a nation into submission through prolonged use of bombs and missiles.

Israel, unfortunately, is an exception to this rule: One nuclear bomb in Tel Aviv would tear the heart out of the country.

Enter the "X" factor, nuclear energy and the destructive uses to which it can be put. The United States and Israel have atomic weapons. So does Muslim but non-Arab Pakistan. Now it is the desire of the remaining Mideast states, led by Iran, to seek atomic parity with the local and major superpowers. So Iran, when its president, Mr. Ahmadinejad, has time from hosting conferences to support his beliefs that the Holocaust never happened, is intent on researching and building its own nuclear weaponry.

The West's major response to this has been to apply economic sanctions. It worked with South Africa, why not with Iran? There is one major difference. South Africa sold us dried springbok meat for those for whom sodium levels are not a problem. Iran sells the West caviar, pistachios and oil. The first two we can find elsewhere but remove Iranian oil from the marketplace and the



AN AERIAL PHOTO shows the nuclear site at Bushehr in the Iranian desert, on Feb. 28, 2004.

price of all oil rises and the economies of some countries are seriously affected. It is oil that pays for any number of deeply buried nuclear construction sites. The Iranians learned much from Osirak.

Once Iran succeeds, who will be next? Egypt? Saudi Arabia? Turkey? Syria? The latest Middle East arms race will be well on its way but this time not with armaments supplied by the major powers but with home-grown weapons capable of incinerating entire cities. Once the first nuclear weapon is used, everyone becomes a potential target.

How to deal with this grim possibility no one has yet discovered but deal with it we must.

Responsibility for prophecying the future is always a somber one but for us Middle East prophets it is made easier by this simple fact: If we are mistaken on this one, very few people will be left alive to point out our error and they will be too busy trying to evade mushroom clouds to care. For a Mideast prophet that is the sole redeeming factor in an otherwise unrewarding career.

Yehuda Lev can be reached at yehudal@cox.net.

Star Spangled Banner

It's the time of year for annual meetings and school assemblies. Is Hatikvah being sung at these events? If so, our own national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, should be sung as well.

Do people even know it these days? I was surprised that my grandchildren — grades 2 and 4 — hadn't learned it in school. They were very dismissive. "It's only for ball games." My first response was to read them the riot act. Realizing the futility of that approach, I provided "incentive" for learning — a banana split. They learned. Now they are very well nourished (lots of potassium in those bananas), proud of themselves and part of American tradition.

I know the problems with the song:

- Its origins in a battle situation
- Its association with the Viet Nam war in the minds of people younger than I

(In contrast, I first sang it as a child during WW II.)

- Its miserable musical range of an octave and a fifth
- Its dense sentence structure and archaic vocabulary

I wouldn't have chosen it as our national anthem, but it IS our national anthem. Immigrants sang it in Yiddish before they learned English because they were grateful to be in the "land fun die freie, fun brave die heim." Singing it can express patriotism and aspirations for the future across the political spectrum. It's not the property of the conservatives.

As Mark Twain said, "My kind of loyalty was loyalty to one's country, not to its institutions or its officeholders."

Eleanor Lewis
Providence

Letters to the Editor

"Muncie" mistake offers lesson in geography

Although I moved away from R.I. 13 years ago — to nearby Sharon, Mass., — I continue to enjoy receiving the *Jewish Voice and Herald* to keep up with the doings of the R.I. Jewish community of which I was a part for more than 10 years.

On page 15 of the April 27 issue, in the photo layout about Israel Independence Day, you have a photo and caption of some young women from a town in New York. The name of the town is misspelled "Muncie." The correct spelling is "Monsey." That is the town where I grew up, so I know what I am talking about. "Muncie" is in Indiana. The name "Monsey" in New York's

Rockland County is derived from the name of a local Native American tribe.

For the past 20-25 years, Monsey has been a predominantly Orthodox and Hasidic community; when I moved there as a child in 1960, it was a suburb to which many "centrist" and "liberal" Jewish families moved from New York City in order to raise their kids "out in the country."

Just thought you should know.

Thanks for your time and attention.
Shalom and Shavua Tov.

Jill (Weiskopf, MD) Sandberg
Sharon, Mass. (formerly
Providence, RI)

THE OLD OLIVETTI In America, a longer goodbye

I love America and Israel. (And France and Italy and Britain and Canada, but let's not complicate things too much.) I love the things we share and the things that distinguish us as separate. We practice different forms of democracy — ours based on principles of separation of powers, theirs a hodgepodge of forms including elements that would be familiar in France (multiple parties and separate elections for the legislature and head of government); the Netherlands (proportional representation); and Britain (virtually independent cabinet ministers and an unwritten constitution). We both have trouble controlling our borders, and each has a dominant religion, though we both practice forms of religious pluralism. We both have incompetent leaders who got us into lost/losing unnecessary wars. (It is an historical truism that if you are going to get your country involved in a war of choice, you may as well win.)



Josh Stein

And the differences? In America we pretend that religion has no place in secular society despite "In God we trust" and "one nation under God" and crèches on public property and menorah lightings in state houses; Israel pretends to be a secular society independent of its official religion until the rabbinical authorities assert their control over everyday life (see Alison Golub's occasional columns on the perils and pitfalls of trying to prove you are Jewish enough to get married in a theocracy).

But a key difference is in the way we can or cannot control the executive power. In America, regardless of how George W. Bush-like the president is, it's almost impossible to get rid of him before his term expires. Yes, congress controls the purse strings (when it wants to) and yes, the president can be impeached and convicted of high crimes and misdemeanors—whatever that means but in fact, unless one rises (sinks?) to the level of Richard Nixon, there's no effective way to remove a president—and even if there were, in our current case we would just be exchanging the puppet for the puppeteer. Congress can override a presidential veto, but the president can run roughshod over the will of 2/3 (minus one) of either house and have his veto sustained. Israel, which is working with an independently elected prime minister, avoids the Italian imbroglia of constantly falling governments, but there can be pressure placed on the prime minister to resign even without a formal vote of no-confidence as required in England, for instance.

Which inevitably brings us to the two commissions. In America an independent commission of senior legislative, executive and judicial retirees, all of great distinction, from both political parties, studied the origins of the Iraq war and made suggestions as to what to do now. These boiled down to "incompetence" (the generous reading) and "withdraw" respectively. Not wanting to influence the 2006 mid-term elections, the commission withheld its final report until after the polls were closed and the votes were counted and it became obvious to all that the president's policy of imposing democracy in Iraq by bombs was thoroughly repudiated by the democratic process by ballot. So, what has the president decided to do? Ignore. First he called for a surge of troops (the immediate result of which was the huge increase in civilian and GI deaths) and then he vetoed a congressional spending bill which called for gradual then total withdrawal of American troops. If you read this on May 11 there will still be 610 more days of this administration to endure.

In Israel where a similarly constituted commission, this on the origins and conduct of the war in Lebanon this summer reported that: "There are very serious failings in these decisions and the way they were made. We impose the primary responsibility for these failures on the prime minister, the minister of defense and the [outgoing] chief of staff." By the time you read this the Olmert's premiership may already be over. It is a consummation devoutly to be wished. Being an accidental premier can work, but not this time. The man who managed to defeat the sainted Teddy Kollect back in 1993 was and is the wrong man at the wrong time who did the wrong thing. His time may already have come and gone, or perhaps he's still hanging on, but at least in Eretz Yisrael it's possible to change course, to get rid of incompetence and try something new. Here in America, we wait, and wait, and wait and wait. 610 and counting.

Josh Stein can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.



NOT ALONE Close encounters ...

(Editor's note: Alan Krinsky works on health care quality improvement at UMass Memorial Health Care in Worcester. He holds a master's degree in public health from Brown University and earned his Ph.D. in history and the history of science in 2001 from the University of Wisconsin. He serves on the boards of the Rhode Island Public Health Association and the Providence Hebrew Day School. He and his family have lived in the Ocean State since 1998.)

For example, the linguist George Lakoff has identified different metaphors of family structure and parental roles among liberals and conservatives, the latter tending to hold to a strict father metaphor and the former to a nurturing parent metaphor.

These differing views correspond to different views of the proper role of government and differences in political positions, on such matters as taxes and social welfare—to the point that liberals and conservatives often have difficulty comprehending the world view of the other.

We ought to be comforted that we do not exercise absolute freedom. For absolute freedom, freedom from influences, from constraints, from obligations, is no freedom at all. Instead, such "freedom" becomes anarchy, and we become slaves to our desires and whims.

By contrast, the recent Passover holiday, with all of its restrictions—on what we eat, on how we conduct the seder—is the holiday of our freedom! Only within a framework of law, a context of relationships and community, a web of mutual obligation can we become truly free. In this sense, the details of Jewish law do not imprison us, but rather construct a great arena of freedom, a freedom to make good and bad choices, and a freedom to fulfill our potentials. This, in part, is why a few years back in these pages I borrowed Rabbi Mitchell Levine's notion of Judaism as a "team sport" as opposed to the individual sport many of us take it to be. Despite the recent fascination with Kabbalah and the quite understandable longings for a meaningful, spiritual life, Judaism actually insists that we cannot find full meaning outside the context of a community, relationships, and obligations.

My hope, therefore, in this monthly column, is to consider contemporary challenges and questions, Jewish and general, insofar as we are shaped by various influences. I aim to look at community institutions and discussions, as well as national or global matters, from such a perspective. And in a traditional Jewish manner, I hope to answer questions by raising yet more questions.

This, then, is where I begin: we are not alone. And if you happen to meet any little green (or otherwise shaped and colored) beings from another planet, please let me know.

Alan Krinsky can be reached at adkrinsky@netzero.net.

No, I am not talking about extra-terrestrials from beyond our solar system.

I am not even referring to God—though I do believe we are not alone in this sense.

Rather, I am talking about who we are, as individuals, in the world. None of us is alone. Even the recluses and loners among us are not alone. And despite the American myth of rugged individualism, of people bound by nothing and overcoming anything and everything and creating or recreating themselves anew in an often harsh world, despite this, we are not alone.



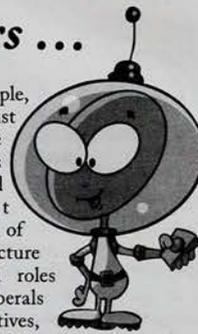
Alan Krinsky

Simply put, we are all — to a degree — products of our environment, our families, our communities, our cultures. The choices and priorities we make, the music we listen to and music we do not listen to, the foods we enjoy and the foods we find almost instinctively repulsive, are all shaped by these various influences.

The idea is simple, and not particularly controversial when we think about it — who denies the influences of peer pressure or advertising, for example (at least that they affect other people)? And yet, the implications are striking and profound. For as long as we imagine ourselves to be lone individuals of unrestrained free will, we will fail to understand ourselves and others — how we behave and how we think.

Now, lest you think I am even suggesting that we are automatons lacking any will power or creative faculties, let me reassure you. Although we are products of our environment, we are not only that. Without even getting into theology, the environmental influences shape us but do not determine us. We are not beings of unfettered free will; clearly, we do exercise a great degree of free will and individual creativity.

And by better understanding these influences, the constraints on us, I suggest we can more clearly see where we are free to act. Even how we might choose the influences—such as schools—that help shape us and our children.



ALISON ON ALIYAH

Everyone (Israeli) Loves a Struggle

Over a month ago, when I first heard that university students all over Israel were preparing to strike, I thought someone was playing a practical joke. I couldn't understand the concept of paying tuition and then deciding not to go to class, essentially refusing to receive education and knowledge that had already been paid for. I remember having to



Alison Golub

tell a friend of mine in the US that I couldn't send her a CD she needed from me because the postal workers here were on strike, and I wasn't in school because the students were on strike, and even that we had had a morning-long strike of

We are begging for the government to put education as a priority, and to stop leeching money out of our budgets bit by bit.

train traffic controllers, which led to every passenger on every train across the country having to disembark and walk along the tracks for miles until they found an alternative mode of transportation. I remember her response being something like, "Wow, what a country you live in!"

For the first week of the student strike, I wandered around in a blissful daze, delighted at not having to do my French homework or read any psychology articles. I absentmindedly watched the events slowly unfolding around me, but had no idea what all the fuss was really about, and certainly had no desire to get personally involved. All but one of my classes was cancelled, and I dutifully attended the remaining class, assuming the professor must have a good reason for continuing to call for our attendance.

And then I started to read and watch the news, and talk to my more activist-minded friends, and do some research into what was really going on. It turns out this is a pretty righteous cause, as social struggles go. It has been often touted in the media as a simple call for a tuition reduction, but the real fight is for the future of higher education in this country overall. We are begging for the government to put education as a priority, and to stop leeching money out of our budgets bit by bit, until there are no tenure-track professorships, no government-subsidized scholarships and aid programs, and no one willing to stay in Israel for their doctorates and post-doctorates, when they could be treated so much better

in most of the programs around the world.

So the students are fighting and picketing, and opposing the mass of ultimatums someone is throwing around regarding our semester being in dire straits and that our course credits may be canceled if we continue not to show up for class. The students are clearly afraid, and many of us are facing very unpleasant dilemmas. But at this point, there is nothing left to do but to fight to the death, and Israelis know how to do this better than anyone. No one wants to be a *freier* (sucker), and the longer this goes on, the more we know we cannot back down.

To return to classes now would be an utter disaster, as it would mean absorbing the tremendous damage of a month out of school in addition to not achieving any of our goals and ruining our reputation in the government's eyes. So we take a deep breath and return to block the gates to the campus day after day, vowing that even the students who want to break the strike won't be allowed to do it on our watch.

I have just arrived home, exhausted after our third full day of picketing and gate-blocking and my fourth hours-long student union meeting, at which were present at least 600 students, all dressed proudly in red and chanting relentlessly. There are choruses of, "What a mess, what a mess!" and, "Yuli [Yael (Yuli) Tamir, MK, Minister of Education], Yuli, what have they done to me? They have taken away my education!" (I promise it sounds much better in Hebrew.) There

is simply nothing like a good, strong fight; nothing in the world is more powerful and more efficient at uniting a population like a struggle against an enemy. And once again, Israelis know this better than anyone.

It's hard to tell at this point where we are really headed, and what's in for us in the next few days. On the one hand, I can see people becoming tired and much more worried as the days wear on, particularly the members of the student union which is rapidly spiraling to its financial and possibly moral demise. On the other hand, the student body itself appears to be almost sucking the energy out of those who are weakening, becoming stronger in numbers and in ideology by the hour. Every meeting has had an attendance, ferocity, and volume of double that of the meeting before it.

To be honest, I can't tell whether our steadfastness and fervor stems from the cause of the strike itself, or just our desire not to go back to school. I can certainly speak for myself when I say that I don't think I've ever worked as hard on my coursework or doctoral project as I am fighting to stay on "vacation."

There are rumors of a hunger strike to begin tomorrow, and many of the students are begging to "up the ante" by putting gum in classroom door locks and releasing armies of cockroaches all over the campus. At times I fear that we are losing sight of the real goals and that the struggle will soon spiral out of control, and at times I feel that the time was simply ripe for a fight and the students just want to rally behind anything.

Returning to class now with a signed agreement for anything less than our stated goals would be painfully reminiscent of this past summer's now obviously failed war, during which we returned from the Lebanon front defeated and without our captive soldiers.

These very same individuals who are students now were soldiers then, and the country has failed them twice in the span of eight months. Perhaps this is just our way of saying enough is enough. Either way, everyone loves a good fight.

Alison Stern Golub was born and grew up in Seattle, Washington and is a graduate of Brown University. You can email her at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com, and read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.

Please join us as we
Celebrate Service to our Community
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of the
Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
Monday, May 14, 2007, 7 p.m.
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Dual campaign brings nearly \$5M

Funds directed to local groups, world Jewry, Israel

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — After an intense eight-month campaign, and an unanticipated “emergency campaign” launched in the wake of last July’s war between Israel and Hezbollah, Federation leaders were pleased as they tallied the results of their fundraising.

Their two campaigns brought in a combined \$4.9 million since last September — \$4 million for the annual Federation campaign and over \$900,000 for humanitarian, educational and economic relief for worn-torn Northern Israel.

Annual campaign chair Doris Feinberg said this amount was a considerable accomplishment, not only because it’s the most money raised in recent years but especially because the campaigns were launched during a time of transition, when Federation was without a permanent executive and minus one member of its campaign staff.

Although the \$4 million raised was down 2.4 percent from

the previous campaign, Federation planners tightened their belts and were able to fund almost all local organizations at the same level as last year.

A good portion of the funds from the Israel Emergency Campaign, which was chaired by Judy and Robbie Mann, was allocated to northern Israel, including Afula, Rhode Island’s sister region, which was hit with a barrage of Hezbollah rockets during the siege.

Funds given locally, abroad

Of the \$4 million raised, a little more than \$756,000 is earmarked for fundraising, operational and programmatic expenses at the Federation, and another \$200,000 is reserved for restricted gifts for specific programs.

That leaves about \$3.0 million to be split evenly between Jewish communities in Greater Rhode Island and international agencies in Israel and 60 other countries. The bulk of these local funds goes to the 10 main Jewish organizations, known as “core agencies,” which includes the Jewish Community Center, Bureau of Jewish Education, Jewish Family Services, Jewish

Seniors Agency, area Hillels and other social and educational organizations. The remaining \$100,000 or so is then split among nearly 24 children’s camps, youth groups and others (see sidebar). There were few significant changes from last year in the way monies were allocated. One involved the funding for Perspectives, a Jewish social group for people in their 20s and 30s run by the Jewish Community Center.

See, CAMPAIGN, page 8



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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island 2005-2007 Allocations			
	2005	2006	2007
LOCAL CORE AGENCIES			
Brown Hillel Foundation	\$45,902	\$45,800	\$45,800
Bureau of Jewish Education	\$456,304	\$455,290	\$455,290
Grants in Aid-JCDS, PHDS, South County HS	\$176,140	\$175,749	\$175,749
Holocaust Education and Resource Ctr of RI	\$20,042	\$19,997	\$19,997
Jewish Community Center	\$348,993	\$348,218	\$348,218
Jewish Eldercare of RI (of Jewish Seniors Agen.)	\$69,678	\$69,523	\$69,523
Jewish Family Service	\$319,409	\$318,698	\$318,698
URI Hillel Foundation	\$66,288	\$66,141	\$66,141
TOTAL CORE AGENCIES	\$1,502,756	\$1,499,416	\$1,499,416
COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES			
BBYO Regional	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$6,500
Camp JORI	\$7,000	\$6,650	\$6,650
Chabad Providence	\$3,300	\$3,135	\$3,135
Chabad West Bay	\$3,300	\$3,135	\$3,135
The Chaplaincy Center	N/A	\$1,425	\$1,425
Cranston Mealsite @ Torat Yisrael	\$8,000	\$7,600	\$7,600
Jewish Prog. @ Bryant University	\$1,000	\$950	\$950
Jewish Prog. @ J&W University	\$1,000	\$950	\$950
Jewish Prog. @ RW University	\$1,000	\$950	\$950
Jewish Cmte on Scouting	\$3,000	\$2,850	\$2,850
NCJW Local Chapter	\$0	\$500	\$0
NE Rabbinical College	\$500	\$475	\$475
Perspectives	\$28,345	\$26,928	\$0
RI Board of Rabbis	\$650	\$618	\$600
Torah Day Camp (at PHDS)	\$4,000	\$3,800	\$3,800
Va'ad Hakashrut	\$3,000	\$2,850	\$2,850
Vestnik (Russian-Jewish newspaper)	\$3,500	\$3,325	\$3,325
Young Adult Earmark (formerly Perspectives)	\$0	\$0	\$26,928
TOTAL COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES	\$73,595	\$67,841	\$72,123



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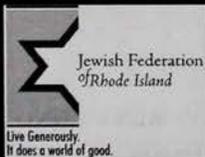


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URI Hillel students wish Israel a happy 59th birthday!

URI Hillel students Jessica Wolchok, Spencer Ginsberg, and Allison Turkell gave out free cake at Memorial Union in celebration of Yom Ha-Atzmaut.

CAMPAIGN

From page 7

These funds — about \$27,000 — were redirected into an upcoming initiative to better address young adult needs in the community. During this programming hiatus, the Jewish Community Center and the Federation, advised by former Perspectives participants, are holding planning sessions to design new programs for Jewish young adults.

Other changes include a reduction of funds set aside to aid “new Americans.” At least \$30,000 had been set aside every year since the 1980s to help Jews from the Former Soviet Union settle in Rhode Island. These requests have largely dried up in recent years.

Amy Seigle, director of fund distribution at the Federation, said with the work of the Priority Setting Committee as a foundation, the Federation is preparing to overhaul the current allocations system. “It is our expectation — and that of our donors — that community dollars meet community priorities and produce outcomes consistent with these needs,” said Seigle. “This means we will direct more attention and focus on determining local needs, benchmarking progress and evaluating programs to ensure we are achieving community objectives.”

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News Briefs



Photo: Rina Castelnovo/JTA

Kidnapped journalist

JOURNALISTS demonstrate on the Israeli side of the Gaza crossing April 25, calling for the release of kidnapped BBC reporter Alan Johnston.

Dig this! Herod's tomb found

(see photos page 17)

JERUSALEM: Israeli scientists claimed this week that they have discovered the tomb of Herod the Great, the notorious, Rome-appointed 'King of the Jews' who ruled over the Biblical kingdom of Judaea at the time of the birth of Jesus. "We have discovered the tomb of Herod at Herodium" said Professor Ehud Netzer from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Herodium, named for the monarch, is one of the main palaces he built during his nearly four-decade rule over Judaea as a Roman client-king in the first century BC. Netzer said he eventually managed to piece together the exact location of the tomb by reconstructing the king's funeral procession from his winter palace in Jericho to the Herodium. Finally, about three weeks ago he stumbled upon pieces of a sarcophagus which he believes was the stone casket belonging to Herod. (JTA)

Bronfman resigns from WJC

NEW YORK: Edgar Bronfman, president and chief financial supporter of the World Jewish Congress, has resigned after nearly 30 years in that post. The resignation came after weeks of turmoil within the organization after the firing of Israel Singer, a long-time senior official and protégé of Bronfman, whom the Canadian billionaire accused of misappropriating funds. A new president will be elected in June and there are two nominees being mentioned as Bronfman's successor, Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the WJC executive, and Ronald Lauder, president of the Jewish National Fund. (JTA)

And finally...

Battle of the briskets

NEW YORK: Nu, so you weren't nominated for an Oscar or a Grammy but you might have won the Golden Schmaltz Award if only you had known about it. In the first-ever Battle of the Briskets, Cathy Gins became Mrs. Brisket of 2007, triumphing over 14 other members of the New Shul in New York City with her Cranberry Brisket. "Briskets can be tough" said one of the judges, pointing out that the perfect brisket requires "a delicate balance between sweet and salty." The newly-crowned Mrs. Brisket said she uses cranberries and tomatoes, a "natural sweet and sour, making it different and rich." (The Jewish Week)

Compiled by Yehuda Lev.



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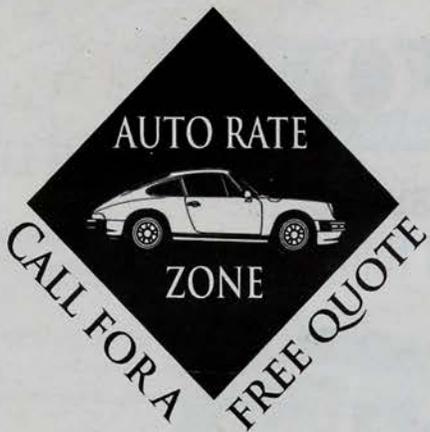
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FRENCH ELECTION

From page 1

"At a time when French Jews felt directly threatened by the rise in violent anti-Semitism in Paris and elsewhere across France a few years ago, Sarkozy played a critical role in moving the French government to finally recognize the gravity of the problem and to do what is necessary to address the ill winds that not only threaten the largest Jewish community in Western Europe, but, as we know from history, would ultimately pose a threat to wider French society," American Jewish Committee Executive Director David Harris said in a statement.

The AJCommittee recalled that Sarkozy during that period was instrumental in stepping up police protection around Jewish buildings and schools, and arresting and prosecuting those who committed anti-Semitic acts. He told the group in a Washington address in 2004 that he would "consider any insult against Jews an insult against France."

CRIF, the French Jewish community's umbrella group, addressed its "warmest and most respectful congratulations" to Sarkozy in a Sunday statement.

In a race that offered a clear choice between conservative and liberal policy, the voters gave Sarkozy, 52, a clear mandate for

his economic and social reforms when he takes office May 16.

The grandson of a Greek Jew and the son of a Hungarian aristocrat, Sarkozy has pledged to initiate tougher rules to make it more difficult for immigrants to bring extended families to France. Among the economic reforms Sarkozy has pledged to push through early on are abolishing a tax on overtime, cutting the inheritance tax and obligating the unemployed to take work that is offered.

Sarkozy, who will succeed Jacques Chirac, will become the first president of immigrant stock.

Known as an American-style, law-and-order politician, Sarkozy had earned points in the Jewish community for his hard line against Muslim unrest in France, including anti-Semitic attacks -- though he drew fire from some liberal and immigrant groups for referring to some of the rioters as "rabble."

In his victory speech at party headquarters in Paris, Sarkozy mentioned France's relationship with the United States. "True friends can accept each other even if they have differences of opinions," he said. Frederic Encel,

professor at the prestigious Science-Po Institute, said that Sarkozy's unusual willingness to be associated with the United States also strengthens hope for good relations between France and Israel. "Nicolas Sarkozy is by far the most pro-Israeli French presidential figure the country-region could have hoped for," he said.

The fact that Sarkozy had not been trained at France's national public administration school ordered by the Foreign Ministry "is a great advantage for Israel, as he is not committed to traditional diplomacy," Encel said. "Royal would have stuck with existing approach," he added, allowing people like her adviser Jean Louis Baillancourt, a member of a pro-Palestinian organization, to lead French diplomacy.

Sarkozy entered politics as a protege of Chirac, but the two had a falling-out that remains to this day when Sarkozy backed Chirac's rival for the presidency in 1995.

The Jewish community has seen Sarkozy as a friend of Israel, though he maintains the Jewish state must make concessions to allow the Palestinians to establish a viable state. But he has made clear to the Palestinian Authority that there is no justification for violence to achieve its means.

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Miriam Hospital Women's Association to hold annual meeting

SEEKONK — The Miriam Hospital Women's Association will be holding its 110th annual meeting on Wed., May 16, at Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk. Tillie Selenger will be honored with the Association's 24th annual recognition award.

The luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting to follow at 12:30. Co-chairs are Mindy Sherwin and Judy Mall. The committee members are: Estelle Klemer, Lenore Leach, Roberta Loebenberg, Terry Lieberman, Barbara Rosen, Harriet Samors, Lillian Zarum and Morrisa Zwetckhenbaum. Co-presidents are Mary and Renee Vogel.

The program will include installation of officers and board members.



Tillie Selenger

Chabad announces new course on Talmud "You be the judge"

WARWICK — The Jewish Learning Institute of R.I. (part of Chabad of R.I.) is introducing an innovative new course, to bring the Talmud to a lay audience.

The course, entitled "You be the Judge," will present real cases that were brought before the court system of Jewish law. Participants will be provided with the Talmudic passages used by the rabbis who decided the cases and will have the opportunity to question, discuss and argue, based on the primary sources.

The cost for the course is \$118. It will be given weekly, beginning May 10, in three locations around the state.

Call Rabbi Yossi Laufer at 884-7888 or Rabbi@RabbiWarwick.com for times and locations.

Touro Fraternal to install officers

CRANSTON — Touro Fraternal Association, the largest independent Jewish fraternal order in New England, heads into its 90th year with the installation of new officers and members of its board of directors on Wednesday, May 30, at 6:30 p.m. at its headquarters (45 Rolfe Square).

Robert D. Miller, chairman of the board of directors, will serve as installing officer and Alan Lury, a board member, will administer the oaths of office as master of ceremonies. The officers of the two Touro lodges will be

installed for one-year terms and one-third of the board will be installed for three years.

Officers of the Association's Harmony Lodge are Steven White, president; Adam Halpern, vice president; Adam Smith, secretary, and Peter Hodosh, treasurer.

The officers of Friendship Lodge are Jed Brandes, president; Jeff Horowitz, vice president; Reid Redlich, secretary, and Steven Waldman, treasurer.

Re-elected to three-year terms on the Association's Board

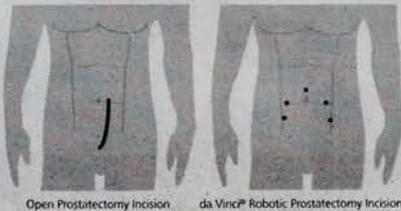
were incumbents Morton Coken, Stevan Labush, Barry Shaw, Dr. Aaron Sherman and Stuart Solup. Edward Deluty, a lodge past president, was elected to his first term on the Board.

The 6:30 p.m. meeting, featuring a catered kosher dinner, is open to Touro members only. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Touro at 785-0066.

The Association's Board of Directors will elect its officers at its annual organizational meeting June 13.

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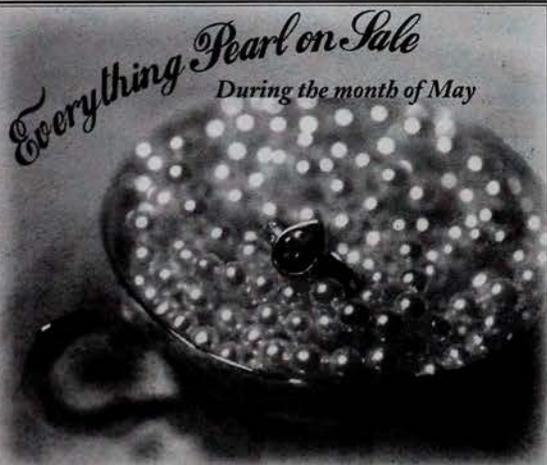
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Community

Israel festival at Gillette Stadium

FOXBORO — On Sunday, May 20, some 5,000 to 7,000 families and individuals are expected to celebrate Israel at the Dana-Farber Field House at Gillette Stadium. The new and expanded New England Celebrates Israel, presented by Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Gillette Stadium and the Greater Boston Jewish community, is free and open to the public.

The festival will run from 1-7 p.m. Both Israeli and New England entertainment has been lined-up with live performances and entertainment, including the Israeli band ESTA. In addition, students from area schools, as well as local and international musicians, will perform music and Israeli dancing throughout the day.

There will be events for sports-lovers. The Dana-Farber Field House at Gillette will showcase world-class athletes and sporting activities including Israeli professional flag football teams playing exhibition games and leading drills with children and teens during the day.

Highlights include a Kids' Zone featuring a mock Israeli supermarket, camel rides, an archaeological dig, a walk-through 3-D model of Jerusalem and a

mini-Maccabi for pre-schoolers. Teens can also learn Krav Maga, the latest self-defense craze.

At Shop Israel visitors will experience the culture and art of Israel as they browse among displays of traditional and contemporary Israeli arts and crafts — original Judaica, jewelry, handmade ceramics, clothing, mezzuzot and more. They'll also take in a wide variety of exhibits showcasing Israeli inventions, technology and tourism as well as booths representing the diversity

of Boston's Jewish agencies and organizations.

At the Israeli Food and Wine pavilion, visitors can enjoy falafel, Mediterranean salads, snacks, and sip on Israeli wine. Everything will be prepared and sold by Gillette Stadium in cooperation with Catering by Andrew — and served under the supervision of the VAAD.

For more information, visit www.celebrateisrael.org, e-mail celebrateisrael@cjph.org or call 617-457-8788.

Agudas Achim Hebrew School to hold open house

ATTLEBORO — The Hebrew School at Congregation Agudas Achim will be holding an informational open house on Sunday, May 20, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The synagogue is located at 901 North Main Street in Attleboro.

The religious school provides programming for children from preschool through grade 7.

Kim Bodemer, the education director, and Rabbi Elyse Wechterman will be available to discuss their Shabbat BiYachad program, a monthly event designed to connect the school to the larger synagogue community by offering a morning of workshops including arts and music, yoga, hiking, intergenerational learning and prayer. They will also share the curriculum outline, individualized learning plans for all students and the school schedule.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact

the synagogue at (508)222-2243 or at agudasma.org.

Jewish war veterans plan service

WARWICK — The Jewish War Veterans of R.I. are planning their annual Memorial Day Service to be held on Sunday, May 27 at 11 a.m. at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick. Rabbi George J. Astrachan and Cantors Rennie Brown and Ivan Perlman will officiate, reading the names of veterans who have died in the past year.

Sen. Jack Reed, and other public officials will attend. The public is invited to attend.

The organization also dedicated monuments in memory of deceased veterans at the R.I. Veterans Cemetery in Exeter, Woonsocket and Temple Sinai Cemetery in Warwick.

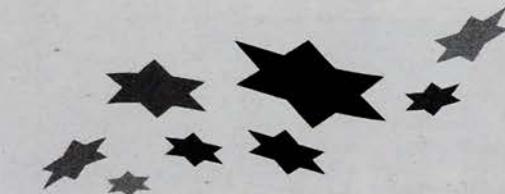
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The Fund Distribution Committee of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island has issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in Jewish community program funding. Awards will be made to innovative programs that serve our Jewish community; the funding maximum is \$20,000 for single agency programs or \$25,000 for collaborative agency programs. Funding is restricted to 501(c)(3) organizations and is non-renewable.

Proposals must follow published guidelines, available at www.jfri.org, and will be awarded in July, 2007.

Send proposals to:
Jewish Federation - FAD, 130 Sessions St,
Providence, RI 02906. *No proposals will be accepted after Friday, June 1, 2007.*

Please contact Alla Goman: agoman@jfri.org or 401-421-4111 ext 169, with any questions.



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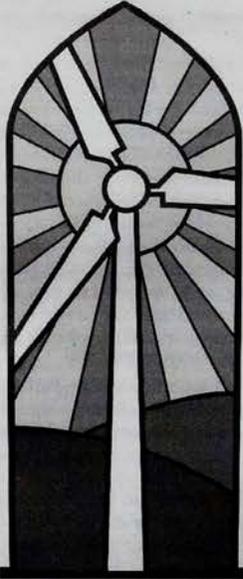
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Community

**Let there be
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PROVIDENCE - A local ecumenical association of faith leaders and religious-based social justice and environmental advocates announced today that it has affiliated with the national umbrella organization "Interfaith Power and Light" which assists religious communities in developing their response to global warming, and adding the voice of faith to growing environment protection efforts, especially relating to global climate change, renewable energy, clean water, air and sustainable development.



INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

The current steering committee of RI Interfaith Power and Light (RI-IPL) consists of representation from 10 Protestant and Jewish congregations, as well as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence and the RI Jewish Environmental Alliance. In addition, the RI State Council of Churches is the organization's fiscal agent.

The goal is to leverage the talents and abilities of individual ecology-based faith groups into a single voice on issues affecting God's Creations. The group also seeks to call attention to social injustices related to environmental issues, such as air pollution in poorer neighborhoods and global ocean level increases.

Current projects underway by RI-IPL are the free coordinated showings of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" at nine local religious congregations, with group discussions to help understand and debate the science and conclusions of the documentary.

In the future, RI-IPL intends to engage, with its faith-based insistence on protecting creation, Gov. Donald Carcieri's recently proposed statewide use of wind power, as well as energy conservation and sustainable development.

Religious leaders or congregations interested in more information about RI-IPL, or willing to show "An Inconvenient Truth," or in any way interested in adding their faith voice to the membership, should contact Howard Brown at 267-0029.

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Food

Blintzes for Shavuot

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) – More than 50 years ago my grandmother took me to a friend's apartment. "Bertha turns out blintzes by the dozen," Granny explained. "Even if there's no company expected, she makes them and stocks her freezer."

I stood on a stool and watched melting butter turn frothy before meeting a smooth batter. The combination filled Bertha's kitchen with the scent of sweet dough. As I sat at her speckled Formica table, the taste of cheese tinged with vanilla oozing from an airy crepe left a lasting impression, as passionate as a first crush, long before I was old enough to date.

Since then I've been relegated to eating blintzes at delis, where they've been decent but far from sensational. However, with Shavuot approaching, a craving for Bertha's blintzes drove me to replicate the nirvana of that first experience.

The blintz, a flexible pancake wrapped like an envelope around fillings such as cheese or fruit, is a cousin of the French crepe. With humble roots the blintz probably originated in Poland and spread out. Blintz pancakes are called blini in Russian and blintse in Yiddish.

In Hungarian the word pancake is palacsinta. Prevalent in Austria, too, palacsinta are often filled with apricot preserves or walnuts finely ground with sugar.

"Why do we eat blintzes on Shavuot?" asked Tevye,

the beleaguered father in the musical "Fiddler On The Roof." "I'll tell you why. I don't know why. It's tradition." This reason is as good as any to explain why Jews love blintzes on Shavuot, the holiday that commemorates God giving the Torah and its laws to the Children of Israel. While no one knows for sure what the ancient Israelites ate after receiving the Torah, historians speculate that they didn't keep kosher until encountering the dietary laws found in this sacred scroll. Because they couldn't immediately change their ways, their only option was to eat a dairy meal until they could make kosher their cooking utensils and meat.

Shavuot traditionally has been a dairy holiday, a time to celebrate God for giving the Jews "a land flowing with milk and honey," a line from the Torah that has tied Jews to their ancestral home for centuries.

In Eastern and Central Europe, blintzes were filled with curd cheeses such as pot cheese or farmer cheese. But in America, Jewish housewives began using cottage cheese. "My mother bought large dry curd cottage cheese for blintzes," says Ann Amernick, author of "The Art Of The Dessert" (John Wiley & Sons, 2006). She is also a co-owner and the executive pastry chef at Palena restaurant in Washington. "Back then, there were stores where people bought fresh dairy products packed in boxes

similar to Chinese take-out containers," Amernick recalls. "Creamy by comparison, today's cottage cheese doesn't have the intensity of flavor of old-fashioned dry curd cheeses." In 20th century America, the blintz met highs and lows. Cream cheese, with its smooth texture and subtle tang, was mixed with cottage cheese, becoming a velvety but pleasingly assertive blintz filling. However, the quality dipped when food manufacturers started freezing and mass marketing blintzes, relieving housewives of this arduous task. On the upside, the blintz souffle was born. A casserole with layers of soft dough surrounding cheese, these souffles are easily assembled and delicious. The following recipes are by Linda Morel.

BASIC BLINTZ RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted,
- plus 6 tablespoons or more for frying blintzes
- 8-inch frying pan, preferably nonstick

Preparation:

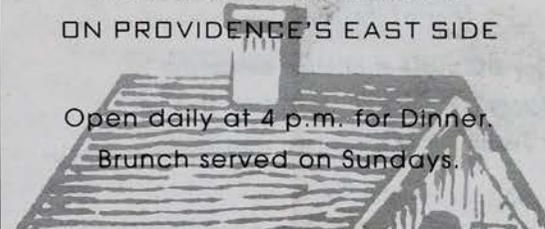
1. Place ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat until lumps disappear.
2. Melt additional butter in a frying pan on medium flame. With a 1/4 cup measuring cup, ladle batter into frying pan quickly. Immediately lift pan's handle and swirl batter around to evenly cover entire bottom surface of the pan. Return to flame.
3. After a minute or two, give pan a shake so blintz shell doesn't stick. Continue frying until edges curl and begin to brown.
4. When blintz shell is golden brown, with a thin spatula, flip the shell and repeat on other side. When second side is golden brown, transfer to a plate. Pile shells on top of one another. Give batter a brisk stir before ladling it for subsequent shells. Repeat steps 1 to 4 until batter is gone.
5. Move one shell to another plate. Selecting a filling recipe below, place 2 scant tablespoons of filling in an elongated oval in the center of shell. Keep filling away from edges.
6. Fold top and bottom edges down about 1 inch. Fold the right edge over the filling. Fold the left edge over the right flap. Fill remaining blintz shells. (Blintzes can be frozen folded side down and defrosted at this point before proceeding.)

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BLINTZES

From preceding page

7. Melt butter in a large frying pan. Placing blintzes folded side down; saute until brown.

Yield: 8 blintzes

Sweet cheese filling

Ingredients:

- 8-ounce package cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- Confectioners' sugar for dusting, optional

Preparation:

1. Beat first four ingredients in a mixing bowl until smooth. Fills 8 blintzes.
2. Sprinkle Confectioners' sugar over blintzes after they are sauteed.

Goat cheese and honey filling

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup goat cheese, room temperature
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1/4 cup honey, plus extra for drizzling
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme, plus extra for drizzling

Preparation:

1. Beat ingredients in a mixing bowl until smooth. Fills 8 blintzes.
2. Drizzle extra honey and thyme over fried blintzes just before serving.

Chocolate filling

Ingredients:

- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, cold from the refrigerator
- 1 teaspoon Confectioners' sugar
- 2 teaspoons heavy cream
- 6 ounces semi-sweet bakers chocolate for drizzling

Preparation:

1. Grind chocolate chips and sugar in a food processor until chips reduce to half the size, about 30 seconds.
2. Add cream and mix well.
3. Fill blintzes with this mixture and fry immediately.
4. Meanwhile, melt bakers chocolate in a double boiler and drizzle on top of blintzes when ready to serve.

Fills 8 blintzes.

Blintz souffle

Filling:

- 8-ounce package cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 16-ounce container cottage cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup sour cream

Preparation:

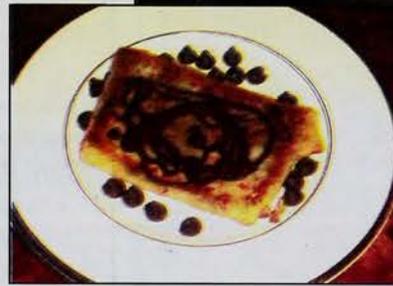
1. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese on high speed until fluffy, at least 2 minutes.
2. Add remaining filling ingredients and beat at medium speed for 5 minutes. Reserve.

Dough:

- 1 1/2 sticks (12 tablespoons) sweet butter, room temperature
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 8-ounce container cottage cheese

Preparation:

1. Butter a 9-by-11-inch oven-proof baking dish. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar.
3. In a small bowl, combine dry ingredients: baking powder, flour, salt and cinnamon.
4. In a medium bowl, beat wet ingredients: cottage cheese, sour cream, eggs, vanilla and cream.
5. Into the butter-sugar mixture, add dry and wet ingredients alternately, 1/3 at a time. Beat until well combined.
6. Divide dough batter into 2 equal amounts. Evenly spread half of dough into prepared pan.
7. Dollop filling on top of



Strawberry sauce

- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon orange liqueur
- 1 pound fresh strawberries, cleaned well, hulled and cut into 1/4-inch dice

Preparation:

1. Warm orange juice in a small pot. Slowly sprinkle in cornstarch and whisk vigorously.
2. In a medium-size pot, simmer water to hot, but not boiling. Add juice-cornstarch mixture and whisk vigorously until lumps disappear, about 1 minute.
3. Turn off heat. Add cinnamon, sugar and liqueur. Whisk until well blended.
4. Add strawberries. Cover pot and simmer on low flame for about 15 minutes. Stir every 5 minutes, so sauce doesn't boil over. Sauce should be slightly thicker than maple syrup.

dough in pan. Gently spread out filling, disturbing dough as little as possible. Don't worry if filling doesn't evenly cover dough or if the two commingle a bit.

8. Cover filling layer with remaining dough, spreading it out to cover entire surface. Don't worry if it isn't completely even.

9. Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes, until golden brown.

Dough will be soft. Turn off oven and leave door ajar for 5 minutes. Remove from oven. Serve warm with Strawberry Sauce (below). Recipe freezes well and can be brought to room temperature and reheated briefly.

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Olmert digs in, despite war report

From page 1

include a demonstration in Tel Aviv against the government by 100,000 to 200,000 Israelis (depending on the political stance of who's counting), the resignations of a few government officials, and little else. The reasons for what seems to be an unusual case of Israeli political inertia are easily found. The parties held most to blame by the public, Kadima (Olmert) and Labor (Peretz), are fearful of parting ways and bringing down the government because they can expect to lose heavily in a new election. Likud, which offers Benjamin Netanyahu as a successor to Olmert is too weak to force an election. The Orthodox parties will go whichever way the wind blows, providing that they continue to receive support for their schools and other institutions. And the Arab parties are reeling from the after-effects of the defection of Knesset Member Azmi Bishara, now in Damascus and subject to arrest if he returns to Israel.

Internal problems

Internally too, the parties have serious issues to deal with. The fight is already on among those who would like to succeed both Olmert and Peretz. In the Labor Party, where Peretz has agreed to resign as Defense Minister and party chairman after this month's party primaries, the fangs are out and blood (political) has already been spilled. In Kadima, where Olmert is displaying the political maneuverability he conspicuously lacked last summer, he and his staff insist there will be no resignation.

Olmert is said to favor former Labor Prime Minister and general Ehud Barak as Peretz's successor. This would keep Labor in the government and calm an Israeli population that is still reeling from the experiences

of last summer when rockets and missiles from Lebanon emptied out much of the Galilee and fell as far south as Haifa. Barak would restore confidence in the military and provide a sense of security that is sorely lacking.

Corruption

But Olmert has another serious problem, corruption. His finance minister, Avraham Hirschson has already left because of police investigations involving financial hanky-panky and Olmert himself is under investigation because of similar accusations leveled against him in previous positions. The president of Israel, a non-political post, has left his office (but not his title) pending charges by a number of women of sexual harassment. And several Knesset members from various parties are being queried by the police about alleged financial crimes. It doesn't encourage citizens to become involved in political life.

Single-digit ratings

Among the results of all this are approval ratings for Olmert (8 percent) and Peretz (3 percent) that make that of President George Bush look positively gigantic. While Peretz will resign in several weeks, Olmert, to whom most of the blame is attached for last summer's fiasco in Lebanon, is digging in for the long term. His prospects are good if only because Kadima, a party cobbled together by Ariel Sharon, does not want new elections at which it may implode.

The apathy of the public is best summed up in a joke now making the rounds in Israel. One of his friends runs into Sharon's hospital room. "Wake up, Arik" he shouts. "We need you. The nation is in a coma." On second thought, maybe it's not such a joke at all.

Yehuda Lev can be reached at yebudal@cox.net.



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Mideast peace, a balancing act

From page 1

Brief bio

Who: Daniel Levy

Background:

- Lead Israeli drafter of the non-governmental Geneva Accord initiative

- Head of Jerusalem Affairs unit in the office of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak

- Senior policy adviser to former Israeli Minister of Justice Yossi Beilin

- Member of official Israeli delegation to the Taba negotiations with the Palestinians in 2001

- On negotiating team to the Oslo B agreement (1995) under Prime Minister Rabin.



Photo by Mary Korr

DANIEL LEVY speaks with David Pedrick of Newport after talk.

One of the greatest dangers is the instability in the region, particularly in Iraq, which has created a foothold for Al Qaeda and other extremists.

scandals in the government, and post-Lebanon malaise puts the state in a "deeply dysfunctional place," he said.

And, "The two-state solution, with agreed borders, which the majority of Israelis embrace, may become more difficult to implement as the pattern of (West Bank) settlements expands."

He said one of the greatest dangers is the instability in the region, particularly in Iraq, which has created a foothold for Al Qaeda and other extremists.

Hopeful signs

But, he does have some hope. He views the Quartet (EU, UN, Russia, US) as the prime mover in a resolution. "In Israel, we are groping to find and get back into a diplomatic dynamic. The United States' role is to help stitch it together." He said the Quartet

remains proponents of the Road Map, the only common peace document accepted. The U.S. must take the lead and convince Arab countries that a stable Middle East is the only way to guarantee long-term security for the region.

He noted several hopeful signs:

1. The U.S. is eager for progress and Sec. of State Condoleezza Rice's shuttle diplomacy
2. The Palestinian unity government: If nurtured, it could deliver a ceasefire and minimize Hamas undermining the process.

3. Overtures made by Syria to talk to Israel, and the U.S. "To talk is not to endorse," he said.

4. He cited the changing mood in Arab countries, pointing to the Saudi/Arab League initiative. "The Arab countries have signaled they are willing to be guarantors of peace in the Middle East," he said. In late March, at the League summit in Mecca, 22 nations signed on to the Arab peace initiative of 2002, which, he emphasized, calls for normalization of relations with the entire Arab world after a "just and agreed-to solution to the refugee problem...agreed means Israel has to agree. And Israel will decide who can become a citizen of the state." He said Israelis know there has to be a land swap based on pre-1967 borders, another condition of the 2002 plan.

He said Israel will need the help of American Jewry to "help us build the post-conflict Israel. American Jews tend to see Israel as a Disney World of Jewish experiences but we are and need so much more."

He was invited to speak by the local chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom (the Jewish Alliance for Justice & Peace) and the temple's adult enrichment program.

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Anti-terror investigator, author speaks on jihad in America

By Mary Korr
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Steve Emerson's main weapon to target terrorists is the tape recorder—he and his staff have collected 18,000 hours of material in a database at his Washington D.C. business; much of which is detailed in his new book: "Jihad Incorporated: A Guide to Militant Islam in the U.S."

The man who predicted a 9/11 type event in the United States years before it happened spoke at Brown Hillel May 2 after its annual meeting. A Brown alumnus, he said it was his first time back on campus in 30 years and joked to one of his professors that he brought his incompletes with him to hand in.

A trim man in a blue business suit, he said when he first graduated from Brown in '77; he considered making *aliyah* to Israel. But an initial foray into investigate journalism, a chance encounter with jihadist propaganda in Oklahoma City, and then the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, eventually led him to the hills of Pakistan and Afghanistan to research the mujahadeen for a film. He lived for four months with the family of Osama bin Laden's mentor, Abdullah Azam, who was killed in 1989. They arranged for him to meet bin Laden. ("I waited for him for two weeks in Jalalabad, but he never showed up. It was too hot there, so I came home.")

Emerson came back to Washington D.C. with a trove of materials and videotapes given to him by the mujahadeen, which documented meetings that had taken place in Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Chicago in the late 1980s and early '90s.

"Jihad in America," aired on public television in 1994 and won the George Polk award for best documentary; it was then featured on 60 Minutes.

He said nearly every one of the terrorists and groups he identified in the film have been indicted, convicted or deported since 9/11.

Currently, Emerson is executive director of the privately funded Investigative Project on Terrorism, which he founded in 1995. It has one of the world's largest storehouses of archival data on Islamic and Middle Eastern terrorist groups. Prepare to be blindfolded if you want to visit.

It's a dangerous business

and he has been threatened; he takes the necessary precautions but speaks loudly in the national media against certain Islamic non-profit groups, which act as fronts for terrorist activity. He speaks of money laundering, cigarette smuggling networks, and the ease with which terrorists can operate in and out of America's porous borders. Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad are all here, he says.

However, he is measured and quick to point out that violent Islamic fundamentalism is only a small part of the Muslim world, but one with catastrophic consequences. But, "the vast majority of Muslims are not tethered to a fundamentalist ideology. Islam is not a terrorist religion — far from it. It depends on the practitioner. We need Islamic clerics to renounce jihad, suicide bombing and hate. Moderate Muslims have to be empowered."

Members of the audience asked him the following questions:

Q. How does 9/11 fit into what you spoke about — could it have been prevented?

A. "Nobody could conceive of

Who: Steve Emerson

• Executive director of The Investigative Project on Terrorism in Washington, D.C. which investigates terrorist networks, modus operandi, and performs undercover work and infiltration of suspect groups. Expert witness to Congress, other govt. groups, media

• Author of six books, including "The American House of Saud: The Secret Petrodollar Connection" (1985); "American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us." (2002) and "Jihad Incorporated: A Guide to Militant Islam in the U.S." (2006)

• Investigator for U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee (1977-'82) and executive asst. to Sen. Frank Church

• Senior editor specializing in national security issues for U.S. News and World Report (1986-'89)

• CNN analyst

Brief bio



STEVE EMERSON, center, speaks to Sidney and Alice Goldstein at the Brown Hillel annual meeting last week.

such a horrendous act of violence. But, the so-called Phoenix memo (from an FBI field officer) of April 2001 warned of the inordinate number of students of investigative interest sent by Osama Bin Laden's network to train at American flight schools."

Q. Do you think there will be another 9/11?

A. "I can't predict that but we all know Al Qaeda is planning something grandiose. It could come now, in five years, or in 10 years. But the FBI has been effective in stopping another terrorist attack here so far.

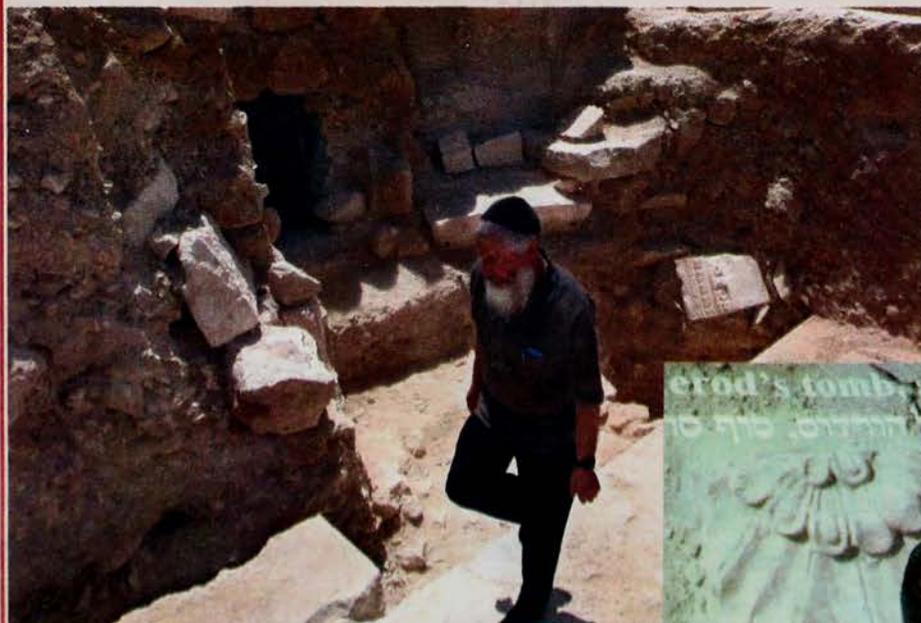
"What I am concerned with is the slow, insidious insinuation of Islamic terrorists into our society. I keep pointing this out; we have

to go behind the scenes. This is almost as dangerous as 9/11. It is an ideological war between militant Islam and the West that go could on for generations."

Q. If we left Iraq, wouldn't Al Qaeda fill it?

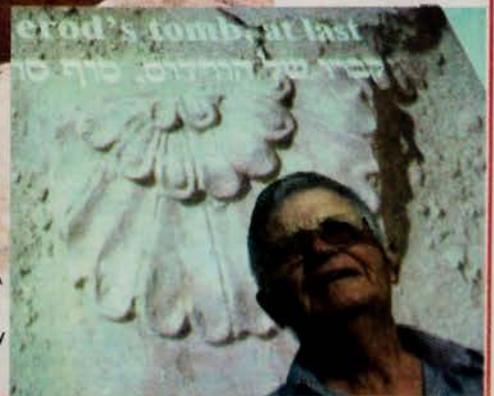
A. "We are stuck with two very different choices. It is a debacle. I favor withdrawal to the periphery."

Herod's Tomb at last



A man, left, inspects the recently discovered tomb site of King Herod on the hilltop fortress of Herodion near the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HENDLER/JTA
PROFESSOR EHUD NETZER, right, speaks to the press at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem on May 8 about the discovery of the Tomb of Herod.



Baby Boomers

Boomer children of survivors share their stories

By Mary Korr
mkorr@jfri.org

American Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, came of age during tumultuous times: the Cold War, the Cuban missile crisis, the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the Vietnam War, the Beatles. In 1969, a quarter of a million gathered at Woodstock, grooving in the mud to the music of their generation.

Among these Boomers were children of Holocaust survivors who grew up in immigrant households, with parents who spoke Yiddish; they absorbed, often unconsciously, their parents' or grandparents' unspoken trauma.

Miriam's story

Though only five, Miriam (then called Mindel) Shana



THE BOOMER BAR MITZVAH of Harry Schwartz, shown with his father, Irving, and brother Lenny, in 1965.

remembers the day her dad, Paul Greenspan, came home to their small apartment in Poland waving the visas. Finally, after six years of waiting, they were going to Israel! Her parents both had survived their teenage years in concentration camps, and met and married in 1948.

Once in Israel, the family lived in Herzileya for several years. In 1962, they moved to Norwich, Conn., to be with Paul's surviving siblings, a brother and two sisters, who

were egg farmers. "I remember the boat we came over to America in. The night before we left, I had my first meal out in a restaurant! I was 11. The boat stopped in Athens, and in Italy, and then we crossed the ocean to New York."

Miriam remembers the small apartment they first lived in. Her mother, Eva, would close the curtains as soon as night fell. She spoke softly and was guarded on the telephone — it was a party line.

"From the time we came to America, my brother Ike (Isaac) and I managed the finances. I remember sitting at the kitchen table making a budget for my mother. We paid the bills. I was good at math."

They were a close family. "We had to rely on each other." They ate supper together every night and talked and laughed. The extended families gathered after Shabbas on Saturday nights for tea and cake. Her mother

See BOOMER CHILDREN, page 22

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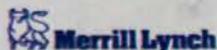
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Baby Boomers

Boomers buying 2nd homes in Israel

Even Trump jumps in

By Dina Kraft

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Under the shadow of cranes, steel beams and gleaming reflective glass, a forest of high-rise buildings seems to be taking over the Tel Aviv horizon – part of a nationwide building boom that Israelis and Diaspora Jews are buying into.

“The first time I was here was in 1983, and Tel Aviv has gone through a huge transformation from then to now,” said Howard Glatzer, who runs a real-estate fund that invests in New York City properties. “As a Jew from New York who is very accustomed to seeing high-rises everywhere, I think it’s fantastic, it shows the vitality of Israel, and that’s great.”

Glatzer took in the sight of shimmering new towers and construction during a tour of Jaffa, the southern part of Tel Aviv, with a group of other New York real-estate developers who were visiting several weeks ago as part of the 90th anniversary mission of the UJA-Federation of New York.

With increasing disposable



AN OLD HOUSE is reassembled in the Mamilla neighborhood, together with a new complex just outside of the Old City of Jerusalem, on May 1. Areas like this are attracting an increasing number of American second-home buyers.

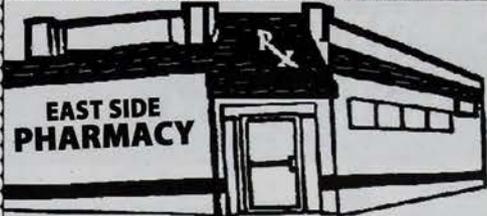
income and a desire to live either part-time or eventually full-time in Israel, Jews from abroad – especially the older cohort of Baby Boomers from the United States, England and France – are finding a home in the Jewish state’s real-estate landscape.

In 2002, foreign buyers invested \$192 million in Israeli real estate. Just four years later the number had soared to \$1.43

billion, according to the Bank of Israel.

“Israel is becoming one of the players in real-estate markets,” said Hillel Suna, general manager

See, SECOND HOMES, page 21



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Baby Boomers

Who are the Baby Boomers?

Here are some facts about the Baby Boomers:

- The first Baby Boomers were post-war babies born in 1946. Although it varies, most demographers end the Boom years in 1964. Nearly 80 million babies were born during those years. The U.S. economy was booming, as American workers began to produce goods and commodities not only for the country but for exports, as European nations rebuilt. Many soldiers who returned home took advantage of the G.I. Bill, which enabled them to go to college and earn more.

- The Boomer period reached its peak in 1957 (4,300,000) and then began to trail off until a sharp drop from 1964 (4,027,490) to 1965 (3,760,358).

- Steve Gillon, the author of the book "Boomer Nation," breaks the Boomer cohort into two categories: The "official" Boomers were born between 1945 and 1957; and "shadow Boomers" from 1958 to 1964.

- Many feel that the defining event of the Baby Boomer generation was the Vietnam War and the protest over the draft, which ended in 1973. The Baby Boomers have led the fight for reproductive rights, gay rights, and civil rights.

- The Boom generation



Boomers in the entertainment world include Oprah Winfrey (1954), Jerry Seinfeld (1954), Steven Spielberg (1946), Billy Joel (1949).

- Today, the 76.4 million Baby Boomers represent just under 30 percent of the population in this country. They are 49 percent male, 51 percent female. Over 40 million are over the age of 50. The average household income is almost \$60,000.

- The U.S. Census of 2000 indicates more than half of the Boomers live in nine states: California, Texas, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and New Jersey.

— Mary Korr

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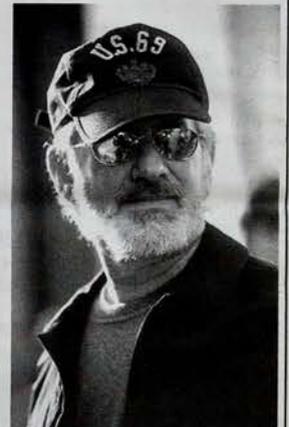
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Entertaining Baby Boomers



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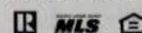


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Baby Boomers

SECOND HOMES

From page 19

of the Jerusalem branch of the Bank of Jerusalem, one of the country's largest mortgage banks for foreign residents.

Even Donald Trump wants in: He has plans to build a 70-story residential and office tower in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan. Leading international architects Philippe Stack and Richard Meier both have high-rise projects under construction in Tel Aviv.

"It reminds me of China," said Andy Singer, whose company, the Singer and Bassuk Organization, finances major Manhattan and other U.S. building projects. "The big joke in China is that the national bird is the crane. I think in many ways that is probably true of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem."

"I think it's a sign that people who have money to invest have the courage, enthusiasm and high regard for Israel and its ability to get past the continuing troubles with the Palestinians. These are assets you cannot move," said Singer, who was on the UJA-Federation mission.

Those buying in Jerusalem tend to be religious Jews, while those in Tel Aviv and surrounding areas usually are more secular. The French, who tend to seek out property as close as possible to the sea, have flocked especially to beachside cities like Netanya, Ashdod and Ashkelon.

Shana Novick, a New Yorker who bought a two-bedroom apartment with her husband on the edge of Jerusalem's Katmon neighborhood, said she is thrilled about having a second home in Israel. The Novicks rent it out to American rabbinical students and try to spend summers here themselves.

"It's just wonderful having a home in Jerusalem; I cannot say how much pleasure it gives us," she said. "This is a home, we furnished it with a great deal of love, we entertain there. We never bought a summer house in the States, and now we joke it's our country house. It just takes a long time to get there."

Foreign ownership in the central neighborhoods of Jerusalem has changed the face of the city. In some areas, English is heard more than Hebrew.

Foreign sales accounted for about 25 percent of recent purchases in central Jerusalem neighborhoods such as Rehavia and Katamon, and in the Jewish quarter of the Old City, said Davyd Tal, who owns the Jerusalem Homes agency and specializes in foreign clients.

"The sellers are usually Israeli and not religious, and they



THE YOO BUILDING PROJECT of luxury apartments is seen in Tel Aviv as the sun sets, April 27.

are moving out of Jerusalem," Tal said. "Jerusalem is losing its secular population, which is going to suburbs such as Modi'in and Mevasseret Zion. Young, secular couples cannot afford to buy in Jerusalem anymore. They are basically being priced out."

The Jerusalem market is becoming pricey even for foreigners, who as a result increasingly are seeking outlying neighborhoods.

Uri Amitzur, an architect and developer who specializes in restoring historic buildings, showed members of the New York mission around. He said Jaffa, a mixed Arab-Jewish area with older buildings, was drawing foreign interest because of its proximity to the sea and prices that were lower relatively than in other parts of Tel Aviv.

Amitzur recently sold a large, restored building to a French

buyer. Buildings from the early 20th century fill Jaffa's narrow streets, while closer to central Tel Aviv, Bauhaus buildings from the 1930s are in demand.

"Prices are soaring into the sky," Amitzur said. "But people understand that although it's a large investment to buy a restored building, it's considered a luxury address and looks incredible."

On leafy Rothschild Boulevard, one of the first streets built in Tel Aviv, Bauhaus buildings and sleek new high-rises have become premium real estate. Properties there have risen in value by 40 percent in the past two years, Ha'aretz reported.

A luxury apartment in a new high-rise on Rothschild Boulevard reportedly is going for \$1.7 million. Apartments in renovated Bauhaus or other buildings marked for preservation sell for \$4,000 to \$5,000 per square meter.



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BOOMER CHILDREN

From page 18

was happy with a life where they had food, shelter, and knew "no Germans would come knocking on our door to take us away."

Paul was an upholsterer. "He was ecstatic when he was able to buy the business he worked in. He felt he was living the American dream," his daughter recalls.

Miriam and Ike went to UConn. College life was liberating - there was a sense of living for the moment. Miriam describes herself as a "clean hippie" who dressed the part, and went to some rallies. But she always knew she had to rely on herself. She could not turn to her parents for financial, or emotional support. "I think they were so overwhelmed by life itself, they had very little left over," she says.

She studied math and later earned an MBA in Boston. "I was very responsible at a very early age; I don't remember having a childhood," she says. "Recently, I asked my mother if I ever had a doll."

Meyer's story

Meyer Goldstein, the only child of Rabbi Baruch and Rebecca Goldstein, grew up in Worcester, Mass., in a traditional Jewish home. His maternal grandparents, who had escaped Poland via the Far East in 1939, lived with them. His grandfather, Rabbi Mordechai Golinkin, was a learned and intellectual man. It was from him Meyer learned to question the world, but keep an open mind.

In 1968, Meyer enrolled in Yeshiva University in New York City. One of his assignments in a Holocaust history course was to interview a survivor. It gave him



MEYER GOLDSTEIN in the arms of his grandfather.



MIRIAM SHANA with her brother and mother in Poland, before they emigrated.

the excuse to talk to his father. "He, like many survivors, had

walled off what happened before 1948," Meyer says. "Right after the war, people did not want to talk about it. They felt they had to move on...in a sense those years were like a black hole for them."

Feeling constrained by the Yeshiva, Meyer transferred to Brandeis and joined the Jewish Activist League. But always, he held "a certain mistrust of politics and mass movements," he says.

Like many Boomers, he took a year off after graduation to travel through Europe. "It was the '60s impulse to explore."

He then went to NYU law school. His goal was to use the law to effectuate social change. When he graduated, he worked in the Legal Aid Society and public defender work. Today,

See facing page

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Baby Boomers Let food be thy medicine

BOOMER CHILDREN

From preceding page

He remembers saying to her once: "Why can't you be more like Donna Reed?"



Hippocrates uttered the famous statement, but today's food manufacturers are taking it to an entirely new level.

Health-conscious Baby Boomers have made functional foods one of the most popular nutrition trends of the past decade. This focus on functional foods, or nutraceuticals, as they are sometimes called, has enticed many people to look to food before medicine as answers to preventative health care.

he is endowment director at the Federation. Among family pictures in his office is one with his grandfather Mordechai holding him in his arms.

Harry's story

Harry Schwartz grew up in Brooklyn. His parents, Irving and Toby, were survivors who met after the war, in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. They spoke Yiddish to Harry and his younger brother Lenny, and Hungarian to each other when they didn't want their sons to understand what they were saying.

Their home in Canarsie was built on landfill over "swampland." Planes droned overhead. The neighborhood smelled in the heat.

Irving worked in the fur business until 9 or 10 at night and weekends. His wife would deliver the fur coats to Manhattan in boxes Harry and Lenny assembled in the store.

Harry remembers a friend calling him one day; his mother answered the phone. The friend commented on Toby's heavy accent. Harry hadn't noticed. He remembers saying to her once: "Why can't you be more like Donna Reed?" (An actress who played a wholesome American homemaker on a popular TV sitcom of the 1950s.)

The family observed the Jewish holidays, but not American ones, like Thanksgiving.

The Holocaust formed the dark and unspoken backdrop of family life. "Not to have gone through their own adolescence, not to have the older generation there to help them, put them at a horrible disadvantage," Harry says in retrospect.

The family traveled to Israel once a year to visit Toby's sister, and other survivors in their family. Lenny, after graduating from Wharton, moved to Israel. Harry pursued a career in medicine. Both fulfilled their parents' wishes of becoming professionals.

Functional foods have become a multi-billion dollar business. What started quite simply as promotion for the health benefits of certain foods (such as oats lower cholesterol or the lycopene in tomatoes may help prevent cancer) has morphed into a nutritional additive industry.

Today there are products that tout unbelievable claims. There are chocolate bars that can help the heart and margarines that lower cholesterol. There are also pastas and milks that say they can fight against heart disease. There have been so many products hitting the market recently that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began hearings in December of 2006 to initiate regulations of so-called functional foods and to test their efficacy.

What many people want to know is if these products live up to their claims and are they worth the extra money? Experts say that many of the functional foods out there need to be eaten in very high quantities to realize health benefits or recommended daily allowances. In many cases, the extra calories consumed or even the extra fat or sodium in products may negate the added health benefits.

Just take a look at the current trend toward consuming omega-3s, essential fatty acids found in flax seed, olive oil and many fish. Omega-3s have a number of purported health benefits, such as improving heart health, fighting depression, and improving neurological function. The American Heart Association recommends 2,000 mg a week of omega-3s to prevent heart disease. It could take 4 to 10 servings of many fortified pastas or beverages to attain this level, while it only takes two servings of a fatty fish or fish-oil supplement to reach the same level.

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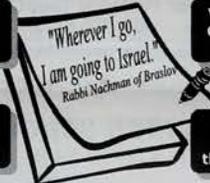
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Community

JCC to hold open house

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Center, on the East Side of Providence, is holding an open house on Sunday, May 20th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be activities available for all ages. The fitness center will offer a variety of activities. The kids can expend some energy with the sports programs in the full-court gymnasium. Studio 401 will be bustling with arts and crafts activities for children of all ages. The Early Childhood Center

will be offering activities in the classroom and on the playground for the younger set. The seniors will appreciate garden and travel talks as well as Yiddish Shmooze and Silver Sneaker exercise classes.

For all, the indoor pool will be open for parent/child swim from 12-2 p.m.

The entire center will be open for members and non-members alike. This is an opportunity to learn about the summer camp programs, the NAEYC accredited

preschool, after-school programs and summer memberships. A special revealing of the fitness center capital campaign donor plaque will be made at 11:30 a.m. in the fitness center, with remarks from Center Director, Kevin Olson and Board President Jeffrey Vogel.

The JCC is located at 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. For more information, call 861-8800 or visit www.jccri.org.

Newport church plans talk on Mideast peace

NEWPORT — The second of a two-part program to discuss Jewish and Israeli perspectives on the Arab-Israeli Conflict is being offered by the Social Justice Committee of Channing Memorial Church on June 4.

It will span the 20th Century with a brief history of the prospects for Arab-Israeli peace. The speaker is Dr. David E. Matz, founder and director of the graduate programs in dispute resolution at UMass Boston. He has assisted the Israeli Ministry of Justice and worked extensively with Arab and Jewish groups in the U.S. and abroad.

The 7 p.m. talk is free and open to the public, and will be held at the church, 135 Pelham St., Newport.

For information, call 401-846-0643 between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or email David@PedrickYacht.com or jasbel@cox.net.



Jacob Katzman, Lee Milburn, Aaron Jennis, Lilly Hamin and Penina Satlow.

JCDS second-graders hold Torah ceremony at Tamarisk

WARWICK — The Jewish Community Day School second graders got their first *Humash* (Pentateuch) during a ceremony in the community room at Tamarisk Assisted Living. Parents, grandparents and Tamarisk residents sat together and listened to the second graders chant the first words of the book of Genesis.

Dani Steiner, the head of school, spoke about the opportunity to connect time (generations and tradition) and space (the Tamarisk facility). Rabbi Levine, director of Judaic studies, spoke about the continuation of the generations,

and Sue Adler, the second-grade Judaic teacher, led the ceremony.

After the ceremony and light breakfast all participated in a text study session. Parents, students, and residents sat together and learned with Rabbi Sole Leeman (his wife, Elsie, is a Tamarisk resident). Rabbi Leeman said he was amazed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the students.

Meals on Wheels seeks volunteers

PROVIDENCE — Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island is seeking volunteer drivers to help with its Kosher Meals on Wheels program. Volunteers deliver kosher meals to homebound seniors and disabled individuals. It is an opportunity to help someone in need, not just by delivering a meal, but by providing a friendly face.

The meals are picked up at the JFS meal site at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston between 11 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday. Drivers can volunteer anywhere from one to five days per week. All recipients live in the Cranston/Warwick area and, on average, each driver has 3-5 deliveries per day. Mileage reimbursement is available to all drivers.

Volunteers are needed year-round and in particular during the summer.

For more information about this volunteer opportunity, contact Jennifer Modisette at 331-1244 or Jennifer@jfsri.org.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

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Name of Business:

PC Troubleshooters

Owner:

Eric & Lisa Shorr

Location:

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sales@pctrouble.com**



Photo by Frank Belsky

ERIC AND LISA SHORR in front of their business in Warwick.

By Frank Belsky

What is the nature of your business?

PC Troubleshooters, Inc. is a computer service company that specializes in managing networks for small businesses. We also service home computers. My formal computer training began during my sophomore year as a student at the University of Rhode Island when I started working for the university's computer department. I was responsible for fixing the computers of the president's, dean's, and administrative offices. Then in 1992, during my senior year, I founded PC Troubleshooters, Inc.

How many employees do you have?

Nine full time and two interns.

What is the newest trend in your business?

Providing customers a proactive (versus reactive) approach to managing computers and networks - to prevent problems before they happen.

Briefly describe the most important factor in growing your business.

Receiving referrals from our satisfied customers.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?

We get great satisfaction from resolving difficult computer problems for our customers.

What is your connection to the Jewish Community?

Lisa and I are very connected and passionate about the Jewish Community. I started volunteering for the Community Relations Council at the Federation when I was 25. I've also served as chair of the Israel Task Force.

In 2000, Lisa and I married at Temple Emanu-El where Lisa now sits on their board and runs a program called Storytime. Our two daughters attend the JCC Allied Preschool. We both solicit for the Federation's annual campaign. We have also sat on various Allocations Committees.

In July, we will be traveling to Israel with the Federation's Chazon Mission.

What character or individual in your field do you admire?

Bill Gates and Microsoft have revolutionized the way businesses work making them more productive and more efficient.

What is unique about PC Troubleshooters?

We actually know how to deal with people. We are not the typical "geek" who speaks to customers in a language they don't understand. We make a special effort to speak to each client and get to know their individual needs so that we can tailor a solution that is a good fit for their company.

Frank Belsky is a freelance writer from Pawtucket and owner of IBS printing. He can be reached at fbelsky@yahoo.com.

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Obituaries

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Claire S. Auerbach, 81

DARTMOUTH — Claire S. (Stone) Auerbach, 81 of North Dartmouth, died on April 11. She was the wife of Harry S. Auerbach. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Hyman B. and Goldie (Press) Stone, she had lived in Florida for the last 12 years.

Mrs. Auerbach was a graduate of Pembroke College of Brown University, class of 1946. For a brief period she was a special needs teacher in the New Bedford school system.

She was a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation, a life member of Hadassah, an active volunteer with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford, in addition to a number of charitable activities. She was, with her husband, a founding member of the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home.

She was an avid reader, bridge player, golfer and hostess.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Lewis Auerbach, MD, and his wife Dawna of Brandon, Fla.; and a daughter, Judith Auerbach Adamo and her husband Frank of Fort Lee, N.J. She was the sister of the late Jacob and Leo Stone.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Lucille Brooks, 87

CRANSTON — Lucille Brooks, 87, died April 24. She was the wife of the late Ludwig Brooks. Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Samuel and Mildred (Sachs) Socolow, she had lived in Cranston for 28 years.

She leaves a son, Richard Brooks of East Northport, N.Y.; two daughters, Audrey Guttin of Cranston, and Marjorie Brooks of New York City; a twin sister, Helen Schneider of West Hartford, Conn.; six grandchildren, Adam, Matthew, Andrew, Robert, Caroline and Daniel; and a niece, Suzanne Kaplan of West Hartford, Conn.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Edith Gordon, 88

TAMARAC, Fla. — Edith (Sonkin) Gordon, 88, died April 22. She was the wife of Albert I. Gordon to whom she had been married for 43 years.

Born in Central Falls, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Anna (Wicknin) Sonkin. She was a graduate of Rhode Island College, class of 1940.

Mrs. Gordon was a life member of Hadassah and an active member of the Jewish Federation, having served as its campaign chair.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Michael Gordon, MD, and his wife Debra of Greenwich, Conn.; a daughter, Nancy Gordon, and her husband, Richard Rogers of Little Compton; a sister, Eva Sheer of Providence; five grandchildren, Hilary, Joel, Leah, Matthew and Sarah; and two great-grandchildren, Jaden and Alexa. She was the mother of the late Jeffrey Gordon and Arlene Gordon; mother-in-law of the late Patricia Gordon; and sister of the late Leo and Natan Sonkin, MD.

Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Cranston.

Contributions may be made to the Rabbi Gutterman Discretionary Fund at Temple Beth-El or to Lymphoma or Breast Cancer research.

Louis J. Jacobs, 59

WESTERLY — Louis J. Jacobs, 59, died April 29. He was the husband of Roberta (Palmer) Jacobs. Born in Worcester, a son of Selma (Ellis) Price of Cranston and the late Bennie Jacobs and Samuel Price, he had lived in Westerly for three years.

He was a Viet Nam era Navy veteran.

See OBITUARIES, page 29

CALENDAR

From page 2

Justice. Open discussion of current prospects for peace. Free and open to the public. For further information, call the Channing office at 846-0643 between 9 a.m.-1 p.m., or email the event co-chairs, David Pedrick (David@PedrickYacht.com) or Jim Asbel (jasbel@cox.net).

TUES., JUNE 5

Holocaust Center annual meeting

7 p.m. JCC Social Hall, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island annual meeting and installation of officers.

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PARASHAT B'HUKOTAI

Jeremiah's deep faith despite the impending exile predicted in Parashat B'hukotai can teach us to turn to God in the most troubling of times.

By Rabbi Andrea Lerner

Jeremiah, a prophet who wrote during the closing days of the Kingdom of Judah struggled to find meaning during the time of the destruction of the Temple. We hear his words in our *haftarah* portion this week. In his bitterness he cried: The guilt of Judah will be

inscribed with a stylus of iron... (Jeremiah 17:1).

Despite all that he saw, Jeremiah expressed deep faith that God is the living water that sustains us all. He wrote, "He shall be like a tree planted by waters, sending forth its roots by a stream: It does not sense the coming of heat, its leaves are ever fresh; it has no care in a year of drought, it does not cease to yield fruit" (Jeremiah 17:8).

Jeremiah experienced tumultuous times. He was a sensitive soul who saw it all. Destruction. Defeat. Hopelessness. And yet, Jeremiah was also able to find within himself his hope, his faith that rose from the deep recesses of his heart.

The following text, expanded, became one of the nineteen blessings in our *Amidah* (silent benediction). Jeremiah saw much of life. Still, the *Haftarah* ends with a hopeful note, "Heal me, O Lord, and let me be healed; save me, and let me be saved; for You are my glory" (Jeremiah 17:14).

This is indeed a sobering text. Jeremiah understood Jewish suffering as something that was deserved. A rebellious people are finally punished by a God whose patience has finally run out.

Thousands of years after Jeremiah, we human beings still experience these evils: defeat, pain, suffering. We experience the devastation of illness, the pain of a breakup of a family. Today, though, most of us do not see these tragedies as punishment for our sins.

Thousands of years after Jeremiah, we human beings still experience these evils: defeat, pain, suffering.

Conversely, many people wonder at these moments of pain and disappointment if God is indeed there at all. The question of today is different. We ask ourselves, "How does one continue to believe, to let God in, when such devastation surrounds us at times?" Pain can harden one's heart. It can make a person cynical, mistrustful of others.

These days are the in-between days — days of reflection and sadness between Pesach and Shavuot. Why? Because during these days we commemorate the wandering in the wilderness. The time between our freedom from Pharaoh and our receiving the gift of Torah at Mt. Sinai.

During that time we were lawless. We had no Torah. We had too much freedom. Instead of it being a wonderful party, it was awful. We complained bitterly. The law, as the midrash learns, brought true freedom to the world, a freedom that we could sustain.

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, this season also means that the summer warmth is coming. Some of us feel relief, now that the academic year is ending, granting us a liberation from the constraints of imposed order. Now, as summer

approaches, we experience the freedom without laws. We feel rootless.

Maintaining faith in difficult times is a struggle for each of us. And yet, Jeremiah's beautiful, poetic words strike a chord for us, who want so desperately to feel God's presence beside us as we struggle. Jeremiah offers these words of consolation and hope, describing that a person who has faith in God can survive even the toughest times.

Lag B'Omer, a holiday day that is a reprieve in our 50 days of mourning between Pesach and Shavuot, also occurs during this time. In the spirit of Lag B'Omer, let us feel the reprieve of the water around us, soothing our roots, caring for our leaves. And may we soon yield fruit again. As Jeremiah says, "Heal me, O Lord, and let me be healed. Save me, and let me be saved. For you are my glory."

Parashat B'hukotai ends the book of Leviticus. When the Torah reading is completed, it is customary for the congregation to chant, "*Chazak, chazak, v'nithazek.*" Be Strong. Be Strong. And let us be strengthened by one another.

So may it be.

Prepared by Rabbi Andrea Lerner, Midwest Director of Hillel's Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Learning and Campus Rabbi, Hillel at the University of Wisconsin.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

Louis J. Jacobs

From page 27

Mr. Jacobs was a master pipefitter for General Dynamics in Quincy, Mass. and Quonset Point.

He was a member of Touro Fraternal Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

He was a former member of Kingston Municipal Golf Course and Norman Bird Sanctuary.

Besides his wife, he leaves two step-children, Daniel and Karen Russell; four brothers, Marshall Jacobs of Phoenix, Ariz., Paul Jacobs of Springfield, Mass., Mark Price of San Diego, Cal., and Ronald Price of Farmington, N.M.; and two sisters, Barbara Jacobs of Waltham, Mass., and Ellen Mindy Ward of Cranston.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Jack A. Jessel, Jr., 80

CRANSTON — Jack A. Jessel, Jr., 80, died April 27. He was the husband of Trudy Katz and the late Joy (Blackman) Jessel. Born in New York City, a son of the late Jack and Blanche (August) Jessel, he had lived in Cranston for six years, previously living in Providence for 40 years.

He was a World War II Army veteran.

Mr. Jessel owned and operated Traveland, Cranston for 25 years. He worked at Travel Connection, Cranston for six years. He also owned and operated Diaper Service of R.I. He belonged to Temple Beth-El.

He was a member of Kiwanis of Greater Providence and was a past Lt. governor, past district secretary and current treasurer and secretary. He was also a

member of the Masons, Redwood Lodge, Scottish Rite and the R.I. Shriners, where he played drums in the brass band, and of Crestwood Country Club.

He leaves two daughters, Janet J. Goldman and her husband James of Lincoln and Cynthia B. Jessel and her husband Anthony Orlando III of Marlton, N.J.; four step-daughters, Dr. Debra Katz and Dr. Marcia Katz, both of Houston, Texas; Elyse Katz and Michelle Katz, both of Venice, Calif.; and five grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Betty Louis.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Irma Friedman-Kaufman, 86

SARASOTA, Fla — Irma (Reitzas) Friedman-Kaufman, 86, of Sarasota, formerly of Fall River, and Newton, Mass., died April 21. She was the wife of the late Louis Friedman and Simon Kaufman. Born in Brooklyn N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Frank and Flora (Breslovsky) Reitzas. Moving to Fall River, she was a graduate of BMC Durfee High School class of 1938, and then attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

She spent her life raising her family.

She leaves three sons, Myles Friedman of Clearwater, Fla.; Frederic Friedman of Providence; Andy Friedman of Fairfield, Maine; a stepdaughter, Jody Kaufman of Knoxville, Tenn.; a stepson, Marc Kaufman of Sarasota, Fla.; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren

She was the mother of the late Jonathon Friedman and sister of the late Ruth Friedman and the late Sidney Reitzas.

Burial was in Beth El Cemetery, Fall River.

Samuel Shechtman, 89

CRANSTON — Samuel Shechtman, 89, died April 27. He was the husband of the late Fayth (Alex) Shechtman. Born in Providence, a son of the late Isador and Ida (Beck) Shechtman, he had lived in Cranston for over 50 years.

He was a World War II Army veteran.

He belonged to the Cranston Senior Guild. His greatest pleasure was interacting with people, and he had a fun-loving nature.

He leaves two daughters, Harriet Willis of Riverside; and Bette-June Guenette of Providence; a sister, Lillian Weinberg of Cranston; six grandchildren, Albert, Sherry, Sherie, Heather, Christine and Victoria; and one great-grandchild.

He was the brother of the late Harry, Irving and Simon Shechtman and Fannie Levine.

Contributions may be made to Cranston Senior Center, 1070 Cranston St., Cranston, RI 02920; or to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920.

Charles R. Schiff, 88

NEW YORK, N.Y.

— Charles R. Schiff, 88, a long-time resident of New York, died April 21. He was the husband of Carolyn (Sydell) Schiff. Born in Spring Lake, N.J., he was a son of the late Harry and Rachel (Salzman) Schiff.

Mr. Schiff was a graduate of New York University and an owner of the former Superior Manufacturing and Instrument Corp. in Long Island City, N.Y.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Suzannah Schiff Holiday of Massachusetts; a sister, Doris Greenberg of New

York City; a granddaughter, Courtney and several nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Bernice Switzen.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Evelyn Wasser, 80

WARWICK — Evelyn (Aron) Wasser, 80, died April 28. She was the wife of Edward Wasser. They were married for 60 years.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Bessie Aron, she raised her family in Cranston and then retired to Warwick for the past 25 years.

Mrs. Wasser worked as payroll manager for many years.

In retirement she volunteered

for Hasbro Children's Hospital and for the R.I. Blood Bank.

She was an active member of Hadassah and Temple Sinai and was an avid bowler. She loved to travel, and enjoyed playing mah-jongg with her friends.

She leaves two sons, Dr. Marvin Wasser and his wife Ellie of Cranston, and Bruce Wasser and his wife Paula of Warwick; a daughter, Ann Messier and her husband Louis of Warwick; eight grandchildren, Andrea Hasegawa, David Miller, Jason, Guy, Rachel, Emily, Andrew and Ianna Wasser; and two great-grandchildren, Nate and Jonah Hasegawa. She was the sister of the late Jack, Abe and Simon Aron and Ethel Silverman. Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920.

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Simchas People

Satlow awarded Guggenheim

PROVIDENCE — **Michael L. Satlow**, associate professor of Judaic studies and religious studies, is among five Brown professors to receive Guggenheim fellowships for 2007.

Satlow specializes in early Judaism and has written extensively on issues of gender, sexuality and marriage among Jews in antiquity, as well as on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jewish theology, methodology in

religious studies and the social history of Jews in the rabbinic period.

He received his Ph.D. in ancient Judaism from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1993 and began teaching at Brown in 2002, after having taught in the religious studies departments at Indiana University and the University of Virginia.

He is on the board of the American Academy of Religion and is a co-editor of the Brown Judaic Studies series.

He recently completed a book

titled "Creating Judaism: History, Traditions, Practice," (Columbia Univ. Press, 2006.) During his year as a Guggenheim fellow, Satlow will investigate how the Jews of that period understood their relationship with God in a project titled "Jewish Piety in Late Antiquity."

PHDS to honor supporters at Amudim dinner

PROVIDENCE — Providence Hebrew Day School's annual Amudim dinner will be held on Sun., June 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the school. This year they will be paying tribute to **Marvin Stark** and **Miriam Abrams-Stark**, and **Melvin and Elaine Raskin**, and **Mark and Nili Herskovitz**.

The Amudim Award will be given to Marvin Stark and Miriam Abrams-Stark. The Starks have been very involved at PHDS for many years. He served as the director of the financial office for six years and currently serves on the budget and finance committee of the executive board. Mrs. Stark was co-president of PTF for two years, has organized and cooked for several "pizza nights" and was a room parent for many years.

The *Dor L'dor* Grandparents Award will be given to **Melvin and Elaine Raskin** for their outstanding commitment to Providence Hebrew Day School and New England Academy of Torah. Their son, Russell, has

served as a past president of the school.

Mark and Nili Herskovitz will receive the Chaverim Award for their ongoing support of the school.

The awards program will feature the PHDS band and a special presentation entitled "Creating our Jewish Leaders of Tomorrow."

The dinner is open to the public and everyone is welcome. For more information, call the school at 331-5327.

Dr. Schiffman honored with teacher's award

PROVIDENCE — The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Department of Medicine, held its sixth annual Beckwith Family Awards ceremony May 1 to recognize superb teaching by its faculty.

The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund supports these awards. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, and program and course directors in the Department of Medicine.

Fred J. Schiffman, M.D., was among the four recipients of this year's awards. He is professor of medicine, division of hematology/oncology, and vice chairman of medicine, at The Miriam Hospital.

Winokers to receive Humanitarian award

PROVIDENCE — The May 10 Rhode Island Humanitarian Award Luncheon at the Hotel Biltmore honored **Marilyn and Jim Winoker** of Belvoir Properties Inc. The annual luncheon benefits National Jewish Medical and Research Center.

Jim Winoker is the chief executive officer of Belvoir Properties Inc. A Providence native, he holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Brown and an MBA from Harvard. He has held leadership positions at Brown, Brandeis, Providence College, Harvard Business School Assoc. of Rhode Island, and the National Alumni Board for Harvard Business School.

He has served in key roles for the City of Providence, the Providence Foundation, and many other civic and business organizations as well as the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. He has also provided leadership to the National Conference of Christians and Jews Southeast New England Chapter and Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Marilyn Winoker is chairman of Belvoir Properties Inc. She is also a Providence native who received her bachelor's degree from Boston University. She has been involved in numerous organizations including the Children's Crusade, Rhode Island Council on Economic Education, Brandeis University, Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, Jewish Federation of Rhode Island - Women's Division, Temple Emanu-El in Providence, Preserve Rhode Island and Rhode Island Commodores. In 1998 she received the YWCA Outstanding Women award.

Cranston student receives Tufts award

Jonathan M. Levitt, son of Steven and Joan Levitt of Cranston, was presented with the Graduate Award for Outstanding Graduate Research in Engineering from Tufts University. This award is given to one graduate student in the Tufts University graduate program. Jonathan is currently in his third year as a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering.

He is also the grandson of Lawrence and Ruth Bertman and the late Oscar Levitt and Gloria Levitt.

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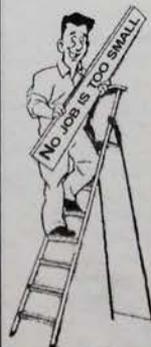
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HENDRYK

MY VOICE

Tracing our earliest mothers

By Mary Korr and Marylyn Graff

On Mother's Day Sunday, "Mitochondrial Mary" (MMK) and "Mitochondrial Marylyn" (MMG) will raise a cup of rich African coffee and toast our most distant mothers, who were revealed to us through DNA testing.

You will have to read on to find out which clan mother we are descended from, but suffice it to say that MMK is 10,000 years older than MMG, (although she doesn't look it.)

MMK is from a hunter-gatherer clan, while MMG's clan was farmers. (No surprise here, MMK likes to travel, MMG likes to garden.)

MMK had a perfect match with 1,125 "genetic cousins," others who took the test. MMG's lineage was, shall we say, abbreviated; as of this date, she has only 15 matches!

And most curious of all, MMK had perfect matches with many testers who identified themselves as Ashkenazi, from Austria, Hungary, Belarus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine. What gives? MMK, of mixed but mostly Irish heritage, expected to find the Sephardic link from the small band of Jews who fled Portugal and Spain in the Inquisition and settled in the west of Ireland. (That's a whole other story.)

To sum up, MMK is more Jewish and generations older than MMG! Or so we thought. But upon reading the fine print in the reams of material that accompanies the results, we found out our mitochondrial genes are pre-ethnic.

"The Seven Daughters of Eve"

Our interest was piqued at first after reading the fascinating book, "The Seven Daughters of Eve," written by Bryan Sykes, professor of genetics at the Institute of Molecular Medicine at Oxford University in England.

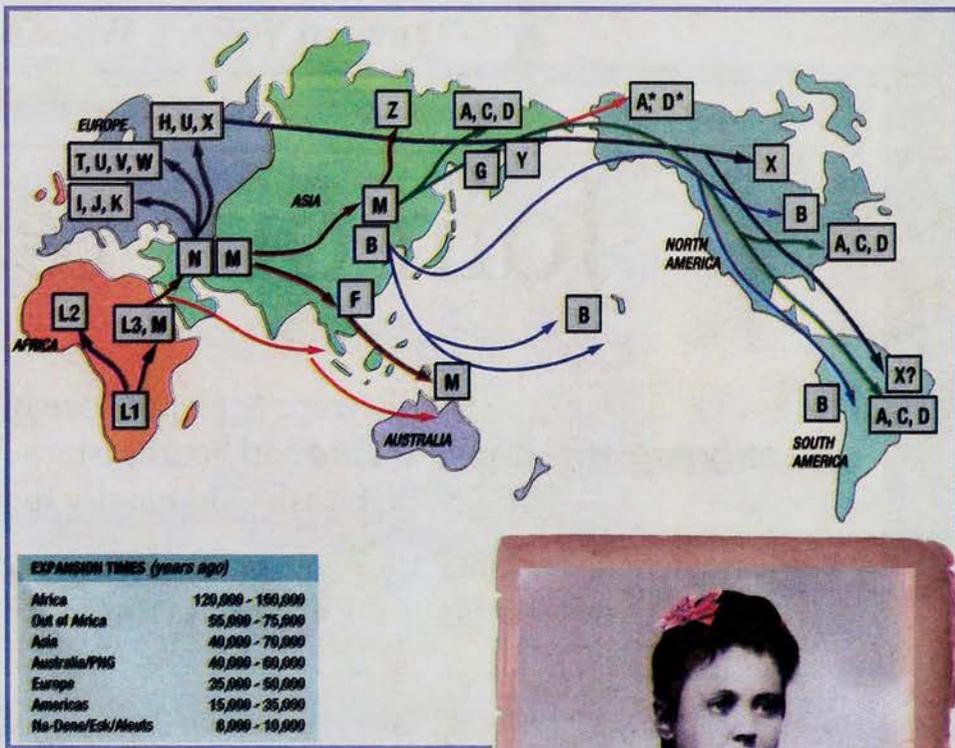
Sykes wrote the book in 2001. His DNA sleuthing began in 1988, when construction workers in a town a few miles from Oxford came across several skeletons and called in his genetic team to examine them. They were allowed to take three thigh bones.

Sykes writes: "Because we knew there wasn't going to be much, if any, DNA left in the bone extract, we decided to maximize our chances by choosing something called mitochondrial DNA for the simple reason that cells have upwards of a hundred times more of it than any other type of DNA."

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is inherited only from the mother. Both males and females have mtDNA, but only females pass it along to their children. The study of mtDNA, then, is the study of female genetic lines within human populations. Mutations, when they occur, are passed down and can accumulate over time and in a chronological manner.

In 1994, Sykes was asked to examine "The Ice Man," a skeleton found frozen in glacial ice in northern Italy and carbon dated to about 5,000 years ago. He was able to extract DNA from bone remains. Two independent research teams identified the DNA as European by finding precisely the same DNA sequence in samples taken from living Europeans. The scientists spent years testing populations all over Europe and western Asia. (They also worked in the Far East and the Pacific, but that's another story.)

With additional research and developing new scientific methods of extraction, Sykes was able — incredibly — to go back, back, back in time to the first mother commonly known as "Mitochondrial Eve." She was not the first woman, but the woman whose line survives to this day. She was one of a population in Africa which existed perhaps as far back as 160,000 years ago. Readers besieged Sykes with requests to test their own DNA. He formed a company, called Oxford Ancestors (oxfordancestors.com), where people could send cheek swabs and have them analyzed and compared to the genetic sequences of "The Seven Daughters of Eve," whom he



L1 was the mother of all living people today. This map shows the routes her daughters took.

named Velda, Helena, Tara, Jasmine, Katrine, Xenia, and Ursula. Several companies have emerged since then to offer mitochondrial and Y-chromosome testing. The price ranges from \$89 to \$150.

MMK and MMG chose Family Tree DNA (familytreedna.com) and soon received our kits in the mail.

The test of time

Mitochondrial DNA exists outside the nucleus of the cell, and is not subject to recombination. This DNA is passed down the maternal line from generation to generation etc. virtually unchanged. It is a map to the past. In the mtDNA test, 569 base pairs attached to the strands in DNA are tested. The pairs are a specific component of DNA made up of adenine (A) and guanine (G) or cytosine (C) and thymine (T). An individual's test results are listed using these letters.

The test results are compared to the Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS), the industry standard, because 40 to 60 percent of West Eurasians are in this group. Any difference in a person's pattern from the CRS is called a mutation.

In addition, your results are compared in a database to others tested; there are links to other databases from different companies that offer testing. You receive a list of the matches and email addresses of the tester if they sign a release.

Mitochondrial Marylyn

I have now confirmed that I am a daughter of Eve; (I like apples, but don't talk to snakes if I can help it.) But I had no idea that I would ever know my roots beyond Lithuania and Russia. I was informed that my DNA traced back to Jasmine. The other six were thousands of years older and all traced back as hunter-gatherers. The Jasmine ancestors originated in the Near East about 50,000 years ago and are generally considered one of the prominent lineages that brought agriculture to Europe during the Neolithic age, about 10,000 years ago. Some Jasmynes went westward but most migrated eventually into what is now Eastern Europe. The theoretical tale in the Sykes book of how agriculture could have begun,



Before mtDNA testing, Mary Peters, Mary Korr's great grandmother, was as far back as the family tree went. This photo is circa 1870.

involves a hunter who couldn't throw straight, (he is definitely my ancestor.)

The map, above, traces the migrations of the various population groups (haplogroups). My page of recent ancestral origins showed that Jasmine is to be found in present-day Germany, Russia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. No surprise there. I have heard from a couple of my matches, confirming national origins.

Mitochondrial Mary

I was surprised at my results — I thought I would be a Tara tinged with Jasmine. In fact, I was Helena with most of my DNA matches from Germany and Scotland. I learned that Helena's clan (circa 20,000 years ago) were hunter-gatherers who traveled from the Near East westward towards Europe, camping in northern Spain, southern France and then migrating further into what is now Germany as the Ice Age glaciers receded. Interestingly enough, I have lived in Spain and visited southern France several times.

And so, I say, Hola, madre Helena, besos y abrazos; vive la France; and to my mother-in-law, of blessed memory: Who knew?



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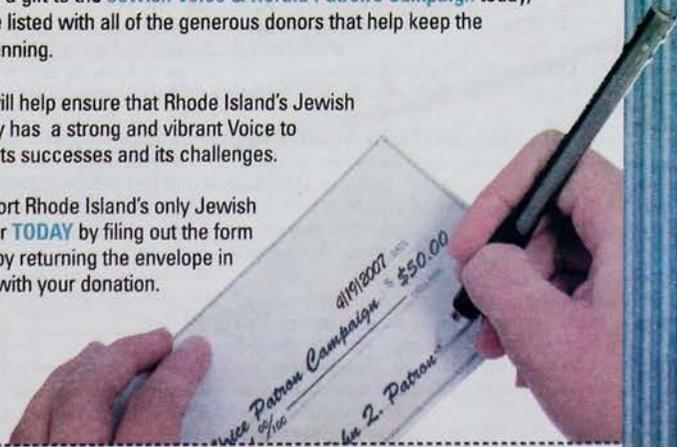
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