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IN ISRAEL



Following the footsteps of absorption: the potential, the pitfalls

Part 2

By Marty Cooper
mcooper@jfri.org

"The aura of our experience still remains despite the return to daily work. The delightful and moving adventure lives on." These were the words Doris Feinberg expressed to her fellow Chazon mission companions after returning home from Ethiopia and Israel in July. Feinberg is vice president and campaign chairperson for The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), which co-sponsored the trip in conjunction with United Jewish Communities (UJC).

The Chazon (vision) mission included 13 Rhode Islanders; three, Stephen Silberfarb, executive vice president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of R.I.; Dr. Bonnie Steinberg Jennis and Feinberg joined the group upon arriving from Ethiopia along with approximately 140 Ethiopian Jews making *aliyah*.

The trip was an emotional whirlwind of a journey. The group visited Emek Medical Center in Afula, a Center for Independent Living, an Ethiopian absorption center, a college and a youth



See FOOTSTEPS, page 7

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN SILBERFARB
FACES OF ARRIVAL AND JOY. Ethiopian Jews at home, finally. Each with their own story to tell, each with hope and each with a smile as they enter Israel.



RUTH MESSINGER, president of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), holds a Darfuri infant during a recent mission to Chad. AJWS has launched an advocacy campaign to push the United States to develop a policy on accepting refugees from Sudan. See story on page 3.

Under fire, ADL calls Armenian massacre 'genocide'

NEWS ANALYSIS

By Yehuda Lev
yehudal@cox.net

With a speed that astonished veteran Jewish organization watchers, the national office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has reversed its ruling of last week that it would not support a move by members of Congress to declare the 1915-1923 massacres of up to a million and a half Armenians by the Turkish army to have been a genocidal act. It has not indicated, as of press time Wednesday, if it would reinstate Andrew Tarsy, who lost his position as New England regional director, after he criticized the action of ADL's national office, calling it "morally indefensible."

The statement, issued Tuesday by Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL, said that the change stems from its concern for Jewish unity at a moment of great peril for Jewish communities around the world. "I was just disheartened by how the Jewish community was being torn apart," Foxman told JTA, the Jewish news service, Tuesday as he traveled to Boston to meet with community leaders. "We were being criticized by other Jewish organizations. And out of a tremendous concern to keep that unity, because the Jewish community is under increased attack in Europe, Latin America and

See ADL, page 3

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Quote of the Week

"It is all about the kids. It will always be about the kids. They keep me going."

— Susan Sugerman. See Education section, page 17.



Leonore Sones will retire this year from teaching. See story, page 18.



CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM in Attleboro receives grant to expand programming. See page 27.

Calendar

SUN., AUG. 26

Lower East Side Festival

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lippitt Park (corner of Blackstone Blvd. and Hope St. in Providence). Free admission. Entertainment

includes: Grammy Award winner Bill Harley, 11 a.m. to noon, Klezphonics (RI band), noon to 1 p.m., Mashke (Boston band), 1 to 2 p.m. and Danoe the clown, 2 to 3 p.m. Food, shopping, information about local Jewish organizations, and more will also be available. For information, visit www.jccri.org.

Rhode Island custom hat designer and moderator plus hat sale tables, Marge Goodman, with N.Y. Betmar hats and accessories, and Marcie Ingber with hats and berets. Jewelry will be displayed. \$5; advance reservations will include a free raffle ticket. Call the JCC at 401-861-8800 ext. 107. Light refreshments.

Temple Emanu-El open house

10 a.m. to noon. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. The temple is holding another open house this year on Thurs., Aug. 30, from 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

For more information call 331-1616.

WED., AUG. 29

JCC fall fashion show

7 p.m. JCC fall hat fashion show and sale. Maureen Baker,

Temple Habonim open house

7 p.m. Open house at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. All are welcome to meet the entire temple community, including Rabbi Klein. Refreshments served, arts and crafts projects for youngsters. Call 245-6536 for information.

See CALENDAR, page 11

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

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Nation

ADL reverses position on Armenian genocide

From page 1

even in this country, the imperative is to try to find unity."

Background

The ADL came under increasing pressure as the repercussions of Tarsy's dismissal spread and began to affect ADL programs and policies and its image as a fundraising organization unblemished by conflict or dissent. A number of groups affiliated with the ADL's "No Place for Hate" anti-bias program dropped out of the program, board members of ADL resigned and the ethical aspects of the ADL's decision came into question.

The issue was first raised in a reader's letter critical of the ADL and printed in the local weekly in Watertown, a suburb of Boston with a large Armenian population. A few days later the Watertown Town Council voted to withdraw from the ADL program and the controversy became a public issue, owing partly to the proposed Congressional legislation.

The ADL's position had been that the genocide question should be resolved by historians and in a statement called the proposed legislation "counter-productive." In an open letter to ADL supporters published in a number of newspapers, Foxman discussed the core of the problem as the national office of the ADL saw it. "We recognize that we are a Jewish agency whose mission is to work for the community while paying attention to the more universal goals we share with others," he wrote. "And when these two elements of our mission come into direct conflict, we do not aban-

don the Jewish community."

This didn't resound very well with ADL regional board members and other Jewish leaders in Boston. The board voted to support Tarsy and at least two of its members resigned. Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz wrote an opinion piece in the Boston Globe describing the regional board's action defending Tarsy as "courageous and correct." Steven Grossman, former chair of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), reportedly called the firing "a vindictive, intolerant, and destructive act" that would harm the organization's fundraising. The Boston Jewish Community Relations Council, of which ADL is a member, expressed support for Tarsy and his board. And others reacted similarly until ADL's national office realized that it ran the risk of losing critical financial and other support.

Those who supported the national ADL's position pointed out that Turkey is the one Muslim country in the region that maintains close economic links with Israel and has friendly relations with the United States. It is very sensitive to charges of genocide, claiming that its Armenian minority was participating in anti-Turkish activities during World War 1 and that the numbers of dead have been vastly overstated. It is also awaiting a decision on its application to join the Euro-



ANDREW TARSY was fired as head of the ADL's Boston office after publicly challenging the organization's position on the Armenian genocide.



ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN, national director of the Anti-Defamation League and author of 'Never Again? The Threat of the New Anti-Semitism.'

pean Union (EU) and its refusal to accept responsibility for the Armenian massacres is one of the sticking points to admission. The Turks welcomed Jews who fled the Spanish Inquisition in 1492 and both Turkey and its Jewish citizens consider that a debt to be repaid. Also, good Israeli-Turkish relations are essential for Israeli security and nothing should be done to imperil them or the Jews of Turkey.

The final chapter in this story will not be known for some time but one response to Foxman's change of policy came in a statement issued by David Leach,

chair of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Community Relations Council, who wrote: "We welcome today's ADL statement recognizing the Armenian genocide. Changing one's mind to accept the position of those whom you have engaged in public debate is not easy. In this case it is the right thing to do. It is right and appropriate that the ADL, a national player in efforts to build a more tolerant and accepting society, takes this position." Leach also expressed the hope that "ADL and its regional board and former New England regional director Andrew Tarsy, will fully reunite."

AJWS to push U.S. on Sudanese refugee issue

The American Jewish World Service is putting together a targeted advocacy campaign to push the United States to develop a policy on accepting refugees from the genocide in the Sudan. "It's not fair to these small countries in the Middle East and in North Africa to ask them to take in all of these refugees," AJWS Executive Director Ruth Messenger told JTA. "There should be a worldwide effort. If there was a proportionate response from elsewhere in the world, each country would end up with refugees to absorb."

Though there are no exact numbers on how many people are seeking refuge from Sudan, it is estimated that 3 million people have been displaced from their homes since fighting began in 2003. Rough numbers suggest that 2 million of them are still in Sudan and that a half-million are outside the country. Around a quarter-million may be in Chad and the majority of the remainder are spread around North Africa and the Middle East, including Israel.

Israel has taken heat recently for its decision to turn away refugees from Sudan. Israel has taken in nearly 2,800 Africans who entered the country illegally through Egypt in the past couple of years, according to the Jerusalem Post. Some 1,200 of them are from Sudan. Israel agreed to keep 500 Muslim refugees from Darfur, but decided Sunday that it will no longer accept refugees. Messenger would not judge the move but said that she understood Israel's predicament. Messenger just returned from a mission to Sudan and Chad with the group Dream for Darfur, which is trying to put pressure on China, host of the 2008 Olympics, to stop its economic involvement with Sudan. (JTA)

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Opinion

Book backlash intrudes on summer reveries

The temperature outside is 105 degrees which is why your observer is spending his vacation in the air conditioned home of his older son and family in St.



Yehuda Lev

Louis. (Did someone ask how it might be possible to take a vacation from retirement? We'll ignore the question and move on.)

This is a gathering of the clan; three (of five) grandchildren, three (of four) children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, the mother of my three older children and, hovering over them all, the family Patriarch. Well, not exactly hovering, more like watching supinely from a living room couch while trying to follow partially heard conversations. My ears have taken early retirement. Everyone is very accommodating; sentences are repeated for my benefit and grandchildren are willing to pause for a brief kiss on the cheek before running to their next entertainment but it is much like watching a movie with subtitles. I am reading the text while missing the action.

The grandchildren, ranging in ages

from 12 to three, are beautiful, intelligent, clever, respectful, well-behaved and adept at hiding *Saba's* (Hebrew for grandfather) cane. With a cane I am the personification of human frailty, without it I am practically immobile. If I have to move from one room to another the cane usually reappears but it is also a constant reminder that *Saba* is not a fit companion for jaunts to museums, swimming pools,

I don't have to read their book to know what they have to say about that because it is an expansion of a paper they published several years ago about which we all vented at the time.

Again, the *Times*: "Now that the cold war is over, Israel has become a strategic liability for the United States... Yet no aspiring politician is going to say so in public or even raise the possibility

the task of our responding to this wide-ranging assault has been made unnecessary by Abraham Foxman, Grand High Potentate of the Anti-Defamation League who, by sheer coincidence (?) is publishing a book on the same day (Sept. 4) as the one it disputes. It is named "The Deadliest Lies: The Israel Lobby and the Myth of Jewish Control" and if Mr. Foxman's track record in these matters is any guide, it will be hard-hitting and mostly on target.

This touches on part of the problem we face on this issue. Each side is given to extreme positions and quotes its opponents out of context, heedless of the effects their statements and writings can have on others. You can make the case that AIPAC, the American Jewish lobby for Israel, plays its role too energetically at times, as you can claim that the Israel bashers much exaggerate the degree to which AIPAC and other Jewish groups influence Capitol Hill.

What all this may mean we shall save for another time. Right now everyone has gone out to lunch so I will raid the refrigerator in peace and quiet. Now where did they leave my cane this time?

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

My first reaction to reading this was the same I had when someone once asked me why Jews own all the wealth in this country.

science centers and other diversions. I am left to read, to write, and to reflect on how pleasant it is to shut out the real world I am happily avoiding for just this one week.

Suddenly, crashing into this idyllic scene comes reality in the form of a *New York Times* article titled "Backlash Over Book On Policy For Israel" co-authored by two professors from Harvard and Chicago who are high on the list of people I am trying to avoid. Their thesis is (I quote from the *Times*): "A powerful pro-Israel lobby has a pernicious influence on American policy" and

because the pro-Israel lobby is so powerful. (The authors) credit the lobby with shutting down talks with Syria and with moderates in Iran, preventing the United States from condemning Israel's 2006 war in Lebanon and with not pushing the Israelis hard enough to come to an agreement with the Palestinians. They also discuss Christian Zionists and the issue of dual loyalty."

My first reaction to reading this was the same I had when someone once asked me why Jews own all the wealth in this country. I thought (to myself), "I hope you're right and where's my share?" But

Back to school

By Marty Cooper
mcooper@jfri.org

This September, over 2,000 children in Rhode Island and the surrounding area will be heading off to a Jewish religious school. In my day we called it Hebrew school. The younger children will be starting a tremendous journey and experience as they enter one of many Jewish pre-schools. The bulk of our kids will be attending a Temple-supported religious school or one of two dual curriculum day schools. And, many of our high school students will be attending Midrasha. Education is ongoing, especially for the Jewish family. It is our tradition to want to learn. We are an inquisitive bunch of people.

Going back to school means dropping the kids off and meeting new families and rekindling relationships with others. It is not surprising that we invite these same new friends we made at the pre-school to our child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah a few years later. It is a wonderful feeling to look around the room on the day of your son's or daughter's coming of adulthood and remember those fond moments and times.

Sending our children to school is usually not an easy task. It is not easy for the student or the parent.

If the student is going to religious school after attending traditional school, there is the matter of transporting the child to the religious school and then picking him or her up. Plus there is Sunday School, which means waking up early Sunday morning to send the stu-

dent to school, and once again, picking them up around noontime just in time for the kick-off of the Patriots football game.

In the meantime, the student often has to give up extra-curricular activities. And, when they get home, they are whisked away by mom or dad, or a fellow school parent and driven off to religious school. After school they eat a late dinner and then are expected to do their homework and do it well.

The day school student and parents have similar challenges. Many of the students are driven to school and then picked up by a parent who usually is on the way to work, or coming from work. The day school student often times is removed from their community thereby away from their neighborhood friends. At the same time the day school student takes home a tremendous workload, including English and Hebrew, American history and Jewish history, to name but a few.

So why do we do this to our children and ourselves? Because we are a special people with a unique bond, tradition and history that we want to pass on to our children and they to theirs. A Jewish education comes with many sacrifices. But the rewards certainly outweigh the sacrifices.

September is a special time for school-age children and their parents. It is a time when the students, parents and teachers all have smiles on their faces.

That smile is one for learning.

Brown University on boycott

(The following letter was sent by Brown University President, Ruth Simmons, protesting the British academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions.)

August 9, 2007

Sally Hunt
Joint General Secretary
University and College Union
Egmont House
25-31 Travistock Place
London WCH1H 9UT
United Kingdom

Dear Mrs. Hunt,

The University and College Union's decision to consider support for the boycott of academic institutions in Israel has rightly aroused concern among members of the Brown University community. I have followed this issue closely and with mounting dismay.

Institutions of higher learning go to extraordinary lengths to defend the free flow of information, the unfettered exchange of ideas, and the primacy of well-reasoned argument. Defending these fundamental principles is not merely a matter for debate. Without those principles in place, the academy cannot exist.

A boycott of the sort your organization is considering — a measure that attempts to silence or marginalize the scholars of an entire nation — is inimical to those fundamental principles and could do great harm to colleges and universities. Supporting such a boycott of scholars from Israel or any other part of the world is not an option for people who are dedicated to the core principles of the academy.

As president of Brown University, I write to inform you that we strongly support Israeli universities and will assist them in the efforts to protect scholars from political pressure of the kind the forthcoming debate intends.

Sincerely,
Ruth J. Simmons
Office of the President
Box1860 Providence, Rhode Island, 02912

THE OLD OLIVETTI
Just words

I was at the greasy spoon around the corner from the college. The coffee was nearly as old as I am, though in better shape; it was so strong, my spoon stood erect in it. A drunk sat next to me. "Wass your motto?" he slurred. "My motto? I don't have a motto." "You gots to have motto. Evrb'dy has a motto." I fobbed him off with: "Don't accost people in greasy spoons." He smiled, and as he rolled off his stool onto the grimy floor, he muttered, "Thas' a good one. Don' accos..."



Josh Stein

This set me to thinking. If it's true what the drunk had said, that everyone needs a motto, is there a motto for the Jewish people? How to decide? Hold a contest? What's the universal quality that has characterized the Jewish people and how can it be phrased succinctly? Then I remembered a conversation I'd had at a wedding table and it came to me. "Justice, justice, you shall pursue." It's from Deuteronomy, a quintessential Jewish book; but do we abide by it?

At that wedding I was seated next to an executive of a company that manufactures hobby items. He informed me that while corporate was in South Carolina the actual product was made in China. I frowned. "I see you don't like that."

"I don't," I replied and discussed economics and social justice for the rest of the evening.

"Unions forced us to do it," he explained.

I smelled a rat. "Let me guess," I rejoined, "as you are in South Carolina there never were any union affiliated workers from whom you took away manufacturing jobs."

He admitted the truth of that but then came back with "labor in America is too expensive."

I came back with "labor in China is being ruthlessly exploited by the most capitalistic communists never envisioned by Karl Marx!"

He said that profits were shared with employees. I asked if the Chinese workers who actually made his products were receiving their shares, and he said, "No, they are not our employees, we contract that work out."

"What do the workers who used to manufacture your products do now?" I asked, "the ones whose jobs you sent overseas."

"They work in the service industry," he said. "America is becoming a service economy, not a manufacturing one."

"Were they stock brokers, physicians, dentists, teachers?"

"Labor in China is being ruthlessly exploited by the most capitalistic communists never envisioned by Karl Marx!"

He glowered and said, "Nø, the service they perform is as security guards, telemarketers, that sort of thing."

"And do you think they get as much satisfaction doing that as they would if they were actually making something, participating in the manufacturing process?"

He reminded me that I was a pie-in-the-sky academic while he worked in the real world where the bottom line was all that mattered. I reminded him that his former employees also lived in the real world, hand to mouth, where the bottom line matters even more, and so do the workers in China. I only wish I knew then what I know now, about tainted dog food, lead paint in Barbie dolls, bite-sized magnets attached to toys, all products of cheap unregulated labor in China.

If labor is being exploited it used to be the Jewish response that this is an abomination and Jews rallied in defense of the oppressed. And now? A few months ago I wrote about the Conservative movement's Jewish Law and Standards Committee on which only three rabbis out of 25 had voted that workers employed by Jews should get a living wage. Rabbis against a living wage? Is this what Moses meant when he wrote, "Justice, justice, thou shall pursue"? I'm thinking maybe not. So maybe this isn't such a good motto.

But then I remembered that in another column I quoted a Reconstructionist rabbi, who, in a Passover reflection, had written: "If we only pour 10 drops of wine from our cups and do nothing more, we do not understand the significance of our act. Our joy cannot be complete when there is harshness, cruelty, or suffering in the world. We cannot wait for others to tackle the injustices of our time."

The aphorism is that if you save one person's life it's as though you've saved the whole world. Is the converse true? If you ignore one man's economic injustice is it as though you've cheated the whole world? "Justice, justice, you shall pursue"—a motto or a pious irrelevance? Are Jews more concerned with holding the moral high ground or with maintaining the bottom line?

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

NOW BATTING
Tisha B'Av 5767, and the wait for a new morning

On July 24, we commemorated Jewish national tragedies, by mourning the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem, the first in 586 BCE and the second in 70 CE. How and why do we mourn the Temples? Why do we need to observe Tisha B'Av, when Yom Hashoah memorializes the Holocaust, our most profound and immediate national catastrophe, and the reborn State of Israel affirms our national existence?

Indeed, the answers are difficult and not easily persuasive. Fresh from five months in Jerusalem, I know that the city is beautiful, not desolate. Even more perplexing, how does one mourn for something that one has never possessed? For nearly 2000 years, no Jew has experienced the loss of the Temple, and yet the day is devoted to acting as if it just happened and that we are responsible for its obliteration.

For some answers, I turned to a recently published book, by Rabbi Joseph Soleveitchik, "The Lord is Righteous in All His Ways." The volume draws directly on the Rav's (as many continue to call him) lectures, discussions, and sermons that he gave at the Maimonides School in Brookline more than two decades ago. It provides insight into our predicament.

Tisha B'Av marks the most profound turning point in Jewish history: the caesura between God and His people, and between God and each individual Jew. The Temple provided tactile proof that God is in our lives. We could go to Jerusalem, bring offerings and worship at the Temple, and come as close to perceiving God as is humanly possible. Without the Temple, we can only search for Him in clouds of abstract thoughts. God lost His home, and we don't know where to find Him. Nothing could be more awful than that!

The laws of Tisha B'Av—the communal fast whose status is on par with Yom Kippur, the practices of mourning (no leather shoes, sitting on low benches and chairs for the first part of the day), the prayers, especially the *kinnot* (the day's elegies), and the awkward efforts to cry—commemorate this loss. Devised by the rabbis of the Talmud, in the decades after the Second Temple's obliteration, they mark the catastrophe, by providing new ways to find God. The prescribed practices of the day exemplify Judaism's efforts to link God and Jews: the *mitzvot*—with all their detailed demands—are the ways that we make tactile connections to God. Even without the Temple, the Rabbis teach us, *mitzvot* help us to

bring God into our lives.

A seemingly puzzling element of the day's practices sharpens and extends our questions. The rabbis observed that the actual fire that destroyed the Second Temple did not begin until the afternoon, and yet they lifted the practices of mourning at just that time. If we cry for the Temple, they asked, why do we stop mourning at the moment that the destruction began? When the fire began, they aver, the people understood that God would destroy the building's stones and wood, but not them, their families, and their communities. And so the rabbis marked the afternoon as a time of consolation for the lives saved, and lifted the mourning.

But how do we, who live after the Holocaust, respond to this answer? After all, the Nazis and their helpers annihilated six million Jews, their families, communities, and institutions, not only the bricks and mortar of their houses, schools, synagogues, and community offices. And, as Rabbi Soleveitchik notes, if each of these families was a Temple, how do we cease wailing? We don't. Indeed, Jews have mourned the Holocaust for the past 60 years. We have no right to stop mourning and we continue to recite elegies, teach and learn about the lives of the murdered Jews and their communities, and erect monuments to them, even as our enemies challenge our sincerity and sanity.

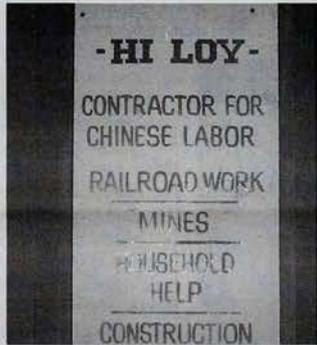
At the same time, it is important to remember the rabbis' response to the catastrophic destruction of the Temple: the Judaism of the Talmud. Not just the commemoration of destruction, but all the *mitzvot* sustain Judaism's way of life. And in subsequent generations, this Judaism has helped to overcome national tragedies and bring beauty, profundity, and integrity—God—into our lives.

The rabbis maintain that after the Messiah comes, Tisha B'Av will become a festival, while all the other fasts that mark our national tragedies and the destructions of the Temples will disappear. In a perfect world, we will regain our direct experience of God. When that happens, we will no longer fast, mourn, and recite dirges; we will rejoice. In commemoration of this view, there is a tradition that the books of *kinnot* are destroyed at the end of the day. May we need no longer to mourn our national tragedies and God's distance from our lives.

In case the Messiah continues to tarry, next year Tisha B'Av falls on Sunday, Aug. 10.



Alan Zuckerman



VIEWPOINT

Federation lauds University presidents on opposition to Israel boycott

PROVIDENCE — Stephen R. Silberfarb, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, issued the following statement with regard to statements by presidents of U.S. colleges and universities denouncing the decision by the union representing British academics to promote a boycott of Israeli educational institutions.

"We are pleased and thankful that five prestigious Rhode Island institutions of higher education have joined over 300 U.S. colleges and universities in denouncing the decision by the union representing British academics to promote a boycott of

Israeli educational institutions. "Legitimate academic exercise requires open and robust debate, vigorous inquiry and no barriers to participation. While it is certainly the province of academia to study politics, it is out of bounds to play politics with the recognized principle of academic freedom. We are gratified that these Rhode Island universities reject attempts to hold intellectual exchange hostage to the political disagreements of the moment and remain committed to maintaining and fostering relationships with Israeli scholars and institutions.

"On behalf of the Jewish community, we commend and express our appreciation to the following Rhode Island colleges and university presidents for supporting academic freedom:"

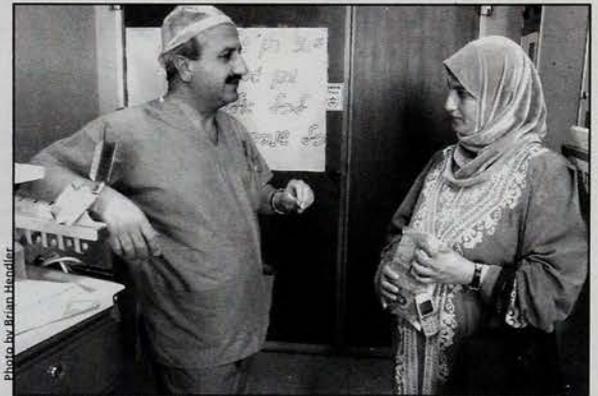
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John J. Bowen

Roger Williams University
Roy J. Nirschel

Salve Regina University
M. Therese Antone, RSM

University of Rhode Island
Robert L. Carothers



DOCTOR BISHAR MARZOUQ, a Palestinian heart surgeon, who operated together with Eli Milgarter, an Israeli, speaks to Mariam, the mother of 10-year-old Mohammed Salameh, in the children's intensive care unit of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem on March 24.

British boycotters ignore facts (and people) on the ground

By Nancy Falchuk

NEW YORK (JTA) — Nearly 300 American university presidents recently took a bold stand in stating their opposition to the vote by the British University and College Union to boycott Israeli academic institutions. In an ad sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, these university leaders not only threw their support behind their sister institutions in Israel, but did so by telling their counterparts in Britain that "if you discriminate against Israeli academics, then you effectively discriminate against us."

Much has already been said on both sides about the tactics of boycotting Israeli academic institutions. But the one element that has been missing from the debate is the sheer irony of marginalizing and ostracizing those on the ground in Israel who are the only people in the world with the ability to change the situation for the better.

The Hadassah Medical Organization, founded and funded by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is an academic center in Jerusalem that consists of two hospitals and, together with the Hebrew University, runs five academic medical schools. Our university medical institution not only teaches our medical professionals the tools of their trade, they teach them its ethics.

They did not let politics onto our premises when we saved the lives of Palestinian suicide bombers who were injured while assassinating hundreds of Israelis during the two intifadas. They do not let politics in the door when they save the lives of Palestinian babies with severe heart defects. They ignore politics when they conduct numerous collaborative research and clinical projects with Palestinian physicians and other health professionals in a variety of medical and health areas.

Hadassah considers it our mission to serve as a bridge to peace by forging links between people of all nationalities, races and religions who come through our doors for healing. Here are just a few ways our teaching hospitals do that:

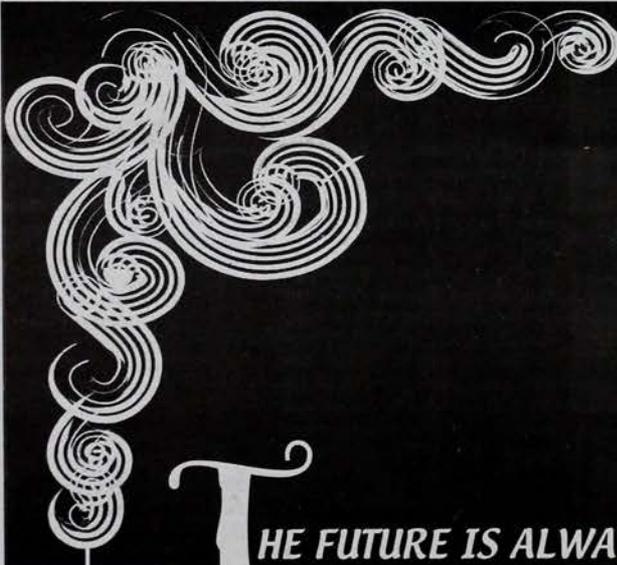
- * The Hadassah Medical Organization has committed itself to train staff and provide expertise to assure appropriate quality oncology services at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, a Palestinian hospital that is developing a cancer center to serve patients from the West Bank and Gaza.

- * Some 30 physicians from the West Bank have already completed ongoing training at Hadassah to provide improved medical care in their villages.

- * Hadassah has been working to improve trauma care in the region and to improve communications between trauma care professionals by knowing each other as individuals.

Just as 300 American universities proudly identify with their colleagues in Israel, the medical and educational personnel at Hadassah Medical Organization identify with their Palestinian partners with whom they collaborate. We strongly urge the members of the British University and College Union to do what academics should do: Closely examine the facts, then make an informed decision.

Nancy Falchuk is the national president of Hadassah.



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REPORT FROM ISRAEL

Following the footsteps of absorption

From page 1

center. The mission was undertaken to see how Federation assistance has been put into action.

Emek Medical Center

It began in Afula, located in north-eastern Israel, not far from the border of Lebanon, where the Emek Medical Center is located. Dr. Orna Blondheim, the center's director, is proud of the fact that Emek was voted high in patient satisfaction. She, however, is quick to point out that like many other hospitals in Israel, Emek Medical Center still has a ways to go as approximately 50 percent of the patients are in sub-standard facilities, she notes on the hospital's website.

The hospital has 25 departments, which include internal medicine, pediatrics, cardiac, and general and neonatal ICUs. Its ambulatory services include 60 clinics, dialysis, pulmonary, and pain services. The center, with a new surgical wing still in the early stages of construction, treats Jews and Arabs alike in its quest for peaceful coexistence. "While touring the hospital, we watched an Arab mother and an EMT carrying in a 10-month-old child with an oxygen mask. A few minutes later, the father arrived and we saw ourselves reflected in his fearful eyes," said Alan Buff. "When a child is sick, we are all the same."

"Gazing out of the windows in one of Emek's wards," he continued, "we saw a nearby shopping center where a surgeon was a victim of a suicide bomber. The surgeon and the bomber were treated side by side in Emek's trauma center."

In addition to the new wing, much of the medical equipment and supplies for the hospital are funded from groups like the Federation. Dr. Blondheim acknowledges that despite the strains of limited resources, they have received essential help from friends worldwide to help the hospital meet some of the many challenges they face.

Center for Independent Living

The following day, the group visited a Center for Independent Living, one of two in Israel whose purpose is to help the country's 230,000 physically challenged and disabled citizens live independently and with dignity. The center is operated by disabled people for disabled people. Lisa Shorr was moved by comments made by Daniela Brafman, the center director, who told her, "I want the ability to decide how I want to spend my life, and who and when I want to ask for help." Daniela's remark really made me think," said Shorr. "What a profound statement I thought to myself. As I was cheering her on, I was proud to be in her presence. Another part of me was reeling. Without our help and assistance programs like this would not happen."

Another touching experience for the group was walking into Ben Gurion Airport with leaders of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) to greet 140 Ethiopians of all ages, making *aliyah*. "Upon entering the room," said Buff, "one of the Ethiopian Jews began singing 'Aveinu Shalom Aleichem,' We are Bringing Peace Upon



Photo taken just after Lisa Shorr said the *Sheheche* upon her first time arrival to Israel. The Chazon Mission members; Jerusalem in the background. From left to right front row: David Yavner, Lisa Shorr, Faye Wisen, Gail Kritz, Ralph Posner, Doris Feinberg, Jane Stein, mission guide. Top row; Richard Licht, Eric Shorr, Kenneth Schneider, Alan Buff, Bonnie Steinberg Jennis, Justin Strauss and Stephen Silberfarb.

You. This was followed by "Am Yisrael Chai," The People of Israel Live. We all joined in, Israelis, Americans and Ethiopians singing together. Handfuls of small Israeli flags were handed out to the children." Members of the mission took Polaroid pictures of the children, who were amazed as their images appeared on paper.

Ken Schneider, with the mission, said "the eyes of the new immigrants told the story of a long journey. Meeting the newest citizens of the State of Israel, we could see the fear and anxiety of a people that were about to embark on a new life. The apprehension, especially in the eyes of the adults, was quite apparent. They didn't speak English or Hebrew and were in a new country. They were scared but I saw the future of these people knowing that the great state of Israel with our help would provide a life for these new immigrants."

The Jewish Agency Absorption Center

From there it was on to Lod to visit one of 23 Jewish Agency Absorption Centers that are home to approximately 7,000 Ethiopian Jews whose average stay in the center is two years. The absorption centers play a major role in helping Ethiopian Jews assimilate into Israeli society. The centers offer immediate housing solutions and basic necessities. They further provide a supportive environment with Hebrew language studies (*ulpan*), vocational training, counseling, and cultural and social programs. This is intended to help them not only learn the language and customs, but to help them learn a trade so they can work and earn a living or become a soldier in the Israeli army. Each center is staffed with a director, housemother, social worker, cultural coordinator, administrative workers, maintenance workers and security personnel.

Ono Academic College

Next, the Chazon mission visited

See ISRAEL, page 10

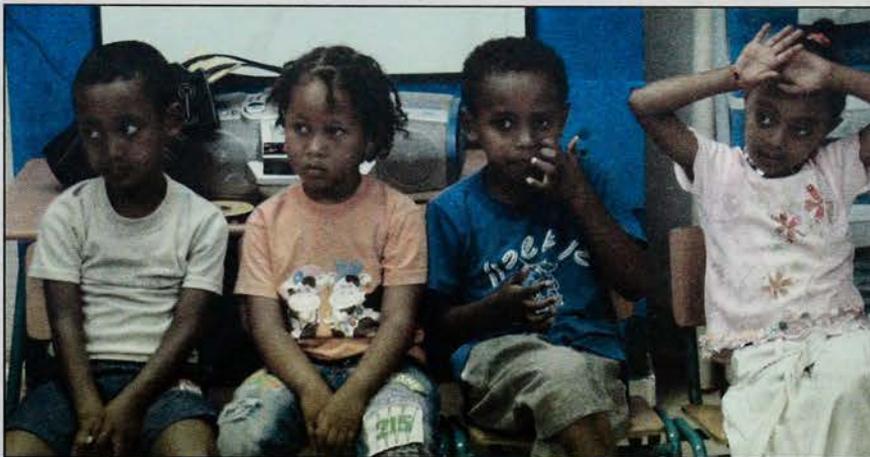


ELISHEVA, A LAW STUDENT at Ono Academic College, performs community service with a bunch of Israeli children. On this day, it is painting.



STEPHEN SILBERFARB joins Ethiopian high school students in an all English "Sparks of Science" technology enrichment program.

REPORT FROM ISRAEL



Photos by Stephen Silberfarb
THE ABSORPTION CENTER provides many training and educational services, for children of all ages. Top left: Two older children learn computer skills at a computer lab. Top right: Children doing just what all children do during a break in the school action, while at immediate right, a child works with her math teacher. Bottom left: A pre-school teacher works with her class.

Absorption centers help Ethiopian Jews to integrate into Israeli life

By Marty Cooper
 mcooper@jfri.org

For centuries, Ethiopian Jews have dreamed of coming to Jerusalem. This generation of Ethiopian Jews are the first to realize the dream. Like our forefathers who left their homes in Eastern Europe to come to America, many Jewish Ethiopian parents have immigrated to Israel for a new beginning, a better life. Many of the adults will have a hard time finding employment and realize that difficult times lie ahead. It is their hope, much like our forefathers who journeyed to New York, Ohio, Illinois and other parts of America, that their children and their children's children will be able to one day enjoy the fruits of their immigration to their new country, Israel. But there will be many challenges and obstacles for them to overcome in order to realize the benefits of being citizens of Israel.

To assist this generation of Israeli Ethiopian Jews, the country's absorption centers are helping the new Ethiopian immigrants overcome an over-

whelming culture shock. There is a new language to learn as well as technology they could not even have dreamed of while in Ethiopia. This is especially true with farming equipment that is light years ahead of the hoe they used to farm land in Ethiopia. And, there are different social values and customs and government laws and restrictions. Plus there is the glaring issue of race relations. While the absorption centers work to help make each new citizen's transition as smooth as possible, there is no guarantee or assurance that they will all "fit" into their new society.

The family dynamic has huge obstacles to overcome. The majority of Ethiopian Jewish households in Israel struggle financially. A study done by the JDC — Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem showed that neither parent was employed in 56% of Ethiopian Jewish households with children. According to the study, most of the adults who are employed usually have low wage, menial jobs. A JTA report on the situation states that "the youth and their parents are a commu-

nity in transition, the euphoria of their arrival having long since been replaced with the hard realities of making a life in modern Israel".

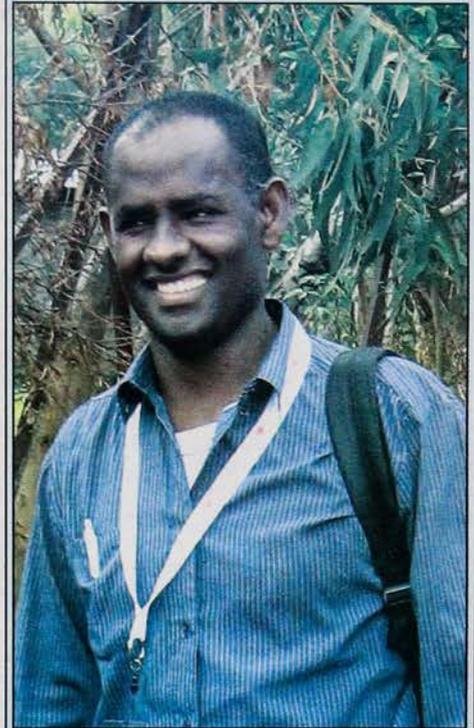
There is a concern that the high rate of unemployment and hard realities of living in overcrowded housing can possibly create a permanent underclass in the country. Vocational training and other programs have been designed and then redesigned to help reduce unemployment and in so doing improve the family environment for many.

Educating the children is another challenge. In addition to basic learning skills such as math and language, education and training also includes addressing serious potential problems and concerns such as unemployment, crime, violence and drugs.

Although there are young Jewish Ethiopians pursuing a college education or a job in army, many become "at-risk" kids who have nowhere to go. There are a number of programs and



REPORT FROM ISRAEL



Asher Seyum

A SHEPHERD IN ETHIOPIA
 24 years ago, Asher walked across Ethiopia from Gondar to Sudan before finally arriving in Israel. Today Asher works at an absorption center helping new Ethiopian Jews become accustomed to their new home.



Top left, Gail Kritz from the Chazon Mission enjoys her time with several children during their first day in Israel. All were given Israeli flags as a welcoming gift.



Above, Eric and Lisa Shorr talk to an Ethiopian immigrant about his experiences.

Bottom right, just what is this stuff? A child for the first time comes to terms with a sandwich and plastic wrap, neither one of which he has ever seen before.



REPORT FROM ISRAEL

Following the footsteps of absorption

From page 8

Ono Academic College, (OAC) in Lod, where they met six Jewish Ethiopian college students. The private college is Israel's fastest growing, with the largest law school and second largest business school in the country. The school is committed to providing both undergraduate and graduate programs to Ethiopian Jews.

OAC, together with JAFI, actively recruits Ethiopian-born Israeli Jews who want to participate in their Higher Education and Community Leadership project. The College offers them an education through significant grants and scholarships for \$200. The project is in its fourth year and has gained recognition both in Israel and abroad for its success. OAC has over 140 Ethiopian-born students currently enrolled at the school, coming from all over Israel. Most live at home, and a few live in dormitories at the Kfar Saba Absorption Center.

The purpose of the program at OAC is to develop young professional leaders in prestigious, lucrative professions who could make an impact on Israeli society. The first generation of children born in Ethiopia, but mostly raised in Israel, is just now reaching the age of higher education. It is this generation which will make the changeover and become an integral part of Israeli society.

"I was blown away by the intelligence and articulateness of the young students at Ono Academic College," said Dr.

Jennis. "I love that they are not concerned with leading their community, but leading Israel. They will hopefully turn any dire predictions about the Ethiopian Jews right on their heads. Some day one of those youngsters will appear on the front page of the New York Times as a minister or diplomat representing Israel."

Jay Strauss initially had some reservations as to why Israel was undertaking Ethiopian immigration. "However, after meeting with Orit and many other students, I came to the realization that it (Ethiopian immigration to Israel) will work."

A Youth Center

One of the biggest challenges with the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel is providing programs that will help the youth become viable members of society. The youth centers such as the one the mission visited offers the youth sports, drama and other activities to keep them occupied and off the streets while introducing them to new friends. The centers also provide training programs including computer instruction.

Schneider, a soccer coach in his spare time, was so taken by the center that he is going to send three sets of soccer nets to the kids so they will not have to kick the ball through a hole. "I could relate to what they are trying to do with the kids," he said. "They are trying to keep them off the streets and out of trouble."



A SOMBER MOMENT was shared by members of the Chazon Mission when they visited Yad Vashem and the memorial to the children.

"When we asked parents what they wanted for their children," said Faye Wisen, "they said they wanted their children to be doctors, lawyers, and teachers. We jokingly told them they were like Jewish parents everywhere, which got a big laugh. We are giving them the tools they need

to get started."

The Chazon mission was not a mission to meet dignitaries, shake hands and tell a few stories. It was about seeing first hand how Federation funding and programs have made a significant, positive influence and difference for people — real people.

"The biggest impact the mission had on me was to see the humanity of the situation. My final thought was one of anonymity," said Shorr. "Without the hard work of the agencies, many of the people I have seen or met would be anonymous. Now many have avenues to turn to."

Absorption into Israeli life

From page 8

options available to significantly reduce the risk and increase the chances of success for the children. One option is boarding schools, which remove the child from a troubled home environment for the purpose of helping the child move in the right direction. Other options are activities like the "Summer Experience" series, which includes programs like "Sparks for Science" activities

and classes for teenagers to generate interest in learning. There are also mentoring programs to help teach them a trade such as auto mechanic so they can be productive citizens and soldiers in the army.

Perhaps the most challenging concern is that of race; Ethiopian Jews are a very small group of people who look dramatically different from everyone else in

a "white" country. While the people of Israel are proud to have welcomed the Ethiopians, many Jews question whether the Ethiopian Jews are the same type of Jew as they are. Like other challenges, Israel is continually developing programs and initiatives to reduce or overcome race issues.

To their credit, Israel acknowledges that it has made its share of mistakes in regards to the immigration movement of Ethiopian Jews to the country. Israel continues to evaluate new, and better methods to make the transition for these new Israelis smoother.

Our forefathers who came to America had sponsors to help them overcome their many challenges. The sponsors helped to provide food, clothing and jobs. They also made sure that our forefathers were provided the education and training to help them overcome cultural obstacles including language and customs. The Ethiopian Jews have similar sponsors. They include the generosity of American Jews who can fully appreciate how rough a transition it is to come to a new country.

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CALENDAR

From page 2

THURS., AUG. 30

Temple Emanu-El open house

From 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. For more information, call 331-1616.

SUN., SEPT. 2

Mommy, daddy and me

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. Children of all ages and their parents are welcome to make your own challah, decorate a honey dish, and create a Jewish New Year card. \$5 per child. RSVP to Shoshannah Laufer, 884-7888.

WED., SEPT. 5

Cranston Senior Guild opens new season

1 p.m. The first meeting of the fall season of the Cranston Senior Guild will be held at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. The guest entertainer will be Steven Kane performing "Young Frank Sinatra." A raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting.

URI Hillel back-to-school barbecue

6 p.m. 12 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Opening barbecue on the first day of school at Hillel.

Temple Beth-El open house

7 p.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Open house for those interested in temple membership. Open to the whole family. Members of the clergy, school, staff and various temple committees will be on hand to greet attendees and answer questions. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call the Temple at 331-6070.

THURS., SEPT. 6

Temple Am David kosher deli lunch and learn

12 p.m. Temple Am David 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. RSVP 463-7944.

FRI., SEPT. 7

Shabbat Under the Stars

7 p.m. Temple Beth-El. The Julie Claire Gutterman Patio. (no 5:45 Kabbalat Shabbat service).

Friday School open house

4 p.m. The Friday School, a cooperative Jewish school which meets every Friday afternoon will be holding an open house at the JCC. For more information, contact Steven Schwartz at 440-4028, sschwartz@thefridayschool.org or visit website at www.thefridayschool.org.

URI Hillel Shabbat

5:30 p.m. 12 Fraternity Circle. The first Shabbat Service and dinner of the school year.

Temple Sinai open house

5:45 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Temple Sinai will be hosting a Shabbat open house service. Free, all are welcome.

SAT., SEPT. 8

Temple Am David Havdalah

40 Gardiner St., Warwick. After Shabbat ends, join the Temple Am David community for Havdalah, followed by a movie and then Slichot, at 10 p.m.

SUN., SEPT. 9

JCC, Miriam road races

Youth races begin at 9 a.m., followed by the 5K race at 10 a.m. Both races will start at the JCC at 401 Elmgrove Ave. All children will receive medals and t-shirts. The adult 5K is open to men and women of all ages, with cash prizes. Refreshments, JCC open house. For more information visit www.jccri.org or call 861-8800.

JCC past presidents' event

6 p.m. Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk. Tribute to the

past presidents. Doug Emmanuel, JCC vice president, will emcee the tribute, and Margaret and Bertram Lederer will chair. Tickets for the event are \$125 and include cocktails, dinner stations, and dessert. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Kevin Olson at 861-8800 or e-mail development@jccri.org.

Temple Am David school registration/Memorial service

9:30 a.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. School registration and first day of classes.

10 a.m. Memorial service at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Ave. A, Temple Am David section.

URI Hillel beach bagel brunch

12:30 p.m. 12 Fraternity Circle. Students gather at Hillel at 12:30 p.m. and travel to Scarborough Beach for food and fun.

TUES., SEPT. 11

Chabad CHAI children's enrichment

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SUN., SEPT. 16

Sunday on Manning

2 to 5 p.m. Located at 60 Manning St. Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island will join forces with the Women's Alliance. House tour of the home of Hope McCulloch, wine and light refreshments. All will receive a hand-made bracelet by McCulloch's daughter and her friends. The cost of \$36 to be donated to the Holocaust Education Center and the Women's Alliance. For reservation or more information, call May-Ronny Zeidman at the Holocaust Education Center at 453-7860.

Spiritual retreat to prepare for the High Holidays

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brown University Hillel House, 80 Brown St., Providence. Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener leading a spiritual retreat titled "Teshuvah: Return to Essence," where she will be bringing material from her recent studies of how our personalities help or hinder the transformation process. The registration fee is \$45, students \$10. Vegetarian lunch buffet. Spaces are limited, reserve early. For registrations or more information call Chaim at (401) 267-0029; email at info@rijewishhealing.org or visit www.rijewishhealing.org.

Temple Am David pizza in the hut

12 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. RSVP 463-7944.

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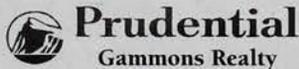
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Reform Movement's new siddur

NEW YORK: The Reform Movement's rabbinic association is set to publish a new siddur, or prayer book. Mishkan T'filah (Sanctuary of Prayer) replacing Gates of Prayer, in use since 1975. The new prayer book is expected to be available shortly after the High Holidays and a key feature is its double page layout with the right side featuring traditional prayers translated and transliterated and the left featuring related readings and spiritual commentary. (JTA)

Increased Israel grants

News Briefs

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has signed a deal to boost U. S. military grants to Israel by 25 percent. Under the agreement, Israel will receive \$30 billion in defense aid over the coming decade. Israel, which currently gets \$2.4 billion a year from Washington, sees the boost as vital to overhauling its armed forces in the wake of the Lebanon war and ahead of any possible showdown with Iran. (JTA)

Israeli boycott

CHICAGO: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America took a step toward a partial boycott of Israeli goods last week when the church's top legislative

authority urged "consideration" of economic options, including the refusal to buy Israeli products or invest in activities in Israeli settlements. The church also resolved to work toward a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but rejected a call for divestiture from Israel. (JERUSALEM POST/JTA)

Darfur refugees turned away

JERUSALEM: Israel, a temporary home for more than 500 refugees from Darfur province in Sudan, will allow them to apply for permanent residence but is closing the door to additional refugees and will send them back to Egypt which they cross in order to escape to Israel. The decision could cause controversy with American Jewish organizations, several of which are leading the struggle to end the bloodshed in Darfur. There is also an Israeli organization that opposes the latest government decision on newcomers from Darfur. Its spokesman, Eytan Schwartz, said, "It is outrageous that refugees who escaped atrocities and sought safe haven in the Jewish State, will be returned back." The Israeli government cited reports that thousands of Darfur refugees are heading towards Israel which does not have the resources to care for them indefinitely. (JTA)

Palestinian soldiers to train

WASHINGTON: American State Department officials will begin training Palestinian soldiers assigned to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The Department has a program of courses for soldiers charged with the protection of high ranking officials and training will begin later this year. It is part of an agreement signed this month by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the Authority's Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Both sides have worked closely to design the program. The U. S. focus is now on bolstering Abbas in the West Bank and is part of a wider union including the European Union, Egypt and Jordan. (JTA)

Yom Kippur, football controversy

CAMBRIDGE: Harvard University wants to reschedule a football game next month because it conflicts with the start of Yom Kippur. The Sept. 21 game against Brown University is set for 7:30 p.m., the evening of Yom Kippur. Harvard fans complained and the university asked Brown to reschedule. Brown has not yet said if it will comply. (ASSOCIATED PRESS/JTA)

— Compiled by Yebuda Lev

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Community

Temple Beth-El plans open house for Sept. 5

PROVIDENCE — Temple Beth-El will host an open house event on Wednesday evening, Sept. 5 for local residents who are interested in temple membership and all that it has to offer.

The event will begin at 7 p.m., and is open to the whole family. Refreshments will be served. Members of the clergy, school, staff and various temple committees will be on hand to greet attendees and answer questions.

An RSVP is not required, but for more information call the Temple office at 401-331-6070.

Located on Providence's East Side, Temple Beth-El is one of the largest and oldest Reform Congregations in New England. It is the spiritual home to almost 1000 Reform Jewish families in Rhode Island with over 150 years of history. Led by Rabbis Leslie Y. Gutterman and Sarah Mack, and Cantor Judith Seplowin, Temple Beth-El hosts religious and secular programs for young families, teens, young professionals, parents and the elderly. Contact the Temple office for more information at 331-6070.

Temple Habonim open house on Aug. 29

BARRINGTON — Temple Habonim invites the community to an open house on Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to tour the building, meet the new rabbi, Andrew Klein; the religious school principal, Linda Silverman Levine, and many of the officers and committee chairs, Sisterhood members, and Temple members old and new. There will be time to socialize, ask questions and get a taste of the warm and welcoming community that Temple Habonim is.

Temple Habonim is located at 165 New Meadow Road. Refreshments will be served, and arts and crafts projects will be available for youngsters. For any questions, call the temple office at 245-6536 or read more about the temple at www.templehabonim.org.

Cranston Senior Guild elects officers

CRANSTON — The Cranston Senior Guild held its annual installation luncheon and meeting at the Venus De Milo restaurant in Seekonk on Wed, June 2. The new officers will serve from June 1, 2007 to June 1, 2008.

The officers are: Mal Ross, president; Dorothy and Judah Rosen, first vice president, trips; Beverly Paris, second vice president, programs; Sam Buckler, treasurer; Sylvia Safferson, membership and financial secretary; Beverly Salk, recording secretary; Morton Paige, corresponding secretary and Leon Resnick, chaplin.

Serving on the board of directors are: Eleanor Ross, Phyllis Solod, Marilyn Salk, Claire Krasner, Annette Perlman, Gloria Lefkowitz, Elley and Sid Marcus and Shirley and Jack Kirsh.

Honorary members are Hy Jacobson, Beverly Jacobson, Rose Portney, Herb Rothchild, Sylvia Tipp and Claire Ernestof.

Open House at Temple Habonim Wednesday, Aug. 29th, from 7-9pm.



Rabbi Andrew Klein



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Simchas

Births



Rosalind Herman, of Cranston, announces the birth of her seventh great-grandchild, Jacob Dean Snyder, born June 2, 2007 in Austin, Texas. The baby is the son of Debra and Michael Snyder, and the little brother of Sarah. He is a great grandson of the late Jerome Herman. Joining their great-grandmother in welcoming their new cousin are Brenden and Casey Butler, Stephen and Jessica Zenack, and Samuel Winn.



Ethan Truman and Jonathan William Antin

Lewis and Jo-Ann Antin of Cranston, announce the birth of their twin sons, Ethan Truman and Jonathan William on July 23. They are the grandsons of Trude Antin and the late Edwin Antin of Cranston, Lucille and William O'Brien of Johnston, and John Mello of Port Charlotte, Fla. This makes the third generation in succession for twins in the Antin family.

Graduate



Brad A. Dressler

Brad A. Dressler, son of Rena Dressler of Cranston, graduated in May from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History. He is the grandson of Florence Novak and Eddie Lyons, Lillian and Joseph Dressler, and the late Harold Eisenberg.

Wedding



Seraphine Shen and David Miller

Seraphine Shen and David Miller were married on May 6.

The bride is the daughter of Vincent Shen and Johanna Liu of Toronto, Canada, and Taipei, Taiwan.

The groom is the son of Louis and Ann Messier of Warwick, and Joel and Claudia Miller of Alpharetta, GA. He is also the grandson of Edward Wasser and the late Evelyn Wasser of Warwick, and the late Saul and Estelle Miller, also of Warwick.

The bride attended Cheng-Chi University for her undergraduate degree in Taipei, Taiwan, received her Master's degree from the University of Oregon, and is currently completing her Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Oregon. The groom attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for his undergraduate degree, received his Master's degree from the University of Texas in Austin, and is currently completing his Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Oregon. He will be completing an internship in counseling at the University of Iowa beginning in July 2007.

Award



Pamela Sinel

Pamela Sinel, of Pawtucket, completed the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon held in July. The triathlon consisted of a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112 mile bike ride and then a full 26.2 mile marathon. Pamela entered the water at 7:30 a.m. and 14 hours and 5 minutes later crossed the finish line in the upper 60% of the 2000 plus participants.

Her parents are Linda and Charles Sinel of Pawtucket. Pamela is a graduate of Tufts University, University of North Carolina and the former Alperin Schechter Day School. She is currently employed as an occupational therapist.

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Join us for an Open House on
 Friday, September 7th at 5:45 pm.

Temple Sinai - 30 Hagen Avenue, Cranston www.templestinairi.org

Community

We are read everywhere



Steamin' up the river

Ida and Tom Brown aboard The American Queen Steamboat as they traveled up the

Ohio River from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh last month. They now live in Hopatcong, New Jersey,

and enjoy reading the Jewish Voice & Herald. They feel it keeps them close to home.

We have been to:

Jerusalem, Jordan, the Great Wall of China, Florida, California, Africa, Germany and a return trip to Israel.

The newspaper invites readers to take along a copy of the Jewish Voice & Herald on their next trip and send us a photo. Photos can be emailed to voiceherald@jfri.org.

with "We Are Read Everywhere" in the subject line. Or, send to JV&H at 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI, 02906.

Hat show at JCC



Maureen Baker

PROVIDENCE — On Wed., Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. the Jewish Community Center of R.I. will be holding a Fall Hat Fashion show and sale. Maureen Baker, custom hat designer and moderator, widely known as "The Hat Lady," will be featured. Her hats will be modeled by members of the community and can be bought at the sale.

Baker comes from a family that cherished the artistic, especially in hats. One of her aunts stayed overnight in the White House to make hats for the wife of President Warren Harding. The event will include the hat sale tables of Marge Goodman of Warwick, presenting Betmar hats and accessories from New York.

Marcie Ingber of Providence will present hats and berets. A variety of accessories including jewelry will also be on display.

There will be a raffle. Admis-

sion is \$5. An advance reservation will include one free raffle ticket. Call the JCC at 861-8800, ext. 107 for reservations. Light refreshments will be served, (dietary laws observed).

The RI Center for Jewish Healing and Brown University Hillel "Return to Essence" High Holidays Retreat

We will consider how our personalities help or hinder the transformation process, learn how to recognize and return to the "moment", and prepare for a spiritual Teshuvah - repentance - through singing, meditation, chanting, and movement. Presenter **Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener**, our inspirational retreat leader in 2006, is the director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, a faith-based initiative in environmental theology and practice. She is the spiritual leader of Congregation Pnai Or of Central Connecticut. She teaches frequently on issues in congregational worship, Jewish feminism, ecology, communication, and spirituality.

Sunday September 16, 10 AM-4 PM

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Contact: Chaim
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On-line: <http://www.rijewishhealing.org>



Spiritual retreat at Brown Hillel

PROVIDENCE — Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener will be holding a spiritual retreat titled "Teshuvah: Return to Essence" at the Brown University Hillel House on Sunday, Sept. 16.

The daylong retreat, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is being co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Center for Jewish Healing and Brown University Hillel.

Rabbi Cohen-Kiener will be bringing material from her recent studies of how our personalities help or hinder the transformation process. "For members of the Greater Rhode Island Jewish Community, regardless of affiliation, learning or level of observance, she adds meaning to the High Holiday season," said Chaim Brown, Center president.

Rabbi Cohen-Kiener is the director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, a faith-based initiative in environmental theology and practice. The spiritual leader of Congregation Pnai Or of Central Connecticut, she has degrees in Hebrew literature, secondary education and pastoral counseling. She was ordained as a rabbi in July, 2000 by The Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and



Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener

lectures frequently on issues of congregational worship, Jewish feminism, ecology, communication and spirituality. A teen and family educator, she is a frequent guest at congregations and retreat centers in New England and throughout the U.S.

The registration fee for the retreat is \$45, students \$10. There will be a vegetarian lunch buffet. The Hillel House is at 80 Brown St. on the East Side of Providence.

Advance registration suggested. For registrations or information call Chaim at (401) 267-0029; email at info@rijewishhealing.org or visit <http://www.rijewishhealing.org/>.

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Education

Teaching gives her boundless joy

By Marty Cooper
mcooper@jfri.org

"I *kvell* when I see my students participate in services." Those are the words of Cranston resident Susan Sugerman, who has the unique position of teaching at three religious schools, each with their own distinctive missions. Sugerman teaches fourth grade at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDS), physical education at the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS), and is also the assistant school director at Temple Am David in Warwick, where she teaches holidays and *mitzvot*.

Armed with a degree in education from Rhode Island College, Sugerman's first teaching job was at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, where Lonna Pickler was the principal. She soon became Sugerman's mentor. "She was my hero," says Sugerman. "She taught me how to teach Jewish children and how to work with the parents."

In 1986, two years later, Sugerman was introduced to a dual curriculum-learning program as a sixth-grade teacher at the PHDS. She still maintained her position at Temple Torat Yisrael, due, in part, to her passion for teaching and being with Jewish children.

When Sugerman moved from sixth-grade teaching to becoming the physical education teacher, she found she had time to also teach fourth grade at the former Alperin Schechter Day School (now JCDS) while still teaching at Torat Yisrael.

Sugerman notes that there are signifi-



Susan Sugerman

"Where else would the kids go to get training and understanding of their religion, if not for the religious schools?"

cant differences between dual curriculum, full day schools and the two or three half-day religious schools frequently operated by temples. "The biggest differences are the amount of time and intensity of the

programs," states Sugerman. "Compared to the day schools, the religious schools only skim the surface. It would be nice to cover *halakah* more thoroughly, but there just is not enough time." She is quick to

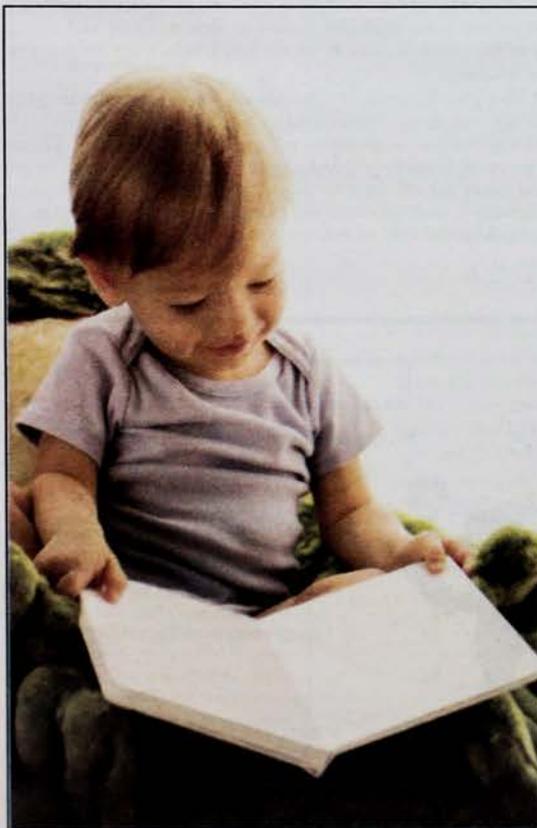
point out, however, that the services often discuss Jewish laws.

"The religious schools do provide tremendous value," says Sugerman. "Where else would the kids go to get training and understanding of their religion, if not for the religious schools? Students do learn and understand their roots and are able to participate in more of the service. While *halakah* law is weak, the students do learn Hebrew, prayer, bible studies, history, holidays, *mitzvot* and Israel."

"Dual-curriculum day school is not for everybody. The choice of one type of learning experience and school is a matter of lifestyle and the needs of the student and his/her family. Most children attend religious school to learn Hebrew so they can be ready to do their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. They also go to prepare for becoming adults and having a Jewish home life," says Sugerman.

"I want people to know that I am in a very special place," she says. "I have a unique perspective and respect for all three types of Jewish education."

Does she enjoy her work? "This morning I saw children getting on a bus to take them to a Jewish camp. There was at least one child from each school where I teach getting on the bus. Many of them came up to me to say hi. It is a nice feeling to know that you are touching people in a positive way. When I attend a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, I get goose bumps as I see the children living it. It is all about the kids. It will always be about the kids. They keep me young."



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Education

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island salutes our community's educators.

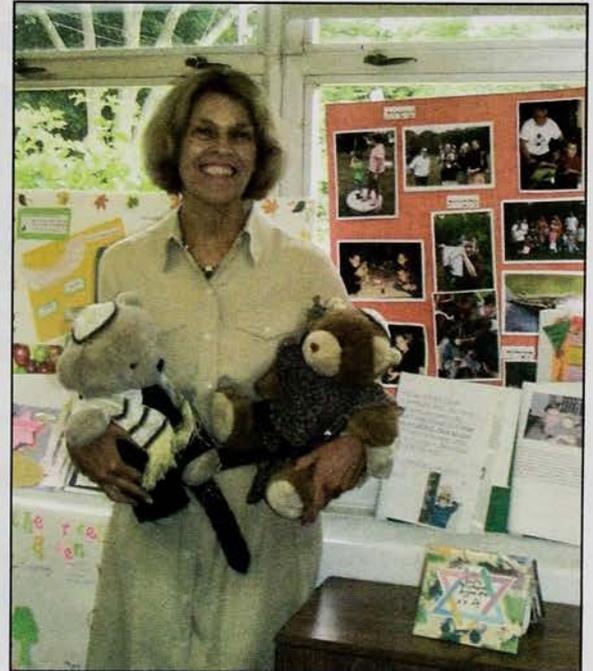
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תודה רבה



As you prepare for the New Year, we thank you for your dedication, creativity, and passion for Jewish learning.



Leonore Sones

Sones to retire from Temple Sinai after 18 years

By Nancy Kirsch

CRANSTON — Even after years of teaching, Reform Jewish educator Leonore Sones remains effusive, enthusiastic and engaged about teaching — it's clearly her passion. In a recent interview, Sones talked about how she landed at Temple Sinai and shared some of her career highlights, as she prepares to enter her last year at the temple.

"Soon after we moved to Providence, we were at a dinner party where we met Brian Messing (then Sinai's Board President). He called me the next morning to tell me of the Director of Education position. It really was *besbert* that Temple Sinai was to be my second home for the next 18 years," said Sones. "Once I became the Reform Jewish educator, we faced an enormous challenge, as the school needed BJE accreditation within 10 months. We became

See LEONORE SONES, facing page

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Education

LEONORE SONES

From preceding page

a true temple community as our clergy, education committee, board of trustees, teachers, parents and students worked together and celebrated when we were granted accreditation."

Anyone who's met the dynamic Sones knows that she didn't rest on the laurels of accreditation. Every year, she, in concert with her teachers, creates a new theme for the religious school curriculum. "That process really keeps everyone engaged and brings Judaic studies to life for our students. We are creating memories for our students to carry with them throughout their lives," she said. "When they become adults, we hope that they will share those memories with their children, just as today, their parents and grandparents share their childhood stories." This year's theme is 'Happy 60th Birthday to Israel'.

Although some teachers have been on staff for a decade or more, Sones regularly welcomes young men and women who are new to teaching, though not to Temple Sinai. These newly minted teachers had attended and graduated from Sinai's religious school and returned to teach, after their college graduations! "It's a wonderful legacy for the students to be taught by young adults who grew up in the very same synagogue," Sones said.

Inter-generational

Inter-generational involvement is essential, as children cannot learn without their families also learning, she explained. "We share everything, we work as one Jewish community, and that includes reaching out beyond Temple Sinai," she added, "to other temples, and to Israel. It means reaching out our hands to do *mitzvot*, in and out of the Jewish community." For six years, Temple Sinai, Temple Am David, Temple Torat Yisrael and South County School have participated in a "4 Schools 4 One World" program where they collectively do *mitzvot*.

Sones and others organized a Maccabiah with several other synagogues some years ago. The opportunity to involve parents, grandparents and families at Sinai and other synagogues was a great experience, she said. "When we began the day, we walked in procession, each group under its respective synagogue's banner. Each team wore a different colored t-shirt, and at day's end, members of each team marched together," she stated. "The entire day represented such powerful community — a coming together of all ages from so many synagogues from the

For six years, Temple Sinai, Temple Am David, Temple Torat Yisrael and South County School have participated in a "4 Schools 4 One World" program where they collectively do *mitzvot*.

different movements."

Families today face many more demands than they did 18 years ago, Sones said, and Temple Sinai has met the challenge by going out into the community.

Last year, multi-generational families celebrated the second day of Rosh Hashanah (which fell on a Sunday) at Camp JORI with an environmental experience of the Days of Creation. The day's events concluded with *tasbeich*. The pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, their parents and grandparents are all invited to the teachers' homes

for Sukkot.

"In my 'chai year', I am reflecting on my life at Temple Sinai. I am incredibly grateful to Rabbi George Astrachan, Cantor Remmie Brown, Rabbi Peter Stein, and to all our teachers who are my colleagues and my friends," said Sones. "We are truly one community. Each child is a blessing, each family is special and each teacher is to be honored. I am so proud to have been at Temple Sinai these past 18 years."

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

Legos from Emunah

Although her remaining time at Sinai is short, Leonore Sones is eager to complete one unfinished task. Temple Sinai's children fulfilled a request for Legos from Emunah, a residential school for orphaned and troubled children in Afula. Their collection of Legos and baby clothes weighs 225 pounds, and it is warehoused, as no one has found a reasonably priced way to get it to

Afula. "Our students even made a Lego bridge, with our flag and Lego Americans on one side and the Israeli flag and Lego Israelis on the other," Sones recalled. "We've talked to everyone we can think of, including the Israeli Embassy and folks in the Navy at Newport, and it's just too expensive." If anyone can help, please contact Leonore Sones at 401.942.8350 or leones18@yahoo.com.

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Education

Holocaust curriculum: Teaching the teachers

75 R.I. teachers attend workshop with Shoah Foundation, ADL, Yad Vashem representatives

By Jessica Perlman
perlman_jessica@yahoo.com

PROVIDENCE — Educators from across the state were invited to participate in the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island's annual teacher workshop, on Aug. 16, at the Providence Hebrew Day School. Partially endorsed by Allan Shawn Feinstein, who attended and spoke at the event, the workshop focused on Echoes and Reflections, a multimedia curriculum, which helps guide teachers through the process of Holocaust education.

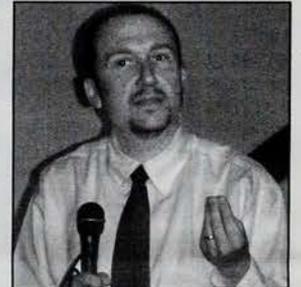
Created by the Anti-Defamation League, (an organization founded in 1913, that fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry), Yad Vashem, (founded in 1953 which focuses on Holocaust remembrance, education, documentation and research), and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute (which contains almost 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses), Echoes and Reflections focuses on four



DEBBIE KROUS, Providence school teacher, prepares for the workshop.

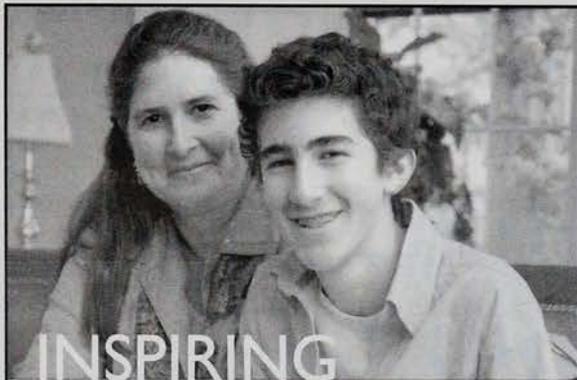
main components throughout the lessons, the first being the importance of context.

"The primary thing that we're here to talk about is how to honor the victims and teach the Shoah so that it has meaning for today's youth," explained Deborah A. Batiste, of the Anti-Defamation League. "If they don't have an understanding of anti-Semitism, they can never really understand what was going on in the hearts



CHAIM SINGER-FRANKES, discusses the devastation of the Holocaust.

See facing page



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Education

Teaching the teachers

From preceding page

and minds of these individuals.”

Batiste spoke of the other three components, explaining that it is imperative for the teachers to ensure that the Holocaust is taught as a human story, and to make sure that every individual is at the center of each structure. Finally, she touched upon critical thinking and questions.

“Echoes and Reflections is a book of questions. We’ve had people who have studied the Holocaust all their lives, and they still will admit that there’s so much more to learn.”

The curriculum allows students to think about moral dilemmas, humanity, and choices, and she feels as though the real learning will take place when students “question and grapple with the material.”

Batiste was joined by two guest speakers, Stephanie McMahon-Kaye from Yad Vashem, and Chaim Singer-Frankes of USC Shoah Foundation Institute, who incorporated the audience into the workshop, as they examined the book, pictures, and testimonies. Singer-Frankes had the educators analyze a “chilly” photograph of two young men in uniform. He asked them to shout out words that came to mind.

“War!”

“Fighting!”

“It’s essential to understand that when we look at the history of anti-Semitism that generation upon generation of Jews around Europe had choices in many cases to convert or leave. This was not about choices anymore. This was about death,” Singer-Frankes said.

“Particularly today, as more stories are coming out denying the Holocaust, I think it’s especially important to maintain the truth,” Debbie Krous, a Providence public school teacher said.

The workshop also included three concurrent sessions. Session A explained how to teach the Holocaust through art, literature and poetry. Session B focused on history and English teachers joining together and “team teaching” the fifth lesson, The “Final Solution.” Session C familiarized the teachers with activities and testimonies found in the eighth lesson, Survivors and Liberators.

Echoes and Reflections consists of 10 lessons including; studying the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, Nazi Germany, the Ghettos, the “Final Solution,” Jewish Resistance, Rescuers and Non-Jewish Resistance, Survivors and Liberators, Perpetrators,



JEWISH PARTISANS in a forest near Bialystok, Poland.

‘Particularly today, as more stories are coming out denying the Holocaust, I think it’s especially important to maintain the truth.’
— Debbie Krous, a Providence public school

Collaborators and Bystanders, and finally, The Children. Maps, glossaries, photos, time lines and DVDs are also included to assist in the learning process, which Dr. Barbara Silliman plans to take advantage of.

“I’m teaching a class about Holocaust studies at Providence College, but I’ve done it without any outside help. I wanted to see what the Educational Resource Center had to help me plan a better course, which is what I want to do. I want to make it as interesting and as informative as

possible.”

“It’s important to get the students to take this material, critically think, digest it, take it apart and work with it,” explained McMahon-Kaye. “These are people who were hungry to live and I mean that in every sense of the word.”

For more information, visit <http://www.echoesandreflections.org/>

Jessica Perlman is a freelance writer from East Providence. She can be reached at perlman_jessica@yahoo.com.



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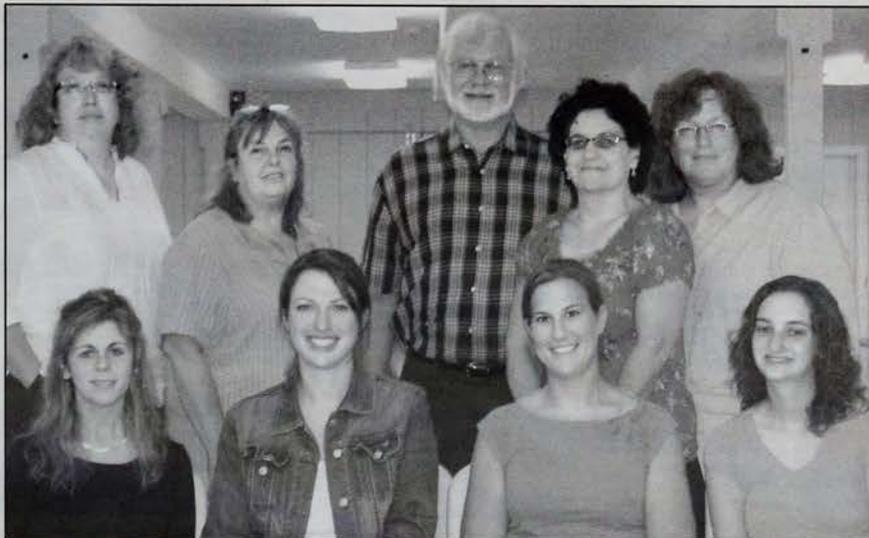
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Education

Meet the BJE team

Members of the Bureau of Jewish Education's staff are busy preparing for the coming school year. In front row (left to right): Nicole Katzman, Educational Programming Coordinator; Rachel Mersky Woda, Director of Development; Beth Brier, Israel Desk & Special Education Coordinator; and Shira Garber Strosberg, Director of Community Education.

In the back row (left to right): Claire Roche, Director of Operations; Diane Cerep, Creativity Center Coordinator; Lawrence Katz, Associate Executive Director; Diana Richardson, Administrative Assistant and Minna Ellison, Executive Director.



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BJE plans teacher workshops

PROVIDENCE — As schools reopen, teachers have opportunities to participate in workshops designed to expand their non-frontal teaching skills and meet the students through their own learning styles.

Stephanie Bernstein will present Teaching Hebrew Reading the Multi-Sensory Way! on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 7 to 9 p.m. She is an educational consultant with over 25 years of teaching experience who specializes in Hebrew reading and prayer strategies, creative teaching techniques, cooperative learning and conflict resolution. She is the winner of the Keter Torah Award for outstanding teaching, from the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater

Boston. Ms. Bernstein will show that children (and adults) can love learning to read Hebrew using the fun-filled strategies in a multi-sensory approach. Using mnemonics, visuals, games, flash cards and movement, students achieve proficiency and confidence as they successfully decode Hebrew words. Whole class and small group strategies, cooperative learning, behavior management and special education techniques will be emphasized.

Engaging All Students through Active Learning Strategies will be the topic of a workshop presented by Lawrence Katz of the, Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode

Island on Tuesday, Sept. 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. He will help teachers engage their students and allow for student-centered, rather than teacher-centered learning. Active learning is a strong motivational tool that positively impacts student learning. In this workshop, participants will acquire a new understanding of these valuable strategies, learn new tools, and practice using them with colleagues. They will learn to integrate active learning strategies into their classroom lessons.

Both workshops will be held at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions Street, Providence. Teachers may register by calling 401-331-0956 or by e-mailing dcerep@bjeri.org.

Among the other workshops available this year are presentations and classroom visits by Maxine Segal Handelman on Oct. 22 and 23, entitled What's Jewish About Butterflies? Ms. Handelman is the author of the two leading handbooks in Jewish early childhood education: Jewish Every Day and What's Jewish About Butterflies? The workshop will be open to all early childhood educators. The focus is on the daily integration of Judaism into early childhood classrooms in a natural way. This program is subsidized by a grant from the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

The Morim Program, for people relatively new to teaching in Jewish schools, is a monthly seminar that will also begin in October.

Topics include Classroom Management, Questioning Skills, and Talking About God. Anyone interested should contact the Bureau.

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Education

S. County Hebrew School offers lively youth, family programs:

'Jammin' Juniors', 'Mispacha Madness'

By Jessica Perlman

NARRAGANSETT — There's a new association in the South County area, and Jewish children grades pre-k through seventh grade will soon be reaping the rewards, as the South County Hebrew School and Congregation Beth David, have joined forces and are offering an exciting educational experience.

Located at The Center, in Narragansett, the school, with a roster of about 40 students, educates students in Hebrew, Jewish history, holidays, the bible, ethics and other aspects of Judaism.

"Its curriculum is aligned with the Conservative movement, although its text selection spans the wide variety of Jewish expression," explains Ethan Adler, school director.

The school also includes programs such as a Sukkah program, a Hanukkah song fest at a local nursing home, Tzedakah projects, Passover Seders, religious services conducted by students, as well as the Junior Congregation program, Jammin' Juniors, which meets monthly.

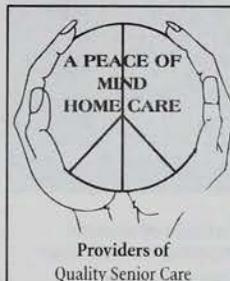
"The school is staffed with professional, experienced and dedicated teachers, and a very loyal and committed school committee drives the school to excellence," said Adler.

Featuring the "Earn as you Learn" program, students can earn credits for various activities, and receive awards at the end of the year. This year, the school is introducing "Mishpacha Madness," which are projects designed for families who can earn points by working together on projects.

For more information, please contact Ethan Adler, School Director, at (401) 946-2604, or email at eadler3@cox.net.

The South County Hebrew School is now located at 375 Kingstown Rd., at the Narragansett Rotary.

Jessica Perlman is a freelance writer. She can be reached at perlman_jessica@yahoo.com.



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URI Hillel names student coordinator

KINGSTON — The University of Rhode Island Hillel has named Lisa Friedman as its new Jewish Student Life Coordinator. Friedman will be responsible for student programming, student leadership development, engagement and publicity.

"I'm excited to work with such a close-knit community. Hillel at URI has a critical role to play in campus life. I'm looking forward to working with the students in creating fun and innovative Jewish programming," says Friedman.

"We are delighted that Lisa has chosen to join the Hillel staff. The search committee was impressed by Lisa's creativity and enthusiasm and we see her as an important addition to Jewish life both here and in the community," notes Amy Olson, URI Hillel Executive Director.

Originally from Clifton Park, N.Y., Friedman holds a bachelor of arts degree in communication & rhetoric from the State University of New York at Albany.

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Education

Midrasha enrollment opens

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PROVIDENCE — Fall 2007/5768 registration is now open for the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island. All teens in greater Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts in grades 8-12 are invited to enroll, regardless of religious affiliation or synagogue membership.

This semester, classes are offered on both Sunday mornings at Temple Emanu-El, Providence and Wednesday evenings at Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston. In addition to these classes, there are many opportunities for teens to either build or continue their connections with the Jewish community. Special programs include: the Kol Kesem Teen choir, the Philadelphia Trip, the March of the Living, community-service oriented programs and an SAT prep course with Princeton Review.

Some of the courses that will be offered this year include: Conflict Resolution: from our Jewish

Texts to Today, a look at the best ways to navigate through conflict and disagreement without giving up on our values; Biblical Israel, examining the land of Israel through the texts of the Bible; Nevermind the Goldbergs, the launch of our first book club; March of the Living, commemorating our past and celebrating our future (includes educational trip to Poland and Israel with thousands of Jewish teens), and Under Cover,

examining the history of Jews in the spy game. In addition, many favorite classes return, such as Conversational Hebrew, Talmud, Kol Kesem Teen Choir, and Israeli Dance.

For more information or to request registration materials, contact:

Shira Garber Strosberg, Director of Community Education at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (sgarber@bjeri.org; 401.331.0956, ext. 181).

PJ Library selects 1st book

PROVIDENCE — The greater Rhode Island Jewish community has joined together to create the community's PJ Library. Coordinated by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, the PJ Library (PJ as in pajamas) will provide families with a treasury of Jewish books and music.

The book *Something From Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman, which is part of the PJ Library collection, should appear in mail boxes shortly.

Conceived as a giving library, each child, six months to six years old, enrolled in the PJ Library will receive a monthly

gift of a Jewish book or CD absolutely free for the first year. Along with the gift of books and music, parents will receive resources to enhance their PJ Library experience.

After the first year, the cost of the significantly subsidized subscription will be \$18 per child per year (through age six). Register friends or relatives who live outside of greater Rhode Island, for a fee of \$60.

For more information, contact Nicole Katzman, PJ Library coordinator at 331-0956, ext. 180; or email nkatzman@bjeri.org.

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Education

Emanu-El celebrates community in programs, services, outreach

By Jessica Perlman
perlman_jessica@yahoo.com

PROVIDENCE — At Temple Emanu-El, learning, fun and family go hand in hand. Offering a wide variety of classes educating children in the Hebrew language, bible study, prayer fluency, and all other aspects of the Jewish religion, the programs are designed to accommodate to the needs of every single family.

"Not only are we a community of learning, we also stress that things begin at home, and family comes first," said Susan Rodrigues, educational director at Temple Emanu-El.

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Temple Emanu-El caters to all residents of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, and provides classes for children in kindergarten through the seventh grade. The programs incorporate hands-on activity, and the dedicated teachers are constantly finding ways to educate and engage the students in ways that remain with them their entire lives.

"We try and get the kids to see that their Bar or Bat Mitzvah isn't the end, that they'll always have this great opportunity to continue with their Jewish life and studies," Rodrigues said.

In-depth learning and comprehension are the temple's vision, as every age group focuses on dif-

ferent goals throughout the year. Kindergartners learn the Aleph-bet, while third-graders concentrate on learning Torah portions. Fourth graders may be making challah covers, while fifth-graders are taught about life cycles. In some classes, music is incorporated, while others may be bible oriented, or focus primarily on prayer. By the time students arrive at their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, they are very well prepared and comfortable in the synagogue.

Temple Emanu-El is also dedicated to helping those in need. Students are required to take part in Tzedakah projects, and last year, collected canned goods and dry food for the needy. The temple also realizes the importance of assisting senior citizens and people who aren't able to leave their homes. Every year, student and parent volunteers decorate, fill and deliver bags of goodies to them.

"We've received such beautiful notes of thankfulness. These people so appreciate when a young face comes to their door," said Rodrigues.

Temple Emanu-El presents a wide range of holiday programs, including Hanukkah parties and Passover events, among others. Students not only engage in model Seders, they can also go to individual stations which focus on various aspects of Passover, such as matzah making.

Including clergy, there are currently 17 educators at Emanu-El. The teachers take the time to focus on every student, making sure that they are comfortable with the curriculum. Israeli emissaries also take part in the education process.

"The Israeli emissaries have been put into leadership roles and bring Israel into the programs in a fresh way," explained Rodrigues.

There is also a special-needs program, which provides children with all classifications of learning differences a religious education. According to Rodrigues, the teachers always want to include, help and educate all students.

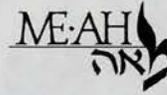
"Everyone should have a Jewish education," she said.

Rodrigues has been the educational director for the last seven years. A member of the Jewish Educators Association, (JEA), she continues to find much joy in her work.

"Temple Emanu-El is wonderful, there's just something for everyone here. We really are a conservative synagogue that's anything but."

For more information, visit www.info@teprov.org.

Jessica Perlman is a freelance writer from East Providence. She can be reached at perlman_jessica@yahoo.com.



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URI Hillel plans welcome events

KINGSTON — Hillel at the University of Rhode Island is starting the new school year with several events designed to welcome new students and welcome back returning students. Sophomore Becca Eith of Marlton, New Jersey is chair of "FYSH": First Year Students of Hillel. Among the activities that are planned during the first week of classes are an opening barbecue on the first day of school, Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. at Hillel, 12 Fraternity Circle; the first Shabbat service and dinner of the school year on Friday, Sept. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at Hillel; and a beach bagel brunch on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 12:30 p.m. Student will gather at Hillel at 12:30 p.m. and travel to Scarborough Beach for food and fun.

To sign up to receive Hillel's weekly email newsletter, "News for Jews (and all others too!)", email Hillel at Hillel@uri.edu. Visit Hillel's website at www.urihillel.org.

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Education

Miriam program sparks career path for Afula native

By Jessica Perlman
perlman_jessica@yahoo.com

PROVIDENCE — Afula native Barry Cohen's medical prescription from Miriam Hospital was: take two summers and call me when you graduate. Under the guidance of The Miriam Hospital and Lifespan, and after two summers of hard work, life long lessons, and an insatiable appetite to learn, Cohen, 17, has discovered what most young adults his age only dream about - his ideal career path.

"This year I'm working in the pharmacy. I've always been really interested in medicine and chemistry. I like to learn how it all interacts with the body."

Cohen had never given any serious thought to employment before, two years ago, he found himself picking up a flier in the library. While reading it, he learned that Miriam Hospital was offering a Lifespan summer program allowing all youth 16-19, living in the Mount Hope area, the opportunity to apply for a summer job at the hospital. After applying and interviewing for the program, Cohen was hired.

'You're learning about the department that you're working for as well as the work ethics...'

— Barry Cohen, 17



Photo by Jessica Perlman

BARRY COHEN and youth program coordinator, Alexis Devine

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"It's a really good experience from a work perspective," Cohen explained. "You're learning about the department that you're working for as well as the work ethics that you can use anywhere in life. And, it pays well," he added.

Piloted at the Miriam Hospital back in the summer of 2004, the program was designed to present the youth with important job opportunities at the hospital that they may not have been aware of. There are various careers in the program pertaining to supporting the medical community, direct patient care, and computer technology. The youth can choose from career options such as dietary, speech language, respiratory care practitioner, cardiac technician, radiological technologist, administrative medical assistant, and health information specialist, among many others.

Cohen, going into his senior year at Classical High School, was born in Afula. His family moved to Providence when he was two years old, and he's not the only one at home praising the program.

"My mom loves it, and my dad likes the fact that I get to have so many opportunities," he said.

"When the program first started, six youth were hired. It began as a needs assessment that was done in the Mount Hope community where the top three needs were identified; access to affordable housing, access to health care, and access to youth opportunities," explained Alexis Devine, youth project coordinator. "I was asked to design a program that was more comprehensive than just employment."

Joining together with Lifespan affiliates across the state, the program, which currently employs 90 youth, begins with a variety of important training sessions, including the standards and expectations of the hospital, career development, interview skills, culture competency, and choice-making skills, which were designed by training consultant and coordinator, Jeni Mowry.

"There are three main objectives of the program including, work-place readiness skills, job experience, and to increase and improve the belief that the youth can be qualified candidates for employment."

"We measure the program for effectiveness and it has been a great success," said Devine. Cohen graduated from the program on Aug. 17, and Devine feels as though he is well prepared.

"Barry started strong and he continues to grow in that respect. He's always been committed to the work and he's always demonstrated the highest quality that we look for in an employee."

Currently, there are nine youth who have graduated from the program and are working for Miriam, and Cohen wouldn't mind being included on that list.

"There are just so many things about this field that interest me," he said. "I love working at Miriam, and it's been a really great experience."

For more information go to <http://www.lifespan.org/services/hel/ste/>.

Jessica Perlman is a freelance writer from East Providence. She can be reached at perlman_jessica@yahoo.com.

Education

Everyone's a student, a teacher at Agudas Achim

A new model of celebrating Shabbat and study

By Nancy Kirsch

ATTLEBORO — Rabbi Elyse Wechterman's excitement and enthusiasm was palpable, even in a phone conversation, about the new education and Shabbat activities happening at Agudas Achim. The synagogue is using grant money from the Legacy Heritage Foundation, a New York-based Jewish philanthropic organization, to expand its programming to engage the entire congregation, explained Rabbi Wechterman. "Although we still have Hebrew School on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays, we are developing new and innovative opportunities for congregational learning during Shabbat," she said. "This is a way to bring together the different communities within the congregation — from the Social Action Committee and the Religious School students to the families with very young children and the single adults. As we're all part of one congregation, it's so much more meaningful to learn together."



HAVDALAH at the retreat.



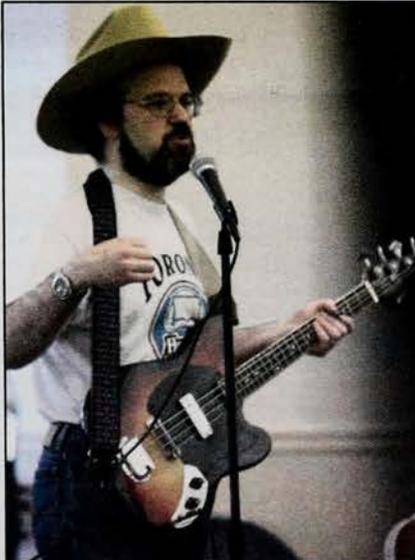
Photos courtesy of Congregation Agudas Achim
VOLLEYBALL at the retreat

\$30,000 grant

Last year, a \$30,000 grant enabled Agudas Achim to launch a monthly Shabbat B'yachad for congregants of all ages to engage in a full celebration of Shabbat learning. Before the traditional morning service, the synagogue offers eight or so electives at 9 a.m. that range from Torah study, Jewish genealogy, chess, yoga and nature walks. Open to the entire community, these electives typically draw 80 to 90 people to the synagogue, Rabbi Wechterman said. Some of the programs are geared to adults, others to children and still others involve a mixed age group. From 10 to 11 a.m., three different services are held simultaneously. Then, from 11 a.m. to noon, everyone gathers in the main sanctuary for a community Torah service that involves inter-generational learning and study. The day's events conclude with a community potluck lunch and a songfest or Israeli dancing. "It's so exciting that our Shabbat morning electives are taught by congregants," Rabbi Wechterman said. "Our mission statement says that all of our members are learners and all our learners are teachers."

Prayer, study, community

"I believe that synagogues should fulfill three primary functions as *bet tefila* (house of prayer), *bet midrash* (house of study), and *bet kneset* (house of community)," said Rabbi Wechterman. "With our Shabbat B'yachad, we are able to combine worship and study and gathering for social pleasure



TALENT ABOUNDS at the retreat talent show.



RABBI WECHTERMAN with her seventh-grade graduates at the congregation's annual Hagigah in June.

throughout the day."

Clergy, staff and congregants celebrated a year-end weekend retreat in New Hampshire. Some 80 congregants came to the retreat that included Friday night services, Havdalah services on Saturday evening, a talent show and a keynote speaker.

"Although we always had an innovative religious school program, it was very separate from the rest of the congregational life," said Kim Bodemer, Education Director. "Shabbat B'yachad has really created a buzz in the community, and congregants talk about what electives they're selecting or what they learned last month, for example. Last year,

we'd have 15 or 20 people attend a regular Shabbat Torah service, and we'd draw in 80 or so people on a typical Shabbat B'yachad Saturday."

Agudas Achim was one of only five synagogues in the country that received a second round of grant money; this year's \$26,000 will pay for more new programming. "In addition to our Shabbaton B'yachad, we're creating a new opportunity for *bet midrash*, *bet tfilah* and *bet kneset* in another bi-monthly Shabbat service," Rabbi Wechterman said. "We'll have a 5:30 tot Shabbat family service, followed by a catered dinner and our regular evening service at 7:30 with a guest speaker. This

way, everyone comes together for dinner and conversation." Other Friday nights, the synagogue will offer Shabbaton B'yachad at people's homes. Trained Shabbat guides will teach Shabbat rituals for congregants in their homes, and will provide them guides and materials such as a Shabbat box.

Workshops, festivals

Rabbi Wechterman is excited about the four festival workshops that the synagogue will offer this year to congregants and others. The first, a Sukkot Festival, will be held on Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the synagogue. Structured like a fair, the festival will have different booths so people can wander through the

offerings, she explained. "At the Sukkah booth, people can learn how to build a Sukkah with plans and instructions; children can eat an edible Sukkah; we'll have a booth for people to buy lulavs and etrogs and learn the rituals for their use; and a booth where a farmers' market will sell fresh, locally-grown foods," said Rabbi Wechterman. "And, of course, no Jewish celebration is complete without eating, singing and Israeli dancing." Other festivals are planned for Hanukkah, Purim and Shavuot.

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

Food

Fruits and vegetables change break-fast routine

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Yom Kippur fast is over. You rush to a dining table laden with bagels, lox and cream cheese, plus herring with sour cream and onions, sable, noodle pudding and challah. Brewing coffee wafts

throughout the house. Apple strudel and a platter of rugelach sit on the sideboard. Everything smells exquisite.

After 25 hours of fasting, who can blame you for being ravenous?

After the blessings are

recited over the candles, wine and bread, you fill your plate. In the frenzy you don't realize that you're eating only sugar, flour, high-fat dairy products and salty fish. It's not until later that you consider the consequences, when your stomach bloats and everyone at the table joins you in the same cry: "I ate too much!"

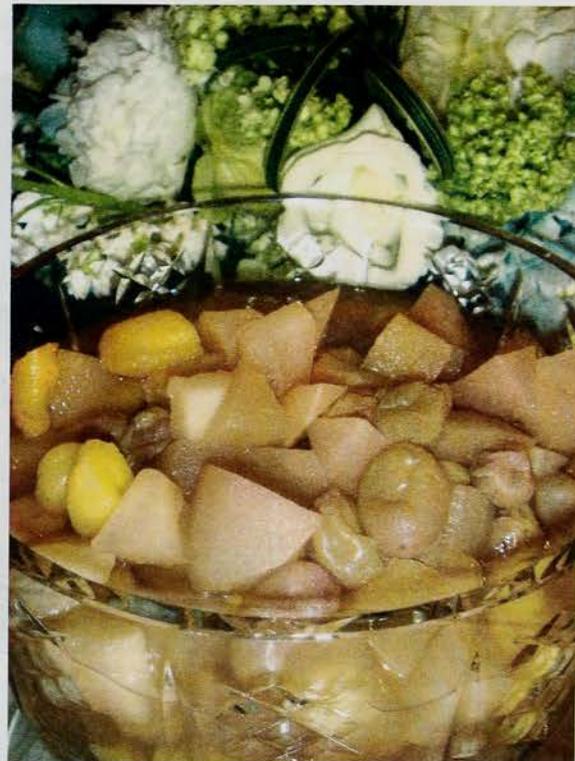
You'll never do this again, you promise. But with Yom Kippur approaching, will you keep your word?

While the traditional break-fast menu consists of Jewish comfort food, something we all crave after a day of repentance and fasting, it's a menu rife with fare that triggers overeating: salt, sweets and rich fats.

Salty fish is traditional on break-fast menus because the abundant salt in cured and smoked fish replenishes this essential mineral that has been lost during the fast. A tiny portion of lox, chubs, herring or sable goes a long way — the rest is overkill.

In the Old Country, kugels were savory and unadorned by custard and caramelized toppings. But in America, where sugar rules, they became sweet enough to qualify as dessert, although they never lost their side-dish status. With a natural affinity for cream cheese, many Jews enjoy smearing thick slabs on bagels, turning a simple sandwich into a high-calorie affair.

Between the noodles, bagels, challah and array of desserts, most of us consume enough carbohydrates in this one meal to last a week or even two. That's not to mention the fats we ingest. Overeating often leads to tight



AUTUMN FRUIT COMPOTE: A refreshing end to the break-fast meal.

waistbands and discomfort.

It would be wonderful to have some delicious alternatives on the break-fast table that could interrupt the impulse to gorge on enticing fare — alternatives that would be colorful, tasty and nutritious.

At the end of September, when Yom Kippur falls this year, farmer's markets are flooded with a bumper crop of produce: tomatoes, carrots, zucchinis, parsnips, apples, plums and grapes. For

those hosting a break-fast meal, why not make use of this vibrant cornucopia when planning your menu?

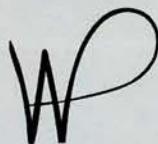
For those invited as a guest, volunteer to bring a healthy side dish or fruit-filled dessert.

Gravitate toward recipes such as the ones that follow, which not only are nourishing but compatible with bagels and lox. These recipes circumvent sugar, flour, fat and appreciable amounts of

See BREAK-FAST, page 30

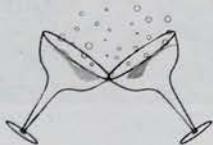
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Under the supervision of Rabbi Wayne Franklin

Kosher wines come of age

By Marylyn Graff
mgraaff@jfri.org

Kosher wines have been transformed. Until recently there wasn't much choice — if you wanted a kosher wine, it was sweet or "semi-dry," made mostly from Concord grapes. The ubiquitous Concord grape has had to move over as winemakers in Israel, France, Italy, California and the wine-growing areas south of the equator have begun producing kosher dry wines, both red and white, to complement foods.

Many of these wines are varietals, that is, named for the grape from which they are made, such as Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir.

There are also blends, that is, wines made from several grape varieties, usually noted on the label by the percentage of each grape in the blend. As famous a wine grower as Baron Edmond de Rothschild has become much involved with kosher wines, and raising the standards to compete with non-kosher wines.

Kashrut for wines is as strict

as kashrut for foods. All equipment used in growing, harvesting and winemaking must adhere to rules such as a requirement that all equipment must be used for this purpose only, and handled only by observant Jews. No animal products may be used, (as sometimes egg whites or gelatin are used in filtration.) A process called *Mesheval*, meaning pasteurized, is sometimes employed as a preservative, having been modified so as not to affect quality. In Israel kosher winemaking must also observe additional laws from the Torah regarding care of the vines and the soil as well as cleanliness. Wine is mentioned often in the bible, and it wasn't made from Concord grapes as they are native to America.

Frank Carpano, cellar master at Seekonk Wine and Liquors, commented that the kosher wines are improving year by year and are certainly well worth trying. Some brands to look for are Abarbanel, Baron Herzog, and Gamla.

When wine is used in cooking the alcohol is boiled off and the complex flavors remain to

enliven the dish.

Red Wine Brisket

This is good made the day before or in the morning, and cooled, as the flavor will improve and the meat will slice better. Slice and reheat in the gravy to serve.

A three-to four lb. flat-cut brisket, well-trimmed.

1 lb. onions, peeled and sliced

3 or 4 cloves garlic, crushed and chopped

1 bay leaf

2 Tblsps. tomato paste

2 cups dry red wine such as cabernet sauvignon or merlot or 1 cup of wine and 1 cup of beef broth

Enough vegetable oil to coat a roasting pan to about 1/8 inch

3 lbs. medium boiling potatoes, peeled

3 lbs. carrots, regular size, peeled.

Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oil in a large roasting pan. Brown sliced onions adding garlic when almost done, and remove to a bowl. Brown meat well

on both sides. Add onions back to pan, with some on top of meat. Put in bay leaf, mix tomato paste with liquid and pour over meat. Bring just to a simmer. Cover pan tightly and place in 300 oven for about two hours. Add more wine or beef broth if needed. Put potatoes and carrots around meat and put back into oven for a couple of hours more or until meat is tender when pierced with a fork. Remove bay leaf. Slice meat across the grain and arrange on a platter. Put carrots and potatoes in serving bowls with some of the onions. Serve the gravy with the rest of the onions. If gravy is too thin, reduce it on top of the stove.

Coq au vin blanc

You will need a large frying pan and a large oblong baking dish (or two.)

Two 3 to 4 lb. chickens cut into 8 pieces each.

2 lbs. white boiling onions, peeled, or 2 bags of frozen baby onions

2 lbs. baby carrots or regular carrots into 2 inch pieces, peeled

1 lb. brown or white button

mushrooms, cleaned

1 cup dry white wine such as fruity chardonnay

1 tsp. dried thyme or 1 Tblsp. fresh thyme leaves

1-2 tsps. dried basil

1 tsp. tarragon

1 tsp. sage

1 Tblsp. parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

(Note: if using fresh herbs, use a Tblsp. for each tsp. of dried and chop fine.)

Put about 1/8 to 1/4 inch of oil in frying pan. Brown chicken pieces on both sides without crowding, (dark meat first) and remove to baking dish, skin side up. Sprinkle with herbs, put carrots and onions over and around chicken pieces.

Pour excess fat out of frying pan and add wine and broth. Stir to remove brown bits from bottom. Pour over chicken and vegetables in baking dish. Bake at 350 about 30 minutes

Add mushrooms to pan and return to oven. Bake another 10 or 15 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.

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CAULIFLOWER SALAD with carrots, cucumber and olives.

salt. They can be prepared one to three days in advance, making life easier for hosts when fulfilling the edict against working on the Day of Atonement.

Vegetable soup
Soothing Vegetable Soup is a light appetizer that sets the tone for the rest of the meal. It's brimming with simmered vegetables, which are kind to empty stomachs. A nourishing broth also takes the edge off ferocious appetites. It's wise to consume fluids after fasting, so soup is doubly healthy.

Heirloom tomato

Heirloom Tomato and Roasted Onion Salad is succulent and refreshing. With a high water content, tomatoes quench thirst and abound in Vitamin C. Roasted onions are less likely to cause heartburn than the raw onions often paired with smoked fish.

Suddenly trendy, Heirloom Tomatoes come from seed varieties that usually pre-date World War II, when hybrid seeds, producing less tasty crops, became common. Varying from red-

orange to green, yellow and even purple, these gorgeous tomatoes come in many sizes and shapes.

Full of dietary fiber, cauliflower is a surprising base for a salad. With its wholesome crunch, Cauliflower Salad exudes visual appeal in a rainbow of contrasting colors.

Fruit compote

For those seeking a fat-free dessert, Autumn Fruit Compote is a medley of dried apricots and fresh seasonal fruit that has been simmered in an elixir of jasmine tea. Far perkier than stewed prunes, this elegant compote compliments any pastry.

With the Day of Atonement falling on Shabbat this year, Yom Kippur will be more solemn than usual. As you leave synagogue after a day of prayer and contemplation, you will seek a peaceful meal among family and friends. You don't want hunger to lead to gluttony, one of the sins for which you've just asked forgiveness during services.

Augmenting bagels, lox and kugels, seasonal produce is tempting but unlikely to lead to excess. When was the last time you heard of anyone binging on salads and compotes?

More than Jewish comfort food, an array of vegetables and fruit is in keeping with the spirit of this sacred holiday.

The following recipes are by Linda Morel.

Soothing vegetable soup

- Ingredients:**
- 12 cups or two 48-ounce cans of vegetable broth
 - 1 13.75-ounce can artichoke hearts, drained

See facing page

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Food

VEGETABLE SOUP

From preceding page

1/2 pound string beans, rinsed and cut into 1-inch long pieces

1 large zucchini, cleaned well

1 parsnip, peeled

5 carrots, peeled

5 celery stalks, peeled

2 leeks

1/4 cup dill fronds, chopped

1/4 cup flat parsley leaves, chopped

Salt to taste (canned broth often contains sodium, so use salt sparingly)

1/8 teaspoon white pepper

Preparation:

Place vegetable broth in a large stock pot.

Pull off artichoke leaves by hand. Cut out fuzzy center of heart and discard. Cut heart into 4 to 6 pieces.

Cut zucchini, parsnip, carrots, and celery into a large dice.

From leeks, remove coarse outer leaves. Cut off dark green ends. Discard both. Cut leeks in half lengthwise. Rinse under running water, until all dirt is removed. Cut into 1/2-inch slices.

Into stockpot, place all ingredients and simmer for 30 minutes, until vegetables soften and wilt. Check seasoning and adjust.

Serve immediately or cool to room temperature, cover, and refrigerate for up to 3 days before serving. Recipe freezes well. Reheat before serving. Yield: 12

servings.

Heirloom tomato and roasted onion salad

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons butter

4 large onions (about 1 pound each)

Kosher salt to taste

1/2 cup olive oil, or more if needed during roasting

4 pounds heirloom tomatoes or any good slicing tomato, cleaned and cored

1/8 cup red wine vinegar

1/4 cup olive oil for drizzling

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Coat two 10-by-15-inch oven-proof pans with butter.

Peel skin from onion. With a sharp knife, cut into thin slices, about 1/8-inch thick. Evenly cut slices brown at the same rate.

Gently separate the rings of each slice into circles. Place onion circles in prepared pans. Sprinkle with salt and drizzle with 1/2 cup of olive oil (1/4 cup per pan). With a wooden or plastic spoon, gently stir onions to coat them.

Turn circles every 15 minutes, so they don't burn. Add more oil, if needed. Roast for 90 minutes, or until circles brown. They will shrink significantly. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. Recipe can be prepared to this point 3 days in advance. Store in a covered container and refrigerate until ready to use.

Right before serving, slice tomatoes and place on an attractive platter. Drizzle with vinegar and 1/4 cup olive oil. Sprinkle with kosher salt to taste. Blanket roasted onions on top of toma-

toes. Yield: 10-12 servings.

Cauliflower salad

Ingredients:

1 large cauliflower, rinsed

2 carrots

1 cucumber, seeded and diced

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 cup olive oil

1/8 cup red wine vinegar

1/4 cup dill fronds, minced

1/2 cup pitted Kalamata olives, or any pitted black olive

1 small red onion, peeled, thinly sliced, and separated into rings

Preparation:

Break florets into bite-sized pieces and place in a large mixing bowl.

Scrape carrots and rinse. Wash the scraper, and scrape clean carrots over mixing bowl, making dozens of string-like strips. Continue scraping until only a thin, flexible piece of carrot remains, which you can eat or discard.

Place remaining ingredients in bowl and toss until well incorporated. Add more oil and vinegar, if salad is too dry.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Wait at least one day before serving. Can be made 2 days in advance. Yield: 12 servings.

Autumn fruit compote

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups water

2 jasmine teabags

2 teaspoons honey

3 firm apples, such as Cortland, Rome, or Gala

3 firm pears, such as Comice,

Forelle, or D'Anjou

1 cinnamon stick

1 1/2-inch length knob of fresh ginger, peeled and diced

3 pieces of clove

20 dried apricots, cut in half

3/4 pound seedless red grapes, rinsed (red grapes add richer color than green)

Preparation:

Pour water into a medium-sized pot. Add tea bags and honey. Boil for 3 minutes. Turn off flame. Remove and discard tea bags with a slotted spoon; don't squeeze them. Let tea cool while cutting fruit.

Peel and cut apples and pears into 3/4-inch dice.

To tea in pot, add apples, pears, cinnamon, ginger and cloves. Cover pot and return to a boil for 10 minutes.

With a slotted spoon, add grapes and apricots, being careful not to burn your hand. Cover pot and wait for compote to cool to room temperature.

Discard cinnamon stick, ginger and cloves. Place compote into an attractive bowl, preferably crystal. Can be served immediately or covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated for up to 3 days. Serve cold or at room temperature.

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Jewish Parenting

Being an A+ parent

By Sharon Duke Estroff

Chances are that in the coming months our children's teachers will spend as much time with our kids as we will. They are truly our parenting partners and our first line of defense in ensuring our grade-schoolers' academic success and overall scholastic well-being. It's critical, therefore, that we work to build formidable relationships with them. The following insider's dos and don'ts (drawn from my own experiences as an educator and discussion with professional colleagues nationwide) will help ensure your newest parent-teacher partnerships get off to a healthy start and remain on course until the last bell rings.

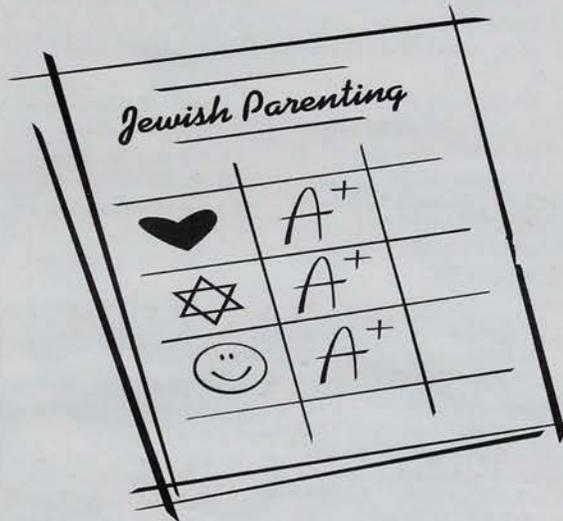
• Do lay the groundwork for open, amicable communication by telling the teacher you are excited that your child is in her class and you are looking forward

to a successful year of working together.

• Don't kick off the season with a boastful or heavy-handed tone ("Noah read three Harry Potter books this summer, clearly he will need reading enrichment"). Instead, sit tight and show your trust in the teacher to accurately assess your child's needs.

• Do volunteer to help out in the classroom - or make copies, laminate and do other really boring teacher tasks - whenever your schedule permits. (If it's difficult for you to get to school during working hours, offer to make phone calls, cut materials, etc. from home.)

• Don't hit up the teacher at open house or school assemblies with personal questions about your child ("How's my little Rachel doing in math?"). Not only do such requests put him in an uncomfortable position, he's



got way too much going on to give you a thoughtful answer.

• Do make sure your son

or daughter is prepared for school each day with homework and other necessary materials.

• Don't call the teacher at home unless it's a life-or-death emergency. (There's no faster way to the teacher's doghouse than calling her in the middle of a family dinner to discuss your kid's grade on the latest math test.) If you want to talk with her, e-mail or phone in a message at school requesting a time to chat.

• Do accept that even if a teacher's style is different from your own (or that of a beloved teacher from the previous year) your child can still thrive and learn in his classroom.

• Don't undermine the teacher's instructional process by teaching your child the "real" way to do long division (and the like) at home.

• Do send the teacher occasional cheerful notes telling her how much you appreciate her, using specifics if possible ("Sam really enjoyed making slime during science yesterday.") Double the brownie points if you CC the compliment to the principal.



Sharon Estroff

• Don't ask the teacher to go light-years beyond the call of duty (e.g., requesting a daily page-long written narrative about your child's performance and behavior).

• Do be receptive and open-minded should the teacher address difficulties he is observing in your child.

• Don't go above the teacher's head (i.e., to the principal) with classroom concerns before addressing them with her.

• Do stay on top of what's going on in the class and important upcoming events by reading the teacher's curriculum letters or website postings.

• Don't hesitate to clue in the teacher to any issues at home that may affect your child's mood or functioning at school.

• Do be understanding of the difficult job a teacher faces — balancing the academic, social, emotional well-being of a roomful of students, and keeping their parents happy to boot!

Sharon Duke Estroff is an internationally syndicated Jewish parenting columnist, award-winning Jewish educator and mother of four. Her Jewish parenting book will be released by Broadway Books on Oct. 9th. www.sharonestroff.com.

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PEJE to award \$1M in school grants

The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education will award grants to 33 day schools totaling \$1 million, the organization announced Tuesday.

Recipients of the organization's 2007-2008 Challenge Grants will receive between \$16,000 and \$95,000 each to help with various stages of development.

The recipients include elementary, middle and high schools.

"The Challenge Grant program is a major PEJE initiative to help Jewish day schools increase enrollment through vital assessment and coaching to attain the highest standards of academic excellence for Jewish and general studies," PEJE's executive director, Rabbi Josh Elkin, said. "Since the grants program began ten years ago, we have seen significant growth in enrollment which is a tremendous accomplishment for the day school movement and the families it serves."

Community



Cemetery board installs officers

WARWICK — The Chased Schel Amess Association, operators of Lincoln Park Cemetery here, recently held its annual meeting in the Samuel Priest Chapel at the cemetery (on Post Rd.) and installed these officers and board members for 2007-2008:

Seated, from left: Susan Vederman, financial secretary;

Ross Feinberg, treasurer; Sanford Reich, president, and Edvard Fink, first vice president.

Second row, from left: Norman Elman, Remmie Brown and Arthur Poulten, directors; Sidney Kramer and Philip Greenberg, delegates; Joel Gerstenblatt, immediate past president, Michael Weiner, Steven

Sholes, Charles Ziegler and Murray Gereboff, directors.

Third row, from left: David Brandt and Ralph Rottenberg, directors; Judah Rosen delegate; Barry Schiff, Sam Mendelowitz, Gerald Sherman, Sidney Goldman, Rodney Locke, Harry Katzman, Barry Rose and Sanford Gorodetsky, directors.

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Obituaries

Paula Golden, 59

PROVIDENCE — Paula Golden, 59, of Providence and Narragansett, died July 21. She was the wife of David Golden and mother of Joshua A. Golden of Boston.

A lifelong resident of Rhode Island, she was the daughter of the late Karl and Beverly Foss and Irene Foss. She graduated from Boston University and was the owner of Primrose Lane. She was a member of Temple Beth-El, Ledgemont Country Club and the Handicraft Club.

Besides her husband and son, she is survived by her brother, Edward Foss and his wife Marjorie of Swansea; a sister, Beth Wolfe of Chevy Chase, MD, and sister-in-law Carol Baker of Providence, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Contributions may be made in Paula's memory to Temple Beth-El, c/o The Paula Golden Memorial Fund.

Dr. Milton Levin, 87

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Milton Levin, 87, died Aug. 13. He was the husband of Rose

(Fraden) Levin for 61 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Sarah (Dimond) Levin, he was a lifelong resident of the city.

Dr. Levin was a graduate of Providence College and of Tufts University Dental School, class of 1942. He had been a practicing dentist since 1945.

 He was a captain in the U. S. Army Dental Corps during World War II.

He served on the R.I. Board of Dental Examiners for over 25 years, and was a member of the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners for 35 years.

Dr. Levin was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Dr. William Levin of Providence; Dr. Larry Levin of Lincoln; a daughter, Joan Levin Lohrfink of Armonk, N.Y.; a brother, Dr. Henry Levin of Lincoln; a sister, Molly Garber of Cranston; and seven grandchildren, Joshua, Sarah, Stephanie, Laura, Andrew, Daniel and Alex.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

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

Samuel Primack, 91

PROVIDENCE — Samuel Primack died Aug. 7. He was the husband of Charlotte (Rakatsky) Primack. Born in Providence, a son of the late Max and Sara (Medder) Primack, he had lived in Cranston for 44 years before moving back to Providence five years ago.

Mr. Primack was manufacturers' representative for several men's wear companies for over 45 years, retiring in 1980.

 He was World War II Navy veteran serving with the Seabees in the Pacific Theater.

He was a past member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its men's club and a past president of the Temple Emanu El Leisure Club. He was a member of B'nai Brith, Jewish War Veterans, World Jewish Congress and the Jewish Theological Seminary.

He was an avid reader and traveler, loved music, and was known as a scholar, philosopher and political thinker.

He leaves a son, Mark Primack and two daughters, Sara Friedlander and Ellen Primack, all of Santa Cruz, Calif.; and three grandchildren, Eva, Sasha and Luka. He was the brother of the late David and Bernard Primack.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Leisure Club, c/o Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Lori Salzberg, 50

WARWICK — Lori E. Salzberg, 50, died Aug. 11. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Abraham and Arlene (Miller) Salzberg, she had lived in Cranston for many years.

Ms. Salzberg was a manager at Showcase Cinemas, Warwick Mall.

She leaves many close relatives and cousins.

Burial was in Sinai Memo-

rial Park, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Leon Stone, 86

PROVIDENCE — Leon Stone, 86, died Aug. 5. He was the husband of the late Selma (Blazer) Stone. Born in Providence, a son of the late Joseph and Gertrude (Silverman) Stone, he had lived in Cranston for 45 years before returning to Providence in 2006.

He was a pharmacist's mate in the U. S. Coast Guard serving in the Philippines during World War II.

 Mr. Stone was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Brotherhood, of Touro Fraternal Association and of Jewish War Veterans. He worked as a volunteer cameraman for Cox Cable for its senior citizen programming.

He leaves a son, Mark Stone of Jaffrey, N.H.; a daughter, Joanne Stone-Libon of Marblehead, Mass.; a brother, Irwin Stone of Fla.; a sister, Selma Stone of Providence, and five grandchildren; Gregory, Alexandra, Sarah, Adam and Emily.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Capic Head Start Children's Fund, 67 Crescent Ave., Chelsea, MA 02150.

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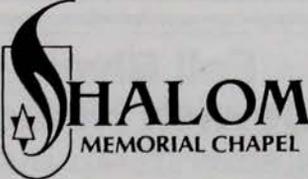
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Community

Touro Fraternal awards scholarships

CRANSTON — Three college students, a freshman, a sophomore and a junior, have been selected to receive this year's annual \$3,000 Touro Fraternal Association scholarship grants, and another eight students will receive interest-free loans of \$2500 each.

Touro Fraternal Association, with headquarters here since 1981, has offered student financial aid to members and their children. Originally, the loans were interest-free, and in recent years, the program was expanded to include outright grants.

This year's grant recipients, Melanie Davis of East Greenwich, Dena White of Providence and Melissa Weiss of Warwick, as well as the eight loan recipients, were chosen by the Association's Student Financial Aid committee headed by Alan Lury. Overall there were 18 applicants for the available awards.

Davis, a graduate of East Greenwich High School, will be a freshman at Keene State College in New Hampshire. She lists her major as psychology/biology. She is described as a "fiercely determined young woman who is ready to meet the challenges of collegiate life." Her father, Jeffrey Davis, is a Touro member.

Sophomore, Dena White, daughter of Touro member Steven White, was a cum laude graduate of Classical High School in Providence and is now a student at Northeastern University in Boston. Despite doing very well in her freshman year, she chose to change her major from French to international business.



RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S TOURO FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION \$3,000 scholarship grants are, from left, Melanie Davis of East Greenwich; Dena White of Providence and Melissa Weiss of Warwick.

"She has an enthusiasm and a level of commitment well beyond her age, and she is mature and dedicated," say her supporters.

Senior, Melissa Weiss, is the daughter of Touro member David Weiss of Warwick. A communications and media studies major at Goucher College in Baltimore, she's been described as "a model of discipline, consistency and maturity — perhaps a bit rare among many undergraduates." Aside from her education, she has devoted many hours to develop and implement community and school-wide programs in her field.

Since the Leo Greenberg Memorial Student Loan Program was introduced in 1981, children of Touro members have received loans totaling a quarter of a million dollars. And none have been defaulted!

Regular Touro members, their spouses and children, and children of deceased Touro members that are enrolled full time for the 2007-2008 academic year in an accredited institution of higher learning, are eligible for the grants, and enrolled may apply for the interest-free loans, repayment of which does not begin until the student is graduated from or leaves school.

Congregation Beth Sholom to welcome Rabbi Oser

PROVIDENCE — Congregation Beth Sholom will welcome Rabbi Asher Oser as its new spiritual leader beginning Shabbat, Sept. 1. Rabbi Oser, his wife Rachel, and their children, Mordechai (4) and Aryeh (3), will be moving from Norwich, Connecticut, where Rabbi Oser was rabbi of Congregation Brothers of Joseph. Rabbi Oser received his ordination from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he held a Wexner Graduate Fellowship from 2003 to 2007. He received his bachelors' degree in classical Hebrew and philosophy from the University of Sydney, Australia, and a master's degree in Jewish Studies from McGill University, Canada. He is currently working on a doctorate in American

Jewish History at Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies in New York.

All are welcome to a gala kiddush in honor of Rabbi Oser and

his family on Sept. 1 following services. Congregation Beth Sholom is a Modern Orthodox synagogue located at 275 Camp Street in Providence. Services will begin at 9 a.m.

Agudas Achim to hold Sukkot fest

ATTLEBORO — Congregation Agudas Achim will host a pre-holiday festival for all ages called Celebrate Sukkot! Judaism's Festival of Thanksgiving, on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the synagogue, 901 North Main St., Attleboro. The festival will allow participants to learn about the rituals of Sukkot — the harvest holiday.

Activities will include touring model Sukkot and gathering building plans, creating edible Sukkot, making Sukkah decorations, tasting festival recipes, and learning traditional Israeli folk dances and how Sukkot is celebrated in Israel. There will also be a display about the constellations that will be visible during the Sukkot holiday.

For more information, contact the synagogue at 508-222-2243 or on-line at www.agudasma.org.

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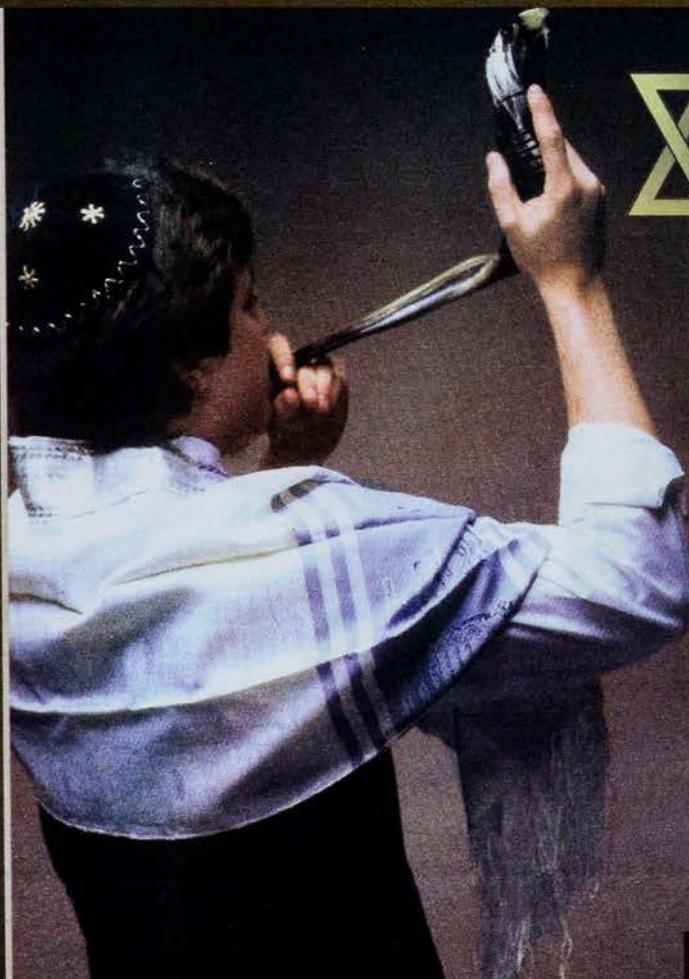
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