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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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June 8, 2007

Federation OKs up to \$73.9K for PHDS

Grant will pay for additional staffer

By Mary Korr
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — The Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) will add an administrative staff position, either in development or admissions (or a combination of the two), for the coming school year. It will be funded in part by the Jewish Federation of R.I. (JFRI), which has been examining problems at the school for a year, and working with it on ways to address them.

Last Thursday, the newly streamlined JFRI board of directors approved a proposal for up to \$73,900 to be distributed to the school over two years, pending approval of benchmarks which are currently under review by the board. These will be implemented and monitored by the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE).

In the first year, the school would receive \$59,400; in the second year Federation's subsidy would drop to \$14,500. After two years, the position is expected to be self-funded.

It is estimated that the hiring of a development officer could bring in an additional \$50,000 after the first year; and that an admissions director could be expected to add five students from Sharon, Mass., within a year's time.

See PHDS, page 7



Photos by Mary Korr



On Orchard Ave. campaign trail

PRESIDENT CLINTON emerges from the house of former Providence Mayor Joseph Paolino on Orchard Ave. in Providence after speaking at a fundraiser on Wednesday for his wife, Hillary, which was attended by about 200.

At left, Martin and Andrea Levine, wheeling their grandson, wondered about all the police cars and media trucks near Temple Beth-El and stopped to ask a police officer. The street was blocked to cars at both ends.

Memorial Day commemoration



Photos by Frank Belsky

The Jewish War Veterans Memorial Wall of Honor at Lincoln Park Cemetery.

Recalling courage of Jewish vets

By Frank Belsky

WARWICK — They sacrificed their lives so that we may live ours in freedom.



RABBI GEORGE ASTRACHAN, JWV Chaplain, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Sinai, Cranston and Commander Sanford Gorodetsky read the names of 60 veterans who died in the last year.

On a warm May 27 morning, hundreds sat, spellbound, their eyes facing dark granite panels, their ears hearing sensitive voices recount stories of pain, camaraderie and bravery. It was the 62nd annual Memorial Day service sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans

(JWV) of the State of Rhode Island.

It also represented the continual passing of "the greatest generation," with an upsurge in World War II veterans' deaths. The dark "wall," at the entrance of the Lincoln Park

See JEWISH VETS, page 8

Torat Yisrael buys site

E. Greenwich approves land for new temple

By Mary Korr
mkorr@jfri.org

EAST GREENWICH — Temple Torat Yisrael's plan to relocate from Cranston to East Greenwich has taken two giant steps forward. On May 18, the temple completed the purchase of 6.2 acres of land on Middle Road for \$675,000.

The purchase followed the unanimous approval by the East Greenwich zoning board of review's issuance of a "special use" permit, required by the town for a house of worship to be built. The site, with fields, forests and wetlands, is zoned as farmland. There is a house

See TORAT YISRAEL, page 9

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We are read everywhere

ALOHA! — Carl H. Bakelman, formerly of Providence, now living in New Port Richey, Fla., sent this photo to the JV&H while on a cruise to Hawaii. The newspaper invites readers to take along a copy of the *Jewish Voice & Herald* on their next trip and send us a photo, which we will publish. So far, we have been read in Israel, Jordan, at the Great Wall of China, Florida, and California.

Photos can be emailed to voiceread@jfri.org, with "We Are Read Everywhere" in the subject line. Or, send to JV&H at 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI, 02906. We look forward to vacationing with you.



Carl H. Bakelman

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Quote of the Week

'Lt. Bruce Cohen was everywhere. He ended up treating over 600 wounded casualties in about eight days. I don't think he slept...'

— Col. Stephen M. McCartney

(From *Jewish War Veterans' story*, page 1)

Calendar

ONGOING

Hug N'hamab: Circle of consolation at Torat Yisrael
7 p.m. Thursdays. Temple Torat Yisrael bereavement discussion group. Facilitated by Torat Yisrael member, Dr. Judith Lubiner, a licensed psychologist, and by Rabbi Amy Levin. Members of Torat Yisrael and non-members are equally welcome.

MON., JUNE 11 – AUG. 8

Photo exhibit at Hillel

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brown Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. 'Expressions of Faith,' by New York photographer Ned Harris. (See Arts, page 15.) 863-2805 or www.brownhillel.org. Reception and talk by artist June 21, 5 to 10 p.m.

FRI., JUNE 8

Shabbat program for young families

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

SUN., JUNE 10

JCDS graduation ceremony

10 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence in the main sanctuary. A reception will follow the ceremony in the Bohnen vestry.

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CANDLE LIGHTING For greater Rhode Island

June 15 8:01
June 22 8:04
June 29 8:04



Miriam Hospital opens Baxt building

PROVIDENCE — A little over two years to the day since The Miriam Hospital held the groundbreaking for its new patient and surgical services center, it will officially open the doors to the new facility on Monday, June 11. The building was dedicated as "The Victor and Gussie Baxt Building" after long-time supporters and philanthropists of the hospital, Victor and Gussie Baxt, who most recently donated \$5 million to The Miriam — the largest donation made in the hospital's history.

The Victor and Gussie Baxt Building features:

- A surgical suite with 10 new operating rooms, each almost twice the size of the hospital's current operating rooms.

The rooms, which will replace the existing operating rooms, are equipped with the latest advances in surgical technology — including advanced robotics — and designed to enhance the teaching environment for medical students.

- A 25,000-square-foot radiology suite offering cutting-edge diagnostic imaging and interventional technology, such as a 64-slice CT scanner and vascular interventional radiology. The radiology suite is also home to the hospital's stroke center — the only certified primary stroke center in Rhode Island.

- A patient care unit with 36 private patient rooms, designed with evidence-based

healing color schemes. The addition of these beds will bring The Miriam Hospital to its licensed bed capacity of 247.

- A new gift shop and a bistro-style cafeteria featuring on-duty chefs for made-to-order grill and salad items. Offerings will emphasize nutrition and will include nutrition information on patron's receipts.

Artwork on the first and third floors of the building featuring a collection of photographs of Israel taken by Fred DeGregorio, manager of accounting operations for Lifespan Corporate Services.

Victor Baxt first became involved at the hospital when he was asked to serve on the board of trustees in 1971. Since that time, he has been an active

member on both the foundation and hospital boards and served, many times as chair, on numerous committees at the hospital lending his financial, investment, and management expertise. Victor's wife, Gussie Baxt, has long supported The Miriam as a member of the Women's Association and gala committee.

The Miriam Hospital (www.miriamhospital.org) is a not-for-profit hospital affiliated with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and a founding member of the Lifespan health system. It was founded in 1926 by the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, spearheaded by women in the Jewish community.

Rabbis, Rev. discuss gay/lesbian issues

By Nancy Kirsch

PROVIDENCE — Temple Beth-El's Rabbi Sarah Mack, St. Martin's Episcopal Church's Rev. Clare Fischer-Davies, and Temple Emanu-El's Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer candidly discussed the opportunities and challenges that gay and lesbian clergy face in Episcopal churches and in Reform and Conservative synagogues. Sponsored by Temple Beth-El's Adult Enrichment Committee, the event drew a crowd of several dozen people from the community.

The Conservative movement's recent rulings on admitting gays and lesbians to the Jewish Theological Seminary ("JTS") and performing commitment ceremonies, and the debates about the role of gays and lesbians in the Episcopal church are history-making, explained Mack. "I know how the Reform movement wrestled with these issues, and we thought it would be valuable to learn from our colleagues about their processes, from a doctrinal and a textual perspective," said Mack. "The more we can talk about these issues in an open and respectful way, the more we can all benefit."

As a result of the rulings by the Conservative movement about the role of gays and lesbians, Conservative rabbis are free to decide whether or not they want to conduct commitment ceremonies, explained Kaunfer.

The huge uproar that people see today in the Episcopal Church about this issue is the "other shoe dropping" after 30 years, said Fischer-Davies. "That shoe began to drop when three things happened: we revised our prayer book, ordained women as Episcopal priests, and acknowledged that



Rabbi Sarah Mack
of Temple Beth-El



Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer
of Temple Emanu-El

gays and lesbians are people in the life of the Episcopal church."

"Every diocese has an ordination process that is overseen by clergy and lay people, but the local bishop determines who will be ordained," she added.

The Conservative movement went through this in the 1970s regarding women rabbis and cantors, said Kaunfer, and questions were raised in the 1990s about the role of gays and lesbians in our movement. "We have a law committee of 25 people that addresses questions of Jewish law," said Kaunfer. "A number of papers were presented and, in 1991, the movement agreed that synagogues should welcome members of any sexual orientation. That position, however, did not include acceptance to the JTS (for gay or lesbian students) or commitment ceremonies."

The position that supports rights of gays and lesbians is

based on *kavod habriot* - the idea that human beings' dignity is paramount; the contrary position prohibits commitment ceremonies and gays and lesbians from the JTS. "This is the ultimate in pluralism, since rabbis can choose either rule," said Kaunfer. "At Temple Emanu-El, we have staff and congregants who are gay or lesbian. Though no one has yet asked for a commitment ceremony, we'd be able to do it now, given that we've adopted the approach of welcoming gays and lesbians into our community."

Mack noted that the Reform Movement, under the auspices of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, addressed the issue of gays and lesbians in the seminary nearly 20 years ago. After a rabbi and student submitted a resolution to the CCAR in 1986 asking that gays and lesbians be admitted, a committee was appointed in 1990 and discussions began. "The ruling held that, as gays and lesbians are made in the image of God, they should be allowed to enter

the seminary," explained Mack. "When I entered the seminary in 1997, it was a complete non-issue."

At a meeting in 2000, the Reform Movement's CCAR allowed individual rabbis to determine whether rabbis could perform commitment ceremonies between same-sex couples and, if so, what would they be called. Mack has performed one same-sex commitment ceremony outside of the synagogue, though she would perform one at Temple Beth-El, if asked to do so.

Kaunfer predicts an eventual shift toward a largely egalitarian approach, rather than a split in the Conservative movement. "Over the next couple of decades, I believe we'll see an acceptance of commitment ceremonies, acceptance of gay and lesbian clergy, as the mainstream community becomes more liberal," said Kaunfer. "I don't think we'll call commitment ceremonies *kiddushin*, the term used to describe the marriage ceremony between a man and a woman."

"As a pastor, my immediate concern is about helping people live holy lives and I feel inhibited if I can't offer blessings for these commitment ceremonies," said Fischer-Davies.

Laws don't change if society isn't pushing for change, said Kaunfer. "Our congregation is ready for commitment ceremonies and, though we've had negative reactions to other issues, we've not had any negativity about our position on this issue."

Nancy Kirsch, a freelance writer and communications consultant, lives in Providence. She can be reached at nkirsch@cox.net

Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

The religious divides, whether Muslim or Jew

Last week a headline in *The New York Times* caught my attention. "A Growing Demand for the Rare American Imam" it proclaimed. An imam? A rare bird? Flower? An endangered species? None of the above; an imam is the Muslim equivalent of a rabbi or priest.

As it turns out, American Muslims have many of the problems American Jews once faced, a few of which continue to bedevil us. It is comforting to learn that we are not alone in parenting youths who show more interest in computer games than in religious observance and who are quick to adapt to the ways of the infidels in matters of behavior, education, cultural preferences and the like.



**Yehuda
Lev**

Three generations ago we Jews imported many of our rabbis and cantors from the "Old Country" and while that kept our great-grandparents happy, it was a turn-off for many of their children. Generational clashes between tradition and modernity, which still exist among American Jews, are now prevalent among American Muslims, most of whose imams are imported from the Middle East, speak little English and do not see personal counseling as included in their job description. I don't have any evidence to support this but I am certain that not a single imam who arrives here from Saudi Arabia or Yemen can play the guitar.

American Jewry has several ways of dealing with its disaffected youth. We offer choices in synagogue practice, we have all kinds of add-ons such as JCCs, day schools, afternoon schools, trips to Israel and summer

camp. We invest much of our communal resources in education and entertainment. (If you are studying to be a non-Orthodox rabbi it helps to be able to carry a tune or have a talent for amateur theater.)

There is one branch of Judaism that has no use for such *narishkeit*, the *Haredim*, or ultra-Orthodox. They long ago dealt with the problem of straying youth by

I think it fair to mention that Jewish history and experience have saved us from emulating the Muslim world in the levels of violence that often stain their disputes.

taking an opposite course, increasingly isolating themselves from the non-Jewish community as well as from their fellow Jews. My parents, and perhaps yours, knew nothing of glatt kosher meat. Today if it isn't glatt, it isn't kosher. What was all of that non-glatt kosher meat we ate as children, *treif*? Now when you accept an invitation to dine at the home of a family with a "kosher" kitchen, best avoid the meat course. Who knows?

The *Haredim* teach their children Yiddish in school and speak it at home. Who else uses Yiddish in everyday conversation? The great Yiddish-speaking communities of Eastern Europe are destroyed and Jews everywhere speak the local language and/or Hebrew. To raise one's children to speak a language with which very few others are familiar is a means for discouraging apostasy by

avoiding contact. To dress them in the fashion of 18th century Poland simply reinforces the imposed sense of isolation.

Another result of this is an increasingly divided Orthodox community with some ultra-Orthodox groups maintaining their anti-Zionist ideology and others, together with modern Orthodoxy, adopting a strong pro-Zionist stance. Chabad, an ultra-Orthodox sect, is a partial exception to this rule, having made the decision to preach to those absent Jews who are Jewish by Chabad's definition. This excludes any Jew by choice who was converted by a non-Orthodox Jewish regime, or who has a non-Jewish mother. Even Chabad, which adopts a sensible approach to *Ba'alei Teshuvah* (those who return to Judaism,) by not insisting on a rapid adaptation to the complex life style of Orthodox Judaism, does not permit women in the prayer minyan or the rabbinat, refuses to accept homosexuality and declines to free *agunot*, women whose husbands refuse to grant a divorce and leave them unable to re-marry. In these and other interpretations of Jewish law it is as firmly embedded in the past as are all of the other *Haredi* sects.

I think it fair to mention that Jewish history and experience have saved us from emulating the Muslim world in the levels of violence that often stain their disputes. Ashkenazim and Sephardim differ heatedly on many points of practice but when Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims clash over theological and historical differences, they often kill one another. The fear that many Americans share is that this may spill over into our country and one of the ways to prevent that is for the Muslim community to train American-born imams, with or without guitar lessons.

Yehuda Lev can be reached at yehudal@cox.net

Jewish madness

By Joseph Aaron
Chicago Jewish News

I'm mad. Really, really mad. At you. At me. At all of us. At the Jews.

Mad at how such a smart, creative, amazing people, how the chosen people, can do so many stupid things, things so against everything we are supposed to be, things that reveal how much we too much let our neuroticism, our obsession with being victims, our fixation on the past, get in the way of enjoying the fantastic present we have and the bright future that can be ours if we would only act as healthy, mature adults and as truly Jewish Jews.

Just the past few weeks have provided two examples of how stupid we can be and how unJewish we can act. And brought one example of how disgustingly, obscenely, horribly we are acting in regard to something we regard as most precious and how our behavior may cost us what Jews for thousands of years have worked for.

First, a look at the two stupid unJewish things.

Number one. Praising Jerry Falwell.

You want to know how I reacted when I heard he died? I smiled and said good. I was happy. And still am. To my mind, Jerry Falwell did more damage to this country than almost anyone I can think of other than George W. And maybe even more than W.

Jerry Falwell created the atmosphere of hate, of intolerance, of judgmentalism, of division that so much pervades this country. He was such a hate monger that even in the days following 9/11, when everyone in the country came together and put aside all differences, he came out and blamed the tragedy on pro-choice activists, gays, the ACLU, feminists and a whole bunch of others with whom he did not agree.

He said because of them, God had planes fly into those buildings in New York and kill 3,000 innocent people. That is how Jerry Falwell talked, that is how Jerry Falwell thought. And that is now how way too many people in this country talk and think, including Jews.

And yet, despite all his divisive rhetoric, his politicizing of faith and all his efforts to Christianize America, the Jews were falling all over themselves to praise him upon his passing.

The ADL's Abe Foxman, said he was "saddened to learn of the loss of the Rev. Jerry Falwell." The Zionist Organization of America's Morton Klein said, "It's a sad day for Zionists."

But most disgusting of all was this from the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Sallai Meridor. "It was with both shock and sorrow that I learned of the tragic and sudden passing of Rev. Dr. Jerry Falwell."

Number two. We are so quick to write a whole country off.

So quick. And so when, for a period, there was a rash of anti-Semitic events in France, we decided France was an anti-Semitic bastion, that we should hate it, have nothing to do with it.

How stupid. France is an important country, the French Jewish community is one of the largest in the world. Not a place to label and dismiss.

Especially since the government of France went out of its way to deal with and stop the anti-Semitic events. And succeeded in doing so. But did we acknowledge that, thank them for that? No. We still hated them. A good way to win friends.

Just how stupid we have been is now clear to see. For France has a new president, Nicolas Sarkozy. Someone who is pro-Israel. Someone who is the grandson of a Greek Jew. And guess what else? As his senior diplomatic advisor he has chosen Jean-David Levitte. A Jew. And guess what else? As his foreign minister, the man who will represent France to the world, he picked Bernard Koucher, who has visited Israel numerous times, is pro-Israel and whose grandparents were Russian Jews who died in Auschwitz.

Jerusalem

Jews make a big deal about how much we treasure Jerusalem, value Jerusalem. Jerusalem is our center, Jerusalem defines us. We so often cite the psalm about how if we forget Jerusalem, our right arm should fall off.

And you know what? We are all full of it.

A new survey has shown that thousands of Israelis are leaving Jerusalem each and every year, most of them between the ages of 20 and 34. Over the last 30 years, hundreds of thousands of Jews have moved out of the city.

Why? Because Jerusalem doesn't have enough jobs or affordable housing. And both these situations are getting worse. Another recent study showed that the growth rate for Jerusalem's Arab population is double that of the Jews. And if that continues, said Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski, Jerusalem "will have an Arab majority within 12 years."

12 years. Meaning we prayed to get Jerusalem back for 2,000 years and managed to give it away in about 52.

Jerusalem, our holiest city, is Israel's poorest. While Tel Aviv looks like New York, with high tech firms and a vibrant cultural life, Jerusalem looks like Brooklyn, gray and decrepit, the city filled with beggars, too much of its heavily Orthodox population dependent on government handouts.

All agree that Israeli governments, both of the right and the left, have done nothing to fix the city's decaying infrastructure, attract new business. The end result is that after 40 years of Jewish control, Jerusalem is a mess, and it's getting worse.

THE OLD OLIVETTI

Six Day War can't be revised

I've been reading "The Seventh Day," David Remnick's essay in *The New Yorker* of May 28. It's a discussion of Israeli revisionist history. Remnick, who sees Israeli villains under every bed, argues that: It [The Six Day War] was a war that Israelis regarded as existential in importance — defeat could well have meant the end of the state after less than 20 years — and yet winning had Pyrrhic consequences. Out of it came 40 years of occupation, widespread illegal settlements, the intensification of Palestinian nationalism, terrorism, counterattacks, checkpoints, failed negotiations, uprisings, and ever-deepening distrust. What greater paradox of history: a war that *must* be won, a victory that results in consuming misery and instability.



Josh Stein

Relying on the revisionists, Remnick denies the necessity of the war. He quotes Israeli leaders (without giving the context) who argued against going to war, and those who even afterwards said it was unnecessary. He claims that Prime Minister Levi Eshkol was wise in his reluctant ditherings; that the military forced him to go to war. Yes, he concedes, Nasser had the United Nations remove its peace keepers from the border so that Egyptian forces could bring their tanks and warplanes within striking distance of Tel Aviv. But even Israel's friends, the Americans and the British and the French warned Israel against striking first.

But could Israel listen to Britain and France? In 1938 they had given the same sort of advice to the young republic of Czechoslovakia with disastrous consequences. (By incredible coincidence, in 1938 Czechoslovakia was 19 years old when it was sold down the Danube; Israel was 19 years old when the same dynamic duo of appeasers tried to sell it down the Jordan.)

On June 5, 1967 Israel did attack. By placing his air force so close to the border, Nasser brought it within striking distance of Israeli fighter jets, which essentially destroyed his air capability and lost him the war. King Hussein of Jordan honored a recent pledge to Nasser and struck at Israel and lost the West Bank in exchange. (I suppose it's necessary to point out that the West Bank was part of the remnant of a proposed Arab state, one rejected by the Arabs as they invaded Israel. Gaza was the other remnant, occupied by Egypt since 1949. There never was a Palestinian state—there should have been one, one far bigger than the current West Bank and Gaza, but... As to Jerusalem, occupied by Jordanian forces since 1948, that was supposed to be an international city, open to all. Unlike Muslims permitted to pray at their holy places under Israeli rule, Jews were denied access to their holy places under the Jordanians. I just thought you would like to be reminded.)

Remnick is a fine writer, but he's fallen victim to "The Zeitgeist," the spirit of the times, which lures historians to ruins against the rocks of misunderstanding. At first I wondered why he began with a seemingly superfluous reference to George W. Bush who called critics of his war policies "revisionist historians" but then it became abundantly clear. The spirit of Remnick's times (and mine and at last count of 70 percent of America's) is that the war in Iraq is an unnecessary adventure, that currently and in the future the United States is and will be paying the penalties for Bush's arrogance. What Remnick forgets is that history is oracular, not predictive. It tells us truth (if we are honest) but it's never repeated. Israel in 1967 was not the United States in 2003. America's war is foolishly opportunistic, Israel's wasn't. Had Eshkol waited, a massive Arab attack would have driven the Jews into the sea. Nasser was saying: "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel...The critical hour has arrived." Control of the air was essential. Either Israel had it or Egypt. There was no choice. The enemy was across an invisible line in the sand, not thousands of miles away. Nasser and his Arab allies had the ability to destroy Israel in a way that Saddam never could touch us. Al Qaeda attacked us; we attacked Al Qaeda's enemy. It was stupid. When Israel attacked it was necessary for survival. Sadly, the long term consequences are as Remnick describes them, but there would not have been a long term had Israel waited, had it not avoided being another Czechoslovakia.

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

Dry Bones



ENDORSEMENT SHIMONENDORSEMENT

drybonesblog.com

NOT ALONE

It takes a community

As the school year draws to an end, and as parents and students make plans and apply for financial aid for the coming school year, perhaps it is worth reflecting upon why we send our children to the schools we send them to. Why, in particular, do so many of us choose private schools? And why are we willing to pay so many thousands of dollars? What are we buying and why?



Alan Krinsky

Well, we take ourselves to be buying a number of things: a quality education, including smaller class sizes and increased individualized attention; a place for our children to be safe, away from the public schools' greater dangers of drug use and other behaviors, even if these are never absent entirely from any school; a peer group for our children or a peer group for ourselves, the parents; and for those of us with children at the Jewish day schools, a strong foundation in Jewish texts, ritual, and culture.

The education of a child is not a solitary experience. We are paying, in part, because our children are not alone—their education and enculturation are interpersonal and collective efforts.

We are willing to pay good money for private schooling, because we have no doubt that the accompanying influences will benefit our children, will help them grow into kind, caring, smart individuals, friends, community members, citizens, and eventually parents themselves.

This all sounds wonderful and important, but there is one catch: the money. Private education costs money, and most of us do not have enough of it to pay for the tuition of our children. Furthermore, the actual cost of educating our children always exceeds the tuition dollars requested, let alone collected. For secular, private schools, the burden is less: endowments and alumni giving are usually strong and there is no obligation to accept students from families that cannot afford to pay.

Jewish day schools are a different story, however, as the product is unavailable from the public schools. After-school Jewish education cannot

possibly provide comparative content or skills.

I myself come from a family of public school teachers and attended public schools. And although I believe a strong public school system is an important goal for a free and democratic society and although I know there are good public schools, I have come to believe that the knowledge and skills required to make my children, and most of our children, into literate Jews can be obtained only through a Jewish day school education.

Nonetheless, even if this is a noble aim, and even if we are correct as to the benefits of the education and enculturation provided by our day schools, how is it that we can justify the continued existence of an operation that cannot pay for itself?

Simply, the justification is that it is not only parents and students who benefit from strong day school education, but also the entire Jewish community. Jewish education is fundamental to a thriving Jewish community now and in the future. Many centuries before the Western world made formal education mandatory, Jewish communities took on this obligation, for orphans and all Jewish children. And, as many have pointed out, how do we describe our greatest leader? Do we call Moses our prophet or our king? No, we call him Moshe Rabbeinu, Moses our Teacher!

We need to renew, as a community, our investment in this communal need and obligation.

Our devoted teachers, administrators, and lay leaders already do an admirable job of educating some 300 of our children, in Jewish and general studies. No doubt, they can achieve greater levels of excellence and educate hundreds more children.

Yet tuition dollars alone will never do the job. Only community support and Jewish philanthropy can make this a reality.

In my next column, I will explore the admirable and disproportionate generosity of Jewish philanthropists, and the disproportionate and perhaps troubling fact that only a small percentage of this philanthropy is directed to Jewish causes, including Jewish education.

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

Submission Guidelines

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

ALISON ON ALIYAH

Failures, failures, and more failures

'Once again, I spend my days worrying for my boyfriend's safety...'

Israel is officially in a state of crisis. Actually, I'm not sure when Israel was ever not in a state of crisis, but something still seems qualitatively different about the times we are experiencing these days. The citizenry seems fundamentally disheartened, and the atmosphere has changed. I used



Alison Golub

to feel this amazing, powerful sense of belonging when I walked through the streets of Jerusalem; it was something that recharged me and made me feel as if I was part of some larger collective and higher purpose. Now I feel only a collective sense of sadness, of pain, and of utter disappointment.

There has been a rash of strikes over the past two months — from postal workers to high school teachers to trash collectors to train conductors to all of higher education — which has left us all feeling like we have to check the news every morning to find out whether our daily schedules will run successfully that day. And then the Winograd Commit-

tee Report came out, criticizing anyone and everyone for widespread failures during last summer's colossal failure, the Second Lebanon War. Over 150,000 Israelis gathered in Rabin Square in Tel Aviv to protest the state of affairs and to call for the resignation of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and two university students even erected a tent outside Olmert's home in Jerusalem for the same purpose. Haaretz.com reported that today, 34 days later, the students took down their tent, saying, "The reality check came in the third week, when we realized masses of citizens were not going to come. It's not that people don't care, they just don't believe we can make a difference."

This is perhaps the saddest and most discouraging statement that has been made in months of sad and discouraging statements. I watched university students all over the country put their personal lives aside to fight for their communal struggle for over 40 consecutive days, and I watched

them gradually realize that nothing will come of their fighting and their sacrificing. Slowly but surely they all threw in the towel, utterly disgusted with their government, and with their passion and willingness to revolt and desire to fight for the underdog completely squelched. "It's not that people don't care, they just don't believe we can make a difference." I think that we actually do care. We care very much about the fact that we don't believe anymore that we can make a difference.

And can anyone forget the famous Disengagement, the plan that was certainly going to solve all our problems? Here we are, nearly two years later, with dozens of Qassam rockets falling on Sderot daily, with the school year there being cancelled because of a sweeping lack of reinforced classrooms and public shelters. Once again, I spend my days worrying for my boyfriend's safety, as his engineering classes all take place at a college in Sderot. Not even a year after fighting for his

life in Lebanon, he is fearing for his life again, this time inside of Israel proper. It is sickening, and disheartening, and painful to watch this country go through this again. And I can't even say that we had "high hopes" for this plan to work out anyway.

Indeed, I don't think that Israelis hold any illusions anymore about the past couple of years. Israel has failed in every way, and has failed nearly everyone. This includes the "refugees" from Gush Katif, many of whom are still living in hotels or trailer parks, with no hope on the near horizon of having a real home for themselves and their families. This includes the soldiers of last summer, who sacrificed their innocence and their comrades to fight for their country, and who were forced to withdraw with their tails between their legs, without accomplishing any of the government's stated goals for the war. This certainly includes our three still-captured soldiers, who are god-knows-where and who will come back to us god-knows-when. This even includes our nation's Holocaust survivors, whose struggle has been widely publicized as of late. They live below the poverty line with a

pathetic amount of government support, and it has been reported that Holocaust survivors living in Germany are actually better taken care of than those in the Jewish state.

And yet, Israel marches on, along her misguided and oftentimes terrifying path. The country buzzes constantly these days with rumors about an upcoming war this summer, and all of my friends have served unprecedented amounts of time in the army reserves this year. It's hard not to assume that this would just be Israel's (ill-advised) way of saving face, if not in international eyes (because let's face it, that's a lost cause), at least in the eyes of those countries who must be convinced of her deterrent power. Perhaps it is Israel's way of redeeming herself in the eyes of her citizenry, as a good ol' successful war always solved all these problems in the past.

But I fear that this type of solution will not succeed this time, and will only serve to dig ourselves deeper and deeper into our heaping pile of failures. I'm not even sure if we know what a success would look like anymore... Perhaps this is the greatest failure of all.

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.alisonstern-golub.com.

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Federation

JFRI 62nd annual meeting



Photos by Jonathan Rubin

FORMER FEDERATION PRESIDENT MARK FEINSTEIN, at right, presents the Merrill Hassenfeld Community Service Award to James Pious at the Jewish Federation's 62nd annual meeting, held recently at the Jewish Community Center in Providence. The meeting honored Charles Samdperil, a former Federation president who passed away this past year. The evening's guest speaker was Stephen Richer, president of Congregation Beth Israel of Biloxi Mississippi, a synagogue destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.



JOAN RESS REEVES presents the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award to Richard Licht at the meeting.

Heath to leave JFRI

PROVIDENCE — Elisa Silverstein Heath, campaign director at the Jewish Federation of R.I., will be leaving her position at the end of June to pursue other professional opportunities.

Heath has served with JFRI since 1989, with a break from 1999 to 2004. She has held the positions of director of leadership development and director of planning and fund distribution. She has been the campaign director since 2004.

Heath has served on the boards of such local Jewish agencies as the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Alperin Schechter Day School and the RI Holocaust Museum.

A graduate of Tulane University, with a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Rhode Island, she was raised in South Kingstown and currently resides in Pawtucket.



Elisa Silverstein Heath

PHDS GRANT

From page 1

The decision on which position to hire for will be decided by the school.

The allocation should "improve the financial and educational well-being of the school," said Ezra Stieglitz, chairman of the day school liaison committee.

"The school is dramatically understaffed. There is no fat here," said Mathew Shuster, chairman of the group which examined the systemic issues resulting in financial deficits at PHDS and issued a report to Federation.

Among its recommendations: PHDS should revise its policy on tuition remission for full-time faculty. It also stated the school should seriously re-examine its policy of using bequests and large donations for its operating budget.

Shuster said that PHDS has been successful and aggressive in fundraising, and has raised over \$250,000 this year. But the amount of scholarships the school offers to its students is not offset by the tuition it generates.

One bright funding note is the new corporate tax credit program, which went into effect Jan. 1. Lawrence Katz, asst. executive director at BJE, who oversees the scholarship granting organization (SGO) for the two Jewish day schools, said to date Vertex Distribution and the Bank of America have each donated \$100,000 to be used for needs-based scholarships in the coming school year. As a result, PHDS expects to receive about \$140,000 towards its scholarship program, and perhaps more, in the coming year.

Katz explained that the program allows "C" corporations (owned by shareholders) to contribute anything from a few thousand to \$100,000 per year to participating private and parochial schools in the R.I. Scholarship Alliance program. The companies receive a 90 percent tax credit for a two-year pledge, in effect costing them \$660 for a \$100,000 donation. (See May 25, *JV&H*, p. 1 or visit www.jobri.org for story on the program.)

Katz is hopeful that other types of corporations will be allowed to participate in the program after July 1. If more funds become available through the corporate tax credit program, it could reduce the amount of the Federation allocation.

Minna Ellison, executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education, said 68 students, over half of the student body at PHDS, qualify for these scholarships.

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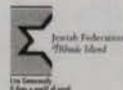
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Community

JEWISH VETS

From page 1

Cemetery, exhibits the names of 2,600 Jewish war veterans etched in white; 60 were added this year alone. (See list of names on page 25.)

The task of research, planning, moderating, and expediting the hour-and-a-half ceremony fell to JWV Commander Sanford Gorodetsky. He should be proud, commented a spectator.

"We were surprised," said high-schoolers Christopher Burt and his brother Sean. "It was more interesting than we expected," they agreed after they paid their respects to their grandfather, Leon Goldberg.

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) discussed the depth of friendships he's made with many whose names appear on the Memorial Wall, including the late Rep. Irving Levin, a key supporter in his quest for political office.

"I always thought that the courage of those who wear the uniform must be matched by the wisdom of those who make decisions. Frankly we've got a long way to go to insure that our wisdom is as significant and profound as their courage."

Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts, who, according to Gorodetsky, devotes much of her time to veterans' issues, commented on those who don't commemorate Memorial Day. "We often spend our

Memorial Day weekend thinking about what we're going to cook on the grill and how much it's going to cost to travel. But this [gathering] is what Memorial Day weekend is about. It's about remembering those who have sacrificed for us...we need to remember and carry on what they left for us, our liberty, our strength."

Later, Cantor Dr. Ivan Pearlman, U.S. Marine Corps, Bronze Star recipient, added comments, along with typical humor.

"Three years ago I was one of the honorees at Arlington National Cemetery. I went up to a three-star general, Lt. Gen. Marcus and asked him, 'Is it true that once a marine, always a marine?'"

"He said, 'absolutely.'"

"So I said, 'so you'll take me back?'"

"He laughed too. But before I left the platform I said to him, 'I want to tell you that before you were born I was in the Marine Corps.'"

The self-confessed 82-year-old then addressed bigotry. "We fought a civil war. Did it end prejudice?"

He continued, "When I joined (the military), I was a Jew. I had to finally take up boxing so that they would leave me alone. I fought 16 heavyweight fights and won all 16, 11 by knockouts...I wanted to protect myself and let them see that Jews were fight-



SEN. JACK REED spoke to Jewish war veterans and their families at a Memorial Day ceremony held at the Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

ers."

Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, commander of Rhode Island's National Guard, spoke of his experience at the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. and eloquently reflected upon the nature of American ideals. "We are lucky to live in a better world today because of the sacrifices government and our service members have made. But the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. The price of freedom comes at the expense of the lives of those who serve. Never again was our vow after WWII. We must turn together toward today's challenges and look toward tomorrow with renewed commitment."

Col. Stephen M. McCartney, U.S. Marine Corps (ret.),

paid tribute to all Jewish veterans, including those who have passed on, and those who continue to serve — men like Bruce Cohen, now a captain in the Navy, who showed bravery in battle, and unflinching commitment to the task at hand.

McCartney said, "When my battalion was mobilized (during the first Gulf War), I didn't have any battalion surgeons [only] this young navy lieutenant. His name was Lt. Bruce Cohen, M.D...he was brand new to the military. He didn't even know how to put his uniform on..."

"I tried to give him the old stern, you know, 'I'm the boss, you've got to cut it, I'm expecting big things from you in case a situation gets real serious.' Well, this

guy just caught on like you would not believe. We were assigned to the first marine division on the 24th of Feb."

McCartney said in his first eight days in Operation Desert Storm, Dr. Cohen treated over 600 wounded Iraqi and American soldiers while surrounded by a hail of gunfire. "I don't think he slept at all. He won the Navy Cross with the combat V as a result of his service in the Gulf War."

Also included in the proceedings were Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, Rabbi George J. Astrachan, JWV Chaplain, Cantor Rennie J. Brown, Veteran David Penn and Carol Rotkin.

Frank Belsky is a freelance writer and Pawtucket resident. He can be reached at fbelsky@yahoo.com.

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World

NEWS ANALYSIS

TORAT YISRAEL

From page 1

on the property which will ultimately be used as a parsonage.

The approval followed two hearings, in which residents commented on the prospect of a synagogue being built on the residential, rural parcel of land at 1251 and 1261 Middle Road. Traffic was the main concern expressed by residents; as a result, there were conditions, many routine, placed on exit and entrance locations. The approval also does not allow the temple to rent out the facility for any non-religious purposes.

"We are all delighted," said the temple's Rabbi Amy Levin. "It has taken close to three years to achieve this milestone."

A move to East Greenwich has been on the congregational agenda for much longer, she said. Although it has been a few years since the temple has done a geographical analysis, Rabbi Levin said the congregants live in two general clusters, in east and west Cranston and in southern Warwick, East Greenwich, Coventry and North Kingstown.

In meetings presented to the town, the congregation expressed its willingness to maintain the scenic character of the area and be sensitive to neighbor's wishes.

In the pre-application process, the temple presented a plan to the town which stated that the temple will be located in the center of the property and that the building is expected to be 15,000 square feet to house the sanctuary, function room, offices and classroom, with parking on two levels. It will be well within the town's allowable 35-foot height requirement, and is estimated to be a story and a half tall.

The temple will present the final design to the town planning board before ground is broken on the project. The wetland, border and soil surveys and testing have been completed.

A capital campaign committee is now working on a plan to finance the purchase, with a monetary goal not yet announced. In addition, a search committee for an architect has begun work, and the process is expected to take several months.

The move will also mean a transference of the intangibles — the memories and the spirit of the Torat Yisrael congregation. "Bringing those memories with us is a high priority as we prepare our move. Indeed, our building on Park Avenue is not our first building; we have a lot of history to document and preserve," Rabbi Levin said.

Is Syria serious about peace?

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Amid signs that Syria may be preparing for war with Israel this summer, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert reportedly is considering sending secret peace feelers to Damascus.

In recent weeks, the signals on war and peace from Damascus have been mixed.

On the one hand, President Bashar Assad repeated for the umpteenth time that he wants to negotiate a peace deal. On the other, Syria has been engaged in an unprecedented upgrading of weapons' systems, heavy fortification building and large-scale troop maneuvers.

One interpretation is that the war signals are an attempt to pressure Israel into peace talks. Israeli governments for years have ignored Assad's calls for dialogue; the show of Syrian military power could be an attempt to concentrate the minds in Jerusalem.

If so, the gambit seems to be working.

Military intelligence, top-ranking Israeli army officers and some Cabinet ministers reportedly are advising Olmert to check out the possibility of peace talks and thus help to cool what could become a highly inflammable situation.

See SYRIA, page 10

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World

SYRIA

From page 9

For Olmert, though, the question remains: Is Syria serious about peace, or just about peace talks to relieve international pressure over its ties with Iran and involvement in the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri?

The showdown in Lebanon

between the Lebanese army and radical Palestinian gunmen also could impact on the Israel-Syria question.

A second, more urgent imponderable on the table: If there are no talks, is Syria ready to go to war to force the issue, the way Egypt and Syria did in 1973?

Over the past year, the Syrians reportedly have concluded

huge arms deals with Russia. Among the weapons systems purchased are advanced Pantsir S-1 anti-aircraft batteries, long-range Iskander-E ground-to-ground missiles, SU-30 and Mig-29 jets, and state-of-the-art anti-tank missiles.

The Syrians are also said to have transferred long-range rockets to Hezbollah that would enable the radical Shi'ite militia to strike at targets in central Israel.

On the other hand, Israeli intelligence says the recent large-scale Syrian maneuvers were largely defensive in nature. Moreover, United Nations observers on the Golan Heights deny any irregular buildup of forces by either side. They say the Syrians and the Israelis have less than half the troops they are permitted in the border area by the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement.

Still, the U.N. observers acknowledge that a misreading of the other side's intentions could easily lead to a flare-up.

Some senior Israel Defense

Forces officers reckon that if Israel does not open peace talks, Syria might start a terror campaign on the Golan to suck Israel into a confrontation. These officers say the Syrians believe they would be able to use their ground-to-ground missiles to cause widespread damage on the home front.

The IDF assessment goes that if there is war, Hezbollah also would open fire, and Iran would help by sending in more weapons and ammunition.

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad offered a chilling reminder of his government's position when he declared Sunday that "with God's help, the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine."

Given the volatility of the situation, the top IDF brass is urging Olmert to send out secret feelers to explore Syria's position on a peace deal. Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former chief of staff and defense minister, also has been saying it is time to sound out the Syrians.

Mofaz, who heads the Israeli team on strategic cooperation with the United States, is scheduled to hold talks this week with senior officials in Washington, where he may well seek American approval for an Israeli move to defuse the potentially explosive Syrian situation.

Olmert says some feelers already have been put out. For one, European and Turkish intermediaries assured the Syr-

ians that Israel has no aggressive intentions.

They also asked Assad what Olmert sees as the key question: In a state of peace with Israel, after getting back the Golan Heights, would Syria be ready to make a break with Iran and stop supporting Hezbollah and Palestinian rejectionists?

According to Olmert aides, the Syrian answer was vague and unsatisfactory. Now, on the advice of the army, the prime minister reportedly is considering a more determined follow-up.

After last week's U.N. decision to set up a tribunal on the Hariri assassination, the Syrians are under more international pressure than ever with regard to their suspected involvement in the murder. This could be another reason for Assad to be more forthcoming over Syrian concessions in return for an effective negotiating framework with Israel.

In the showdown in Lebanon, the Lebanese government maintains that the radical fundamentalist al-Fatah al-Islam gunmen in the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp are working for Syria.

But even if they are not, the Lebanese army's assertion of authority by taking on the gunmen could further weaken Syrian influence in Beirut. And that too might persuade Assad to go to a deal with Israel.

Conversely, if the showdown leads to further destabilization nationwide, the Syrians may use that as a pretext to strengthen their presence in Lebanon and consequently show less interest in a deal with Israel.



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News Briefs

Libby gets 30 months

A federal judge sentenced Lewis "Scooter" Libby to 30 months in prison. Libby was sentenced Tuesday in Washington for obstructing the investigation into who leaked the name of covert CIA operative Valerie Plame as part of a White House retaliation scheme against her husband, Joe Wilson, a prominent Iraq war critic. Libby, who is Jewish, was the top adviser to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Mass grave found

A mass grave holding the remains of thousands of Jews killed by the Nazis has been found in southern Ukraine. Workers laying gas pipelines near Odessa accidentally found the grave that is near a former concentration camp where 5,000 Jews were killed, The Associated Press reported. Roman Shvartsman, a spokesman for the regional Jewish community, estimated that Nazis killed 240,000 Jews in the Odessa region. The director of the Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, Anatoly Podolsky, said there were approximately 250 to 300 mass graves in Ukraine of Nazi victims, and some of them have yet to be discovered.

Olmert-Bush meeting

WASHINGTON: When they meet in Washington in about ten days time, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President George W. Bush will probably not take up the subject that is causing the most discussion and that many assumed would lead the agenda. That is the question of what to do about possible Israeli-Syrian talks intended to lead to a peace treaty. Some of Olmert's

advisors are concerned that such negotiations might undermine Israel's relations with the United States. The Bush administration is not keen on reviving the Syrian track, as it considers its government harmful to regional stability. However both Shaul Mofaz, Israel's former army chief of staff and its present chief of staff, Gabi Ashkenazi, favor such talks and reports say that Olmert, through a third party, is sounding out the Syrians on what conditions they would demand in return for peace. (Ha'aretz)

British boycott

LONDON: The vote by Britain's largest academic union to further consider a boycott of all of Israel's academic institutions is raising the dust on many a library shelf as supporters and opponents of the move take sides. Michael Cushman, of the London School of Economics said that Israeli institutions deserve to be boycotted because they are symbols of Israel's national identity. "Senior academics move from universities to ministries and back again." Opponents of the measure asked why British academics did not vote to boycott China or Russia where civil rights barely exist instead of hitting on a democratic state. (JTA)

Vitriol from Iran

PARIS: The foreign ministers of both France and Spain have strongly condemned the latest threats to the survival of Israel made by Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. In a speech earlier this week he said that a "countdown button" had been pressed to bring about Israel's destruction. "With God's help," he continued, "the button

for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine." (The New York Times)

— Compiled by Yehuda Lev

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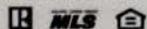
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CALENDAR

From page 2

**SUN., JUNE 10
Cantors in concert**

4 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Freda and Louis Kaufman Memorial Concert. A sampling of liturgical, Yiddish theater, opera, Israeli, and Broadway music sung by four leading area cantors.

Performances by Cantors Jacob Mendelson, Fredda Rakusin Mendelson, Daniel Singer & Judith Seplowin.

Acoustic Music Series

3 p.m. Perishable Theatre, 95 Empire St., Providence. Bob Moses, percussion with Fishel Bresler, clarinet and mandolin; Shelley Katsh, piano and accordion in a program of jazz, klezmer, and original music,

presented in an informal concert setting, to be followed by a jam session. Admission \$8. Audience members are invited to bring acoustic instruments for the jam session that will follow the concert. Concert information or reservations: 401-331-2695, ext. 101 or visit www.perishable.org.

TUES., JUNE 12

Temple Torat Yisrael's Lunch & Learn

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Join Rabbi Amy Levin from Temple Torat Yisrael at the Grille on Main, 50 Main St., East Greenwich. Each participant orders from the menu and the group studies Jewish sources addressing current issues. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend.

At Tamarisk: Hospice facts

6 p.m. Tamarisk community room, memory loss support group, guest speaker Jo Ann Davis, Odyssey Healthcare hospice community education representative, on "What is hospice - myths & facts."

WED., JUNE 13

Tamarisk Health Fair

2 p.m. — 6 p.m. Tamarisk first floor. Featuring information, demonstrations and screenings provided by Roger Williams

Medical Center: Ask the pharmacist, blood pressure, cholesterol/glucose screening; advance directives, geriatric massage therapist, refreshments & healthy food. For more info call Dianne at 401-732-0037.

Musical evening with Julia Blum

7:30 p.m. "An Evening of Musical Narrative for Women" featuring Julia Blum, actress and singer, at the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Sponsored by the Providence Community Kollel. Tickets may be purchased from Judaic Traditions. For more information call Kollel at 383-2786 or Shani Schwartz at 273-3923. See Community.

TUES., JUNE 19

Kings of Swing

3 p.m. Tamarisk Community Room. Presented by: Dr. Steven Kane. This month Dr. Kane continues his profile of the great Artie Shaw, showcasing this legend's music during the 1940s.

Klezphonics perform

7 p.m. Klezphonics Klezmer Band, CAV Restaurant, 14 Imperial Place, Providence. Klezmer dinner with ethnic Jewish food or regular menu. For more information, call 751-9164.

FRI., JUNE 22

Yiddish Shmoozers' brunch

10 to 11:30 a.m. Last session of the current season. Traditional lox & bagel brunch. At the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Surprise entertainment.

**WED., JUNE 27
Women's evening at Chabad of West Bay**

Lecture on the power of the Jewish women, by Toebe Potash of London England. Jewelry making, with artist Bev Blitzer. Chabad of West Bay is located at 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. Donation, \$5. RSVP to Shoshanah Laufer, 884-7888.

FRI., JUNE 29

Providence Civic Orchestra at Tamarisk

1:30 pm. Tamarisk Gardens. Tamarisk kicks off its summer concert series with the Providence Civic Orchestra led by the incomparable and personable Vito Saritelli! Rousing salute to the 4th of July. Refreshments served at all events. RSVP to Gina @ 401-732-0037.

UPCOMING

THURS., AUG. 16

Holocaust Center to hold teacher workshop

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Echoes and Reflections", a summer teacher workshop, a multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust. At the Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. \$18. Fee includes breakfast, lunch and a copy of the curriculum. Partially funded from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Institute and Yad Vashem.

For more information or to sign up call May-Ronny Zeidman at 453-7860 or email mzeidman@aol.com. See Community.

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Tuesday, June 12, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

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Program

Across the Generations:

Women of Compassion, Promise & Hope

Hanna Fine: Moses Brown student and Temple Beth-El Confirmand. A summer planned as a volunteer in rural Ghana (Africa).

Anita Berger: A psychotherapist, Hadassah life member, and activist with "The Granny Peace Brigade".

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Temple Sinai invites you and your family to "Get S'More Shabbat" at our annual, outdoor event. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat on the lawn at Temple Sinai.

Friday, June 22

5:45 pm

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**RSVP to 942-8350
www.templeisraelri.org**

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This list compiled as of May 28, 2007. Gifts received after this date will appear in our next Patron Thank You.

Arts & Culture

Can you tell me how to get to Tolerance Street?

Haneen, left, and Kareem, two Muppets that star in Shara'a Simsim, the Palestinian adaptation of Sesame Street.

Sesame Street airs in the Middle East

By Daniel Estrin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Sunny days are sweeping the clouds away in the Middle East — with the help of a few furry neighbors.

Even as it emerges that Hamas has been using a Mickey Mouse look-alike to indoctrinate young children for war against Israel, "Sesame Street" is returning to Israeli and Palestinian televisions. New Muppets are joining veteran characters to empower children amid new social and political realities in their respective societies.

"Rehov Sumsum," a co-production of Sesame Workshop and the Israeli cable channel Hop!, returned last December at Hanukkah time. The new Palestinian version of the show, "Shara'a Simsim," aired on the independent Palestinian Ma'an network May 15.

"The entire world is focused on this place," said Gary Knell, president of Sesame Workshop, which produces the popular educational television program. "We don't expect the world to live in peace because of 'Sesame Street'; we aren't that naive. But we can contribute to a culture of peaceful conflict resolution and self-esteem."

Knell toured the Middle East productions of "Sesame Street" in May with visits to Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. His last stop was an Arab-Jewish kindergarten in Jerusalem, where he joined Israeli Education Minister Yuli Tamir to launch the distribution in May of 5,000 free educational kits in Hebrew and Arabic to every kindergarten in Israel.

The kits include music from

the show, educational computer games and classroom activities that reinforce "Sesame Street" messages.

"We are using 'Sesame Street' activities to create a process of tolerance, understanding and mutual learning," Tamir said. "It opens up a new way to deal with conflict, teaching kids how to work together despite their differences."

In addition to the Israeli kits, Sesame Workshop is distributing 10,000 kits based on the Palestinian production to every first-grader in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Rehov Sumsum," which aired originally in the 1980s, went off the air in 1997 due to a lack of funding. That lack of support also doomed the Palestinian version in 1997, the year it had debuted.

Funding for the new "Rehov Sumsum" is coming from foundations and private donors. "Shara'a Simsim" is being supported by, among others, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ford Foundation, the government of Canada and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

After the shows ended in 1997, a joint Palestinian-Israeli production in the planning stages was shelved when the Palestinians launched the second intifada in 2000.

Instead, a limited series called "Sesame Stories" was produced in 2004 by independent Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian production teams. The animations and live-action episodes were dubbed and aired on each other's series.

"The Muppets couldn't speak each other's languages, but they connected over falafel and hummus, and a common dislike of onions," Knell said.

The new Israeli and Palestinian shows are produced indepen-



THE MUPPETS of this season's Rehov Sumsum, the Israeli adaptation of Sesame Street. From left; Mahboub, the first ever Israeli-Arab Muppet, Avigail, Noah and Brosh (Israel's Ernie and Bert).

"The Muppets couldn't speak each other's languages, but they connected over falafel and hummus, and a common dislike of onions," Knell said.

dently, placing an emphasis on educating children about their own societies. Like any "Sesame Street," they also teach basic skills like numbers and letters, good manners and keeping the environment clean.

"Rehov Sumsum" teaches tolerance by portraying a street inhabited by Israelis of varying backgrounds who live together peacefully: Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, veterans and immigrants. The neighbors are real-life children and adult characters, including a Jewish man named Tzahi, an Arab woman named Ibtisam, a Russian woman named Irina and an Ethiopian student named Malkamo.

They are joined by a cast of Muppets that includes past characters Noah and Brosh, the Israeli Bert and Ernie; Moishe Ufnik, the Israeli Oscar, a cantankerous grouch who lives in a garbage can; plus two new Muppet residents: Abigail, a bubbly, pink-haired 3-year-old, and the artistically inclined Mahboub, the first Arab-Israeli Muppet.

"Children today growing up in Israel are living in a very tense time," said Alona Apt, the producer of "Rehov Sumsum." "They are affected at a very early age in terms of their aggressiveness to each other. The main goal is to show a different kind of reality, a different kind of street, to

show children what common life can look like."

"Shara'a Simsim" this season is aiming to empower Palestinian boys, who increasingly are resorting to violence as a result of increasing poverty and unemployment, according to a Palestinian government study. They also are subjected to incitement to anti-Israel violence in Palestinian schools, summer camps and media.

Indeed, news of the new "Sesame Street" shows was overshadowed in early May when it was revealed that a Hamas TV station was using a Mickey Mouse clone to spread its message of fundamentalism and jihad to Palestinian toddlers. Still, those dark clouds won't rain on Sesame Street. On "Shara'a Simsim," a new real-life character

was introduced this season as a role model for boys: Salim, a young fix-it man who lends an ear to the show's two Muppet stars, a rooster named Kareem and his younger female friend, Haneen.

In one episode, a storm destroys a swing set and uproots trees, leaving Haneen and Kareem angry that "things have been destroyed forever." Salim in turn encourages the two to gather their neighbors to clean up the mess.

"What they find is that, just as they had built 'Sesame Street' in the first place, they can rebuild it and even make it a better place," said Cairo Arafat, the content editor of "Shara'a Simsim." "The more we give to our community, the better it gets."

Polish 'Anne Frank' diary discovered

JERUSALEM: The diary of a 14-year-old Jewish girl from Poland, in which she vividly described the world of a Polish ghetto as it crumbled around her, has been released by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial center. "The rope around us is getting tighter and tighter" the girl, Rutka Laskier, wrote in 1943, shortly before she was sent to Auschwitz. "I am turning into an animal waiting to die." The diary, which was authenticated by Holocaust historians, is both a 60-page daily account of the horrors of the Holocaust in Bedzin, Poland, and a scrapbook detailing the life of a typical teenager in extraordinary circumstances. Shortly before she left for Auschwitz, where she perished a few months later, she gave the diary to a Polish friend who hid it for her. Only last year did her friend, Stanislaw Sapinska, hand it over to a Holocaust organization at the behest of a young relative. (JTA)

Arts & Culture

At Hillel: Harris' 'Expressions of Faith'



EINSTEIN with Tourist at Tussaud's Wax Museum in New York

Photos by Ned Harris

PROVIDENCE — Ned Harris is a native New Yorker who has gained a reputation over the past 30 years for his photographs that capture the essence of his hometown — a surreal site that is in a constant state of change. He has managed to balance recording this territory with a long career as the principal of a New York graphic art firm. He has also lectured and taught photography and has had a book published which won an award from the Art Directors Club of New York. In recent years he has been the curator and Director of Exhibitions at the Rockland Center for the Arts.

For this exhibition he has organized his collection into three categories on the complex issue of Faith. In the entrance area, the focus is on the streets of New York that reveal how the presence of Jewish culture interacts and survives the distracting influences of the multiple faiths and customs found on the secular street.

The second section of the exhibition is located in the social hall where the very different street life of Israel is explored. This collection has some historical significance because it dates back to 1978-9 and has never been seen since it was printed especially for this exhibit. These prints were selected for the way they reveal the mixing of Arab and Jewish life in a rare moment of suspended hostility.

The third section in the social hall represents the most recent experimental work which explores the wonders of new digital technology and how it can be applied to issues of faith. Inspiration is derived from a wide range of sources such as Genesis from the Bible, the Haggadah and references to the Holocaust. All these images were taken by a unique method, exposing all the material on the bed of a computer scanner instead of using a regular camera. The photographs in the New York series are in many private and public collections including The Rockland and New York Historical Societies, The Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv, The Corcoran in Washington, D.C. and the Grey, SOHO and St. Francis Galleries in New York. The new



The Visitor, Aushwitz

digital work is on permanent display at the historical Touro Synagogue in Newport. In 2006 a smaller version of this exhibition was presented at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale.

Singer Julia Blum to perform at JCC

PROVIDENCE — Everyone knew that Julia Blum would be a star. She began studying music at the age of three, was performing professionally at 12, and did voice-overs for The Karate Kid and other films as a teen. She landed starring roles throughout her student career at Beverly Hills High and Yale University, where she graduated cum laude in film studies.



Julia Blum

Even at 12, Julia had "enormous vocal potential...a beautifully blended voice, combining different vocal ranges in a very natural, fluid way," says Seth Riggs, vocal coach to Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Janet Jackson, and now Blum.

After having just landed a role in the hit TV series "Beauty and the Beast," Julia put her aspirations toward stardom on hold. While traveling the world, Julia inevitably landed up in Israel and eventually Jerusalem where, for the first ever, she began to discover her own Judaism. Julia's enlightening discoveries of religion and self led her to pursue different goals in life, leaving behind a celebrity career which seemed so promising and destined for her.

Judaism was not the problem, "The problem is when your physical person is your art," Blum explains. "From the time I was young, I became aware of this harsh relationship between wanting to express myself and having to 'sell myself.'" Today, Blum still shares her incredible talents by performing a one-woman show for all-women audiences across the U.S. and internationally. Blum's "Evening of Musical Narrative," showcases her considerable performing, writing and composing talents, and will come to Providence on Wednesday, June 13th.

"Julia could have become a star," comments Riggs, "and of course, the life choices she has made have affected the direction of her singing career. [But] perhaps by the virtue of her standing up for that which she so strongly believes in — perhaps in that sense, she has already become a star."

She will perform at the JCC on June 13th and is sponsored by the Providence Community Kollel. Call Shani Schwartz for tickets at 401-273-3923.

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Nelson Henderson

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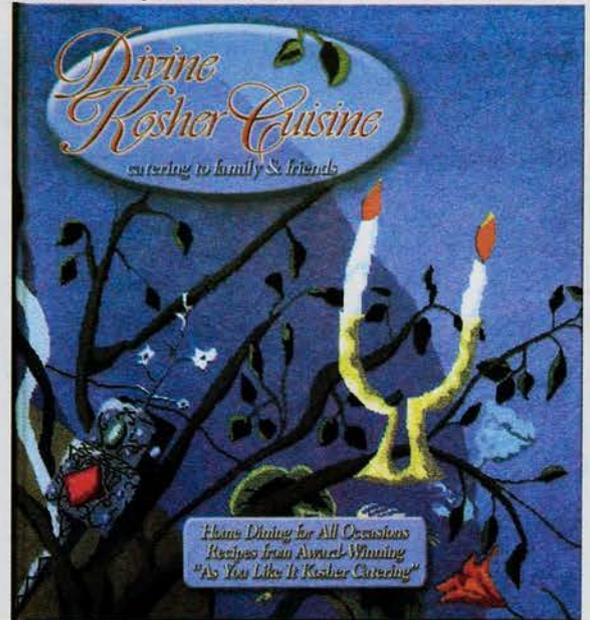
By Marylyn Graff
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This felicitous quote is on the title page of a cookbook recently received by the JV&H.

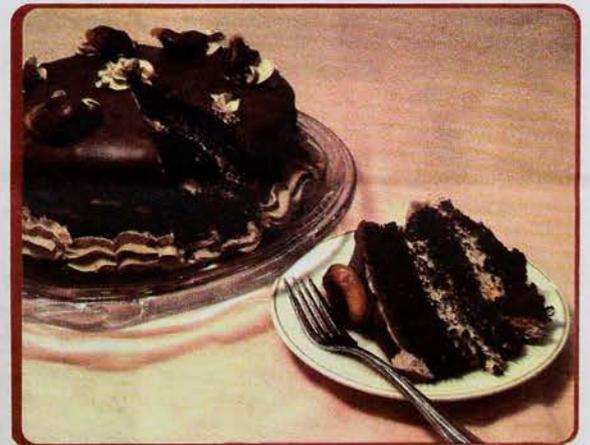
Every so often an author or publisher sends us a new cookbook. This one is "Divine Kosher Cuisine — Catering to Family and Friends" by chefs Rise Routenberg and Barbara Wasser, formerly caterers of Congregation Agudat Achim, Schenectady, N.Y.

I love cookbooks; (I have about 100 of them at home.) "Divine Kosher Cuisine" is not only full of interesting recipes from old Jewish favorites to international specialties, but has beautiful illustrations. There is a brief discussion of *kasbrut* and *pareve* and the recipes comply with the rules of *kasbrut*. There are menus and recipes for every Jewish holiday, how to plan for large gatherings and even how to set up the bar and beverages for parties of 10 to 60. There are also some great illustrated ideas for making garnishes from vegetables, and setting a beautiful table. If you like to entertain, this is the cookbook for you.

In addition this book is spiral bound so it stays open and flat.



Divine Kosher Cuisine



What dad wouldn't love to tuck into a yummy chocolate cake on Father's Day? This recipe is from the above cookbook.

Signature triple-layer chocolate mousse cake

Cake

- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa, sifted

- 1 1/2 tsps. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsps. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 cup milk for dairy, room temperature (use nondairy milk for *pareve*)
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tsps. pure vanilla extract

See NO FLOUR, facing page

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Food

NO FLOUR

From preceding page

1 cup boiling water

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease bottoms and sides of three 9-inch round baking pans.

2. Combine dry ingredients at low speed of electric mixer. Increase speed to medium while beating in eggs, milk, oil and vanilla.

3. Reduce speed to low and add boiling water; batter will be very thin.

4. Divide batter evenly among pans and bake 25 to 30 minutes or until tester inserted in center comes out clean.

5. Cool in pans 10 minutes. Run knife around edges, turn layers out onto racks and cool completely.

Chocolate mousse

8 oz. heavy or whipping cream for dairy (use non dairy whipped topping for *pareve*)

1/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted

1 tsp. liqueur of your choice

Directions

1. Beat cream or nondairy topping at medium speed until fluffy. Increase speed to high and beat just until peaks form.

2. Add sugar and cocoa and whip until thick.

3. Fold in liqueur.

Chocolate icing

2 Tblsps. butter for dairy (use nondairy margarine for *pareve*)

4 1/2 oz. unsweetened chocolate

6 Tblsps. heavy cream for dairy (use liquid nondairy whipped topping for *pareve*)

1 1/4 cups confectioner's sugar, sifted. Melt butter or margarine and chocolate over low heat, stir in vanilla and cream or nondairy cream and whisk smooth. Whisk in sugar until very smooth. Cool slightly.

Assembly

1. Place 1 cake layer on a serving plate and spread with half the chocolate mousse. Top with another layer and spread with remaining mousse. Top with last layer.

2. Pour chocolate icing over assembled cake, allowing icing to dribble over sides.

Is it done yet?

• A tester such as a wooden toothpick or commercial metal tester is essential for determining doneness in baked goods.

• Items that indicate doneness by springing back should be touched lightly in the center of the item.

• Pulling away from the pan is another indicator of doneness.

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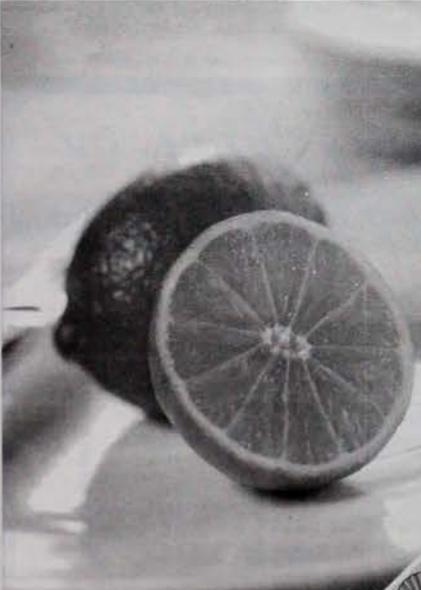
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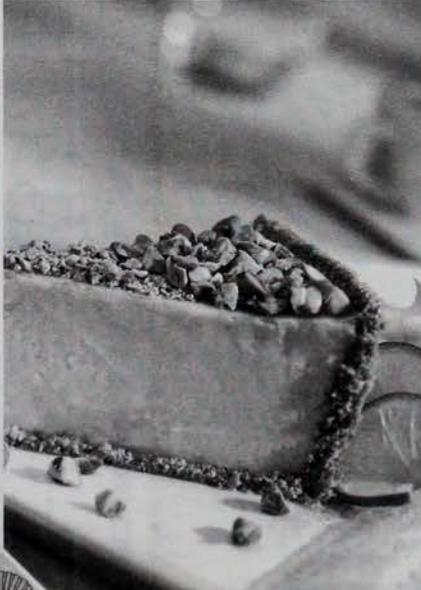
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THE WAY WE WERE

Tom Swift and his flying latkes

There was little to break the architectural monotony of the tenement-laden streets of inner Brooklyn in the 1930s: An occasional fire-station, a public school with a dismal playground in the rear, a clustering of retail stores perhaps, but for the most part only drab five-story apartment houses with little frontal ornamentation except for the occasional laundry drying on fire-escapes. Yet there was one structure near the interface between the Brownsville and the Crown Heights districts of Brooklyn which was deemed special, a cherished sanctuary for the youngsters of the neighborhood: Admission was free and it was open to all every afternoon from Monday through Saturday. It was a modest one-story granite-faced building with an imposing front door guarded by two Ionian columns and crowned by a marble entablature with the beckoning words, "Public Library."

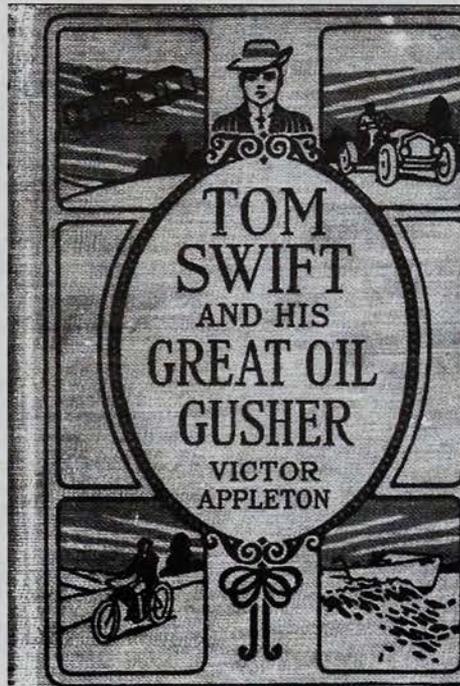


Stanley Aronson M.D.

It may be difficult in today's world — where an abundance of knowledge flows readily from the nearest computer or television instrument — to appreciate the hunger experienced by youngsters for information, especially the printed word, in those decades preceding the Age of Media Overload. Of course there were English-language newspapers, four in the morning, two in the afternoon and four more in the evening; and some foreign

language dailies including a few Yiddish-language newspapers. The radio, for those rare families who owned such a contrivance, rarely carried current news except commentaries by a man named Lowell Thomas. But none of these media outlets provided the kind of secular information sought by many of the neighborhood youngsters. Only the library with its readily available volumes, stood prepared to meet this need.

What kinds of texts were eagerly read by the Brownsville children? For many they were the volumes recounting, in simple English, the exploits of adventurers, inventors and discoverers of unique things and exotic places. For these children of the ghetto — where a rare subway trip to Manhattan represented their crowning exploratory achievement — books on trips to distant lands and tales of exploration became utterly addictive. And it is no exaggeration to declare that these children knew more about African exploration "by fearless and audacious white adventurers" and polar journeys than they knew about east European history. The books on scientific discovery, overly simplified biographies of such childhood heroes as Edison, Galileo,



Faraday, the Wright brothers and Jenner, were eagerly absorbed by young minds incapable yet of distinguishing between myth, embellishment and gritty reality. These children firmly believed, for example, that James Watt had implausibly discovered the steam engine by watching his mother's tea-kettle boil over, that electricity was invented by Benjamin Franklin flying a kite somewhere west of the Hudson River or that Henry Ford created the motor car because he detested horses.

There was a curious vacancy, then, between an abundance of nursery-type books available for preliterate children and the adult works of fiction such as those texts authored by Hawthorne, Melville, Cooper and Dickens. The numbers of enduring fictional works expressly written for the adolescent mind, however, were strangely few.

Back in 1910 a publishing company, Grosset & Dunlap, began to publish a series of juvenile adventure novels, conceived and written by Edward Stratemeyer. The first few novels were so successful that Stratemeyer recruited a number of ghost writers and under the authorial pseudonym of "Victor Appleton" the novels poured out upon an avid prepubescent public with awesome regularity. Forty novels had been published during the succeeding three decades, ceasing only with the onset of World War II.

The hero of all of these many novels was a young American male named Tom Swift, living in the rural village of Shopton in upstate New York. Tom had so many attributes that Brownsville youngsters did not knowingly possess. Tom was tall, blond, "lean and athletic," decent, patriotic, quick-witted, respected by all in his community, diligent, truthful, church-going, and never harbored a profane thought nor ever uttered an expletive. Tom lived with his widowed father, Barton Swift, and was befriended by his loyal buddy "and sidekick," Ned Newton. In the background there hovered Mary Nestor, Tom's eternal girl friend and unceasing admirer. [Only when the series resumed in the less innocent days of the 1940s, did readers learn that Tom and Mary were eventually married, had given birth both to Tom Junior and a more sophisticated series of adventure tales.] There were other stock characters appearing in the earlier series of novels. Some, deplorably, were racially

See FLYING LATKES, next page

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FLYING LATKES

From preceding page

stereotyped and the villains often had east European names.

Tom was about 16 years of age but seemed neither to age nor to attend school. He was, nevertheless, extremely bright and, above all, inventive and skilled manually. The titles to the novels summarize his many clever inventions [e.g., Tom Swift and his Motor Cycle; Tom Swift and his Airship, etc.]

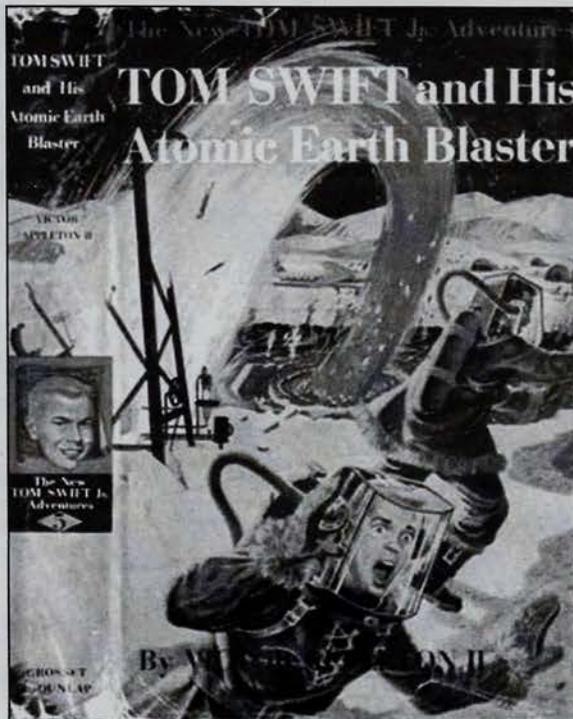
The novels, however, went well beyond mere tales of inventive enterprise. In the process of inventing such things as aerial warships, electric locomotives and clever contrivances to detect oil deposits, Tom also battled forces of evil, brought prosperity to his community and was a staunch patriot inventing war tanks for his nation during World War I.

The young Brownsville adolescents read the Tom Swift books with a degree of earnest passion which is generally reserved for the more carnal literature. And many were the intense discussions which questioned, and sometimes disparaged, some of Tom's inventions. But this criticism clearly represented undisguised envy and a perverse feeling of admiration. The Brownsville children, with parents born in distant lands of Eastern Europe, were convinced that all of Tom's ancestors had been middle-class citizens born in this country who probably preceded the Indians of upstate New York.

Brooklyn's inner streets made famous an eccentric brand of ironic humor. And the envy experienced by the unassimilated children of Brownsville was transformed into parody as they provided these novels with alternative titles such as "Tom Swift and his Electric Matzah Balls" or "Tom Swift and his Flying Latkes." And then, in later years, yet another form of humor emerged called "Tom Swifties" which lampooned the frequent use of the descriptive adverb in the original dialog [e.g., "What time is it?" he grunted.] A typical "Tom Swifty" might be: "I just invented a better lightbulb," said Tom brightly.

Those offspring of an immigrant, minority population, the Depression generation, grew beyond the simplicities of Tom Swift's world; and though some idolatry of Tom had lingered momentarily, it too withered with the other fantasies of urban childhood.

Stanley M. Aronson, MD, is a regular contributor. He can be reached at: smamd@cox.net



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THE YIDDISH SHMOOZERS recently attended a performance of "Picon Pie."

Just shmoozing along, singin' a Yiddish song

PROVIDENCE — Nearly four dozen "Yiddish shmoozers" boarded a bus at the Providence JCC on Sunday, April 29 to see a performance of "Picon Pie" at the Jewish Theater of New England in Newton, Mass. The play was based on the life story of the famous and beloved actress of the early 20th century Yiddish Theater, Molly Picon. With dialogue mostly in English, sprinkled with Yiddishisms, and songs from that bygone era in Yiddish, the joys and melancholy of that time were

once again brought to life.

June Gable as Molly made the audience laugh and cry throughout the play with her heartwarming and memorable performance.

Returning to the JCC, the group was welcomed by Kevin Olson, JCC center director, followed by a hearty kosher deli supper.

Mayoral shmoozer

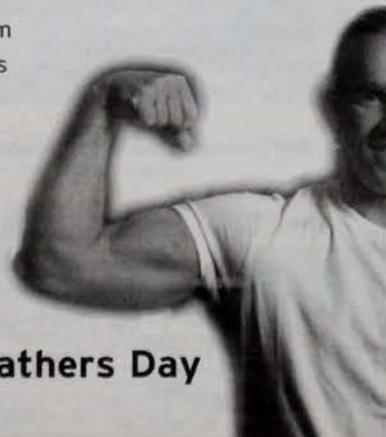
The Shmoozers welcomed Providence Mayor David Cicilline to their regular bi-monthly

meeting on Friday, May 25. Mildred Handel, the group's facilitator, proclaimed the mayor an honorary life member and presented him with a certificate of membership.

The mayor congratulated the group on its five years of continuity, (now numbering 45 members,) and its dedication to revitalizing the Yiddish language and heritage. Cicilline was accompanied by Sue Robbio, the senior affairs coordinator for the City of Providence.

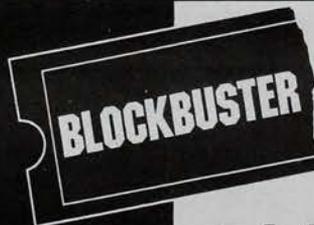
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Community

Holocaust Center presents awards

WARWICK — The Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island presented awards to Rhode Island student entrants in its annual art and writing contest recently. The theme for the contest was "Genocide: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." More than 300 entries were received.

The Singer award in art went to Julio Arias from the CVS Highlander School; and the Gastfreund award for writing went to Ashley Matteson of Tollgate Middle School. These latter two awards included an additional prize of \$100 each and were presented at the Center's annual meeting on June 5.

On Sunday, May 20, at the Warwick Mall, students who entered the contest received a certificate and a book on the Holocaust from board member Stanley Abrams and Carol Sugarman, Center president. The Davisville Middle School students created over 80 art and poetry books.



Carol Sugarman, president of the Holocaust Education and Resource Center, gives a certificate to a student who participated in the center's annual art and writing contest.



Photos by Howard J. Brown

Hundreds attended the Holocaust Center's art and writing contest event on May 20 at the Warwick Mall.

Holocaust Center names slate

PROVIDENCE — The Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island elected officers for the coming year. They are: president, Carol Sugarman; 1st Vice President, Peter Mezei; 2nd Vice President, Susan Odessa; 3rd Vice President, Alice Goldstein; Secretary, Myrna Aronson; and Treasurer,

Toby London.

Board members for the coming year are: Stan Abrams, Rev. Jim Miller, Maxine Richman, Paul Silver, Rebecca Brenner, Melissa Baker, Sherry Cohen, Alice Eichenbaum, Gloria Feibish, Al Silverstein,

Peter Wegner, Ken Schneider and Mindy Wachtenheim.

Board members for 2007 - 2009 are: Donna Frank, Eva Gutman, Maybeth Lichaa, Barbara Silliman, Don Hogue, Andrea Schachne, Ed Bochner and Steve Levy.

Free Loan Association elects slate for 2007

PROVIDENCE — The South Providence Free Loan Association elected its new officers at a meeting on April 24 at the association's hall.

Elected were: Herman Wallock, president; Robert Diner, vice president; Sam Buckler, treasurer; and Carl Lefkowitz, secretary. Serving on the board for one year are Carl Lefkowitz and Herman Wallock; for two years are Ben Gilstein, Stevan Labush and Michael Diner; and for a three-year term are Robert Diner, Sam Buckler, Phil Greenberg and Neil Diner.

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Holocaust Center plans teacher workshop

PROVIDENCE — The Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island will hold an August teacher's workshop on "Echoes and Reflections," a multimedia curriculum on the Holocaust. It is a joint project of ADL, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute and Yad Vashem.

The workshop will be held on Aug. 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

The \$18 fee includes breakfast and lunch, with kosher dietary needs observed, and a complimentary copy of the curriculum. Six CEU credits are offered.

To reserve a seat send a check for \$18 to HERCRI at 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. For more information or to sign up call May-Ronny Zeidman at (401) 453-7860 or email mzeidman@aol.com.

The workshop is partially funded by the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation.

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Habonim students set up Tzedakah fund

(The following article was written by Melanie Chirvov and Greg Fain, Temple Habonim 7th graders, with assistance from Jill Glickman, 7th grade parent.)

BARRINGTON — Although none of the members of the Temple Habonim Bar/Bat Mitzvah class would admit it, we were all a little skeptical of the Seventh Grade Fund idea. Would we really get to be decision-makers? Would we be able to agree as a class on where to donate the money? The answers: Yes and yes!

First suggested by Rachel Hill, a member of our class who learned about a similar program in California, the idea was this - instead of receiving presents from classmates on our Bar or Bat Mitzvah day, each class member would make a donation to a Seventh Grade Fund. With a suggested contribution of \$180 per family and a number of additional generous contributions from our Temple community who wanted to support the project, the Fund grew to over \$5,000.



SEVENTH-GRADERS in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class at Temple Habonim pooled their resources into a charitable fund.

We started by making a long list of organizations that needed money that we knew about from our experience and from our families. Over three months, we researched and narrowed down the list of organizations to around 15. Each organization was placed in one of four categories: health; local/Rhode Island; Jewish-related; and national/international. Our next step was to present the organizations to the class, and, finally, take a class vote. In the end, we narrowed our choices to four worthy organizations: The Woman's Resource Center of New-

port and Bristol Counties; Hasbro Children's Hospital; Heifer Project International; and the Familial Dysautonomia Foundation, Inc., which works on research and care related to a rare genetic disease affecting Ashkenazi Jews.

This project was important because it gave us the chance to talk about and think more about what we have learned in religious school, especially about *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*, and because it gave us the chance to put these Jewish teachings into action to help other people.

Redwood Lodge No. 35 installs new officers

EAST PROVIDENCE — Right Worshipful Mark H. Freedman was recently elected and installed as Master of Redwood Lodge No. 35 at Grand Lodge Freemasons Hall, Taunton Ave., East Providence. Installing officer was Right Worshipful Kenneth N. Bruns, district deputy grand master for the Metro district, assisted by his Grand Master of Ceremonies, Worshipful Paul S. DeMonti.

Also elected and installed were Worshipful Roger F. Badz, senior warden; Right Worshipful Mekaway Elmekaw, junior warden; Worshipful Andrew G. Sholes, treasurer; and Right Worshipful Gerald P. Cohen, secretary.

Redwood committee: Worshipful Andrew G. Sholes, Most Worshipful Malcolm Bromberg, Right Worshipful Richard S. Sokoll, Right Worshipful Mark H. Freedman, Right Worshipful Howard Bromberg, Worshipful Frederick S. Crisafulli, Worshipful Allen Kirshenbaum, Worshipful Samuel Miller and Worshipful Gary Kaufman.

Appointed officers were: chaplain, Right Worshipful Judah Rosen; co-masters of ceremonies, Right Worshipful Howard Bromberg and Worshipful Stephen Gordon; senior deacon, Harley Bartlett; junior deacon Michael Ponte; senior steward, Kevin Catanzaro; junior steward, Robert Francischetti; sentinel Edward Catanzaro; musical director, Myron Muffy; tiler, Peter Mulberry; marshal, Worshipful Andrew Kaplan and assistant secretaries, Worshipful Gary Kaufman and Maurice B. Cohen. Most Worshipful Dennis Pothier and Right Worshipful Paul Grenier served as tellers.

Mark served as Master of Redwood Lodge in 1986 and 1999.

Jewish film festival Nov. 8-18

PROVIDENCE — The 2007 Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival is being planned for Nov. 8-18. Each of the past two festivals has attracted over 1,000 audience members.

The festival, a partnership of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, celebrates the richness and diversity of Jewish life with a variety of films shown at locations throughout the state of Rhode Island.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Rich Walter at 331-0956 or rwalter@bjeri.org.

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Obituaries

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Avon S. Chalek, 78

PASCOAG — Avon S. Chalek, 78, died May 24. He was the husband of the late Marilyn (Pruss) Chalek. Born in Lynn, Mass., a son of the late Louis and Rosse (Kaufman) Chalek, he had lived in Cranston since 1965, previously residing in Providence and Lynn, Mass. He was a pharmaceutical chemical technician for Ciba Geigy in Rhode Island for 20 years, retiring in the late 1970s.

He was a foster parent for more than 20 children in Rhode Island.

Mr. Chalek was a member of the Knights of Pythias, Beach Pond Camp Assoc., Cranston Senior Services, and Cranston Garden Club, where he was an avid horticulturist. In addition, he was a Boy Scout leader.

He was a former member of Temple Beth Israel.

He leaves a son, Michael Chalek and his wife Susan of Cranston; a daughter, Ronne Chalek and her husband Ben Rueckberg of North Kingstown; and three grandchildren, Heather, Melissa and Spencer. He was the brother of the late Mitchell Chalek and Kraner Riseberg.

Contributions may be made to Patients for Progress, c/o Zambano Hospital, 2090 Wallum Lake Rd., Pascoag, RI 02859.

Claire B. Cohen, 77

LINCOLN — Claire B. Cohen, 77, of Houston, Texas,

formerly of Lincoln, died May 26 at Houston Hospice. She was the wife of the late Stephen M. "Buddy" Cohen and the late Bernard Cohen. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Morris and Celia (Lisker) Blackman, she had lived in Lincoln and Florida before moving to Houston three years ago.

Mrs. Cohen was a former member of Temples Beth-El and B'nai Israel and a member of B'nai Brith and its garden club. She loved antiques and enjoyed visits to Las Vegas.

She leaves a daughter, Amy Glasband and her husband Sam of Santa Barbara, Cal.; and two granddaughters, Debbie and Stephanie. She was the mother of the late Debbie Cohen and the sister of the late Louis and Ellis Blackman, Sophie Cort and Mimi Gershkoff.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Debbie Cohen Memorial Fund, c/o Tufts New England Medical Center, 750 Washington St., NEMC #231, Boston, MA 02111.

Frances Feer, 98

LINCOLN — Frances (Ginsburg) Feer, 98, died May 19. She was the wife of the late Samuel M. Feer, to whom she had been married for 64 years. Born in Russia, she was the daughter of the late Cusiell and Mary (Lifshitz) Ginsburg.

Mrs. Feer was a lifetime

member of the Sisterhood of Temple-Emanu-El and of Hadassah.

She leaves a daughter, Phyllis Silverstein and her husband, Judge Michael Silverstein of Lincoln; a grandson, Marc Silverstein of Auburn, Ala.; and two great-grandchildren, Emily and Jordan. She was the sister of the late Samuel and Louis Ginsburg, Lillian Stiller and Shirley Boelter. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Chapel Fund at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Junius "Babe" Gertz, 78

CRANSTON — Junius "Babe" Gertz, a registered professional engineer, died May 21. He was the husband of Sandra (Yuffee) Gertz. Born in Providence, a son of the late Benjamin and Tillie (Simons) Gertz, he was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

Mr. Gertz was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, class of 1950. He was a member of the inaugural class of the URI College of Engineering Founders' Club and started the Gertz family endowment for the URI College of Engineering.

A founder of Neptune-Benson, Mr. Gertz was a past president of the National Spa and Pool Institute. He authored several technical manuals for the swimming pool industry.

He served for eight years in the R.I. Army National Guard.

He was a founder and past president of Temple Sinai in Cranston and dedicated to charitable giving.

He was an avid tennis and card player.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Barry Gertz of East Green-

wich; three daughters, Shelley Gertz-Sigal of Warwick, Nancy Gertz of Newton, Mass., and Betsy Gertz of Maynard, Mass.; two brothers, Raymond Gertz of Cranston and Norman Gertz of Orlando, Fla.; and five grandchildren, Jeremy, Lauren, Anya, Stefan and Julian.

Burial was in Sinai Memorial Park, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920.

Mayrita Goldberger, 79

PROVIDENCE — Mayrita "Mickie" Goldberger, 79, died May 28. She was the wife of the late Herbert Goldberger. They were married for 54 years. Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Lillian and Jack Grossman, she was a life-long resident of Cranston.

Mrs. Goldberger opened Travel Time, Inc., on Thayer St. in Providence in 1955. Under her administration, Travel Time was acknowledged one of the top 10 travel agencies in Rhode Island.

She was a 1949 graduate of the New York University School of Art and Drama.

She leaves two children, Lee Goldberger of Cranston and Joy-Sue Goldberger of Baltimore, Md.; two grandsons, Michael Goldberger and Dennis Goldberger and his wife, Jennifer; and a great-grandson, Daniel Jacob Goldberger (whom she called "her greatest achievement"). She was the sister of the late Thelma Fischer and Joy-Paula Cohen.

Contributions may be made to Make a Wish Foundation.

Albert Goldman

LANGHORNE, Pa. — Albert Goldman died May 17. He was the husband of Brenda Finn Goldman.

Mr. Goldman leaves two

sons, Murry Goldman and James Goldman Phynn; a daughter, Donna Clendening; two brothers, Leonard Goldman and David Goldman; and two sisters, Sonya Garfinkel and Charlotte Feld; and four grandsons, Harrison Goldman Phynn, Benjamin Clendening, Joshua Clendening and Gregory Goldman Phynn.

Burial was in King David Memorial Park, Bristol Rd., Bensalem, Pa.

Contributions may be made to Chandler Hall Hospice, Sycamore Ave., Newtown, Pa.

Bernard A. Gordon, 68

TUCSON, ARIZ. — Bernard "Bernie" Allan Gordon died April 20. He was the husband of Frances Van Wickel, whom he married in 1973. A son of Hyman and Sarah Gordon, he grew up in Providence, graduating from Hope High School in 1956. He attended Bryant College where he earned a degree in accounting.

He moved to Tucson in 1963 to be close to his sister Ruth and her son David, whose father had died when he was 12.

Mr. Gordon first worked in the hotel industry in Tucson. He later went to work in the mining industry, for the present Phelps Dodge, where he worked for 29 years as a warehouse supervisor, retiring in 1997.

Mr. Gordon was an avid duplicate bridge player, obtaining a bronze life master in bridge. He also enjoyed shuffleboard and bowling. He participated in community projects, fundraising for the American Heart Association, and was a docent for the Titan Missile Museum for over nine years. He is remembered for his zest for life.

Besides his wife, he leaves a

See OBITUARIES, facing page

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

From preceding page

Bernard A. Gordon

brother, Melvin Gordon of Massachusetts; a sister, Ruth Ohlund of San Diego, Cal.; two nephews, David Buchbinder of Narberth, Pa., and Howard Gordon of Massachusetts, and a niece, Marsha Lefkof of Dallas, Tex.

Bella Harriet, 89

PROVIDENCE — Bella (Kanopkin) Harriet, 89, a longtime resident of Providence, died May 19. She was the wife of the late Jack Harriet, to whom she had been married for 48 years. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late David and Dora (Spiegel) Kanopkin.

A member of Temple Emanu-El, she was also a lifelong member of Hadassah and a supporter of the Jewish community and the Jewish Center.

Mrs. Kanopkin was an avid reader, enjoyed playing mah jongg and was always eager to help others.

She leaves two daughters, Rayna Nave and her husband Vincent of Newton, Mass., and Nancy Harriet of Providence; two brothers, Louis Kanopkin of Pawtucket and Benjamin Kanopkin of Chepachet; and a grandson, Dennie Nave and his wife Kristin of Florida. She was the sister of the late William Kanopkin and Rose Dwares.

Florence Kniager, 94

WARWICK — Florence Kniager, 94, died May 29. She was the wife of the late Aaron Schultz and the late David Kniager. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Ralph and Sarah (Greenfield) Orleck, she was a lifelong Warwick resident.

She leaves a daughter, Sarah Orleck of Voorhees, N.J. She was the sister of Leo Orleck of Cranston and the late Gerturde Lipsky. She is also survived by her grandson, Ralph Oelbaum.

Burial was at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to your favorite charity.

Morton D. Kosch, 88

BRISTOL — Morton D. Kosch., 88, of the R.I. Veterans Home in Bristol, formerly of Portsmouth, died May 19. He was the husband of the late Lillian (Lincoln) Kosch. Born in Newport, he was the son of the late Samuel and Rose (Molasky) Kosch.

Mr. Kosch had co-owned and operated the former Swan Cleaners in Middletown for many years, until its closing in the late 1970s. He was a graduate of Rogers High School, class of 1937 and was very active in its alumni association.

He was a veteran of World War II, U.S. Army Air Corps, receiving numerous citations.

Mr. Kosch was a life member of Touro Synagogue in Newport, serving as its president from 1970-1971, an active participant in B'nai Brith and the AZA, chairman of the fund raising committee, member of the board of directors of the Society

of Friends of Touro Synagogue and was one of three general chairmen of the 50th Anniversary dinner dance.

He was a member of the Portsmouth Democratic Party and worked for the development of the Portsmouth School System.

He leaves three daughters, Carol L. Alfano and her husband Raymond of East Greenwich; Janet A. Bazar of Boca Raton, Fla.; Robin A. Ringer and her husband Yoram of Providence; six grandchildren, Bethany Fain, Allyson See, Scott Alfano, Justin Bazar, Lymor Ringer and Talia Ringer and five great-grandchildren, Emily, Molly and Noah See and Ethan and Colin Fain.

Burial was at the Beth Olam Cemetery in Middletown. Contributions may be made to Touro Synagogue, 85 Touro St., Newport, RI 02840 or to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 5005 LBJ Fwy., Suite 250, Dallas, TX 75224.

Burton Irwin Samors, 80

PROVIDENCE — Burton Irwin Samors, 80, died May 27 in Westwood, N.J. He leaves his wife of 51 years, Harriet (Sagoff) Samors. He was born in Springfield, Mo., the son of Mildred (Gordon) Samors and the late Nathan Samors.

A 1948 graduate of Brown University with a bachelor of arts degree, he was the vice president of his class.

Mr. Samors was a member of Ledgemont Country Club.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves a son, Robert Samors and his wife, Ann Tutwiler of Silver Spring, Md.; and a daughter, Patricia Benton and her husband, Bruce of Bethesda, Md.; and six grandchildren: Brandon, Darren, Brooke and Dawn Benton and Joshua and Noah Samors.

Contributions may be made to The Samors Medical Library Fund at the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, 164 Summit Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

WE REMEMBER

Thank you to the Veterans who are serving our country and to all who have ever served, especially to those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom.



WARWICK — The following names of Jewish War Veterans have been inscribed on the Memorial Wall of Honor at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick:

- Benjamin Adler
- Edward Aron
- Jerome Auerbach
- David Berger
- Albert Bellin
- Arthur Bellin
- Ilan Bida
- Mifflin Bunting
- Arthur Cohen
- Irving Cohen
- Sidney Derman
- Benjamin Falk
- Robert Federman
- Morris Feldman
- Harry Feldstein
- Harold Fishman

- Irving Forman
- Bernard Gergel
- Harold L. Gerstein
- Edward Gershman
- Leo Gershman
- Leon Goldstein
- Jeremiah Gorin
- Harold Halzel
- Milton Horowitz
- Alfred Jaffe
- Irving Kalika
- Jay Marvin Kaplan
- Joel Kaplan
- Morton Katz
- Robert Kay
- Samuel Kerzner
- Monte Konicov
- Ernest Kortick
- Harry Krakowsky
- Eric Lawson
- Louis Lazaroff
- Howard Robert Lewis
- David Licker
- Melvyn Maldavir
- Max Miller
- Myer Mushlin
- Saul Nulman

Jewish War Veterans: Deceased veterans
(April 1, 2006 — March 31, 2007)

- J. Joslyn Presser
- Gerald Reuter
- Joseph Tilford Rubien
- Daniel Saltzman
- Charles Samdperil
- Jack Savran

- Merwin Sibulkin
- Joseph Silberman
- Harold Silverberg
- Robert Singer
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My Voice

A Jewish experience in Uganda

A visit to the Abayudaya

By Charles B. Kahn, M.D.

My wife, Sue, and I learned of the Abayudaya, a community of African Ugandan Jews, during the Odessa Cantorial Weekend at Temple Emanu-El in April, 2006. The cantorial theme was African Jewish music. The leader of the weekend was Laura Wetzler, a singer and guitarist from New York, who has studied this music and has made several recordings. We have been involved in a program in Eldoret, Kenya. In 2005, we spent a month as volunteers at the University of Moi Medical School and Teaching and Referral Hospital. This program is run through the Miriam Hospital and Brown Medical School (now known as the Alpert Warren School of Medicine) under the overall leadership of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. At the time of the cantorial, we knew that we were returning to Eldoret in February, 2007. The Abayudaya community is near Mbale, a city located in eastern Uganda. Eldoret is in western Kenya not far from the Ugandan border and about 120 miles away. We contacted Laura Wetzler by email indicating

our interest in visiting the Abayudaya. She responded immediately with an email address and cell phone number for Samson Wamani, who would be our contact and our host if we made the safari (Swahili for trip—not just a game drive). We arrived in Eldoret the first of February and after a few days called Samson. Arrangements were made for a weekend trip. Sarah Ellen Mamlin, the wife of the leader of the Moi-Kenyan program joined us. She had heard of the community and had a special interest since she had taught secular studies at a Hebrew day school in Indianapolis. Sarah Ellen and her husband, Joe, live permanently in Eldoret. We used her four wheel drive SUV, a necessity for our trip. Francis, a Kenyan working for the Moi program, was our driver. The two-hour trip took nearly four hours due to bad roads and a one-hour delay at the Ugandan border. We arrived just after noon on Friday and checked into the Mt. Elgon Hotel, a delightful, small hotel on the outskirts of Mbale. We called Samson and arranged to meet him.

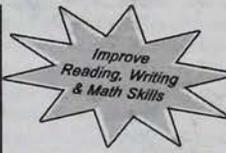
We met at about 4:30 p.m. Samson does not have a car so he drove with us to the Abayudaya community, over four miles on rutted, dirt roads to our destination. We arrived with enough time before Shabbat

See UGANDA, page 27

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D'var Torah

Balancing work and home

Despite recognizing the value of work, Judaism insists that family must come first.

By Elliot Dorff

In contemporary society, marriage and family are often balanced against the values of work. Judaism prizes work: "Six days shall you labor and do all your work" is as much of a commandment as "and the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God (on which) you shall not do any work."

Jewish sources make it clear that work is important for the welfare of society as a whole, for its contribution to the psychological health and self-worth of the individual, and for the economic support it affords to oneself and to one's family. For some people, though, the secular work ethic prevalent in contemporary society has made work the sole value, a virtual idol.

Judaism would have us recognize the idolatry inherent in a life devoted exclusively to work and would have us balance our commitments to work with serious time and energy spent on other important values, most especially those of family. Overzealous commitment to work does have a deleterious effect on one's sexual

and family relationships, and the Jewish tradition would have us remember that one's family should take precedence over one's job.

This is poignantly stated in the Rabbis' comment on Numbers 32:16, where the tribes of Reuben and Gad ask to stay in the lands the Israelites had already conquered on the eastern bank of the Jordan River so that "we might build sheep pens for our flocks and cities for our children." On this the rabbis comment:

"They were more worried about their possessions than they were about their sons and daughters, for they mentioned their flocks before their children. Moses said to them: 'Do not do that; what is primary should be primary and what is secondary, secondary. Build first cities for your children and afterwards pens for your flocks.'"

As both men and women in our society are increasingly taking on the responsibilities of careers, then, it is important to reaffirm that both men and women have critically important roles to play in providing marital companionship for each other and in raising their children.

Achieving a proper balance of work and family, of course, is not easy. Since most parents in our day do not live with an extended family nearby, the full burden of supporting themselves while simultaneously rearing children

falls completely on them. Moreover — especially for men, but increasingly for women as well — American society defines "success" almost totally in terms of climbing the ladder at one's job. Years from now, though, when we look back on our lives, most of us will not feel bad that we did not spend more time working; we will instead regret the time that we did not spend with our spouse and children, particularly when they were young and readily available for interaction.

All too often, it is not until children reach their teens or 20s that parents feel secure enough in their jobs to find the time to do things with their children; by that time, however, the children are interested in building their own independent lives and rarely have time or interest in doing things with Mom or Dad. Judaism's long-term vision about what is really important in life, as embedded in the Rabbis' commentary on the requests of the tribes of Reuben and Gad, should help us keep our priorities straight as young adults and as older spouses and parents as well.

Elliot Dorff is the rector of the University of Judaism, where he also is a professor of philosophy. Reprinted with permission from Love Your Neighbor and Yourself: A Jewish Approach to Modern Personal Ethics (The Jewish Publication Society).

My Voice

UGANDA

From page 26

so that we could hear his story and that of the Abayudaya and take some photographs. Samson is a physician who had attended medical school in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, and had finished his internship. At the time he was working in a local medical clinic. He is the only member of the community who has graduated from medical school. The story of the Abayudaya was fascinating. The languages spoken include Luganda, Swahili, and English. English is one of the official languages.

Semei Kukangulu, a native Ugandan and a leader in his tribal community near Mbale, served with the British during WWI during which he learned to read and speak English. After the war he returned to Mbale, where he assisted the British in controlling much of Eastern Uganda.

The Christian missionaries were very active in his community. Semei received an Old Testament Bible translated by the missionaries into Luganda as a gift for his war service. The missionaries wanted to convert the members of his tribe. Semei was a scholar, as well as a strong political and military leader. He had become very disillusioned with the political environment and the promises made to him by the King of Uganda that had not been kept. He was a very religious man, who read the Bibles carefully. He had already been converted to Protestantism, but he had trouble reconciling differences between the Old and New Testaments. He was inspired with the idea that the true way to speak to God was through Judaism. Maybe he read the section where the Jews are the chosen people. He also read in the Book of Isaiah that you do not have to be a "white" Israeli and that God will collect his people from the four corners of the earth. He discussed his ideas with his followers and the decision was made to become Jewish. The year was 1919.

Semei circumcised himself, his four sons and his male followers. He gave his sons and daughter Hebrew names. It is not clear how carefully they followed Jewish law and tradition between 1919 and the 1940s. Semei wrote a book in Luganda of special Jewish rules and prayers. The first person in the community to learn Hebrew was Mishael Bilogi. He worked for an Israeli engineer who was his teacher. He taught Gershom Sizomu, who in turn began the Hebrew teaching for the whole community. At this point the Abayudaya began to follow Jewish laws and rituals as described in the Bible and other Jewish texts. They keep the Sab-

'They chose the name Abayudaya, which translates from Luganda into the Sons or Children of Judah.'



THE ACTING RABBI of the temple is Aaron Kintu Moses.



DR. CHARLES B. AND SUE KAHN in Africa with Sarah Ellen Mamlin and Dr. Samson Wamani, during a visit to a Jewish tribe in Uganda.



DR. SAMSON WAMANI opens the ark.

bath, celebrate all the holidays, keep kosher and have Hebrew primary and secondary schools. They also have a *mikveh* and under the supervision of a rabbi most have gone through an official conversion. They chose the name Abayudaya, which translates from Luganda into the Sons or Children of Judah.

There were about 4,000 members of the community in the past. During Idi Amin's horrific dictatorship in the 1970s, many converted out of fear to Christianity, because Amin forbade the practice of Judaism. There are now about 750 members and the numbers are increasing. They live in small enclaves and have five synagogues, four small ones and the main one, The Moses Synagogue, which we visited. We attended Friday night services at 6:30 p.m. *Kippot* were given to the men. The women sat on the left and the men on the right. The synagogue was a single room about 40-by-100-feet. The ark contained three Torahs. The service was conducted by an unofficial, acting rabbi, Aaron Kintu Moses, who is the headmaster of the school system. Gershom Sizomu, Aaron's brother, is completing studies to be a rabbi. He is on a scholarship at a conservative seminary in Los Angeles and has also studied in Israel. Various members of the congregation, including Samson Wamani, serve as the cantor and *gabbai*. There were about 90 men, women and children in attendance, sitting on a variety of folding and permanent chairs. The service was a mix of conservative and orthodox. The prayer book was a conservative *siddur* from the 1940s donated from the U.S.

This is where the world gets smaller. On the cover of Sue's *siddur* the inscription stated that it was originally donated to Temple Israel,



Swampscott-Marblehead, Mass. This was the temple where we were married 41 years ago. The service was mostly in Hebrew but with a little English and sounded very much like the Friday night service at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. Most of the psalms and other songs were sung in the native Luganda and had a lovely African tribal tune. The four visitors were introduced to the congregation and I briefly told them of the reason for our journey. The service lasted about 90 minutes. The next morning, we were having breakfast when Roseann Wiseman from Baltimore joined us. She had just arrived with a driver from Kampala to visit the Abayudaya and attend services. We all went together for the 2 1/2 hour service. Aaron struggled a bit through the eight Torah portions, but given his limited training, did well. I was honored with an *aliyah*. A woman from the congregation gave the *haftorah*. After the service we spent over an hour visiting with members of the congregation, which added greatly to the weekend. They are a delightful people. There is a more to the story. From 1920 to 1990, a handful of Jews visited the Abayudaya for various reasons, mostly related to business. In 1992, Julia Chamovitz and Matthew Meyer, a Brown University student, attended a Shabbat service, and the congregation asked them to spread the word of their existence. This they did, and the "discovery" of the Abayudaya occurred. Matt was the first to publicize information about the Abayudaya in the U.S. Many Jewish communities in the U.S. and Europe have now become aware of the existence of the Ugandan Jewish community.

For more information on the Abayudaya, please visit www.kulano.org or contact Laura Wetzler at laurawetzler@prodigy.net. Sue and Bud Kahn live in Providence. They can be reached at budkahn@cox.net.

SIMCHAS

Births



Roxy Faye Rovin

Amy and Michael Rovin of Cranston announce the birth of their daughter, Roxy Faye (Freydl Kochevet), on April 6. Roxy weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz. Grandparents are Phylis and Jerry Sapherstein of Landing, N.J., and Sandy and Steve Rovin of Newington, Conn.



Cory Jacob and Ethan Matthew Schneiderman

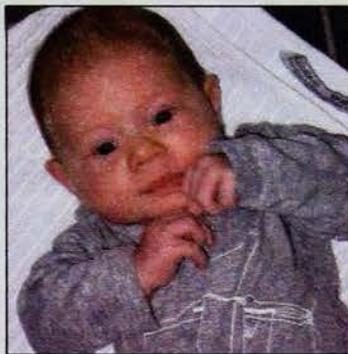
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Schneiderman of Montville, N.J., announce the birth of their twin sons, Cory Jacob and Ethan Matthew, on March 22. The twins were welcomed by their big sisters, Jaclyn and Hannah. Maternal grandparents are Arnold and Ruth Blasbalg of Coventry. Paternal grandparents are Samuel Schneiderman of Port Washington, N.Y., and the late Etta Schneiderman.



Nathan Alexander Malinow

Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Malinow of Mansfield, Mass., announce the birth of their son and first child, Nathan Alexander, on April 3.

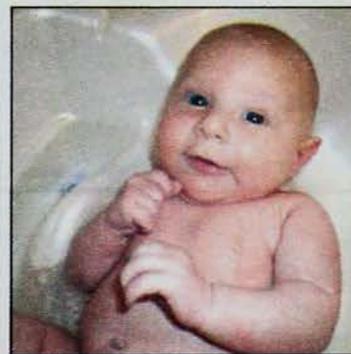
Maternal grandparents are Arnold and Ruth Blasbalg of Coventry. Paternal grandparents are Dr. Peter and Stephanie Malinow of New York City and Narragansett.



Hugo Gustav William Minoura

Kenji Rabson Minoura and Eva Minoura announce the birth of a son, Hugo Gustav William Minoura, on Jan. 30 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Paternal grandparents are Steve and Yoko Rabson of Providence.



Jacob Bernard Jaffe

Debbi and Jordan Jaffe of Providence announce the birth of their son, Jacob Bernard. Jacob was born on Feb. 10. He weighed 8 pounds and was 21 inches long. His grandparents are Suzanne and Alan Gilstein of Providence and Priscilla and Bob Jaffe of Woodstock, Connecticut.

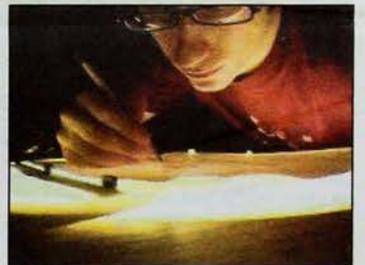
Jacob Bernard is named in loving memory of his paternal great-grandfather, Jacob "Harry" Jaffe and his maternal great-grandfather, Bernard Bograd.

Graduations



Jennifer Ortiz

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Jennifer Ortiz, granddaughter of Marylyn Graff of Warren and the late Stanley Graff, graduated from the University of Michigan summa cum laude. She is the daughter of Laura and Al Ortiz of Cincinnati. Jennifer plans to go on to graduate school.



Lee Rubenstein

Lee Rubenstein, son of Barry and Judy Rubenstein of Coventry, graduated in May from Pratt Institute with a BFA in Media Arts/Traditional Animation. Lee's short animation film, "Loose Change" has been shown at the 2006 Woods Hole Film Festival and the 2006 Southside Film Festival in Bethlehem, PA. His latest work, "The Secret Life of Robots," will be shown at the 2007 Platform Film Festival, Portland, OR.

He also produced and directed an animated short film for the website of Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, author of "Up, Up and Oy Vey (How Jewish History, Culture and Values Shaped the Comic Book Superheroes)." His work can be seen at www.lees-cartoons.com.

Rebecca Anne Gourse, daughter of Ellen Gourse of Providence and Allan Gourse of Fall River, graduated from the University of New Haven on May 26 with a bachelor of arts degree in interior design. Rebecca is the granddaughter of Samuel and Bernice Gourse, Philip and Rebecca Woled and Dorothy Friar and the late David Friar.

She has accepted a position at Insalco in Cheshire, Conn.

Wedding



Lauren Schwartz and Zachary Marwil

Ivy and Daniel "Toby" Marwil announce the marriage of their son, Zachary Marwil to Lauren Schwartz, daughter of Rande and Steven Schwartz of Woodbury, N.Y., on May 5.

Zachary, a medical student, and Lauren, a graphic artist, are residing in N.Y. City.

SEND US YOUR SIMCHAS

Share your happy events — Photos welcome. E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org; Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: simchas. For photo return please include self-addressed, stamped envelope.