

## Food

# In Russia, a java joust with Starbucks

By Igor Serebryany

MOSCOW (JTA) — Jewish businessman Ilya Yakubson figures he can cream Starbucks or any of the coffee ventures springing up in Russia.

Yakubson, who ran 113 discount stores and casinos before quitting unexpectedly and selling out to his partners, opened his first Santa Bean this summer in his native Oryol.

Situated in a downtown pedestrian mall on a site formerly occupied by one of Yakubson's gambling halls, it was the central Russian city's first coffeehouse. Yakubson since has opened two more Santa Beans in Oryol.

"I was tired of the boring food retail business," Yakubson says of his career change. "In the region's coffee market I am a pioneer. For me this is about self-actualization rather than money."

Western-style coffee consumption, unheard of in Russia until the mid-1990s, has become increasingly fashionable in the larger cities, where three major chains compete fiercely for business.

In Moscow and St. Petersburg, the dark brown logo of Kofe-House, the creamy logo of Chokoladnitsa and the coal black logo of Coffee Bean are even more prevalent than the golden arches of McDonald's. In both cities there is hardly a street without a coffee shop.

That was not true in Oryol. Before Yakubson opened Santa Bean, those few who dared to order coffee to go in the local canteens were looked upon as odd. Drinking coffee outdoors was considered bad manners, though drinking beer on the run was not.

Yakubson, who wants to expand quickly, says he ended up with enough cash after the sale of his convenience stores and casinos to fund 15 coffee shops in several regional capitals. The first outlet cost him \$250,000.

The only Starbucks outlet in Russia opened this August in a mega-mart in the Moscow suburb Khmiki.



Photo by: Andrei Sasin

**OUTSIDE SANTA BEAN COFFEE HOUSE in Oryol. Starbucks may file a lawsuit against Santa Bean because of the company's similar-looking logo.**

Yakubson entered Russia's business world several years ago as part owner of the Pallada chain of budget food stores and the Niagara gambling houses in Oryol, a sleepy regional capital of 370,000 residents 225 miles south of Moscow.

Once known as Russia's "literature capital," the home of famous writers including Tolstoy and Turgenev, Oryol today is part of the so-called "Red Belt," an impoverished region of central Russia where the old Communist Party bosses still hold power and fly red flags over Town Hall alongside the official Russian tricolor.

Little has changed in Oryol since Soviet times — perhaps even since Tolstoy's.

Yakubson is confident he can compete with the big boys. His prices are lower: A mug of Santa Bean coffee costs 35 rubles, or \$1.40, while a Starbucks' Vento cup in Russia goes for 135 rubles, or \$5.50. That's steep for the average Oryol resident: a hundredth of his monthly wage.

Santa Bean is turning a profit, its finance director says.

"In spite of such a low per-cup price tag, the daily net profit of one Santa Bean outlet amounts to \$1,000," Julia Shtelter says.

Yakubson plans to open five more outlets by the end of the year in Oryol, Kursk and Belgorod, central Russian cities where he once had his discount stores.

A glance at Santa Bean's logo makes it clear whom Yakubson sees as his main competitor, if not his inspiration. Its green-and-white circle logo and typeface is quite reminiscent of the Starbucks Mermaid logo. For that,

**Drinking coffee outdoors was considered bad manners, though drinking beer on the run was not.**

Yakubson could face legal trouble.

Starbucks' global communications manager, Carol Pusik, told Moscow's Vedomosti business daily that "the company may consider filing a lawsuit" against Santa Bean for misleading customers with its logo.

Yakubson doesn't deny that he and his wife, Natalia, learned a lot from the Seattle giant, but they are not afraid of being sued by Starbucks for trademark infringement.

"Well, it's true, we kind of imitate Starbucks, and I even employ a former Starbucks barista," Yakubson acknowledges.

He adds, however, that it was his son who invented the Santa Bean name and logo.

"At the end of the day, our chain in Russia is larger than that

of Starbucks — we've got three outlets in the country while they have only one," says Yakubson, who recently expedited a shipment of humanitarian aid from the Oryol Jewish Community Center to Rostov-on-Don.

Although there is enough room for new coffeehouses in Russia — Jerry Ruditsker, head of the Coffee Bean chain, estimates the country's taste for coffee could top \$1 billion a year — the smaller towns cannot provide enough business to attract a world-scale player.

"It is not too hard to compete with Starbucks in the Russian provinces," Ruditsker says. "Russians are not accustomed to the take-out format. Local chains, like that in Oryol, simply pave the way for the giants to come later."



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# Classic meets contemporary in Goldman's new book

Marcy Goldman entered the kitchen as a young girl and never left. More than 20 years later, she is a professional pastry chef, master baker, and award-winning author who approaches every cake, every cookie, every crumb with passion and enthusiasm. For Goldman, baking satisfies "a life-long desire to create, nurture, nourish, and give. This book is my personal and professional harvest of all my baking seasons to date...It is about both what to bake and how to bake it better."

Known as the "maverick baker," the author marries classic baking techniques with contemporary, more practical and easier techniques. In "A Passion For Baking," she shares more than 200 recipes and dozens of helpful tips.

From "A Passion For Baking":

## Pumpkin-Butterscotch Swirl Cheesecake

Makes 14 to 20 servings

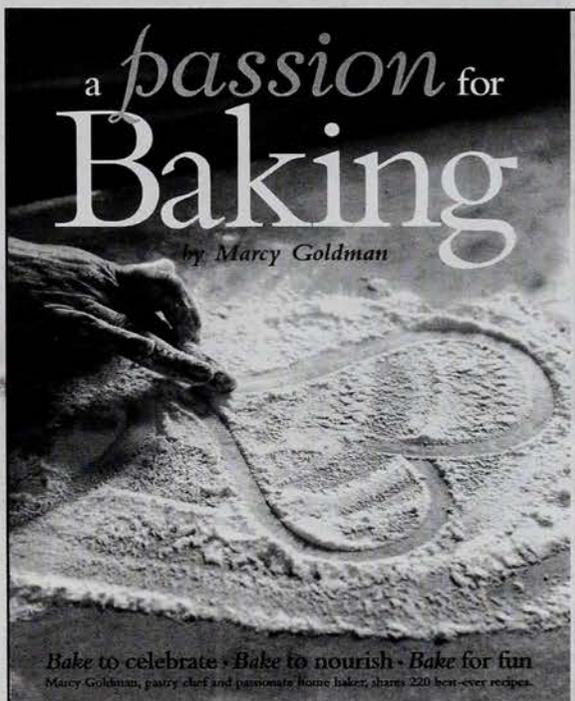
Spice, pumpkin, bourbon, and butterscotch. Who needs turkey? This is a sublimely spiced pumpkin cheesecake that is upgraded with a swirl of butterscotch or caramel. You can make your own or use a quality sundae topping or prepared dulce de leche. The Bourbon-Spiced Crème Anglaise is a crowning touch, but the cake shines with or without it.

### Crust

- 1 1/2 cups finely crushed gingersnaps
- 5 tablespoons brown sugar
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Cheesecake Batter

- 2-1/2 pounds cream cheese, softened (5 8 oz pkg's)
  - 3/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
  - 3/4 cup white sugar
  - 6 large eggs
  - 1-1/2 cups canned pumpkin puree
  - 1-1/3 cup all-purpose flour
  - 1-1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
  - 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
  - 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
  - 3/4 cup whipping cream
  - 1/2 cup caramel or butterscotch sundae topping
- Finishing Touches**
- Bourbon-Spiced Crème Anglaise (below)
  - Whipped cream
  - Toasted ground pecans and



"A PASSION FOR BAKING," By Marcy Goldman, Oxmoor House, November 2007, 320 pages/hardcover, \$29.95, ISBN-10: 0-8487-3179-4

gingersnap crumbs, for dusting into batter.

Warm butterscotch or caramel sundae topping or dulce de leche

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

For crust, combine gingersnap crumbs, brown sugar, butter, pumpkin pie spice, and cinnamon. Press into bottom of a 9- or 10-inch springform pan and place on prepared baking sheet.

For cheesecake batter, in a mixer bowl, blend cream cheese on low speed with both sugars until well blended. Add eggs and blend on low speed until smooth. Add pumpkin puree, flour, cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice, vanilla, and whipping cream, scraping sides and bottom of bowl often and blending until

smooth. Swirl caramel topping into batter.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake until cake seems firm in center, 55 to 70 minutes. Turn off oven, open oven door, and let cool in oven until cake is almost at room temperature. Cover loosely with a sheet of wax paper and place in refrigerator to chill overnight.

Serve cake with Bourbon Spiced Crème Anglaise or with softly whipped cream and a dusting of ground toasted pecans mixed with crushed gingersnaps. Then add a final drizzle of sundae topping.

### Bourbon-Spiced Crème Anglaise

Makes 2 cups sauce  
This sauce is superb on Pumpkin-Butterscotch Swirl Cheesecake (at left) or with a

## Brief bio

Marcy Goldman is a professional pastry chef, master baker, a graduate of the Quebec Hotel School, and author of The Best of BetterBaking.com and the Julia Child Award-nominated "A Treasury of Jewish Holiday Baking." A food journalist and writer, she is also the creator and host of the renowned website, www.BetterBaking.com. She lives in Montreal with her three sons, who gladly sample everything she bakes.

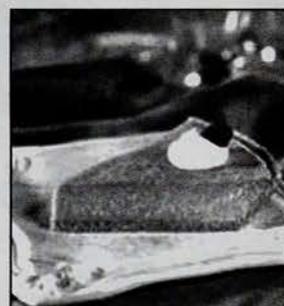
dense chocolate torte.

- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch each ground nutmeg, cloves, and allspice
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons bourbon, optional
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup sugar

Directions: Fill a large bowl with ice and water.

In a 2- or 3-quart heavy saucepan over medium heat, stir whipping cream with spices until gently simmering. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and bourbon.

In a medium bowl, beat egg yolks and sugar until pale and thick, about 2 minutes. Slowly drizzle in warm cream, whisking all the while. Return mixture to saucepan and cook over



medium heat until sauce thickens, stirring gently, about 5 to 8 minutes. Place saucepan in prepared ice bath and stir sauce until cool.

Cover sauce with plastic wrap, pressing directly onto surface to prevent a skin from forming. Refrigerate until well chilled, about 2 hours. Serve chilled or warmed. Refrigerate up to 3 days.

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There is something magical about islands that transforms them into sanctuaries that are mysterious yet memorable. Many of these pieces of real estate are romantic places such as Bermuda, Capri [Isola d'Amore,]



**Stanley Aronson M.D.**

Oahu, Crete and Aruba. But there is one island with neither beaches nor gardens nor anything esthetically noteworthy, yet is an island etched into the memories of over 100 million Americans.

This particular island began life as a rocky shoal, barely inches above the tidal waters of Upper New York Harbor. The Dutch called these three acres Oyster Island because of its abundance of shellfish. Samuel Ellis bought the islet in 1785 but then sold it to



By Brown Brothers, ca. 1908 Immigrant children, Ellis Island, New York. Vintage print. Records of the Public Health Service. (90-G-125-29)

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the United States Army as a site for the safe storage of munitions. The islet was then selected by the government in 1890 as its newly empowered Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] site. The islet was inadequate to fulfill the spatial needs of the INS; and so untold tons of rock and soil, excavated from Manhattan as the underground subways were being constructed, were added to enlarge the island to a utilitarian rectangle housing the immigration facilities as well as public health hospitals and holding areas for those immigrants considered for deportation.

On January 1, 1892 the facility began the task of processing the flood of immigrants traveling from Europe. Ellis Island represented but one of many immigration depots established on the East Coast.

Before Ellis Island became functional, immigrants were processed at the lower end of Manhattan Island, in what is now Castle Clinton in Battery Park. The building began life in 1811 as

a fort to protect New York from the marauding British; then it was recast as a somewhat shady dance and beer hall; and then altered again to process immigrants and eventually named Castle Clinton [after the 19th Century governor of New York.]

The number passing through the INS facility in New York harbor were truly immense. By November of 1954, when the INS station on Ellis Island was closed, after 62 years of uninterrupted service, over 12 million souls were processed.

**Medical refusals**

The following conditions — either medical, cognitive, ethnic or socio-political — were grounds for excluding newly arrived immigrants. Amongst medical conditions were: tuberculosis, leprosy, venereal disease, goiter, hernias, trachoma, epilepsy, physical deformities, "loathsome or contagious diseases", or pregnancy in a woman unaccompanied by a husband. Cognitive factors included mental deficiency, inexplicable demeanor, manic or immoral behavior and, after 1917, illiteracy. Socio-political factors included past criminal behavior, polygamy or membership in political organizations such as the communist or anarchist parties. Ethnic barriers to admission, particularly on the West Coast, included Chinese aliens [as specified in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.]

How many have been excluded for medical reasons? In a typical year, with about 800,000 immigrants entering Ellis Island [called by many the "Palace of Hope, the island of tears,]" about 17,000 [one in 43] were sent back to Europe largely because of tuberculosis, mental deficiency or trachoma. In the 62 year history of Ellis Island, 610,000 were excluded.

By 1922, when regional quotas for admission were established, vast numbers of immi-

grants had been admitted to these shores including 4.6 million Irish, 5.9 million Germans, 4.7 million Italians, 4.1 million from Austria-Hungary, 3.4 million from Great Britain, 3.3 million Russians [including Poles, Ukrainians and Lithuanians,] and 1.2 million Swedes. Jews immigrating to this nation were not listed separately but were subsumed under those numbers originating in Russia, Austria-Hungary and Germany. An estimated 2.7 million Jews passed through the Island.

**Jewish immigrants**

What distinguished these Jewish immigrants? Certainly no difference in the degree of poverty. But the Jews tended to arrive in families rather than as isolated, unmarried young people; and further, they were met by groups such as HIAS to aid them in seeking immediate shelter and a stable setting to begin their lives in the *goldene medina*.

Amongst those passing through Ellis Island were the following Jews: David Dubinsky, Emma Goldman, Hyman Rickover, Abe Beame, Samuel Goldwyn, Al Jolson, Irving Berlin, Isaac Asimov, Henry Roth, Lee Strasberg, Victor Borge, Sol Hurok, Max Factor, Edward G. Robinson — and even Meyer Lansky.

Jews had some past experience in voyaging to new communities. Moses, who led the Israelites through alien territory, had a son born to Zipporah; he was called Gershom, because his name meant "I have been a stranger in a strange land." [Exod. 2:22.] And later the Lord instructed Moses saying: "But a stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you and thou shall love him as thyself; for you were strangers in Egypt." [Levit.19:34.]

Dr. Stanley M. Aronson can be reached at [smamd@cox.net](mailto:smamd@cox.net).

\*: Psalm 39.

**Community**



PHOTOS BY CARRIE EDENS  
 RUTH SAMDPERIL stands between the honorees of the evening. From left are David and Hope Hirsch and Patty and Mel Alperin.

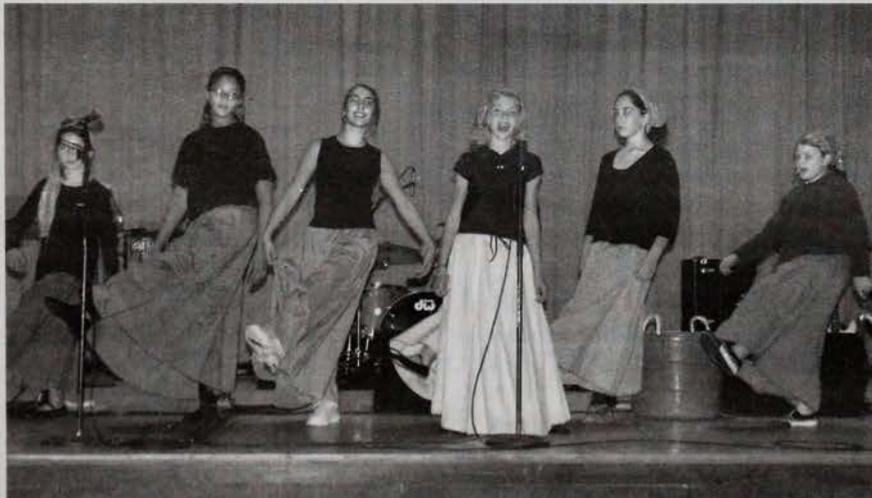
# Samdperil tribute centers on future of Jewish education

PROVIDENCE — Over 300 people, young, old, Conservative, Orthodox, Reform, Jews/non-Jews, Rhode Islanders and those from afar, gathered to celebrate the life of Charlie Samdperil on Sept. 30. The Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) hosted the event with the support of Temple Emanu-El and

the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

The evening was filled with memories of Charlie's dedication to strengthening the future. In his memory, the first annual "Charles Samdperil Award for Outstanding Dedication to Jewish Education" was presented to honorees, Patty and Mel Alperin and David and Hope Hirsch.

Additionally, the Charles Samdperil Educational Technology Endowment Fund was officially established at JCDS. This fund will allow the school to create and implement a long-term plan for technological improvement for its students. Donations are still being accepted.



JCDS MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMERS singing "Matchmaker" from Fiddler on the Roof.

## JCDS hires finance, operations director

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Day School announced the hiring of James (Jim) Hockhousen as the new Director of Finance and Operations. He will be responsible for all financial aspects of the school including facility and human

resources and will be a primary partner to the head of school in long-term planning and managing the school.

He comes to the school with 18 years experience in the non-profit environment. His last position was with The Corliss

Institute in Warren, where he served as the Director of Finance and the Interim Executive Director for three years. For 15 years prior to that, he served as the Director of Finance at Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence.

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**Community**



SUE ROBBIO, at left, was a recent guest on Susan Adler's monthly JERI program.

*The View with Sue looking for guests*

WARWICK — Every month the residents of The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living are members of the studio audience for the View with Sue. Susan Adler, director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency, interviews guests and takes questions from the studio audience. A recent guest was Sue Robbio, director of the Department of Senior Services for the City of Providence. Lev Poplow, director of resident programs for Tamarisk, acts as the producer of the show. Previous guests have included Richard Licht, Cantor Richard Perlman and Bonnie Sekeres. If you would like to be a guest on The View with Sue, call Adler at 621-5374.

**Donations needed for Kidstuff sale at JCC**

PROVIDENCE — Donations for the seventh Kidstuff sale to benefit the JCC Early Childhood Education program will be accepted the week of Oct. 29. Gently used items are welcome, including clothes (infant through teen), maternity wear, bedding, toys, games, books, videos, music, baby gear, kid's furniture, and sports equipment. All items must be in good, clean, saleable condition.

Donations can be brought to the JCC Social Hall during regular business hours any day during the week of Oct. 29. Tax-deductible receipts will be available. For more information, contact Shirley Moskaluk at 861-8800, ext. 130 or smoskaluk@jccri.org.

**Reform rabbis hold classes on introduction to Judaism**

PROVIDENCE — An introduction to Judaism is being held Thursday evenings at Temple Beth-El. The class presents a mix of study, discussion and practical experiences designed for all interested in exploring a Jewish life including interfaith couples, non-Jews considering conversion, and Jews looking for adult-level

basics. Partners in interfaith relationships are encouraged to enroll together.

Topics include Jewish holidays, life cycle events, theology and prayer, Israel history and Hebrew. The class, held at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, meets every Thursday night, from 7-9, now

through March 6. The faculty will include Rabbis Gutterman, Klein, Mack and Stein and Cantors Brown and Seplovin. The cost is \$160 for one, and \$225 per couple, which includes all books and a catered class Shabbat dinner in March. For more information or to register call 331-6070 or email rabbimack@temple-beth-el.org.

**Holocaust remembrance program to be held at City Hall**

PROVIDENCE — The Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island, in conjunction with Mayor David Cicilline's office, will hold a Kristallnacht remembrance program at Providence City Hall on Tues., Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

The Holocaust Education

Center President, Carol Sugarman, will bring greetings, and Mayor Cicilline will read excerpts of Fred Friendly's letter to his mother after the liberation of the camps.

Two Jewish Rhode Island students will speak of their journey to Poland and their march

through the gates of Auschwitz on "the March of the Living."

The gay men's chorus directed by Terry Lindsey, will perform. A reception to follow. The community is welcome. RSVP to Paula Olivieri at the Education Center, 453-7860.

**Miriam holding men's health evening**

PROVIDENCE — The Miriam Hospital is holding a free men's health event on Tuesday, Oct. 30 starting at 6 p.m. The first portion of the night is dedicated to the annual screenings men should be receiving - blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, body fat analysis, testosterone levels, and prostate. Following the screenings, physicians will

give brief presentations about men's health at midlife and prostate cancer. Men will also be able to "test drive" the Da Vinci robot, a minimally invasive option for men with prostate cancer that results in less pain and a shorter hospital stay. In addition, a pair of tickets to a Providence College basketball game and a pair of tickets to a Boston Celtics bas-

ketball game will be raffled off.

The Miriam Hospital is located at 164 Summit Ave., Providence. To register call 401-444-4800 or 1-800-927-1230 or visit [www.miriamhospital.org](http://www.miriamhospital.org).

Note: The World Series does not have a game scheduled for the night of Oct. 30, so baseball fans need not to worry.

Martin D. Goodman, University of Oxford

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## Levi to speak on Portuguese Jewish diaspora

PROVIDENCE—Professor Joseph Abraham Levi of Rhode Island College will speak on the Portuguese-Jewish diaspora at Temple Beth-El on Tues. Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. The lecture, part of the Temple's ongoing Adult Enrichment Program, is free and all are welcome. While focusing on the Portuguese-Jewish communities of Amsterdam, Recife, and New Amsterdam, he will also portray Newport's colonial Jewish community. Professor Levi is the program director of RIC's Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies. He is a specialist in Italian and medieval Spanish, and is conversant in Arabic and Swahili. He earned his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, and has lectured in Australia, Hong Kong, Italy, Macao, New Zealand, and Tanzania.

## Kollel begins classes on Judaism

PROVIDENCE — Judaism 2.0, a five-week series of classes offered by the Kollel, will start on Mon., Oct. 29 at Brown Hillel. Course topics will be: Whose world is it? A Torah view on environmentalism; Tools for Extraordinary Living; Building relationships by building yourself; 5000 Years In 5 Weeks — Learning our past to strengthen our present; and Living Inspired: Becoming cognizant of deeper significance in everyday life.

For more information, call the Kollel 383-2786 or email [Judaism@providencerkollel.org](mailto:Judaism@providencerkollel.org).

## Emanu-El plans environmental Shabbat

PROVIDENCE — Temple Emanu-El is holding an environmental Shabbat service, presentations and lunch on Saturday, Nov. 3. The service begins at 9:30 a.m. The event is being organized by the temple's Social Action Committee and is a continuation of the temple and group's efforts to reduce energy consumption, recycle and support local sustainable farmers.

# Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah

NEW YORK — Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (NWHF.) Accepting this honor on her behalf was Nancy K. Falchuk, National President of Hadassah, which Szold founded in 1912.

In her acceptance remarks, Falchuk stated that Szold richly deserves to be honored by the National Women's Hall of Fame.

"She dedicated her life to fighting ignorance, injustice, anti-Semitism and disease. She never stopped fighting the fears and hatreds that divide people and nations. [She followed] pur-



suits that would transform people's lives for the better and help repair the world."

Szold, 1860–1945, was an educator, social pioneer, editor and visionary figure in modern

Congressional district in the U.S.

Founded in 1912, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest women's, largest Zionist, and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. In Israel, it supports pacesetter medical care and research, education and youth programs, and reforestation and parks projects. In the US, Hadassah promotes health education, social action and advocacy, Jewish education, volunteerism and leadership skills, Young Judaea and connections with Israel. For complete information about Hadassah, visit [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org).

American and Jewish history. Though her achievements were numerous and varied, perhaps her greatest legacy is Hadassah, which today numbers 300,000 women with members in every

## Hadassah presents Yiddish workshop

PROVIDENCE — The R.I. Chapter of Hadassah is holding a workshop, "What American English Owes to Yiddish," at 1:30 p.m. Sun., Oct. 21, led by educator Henny Lewin. This interactive session will explore how Yiddish terms and expressions have become part of the English lan-

guage as it is spoken in the United States.

Lewin came to New England by way of Lithuania, Israel, and Canada. She has been a Hadassah officer and Board member for decades, and has won many awards for her work, including the Covenant Award as an outstand-

ing Jewish educator in 1997. She is a sought-after speaker at colleges, schools, and Jewish institutions, speaking on Yiddish, Israel, and surviving the Holocaust as a hidden child.

This hands-on workshop ("A Bisele Yiddish") should appeal to people with little background in

Yiddish as well as those who are fluent in the language. The event is free and open to the public. The Jewish Community Center is at Sessions Street and Elm Grove Ave., Providence. For more information, call 463-3636 or the JCC 861-8800.



From left, are JERI staff members Rabbi Natan Schafer, Michele Keir, Susan Adler, Rachel Rollins and Ethan Adler.

## Jewish Eldercare makes a difference

PROVIDENCE — Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, (JERI) a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, is multi-faceted; among its many roles are visiting residents in nursing homes and assisted living residences, presenting programs and bringing Shabbat and holiday programs to them. The staff advocates for the individuals to meet social, spiritual and emotional needs, especially for those who have no family.

The JERI staff consists of Susan Adler, director; Rachel Rollins, administrative assistant; Ethan Adler, Michele Keir and Rabbi Natan Schafer. The JERI staff thrives in its advocacy by participating in team meetings at facilities with regard to the well being of the Jewish residents, and will step in times of crisis. They take pride in sharing in simchas and in becoming part of family for the residents.

For more information, call 621-5374 or [sadler-jeri@jsari.org](mailto:sadler-jeri@jsari.org) or [www.jsari.org](http://www.jsari.org).

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**Community**



Photo by Mary Korr

IVY MARWIL speaks with Dr. David Almog and Larry Rich of Ha Emek Medical Center at The Miriam Hospital last week.

**Running for Afula institute**

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Ivy Marwil will run in the international Tiberias marathon on Jan. 10, 2008 to raise funds for physical and occupational therapy patients at Ha Emek Medical Center in Afula. Her route will take her half way around the Sea of Galilee and back.

She says she runs a 9-minute mile and has already logged 21 marathons. The toughest was in Greece — “straight uphill and then straight down.” New York City remains her favorite.

A psychotherapist in Providence, she has been involved in Israel since she was a little girl, visiting family there and going to summer camp, where she learned

Hebrew. She made aliyah after graduating from college, but romance proved the stronger tug, and when she and husband Dr. Daniel “Toby” Marwil married, they settled here.

Last Thursday, Dr. David Almog, emergency preparedness director at Emek, and Larry Rich, director of development joined her at The Miriam Hospital, which has an exchange program with Emek, to talk about the physical and occupational therapy institute her run will benefit. (Afula is also the Jewish community’s sister city in Israel.)

Rich said the patient population includes soldiers injured in the war with Lebanon last summer. He showed a slide presentation of the institute; one was

of a young woman who threw herself in the path of a suicide bomber and has been painstakingly learning to walk again.

Dr. Almog said that Emek, the largest hospital serving 500,000 in northern Israel, and other hospitals evacuated the top floors as a precaution against long-range missiles. He said one came within 500 feet of the facility, but no direct hits were taken. However, the two other hospitals near the border sustained continuous damage. Many of the pregnant women were sent to Emek to deliver.

Rich and Dr. Almog were in the country to attend an emergency preparedness conference in Arlington, Va., and detoured to Providence and then to Connecticut.

**Tal-Am program**



KITAH ALEPH CLASS at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, recently introduced the Tal-Am program into their school. Tal Am is an approach to teaching the Hebrew language, and first grade teacher, Rivka Eskovitz, invited Lashon coordinator, Ruti Adler, to dress up as Ari the Lion – the Tal Am “spokesman/animal.” Together the Kitah Aleph class sang with Ari and the Ariot CD. Go to [www.talam.org](http://www.talam.org) for more information.

**Israel course to begin in Barrington**

BARRINGTON — Israel: The Land and the Spirit course will be offered locally at Chabad of Barrington. The course is designed to explore the nature of the deep spiritual bond that has existed between the Jewish people and the land of Israel throughout the ages.

Each of the six weekly classes will focus also on Israeli cities that have served as national spiritual centers at different points

in Jewish history: Beersheba, Hebron, Tiberias, Nablus (Shchem), Sefat and, of course, Jerusalem. Knowledge gained is expected to spur travel to Israel and further study.

Chabad of Barrington, is located at 39 Lillis Ave. The course will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on six Wednesdays, starting on Oct. 31. The fee for course and textbook is \$80.

For registration and information, visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) or contact Rabbi Moshe Laufer 401-247-4747, [rabbii@jewishbarrington.com](mailto:rabbii@jewishbarrington.com).

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# Bush: Iran's nuclear ambitions raise risk of World War III

(JTA) — President Bush said Iran must be stopped from gaining nuclear weapons know-how to avoid World War III.

The president said he is stressing that to world leaders. "If Iran had a nuclear weapon, it

would be a dangerous threat to world peace," Bush said at a news conference Wednesday. "We've got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. So I told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon." Bush's emphasis on keeping Iran

from acquiring the knowledge to build a nuclear weapon nudges him closer to the Israeli position.

In recent months, Israel has said its red line is Iran achieving nuclear weapon know-how, which

it believes may be as soon as next year. U.S. officials, by contrast, until now reportedly have said the red line should be Iran's capacity to actually build a weapon, which might take years.

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(The following article is reprinted with permission from SocialAction.com)

By Rabbi Andrew Bachman

The Midrash (rabbinic narrative elaboration) about Abraham smashing idols is so pervasive and well known that many Jews assume that it comes from Torah. As a story, it cuts to the core of a distinct ethical obligation Jews of all stripes feel when they act from the very center of their Jewish beings to change the world. Whether our actions motivate us to work for the downtrodden or peace in Israel, we activate a certain "Abraham" within to destroy the idols of prior perspectives and belief systems, and replace them with a new perspective that sheds light upon and brings us nearer to God's vision for all humankind.

In Abraham's own day, the rabbis tell us, the insights he was able to achieve were a testimony to his greatness of mind and soul. He had a way of seeing the world that earned God's attention. Abraham noticed the world in a terrible condition and spoke

up, only to elicit a response from God, relieved that a human partner was willing to help counter the evil of the world with the impulse to save and do good.

The greatest challenge of the teachings attributed to our sages focuses on what do we do when it comes to changes in religious observance, especially those motivated by justice concerns? What do we do when the impulse of Abraham arises in us in the context of Jewish learning and Jewish observance? When is the impulse, like Abraham's, instructive; and when is it destructive?

Most radical changes in mainstream Jewish life have been wrought in the last two centuries. Their result has been most recently catalogued and dramatized by the accomplished journalist Samuel G. Freedman in his book, "Jew vs. Jew." Beyond the title, which hints that some of the changes have created contentious splits in the Jewish body politic, Freedman argues that as various ideological models for Jewish life and expression have lost steam, the religious model of Jewish life has prevailed. While Jews have attempted a variety of modes of expression—from Zionist nationalist, to secular humanist, to materialist assimilationist—at the end of the day, we encounter an ever-growing need to reconnect to our Jewish religious selves, spiritualized and closer to God.

Look at the changes in recent years: equal rights and status of women in three of the four major movements; the ordination of women as rabbis; outreach to the unaffiliated and "stranger" living among us; ordination of gays and lesbians in two of the four movements; and an increased focus on Hebrew, sacred texts, and Jewish ritual among committed liberal Jews. Our wanderings from place to place have brought us back to Judaism; but not without making meaningful changes in our religious life, as Abraham himself did more than a few thousand years ago.

A new generation has smashed the idols of assimilation and acculturation and declared that being Jewish is as essential to their condition as being American. The question for us remains, as Amichai proposed in his inimitably playful way: which idols will fall? And as we pursue justice concerns within Judaism, what new light will be shed on our ancient, sacred tradition?

*Rabbi Andrew Bachman is Skirball Executive Director of the Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life: Hillel at NYU (www.nyu.edu/bronfman). He was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter. He serves on the American Jewish World Service board of advisors.*

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**Obituaries**

**Roberta Datz, 55**

CRANSTON — Roberta (Lipet) Datz, 55, died Oct. 10. She was the wife of the late Stevan Datz. Born in Providence, a daughter of Lee (Richman) Lipet and the late Joseph Lipet, she was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

Mrs. Datz was a graduate of The University of Rhode Island.

Beside her mother, she is survived by her daughter; Melissa Jill Datz of Plainville, Mass. and her sister; Judith Hope Sheldon of Riverside.

Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 222 Richmond St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Abbott Lieberman, 92**

PROVIDENCE — Abbott Lieberman, 92, died Oct. 7. He was the husband of Elaine (Frank) Lieberman to whom he had been married for 66 years. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Jacob Lieberman and Mary Lieberman Korb.

Mr. Lieberman attended Bryant-Stratton College and was the manager of Korb Baking Co. for 25 years before retiring in 1970.

He was a staff sergeant in the U. S. Army during World War II, receiving a medical discharge.

He was a scoutmaster of Troop 20, Boy Scouts of America, (BSA) and Asst. District Commissioner of the BSA for 20 years. He was presented the Capt. George Bucklin medal by the Narragansett Council BSA and the Silver Beaver for distinguished service to youth awarded by the Nat'l Court of Honor, BSA. He was chairman of the

Jewish Committee on Scouting and received the Shofar Award.

Mr. Lieberman had been a tutor at the Providence Hebrew Day, Martin Luther King and John Howland schools. He directed the woodworking program at the Comprehensive Day Care Center for 16 years and volunteered at the Miriam Hospital for the past 16 years. He also volunteered at Jewish Family Service, (JFS); and United Way.

He had been a member of the Democratic State Committee.

He belonged to Temple Emanu-El, where he was a founder of the Leisure Club; Touro Fraternal; Jewish War Veterans; a board member of Lippitt Hill Tutorial; Aging 2,000; the former Jewish Home for the Aged; and was an honorary board member of Emanu-El, Leisure Club and JFS. He was also a member of S.A.G.E. and a facilitator of the RI Center for attitudinal support, a program of Nat'l Council of Jewish Women for people with catastrophic illnesses.

He was an artist, sculptor and craftsman, a member of the Providence Art Club and the Cambridge, Mass. Art Association and had received many prizes.

He enjoyed numerous other activities.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, James Lieberman and his wife Shari of Potomac, Md.; and Michael Lieberman and his wife Ilene of Natick, Mass.; a daughter, Constance Bram and her husband Stephen of Ellison, N.J.; seven grandchildren, Jeffrey and Neal Bram, Nancy Barton, Debra Lieberman and Rachel, David and Melanie Lieberman; and five great-grandchildren,

Mathew, Zachary and Noah Bram, Sarah Barton and Ryan Bram. He was the brother of the late Dr. Milton Korb, Evelyn Slepok, Leola Silverman and Edmund Korb.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island.

**Beverly Jacobson, 87**

WARWICK — Beverly (Brown) Jacobson, 87, died Sept. 18. She was the wife of Hyman Jacobson. They were married for 65 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late William and Gertrude (Suslovitz) Brown, she had lived in Providence for many years before moving to Warwick eight years ago.

She was a secretary for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of R.I. for 15 years, retiring in 1982. Mrs. Jacobson was a member of Temple Beth-El and a past president of its Sisterhood. She was a life member of Hadassah and a past president of the Cranston Senior Guild. She leaves two daughters, Judith S. Fogel and her husband Herbert of Narragansett and Bobbie J. Wallick and her husband Marc of Warwick; a sister, Muriel B. Cohen of Longmeadow, Mass.; seven grandchildren, Jenny and Eric Miller of Warwick, Jared Fogel of Cranston, Molly Fogel of Hollywood, Fla., Leah Wallick of Rego Park, N.Y., Adam Wallick of Arlington, Va. and Julie Wallick of Warwick; and two great-granddaughters, Lucy and Lily. She was the sister of the late Audrey J. Arovas.

Contributions may be made to Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick, RI 02886.

**Betty Mastroianni, 88**

NORTH KINGSTOWN — Betty Mastroianni, 88, died Oct. 11. Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late David and Rebecca (Kortick) Preblud, she had lived in North Kingstown for 12 years, previously residing in Providence.

She leaves a daughter, Tonia Fay of Warwick; two grandchildren, Deirdre and Michael; and a great-granddaughter, Paige. She was the sister of the late Irving and William Preblud, Sylvia Samson and Helene Edelman.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Seniors Agency, 229 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02906.

**Herman P. Morrison, 84**

JOHNSTON — Herman P. Morrison, 84, died Oct. 4. He was the husband of the late Rhoda (Fishman) Morrison.

He leaves a son, Steven Morrison of Pawtucket; a sister, Elaine Morrison of Cranston; a grandson, Michael Nunziata; and two great-grandsons, Ethan and Logan. He was the brother of the late Sandra Nunziata. Contributions may be made to Amos House, 413 Friendship St., Providence.

**A. Allen "Red" Ollove, 85**

PROVIDENCE — A. Allen "Red" Ollove, 85, of Singer Island, Fla., died Oct. 9. He was the husband of S. Madeline "Penny" Ollove and former husband of the late Barbara (Feinstein) Ollove. Born in

Providence, a son of the late Max and Elizabeth (Small) Ollove, he had lived in Florida for 15 years, previously residing in Bangor, Maine, for over 40 years.

Mr. Ollove was a partner in Steven Studios, Bangor.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El, in Providence, Temple Beth Israel in Bangor and B'nai Brith.

He leaves two sons, Michael Ollove of Baltimore, Md., and Peter Ollove of Scarborough, Maine; a daughter, Maxine Ollove of Morris Plains, N.J.; a stepson, Larry Frank of Ellicott City, Md.; and nine grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Morris and George Ollove.

Contributions may be made to the Anti Defamation League Fdn.

**Mendell Robinson, M.D., 81**

REHOBOTH, Mass. — Mendell Robinson, M.D., born April 8, 1926, one of the first births at The Miriam Hospital, died Sept. 29. Years later, Dr. Robinson would eventually serve as director of otolaryngology at the same hospital.

Son of the late Anna and Sigmund Robinson, he attended Hope High School and Brown University, graduating magna cum laude in 1949 (after a two-year hiatus during which he served in the Second World War). He earned his medical degree from Tufts University Medical School, graduating magna cum laude in 1953.

See OBITUARIES, page 26

To PUBLISH OBITUARY NOTICES — Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date. E-mail to: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org); Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: obituaries.

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## Obituaries

From page 25

### Mendell Robinson, M.D.

In 1958, he established a private practice in otolaryngology (later narrowing his specialty to otology) in Providence. He served as Miriam Hospital's Director of Otolaryngology from 1958-1993.

In 1958, he met and married Beatrice Turek of Oradell, N.J. The couple raised two children and resided for many years on the East Side of Providence.

In the early 1960s, Dr. Robinson developed a micro-prosthetic implant designed to replace the smallest bone in the human body — the stapes — then one of

the leading causes of hearing loss in adults. It remains one of the most effective and widely used micro-ear implants in the world.

Dr. Robinson had successfully restored the hearing of thousands of Rhode Island patients during nearly a half century of practice so that on at least two occasions former Providence Mayor Cianci had officially declared "Mendell Robinson Day" in the city, the most recent of which was June 6, 1993, when Dr. Robinson retired as director of Otolaryngology at The Miriam. He was presented with a key to the city. The State Legislature also officially declared June 6, 1993 to be "Mendell Robinson Day."

In 1972, while retaining his Providence practice, the Robinsons moved to Rehoboth to pursue a growing interest in equestrian activity.

Dr. Robinson's present and past affiliations include The University Club, member emeritus of the Brown Faculty Club, The Ida Lewis Yacht Club, The Rhode Island Medical Society, The American Medical Association, The American Otolological Society, The Rhode Island Historical Society, The Rhode Island School of Design Museum, The Massachusetts Forestry Association, The Rhode Island Audubon Society (whose land holdings in Newport were, to a significant

extent, donated by Dr. Robinson, The Miriam Hospital Foundation, and Temple Beth-El of Providence. He was the first recipient of the Miriam Hospital Distinguished Physician Award.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Charles Turek Robinson of Rehoboth, a daughter, Anna Robinson St. Jacques; and a sister, Lila Winograd of Providence. He was the brother of the late Deana Litwin.

Contributions may be made to the Mendell Robinson Surgical Foundation at The Miriam Hospital, Providence, RI, 02906.

### Norman R. Saltzman, 84

WARWICK — Norman R. Saltzman, 84, died Oct. 6.

He was the husband of Harriet (Kriss) Saltzman. Born in Providence, a son of the late Israel and Helen (Breitman) Saltzman, he was a lifelong resident of Providence before moving to Warwick 14 years ago.

Mr. Saltzman was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael.

He leaves two daughters, Ronni Guttin and her husband William of Cranston and Marci Karp and her husband Ron of Warwick; a brother, Howard Saltzman of Florida, and six grandchildren, Deena, Andrew, Aaron, Lauren, Sari and Ilana.

Contributions may be made to Camp JORI, P.O. Box 5299, Wakefield, RI 02879.

## Defying U.S., Putin in Iran warns against military action

From page 9

Iran's first nuclear power plant at Bushehr, in southern Iran.

Putin said U.S. failures in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrate the problem of a unipolar world dominated by a single superpower.

The president's remarks did not constitute a significant departure from Russia's Iran policy, but their delivery in this particular setting, in Tehran, may embolden Iran's fundamentalist leadership.

Georgy Mirsky, a leading Middle East expert and senior research fellow at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations in Moscow, said there were few signs the summit ever was intended to bear constructive results on overcoming the tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

"Putin stated at the outset that Russia saw no evidence pointing toward Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons," Mirsky said. "It's as if he was trying in advance to deflect any international pressure, insuring himself in the case of a failure to achieve any meaningful breakthrough in Tehran."

The completion of the nuclear plant ostensibly has been held up because the Iranians are delinquent in their payments, but Russian experts say political considerations are the primary reasons for the delays.

"The question was always mostly political, and not financial or technical," said Vladimir Orlov, a nonproliferation expert and director of the Moscow-based PIR Center for Policy Studies in Moscow. "But what Russia would like to see is some positive, conciliatory steps on the part of Iran to sustain a strategic partnership with Russia."

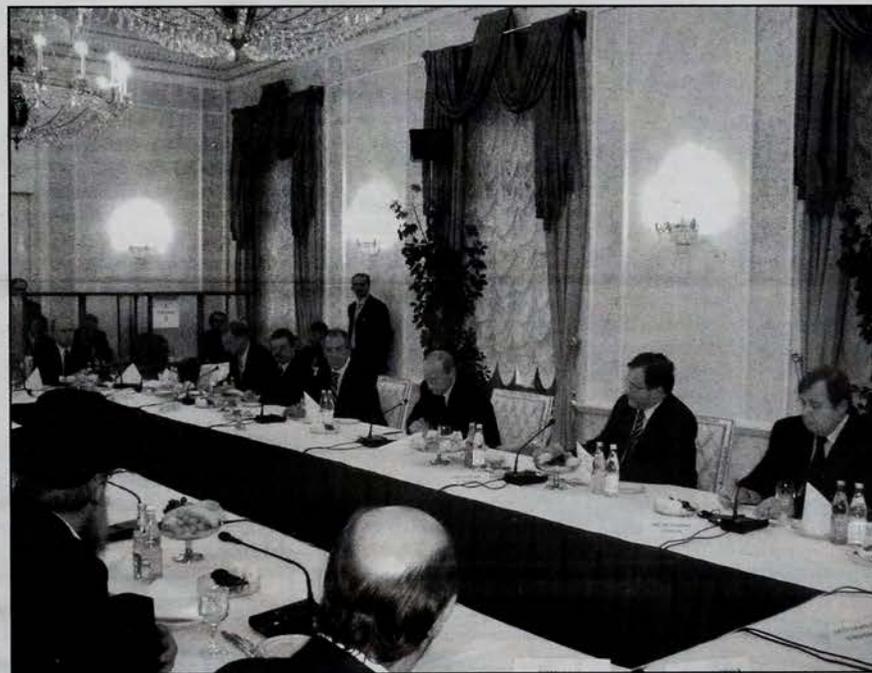


Photo: Matt Siegel

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (to Putin's left), meeting with a European Jewish Congress delegation Oct. 10 at the Kremlin.

On Tuesday, Putin told journalists Russia intends to complete work at the Bushehr nuclear plant.

Putin met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He also met with the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, the Caspian Sea nations that are embroiled in a dispute over the sea's energy resources.

The president vowed before the trip to negotiate on behalf of the group of six nations actively engaged with Iran. These include Germany and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — China, Russia,

France, Britain and the United States.

A Western diplomatic offensive last week on the eve of Putin's trip heightened expectations that the Russian president could deliver a strong statement to his Iranian counterpart. After talks in Moscow with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, followed by consultations with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Putin made a stop in Wiesbaden, Germany, on his way to Iran for a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Putin also conferred last week by phone with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

But last week Putin also warned that Russia has no evidence that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons. He reiterated that position in Tehran on Tuesday. In an implicit rebuke to the United States, Putin signed a declaration with the conference's other four participating countries that excluded the use of any of the Caspian nations' territory for staging an attack on Iran.

The enigmatic Russian president took a somewhat different tone when he met with the European Jewish Congress last week. Then, he characterized Iran as a "strategic threat" and made note of the security threat it poses both to Russia and Israel.

## Olmert meeting with Putin

(JTA) — Ehud Olmert will travel to Russia for top-level talks about Iran's nuclear program.

The Israeli prime minister was scheduled to make a one-day visit to Moscow on Thursday at the behest of Russian President Vladimir Putin, himself freshly returned from a summit with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"The prime minister intends to discuss with the Russian president a series of regional issues, including the peace process with the Palestinians and Iran's threats and its attempt to equip itself with nuclear weapons," the Prime Minister's Office said.

Putin has called for a diplomatic solution to the standoff over Iran's nuclear program and made clear he would oppose any preemptive military action by Israel or the United States.

Israeli political sources said Wednesday that Olmert would reiterate Israel's concerns to the Russian president, as well as ask that Moscow scale back its defense ties with Iran and Syria.

The visit comes as U.N. Security Council members continue to haggle over a third round of sanctions against the Islamic Republic. The United States, Britain and France support more stringent measures to rein in Iran's nuclear program, a move resisted by Russia and China.

# Simchas

## Wedding

**Shirley Ann Spater** and **Howard Bruce Freedman** were married on Jan. 14, 2007 at Temple Beth-El in Providence. Rabbi Leslie Gutterman and Cantor Judy Seplowin officiated.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Spater of Warwick received her DMD degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Dentistry and MPH degree from The School of Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She has been director of the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center, Rhode Island Hospital, for the past 12 years.

The bridegroom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Freedman of Fall River, received his B.S. in Marketing Management from Syracuse University. He is president and CEO of New England Surgical, Inc., Fall River, a home medical equipment company.

The couple is residing in Tiverton.



**Shirley Ann Spater  
Howard Bruce Freedman**

## Anniversary

**Mr. and Mrs. Russell Tanner** of Austin, Texas, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Sept. 10. Mrs. Tanner, formerly Jennie Ann Kay, is the daughter of Joan Bookbinder of Warwick and Bruce Kay of Philadelphia. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and received her master's degree in occupational therapy from Tufts University and is employed in Austin.



**Mr. and Mrs. Russell Tanner**

Mr. Tanner attended Salve Regina University and is employed as a project manager at GTECH.

The couple was married in Narragansett with Rev. Ethan Adler officiating.



## Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shapiro announce the engagement of their son, **Daniel Shapiro** to **Kimberly Thibault**, daughter of Robert and Teresa Thibault of Fall River.

The future bridegroom's maternal grandparents are Jerry and Doris Einhorn of Delray Beach, Fla. He is also the grandson of the late Sidney and Evelyn Shapiro.

A wedding is planned for Nov. 2, 2008.

## Engagements

Herb and Judy Fogel of Narragansett announce the engagement of their daughter, **Molly Beth Fogel** to **Dr. Matthew Jared Elias**, son of Nico and Sharon Elias of Mount Sinai, N.Y.

The future bride is a graduate of Tollgate High School in Warwick and American University, Washington, D.C. She received her master's degree in social work from New York University. She is employed as a mental health therapist at Phoenix Clinic in Miami, Fla.

She is the granddaughter of Hy and the late Beverly Jacobson of Warwick and the late Joseph and Lillian Fogel of East Greenwich.

The future bridegroom is a graduate of Mt. Sinai High School in Mt. Sinai, N.Y. and Tulane University in New Orleans. He received his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He is a resident in dermatology in Ft. Lauderdale.

He is the grandson of Eli Riba of Royal Palm Beach, Fla., and the late Yetta Riba and the late Sam and Betty Elias of Queens, N.Y.

They plan to wed in August, 2008.

**Yisrael Malotte-Berger** and **Meg Beren** announced their engagement in Denver during Sukkot. A wedding is planned for next spring.

Mr. Berger will receive his bachelor of arts with honors in psychology from the University of Rhode Island, Providence campus, in May 2008 and is involved in psychology and public health research and education.

Ms. Beren received her bachelor of arts from Smith College and her master's from Sarah Lawrence College in 2007. She is an early childhood educator and has spent time abroad volunteering in failure to thrive clinics. The couple plan to move to England in August 2008 where the future bridegroom will pursue his Ph.D. in psychology.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shapiro announce the engagement of their son **Jonathon Shapiro** to **Meghan Brennan**, daughter of Robert and Nancy Brennan of Warwick.

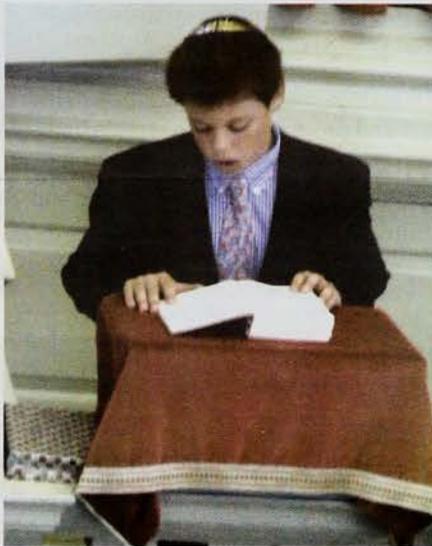
The future bridegroom's maternal grandparents are Jerry and Doris Einhorn of Delray Beach, Fla. He is also the grandson of the late Sidney and Evelyn Shapiro.

A wedding is planned for June 27, 2009.



**Matthew Jared Elias and  
Molly Beth Fogel**

## B'nei Mitzvah



**Jonathan Howard Leach**

**Jonathan Howard Leach** of Newport celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at the historic Touro Synagogue on Sept. 3. Jonathan is the son of James H. Leach and grandson of Oscar and Lenore Leach of Providence.

Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz officiated. The reception followed at the Malbone Estate, the Leach family home in Newport.



**Arielle Nechamah Sebastyen**

**Arielle Nechamah Sebastyen**, daughter of Thomas A. Sebastyen and Dr. Leslie Fishbein of Lenox, Mass., celebrated her Bat Mitzvah this past May 19 at Congregation Kneset Israel in Pittsfield. Arielle is the granddaughter of Stanley H. Fishbein of Smithfield and Anne T. Fishbein of Pawtucket. She is the sister of Dana Caleb Sebastyen. Her great-grandparents were the late Nathan and Ella Moskowitz of Fall River and the late Mathew and Charlotte Fishbein of Pawtucket.

## Dabek nominated for Indianapolis Prize

*Animal conservationist vies for \$100,000 award*

**INDIANAPOLIS** — **Dr. Lisa Dabek** is one of 29 animal conservationists nominated to receive the Indianapolis Prize, the world's leading award for animal conservation. Dabek, a former R.I. resident and director of conservation for the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, has been nominated for spearheading the first research and habitat preservation efforts in Papua, New Guinea's Huon Peninsula.

Indianapolis Prize nominees' work spans the globe, representing a range of species from amphibians to zebras, and includes elephants, tigers, wolves and whales, among many others.

In addition to receiving the \$100,000 Prize, the recipient is also awarded the Lilly Medal, an original work of art that signifies the winner's contributions to conserving some of the world's most threatened animals.



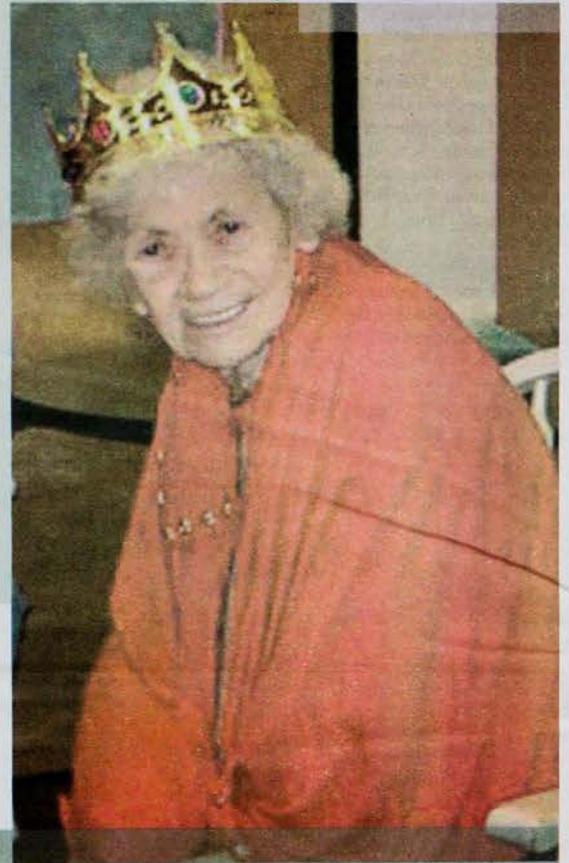
**Lisa Dabek**

# Queen Sylvia

*J*ewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, treats Sylvia as a queen... especially at Purim celebrations.

Sylvia lives in an assisted living residence where there are few other Jewish residents. For her continuing link to her Jewish heritage, Sylvia relies on JERI for her spiritual comfort, Jewish activities and programs, and holiday celebrations. At the annual JERI community Rosh Hashanah service she comes together with Jewish friends residing in other assisted living residences and nursing homes throughout Rhode Island. Sylvia's smile beams when she is honored with an Aliyah at these special services.

Sylvia is extremely thankful to the Jewish Eldercare staff and programs which enable her to continue her Jewish identity. She relies on the kindness and generosity of the Rhode Island Jewish community.



Your Federation is here to help Sylvia and others like her. Working together, we can perform the sacred act of *tikkun olam* – healing the world. We can give dignity and opportunities where none existed before. We can provide comfort and meet critical needs. We can transmit our traditions to a new generation. No gift will ever touch so many and travel so far.

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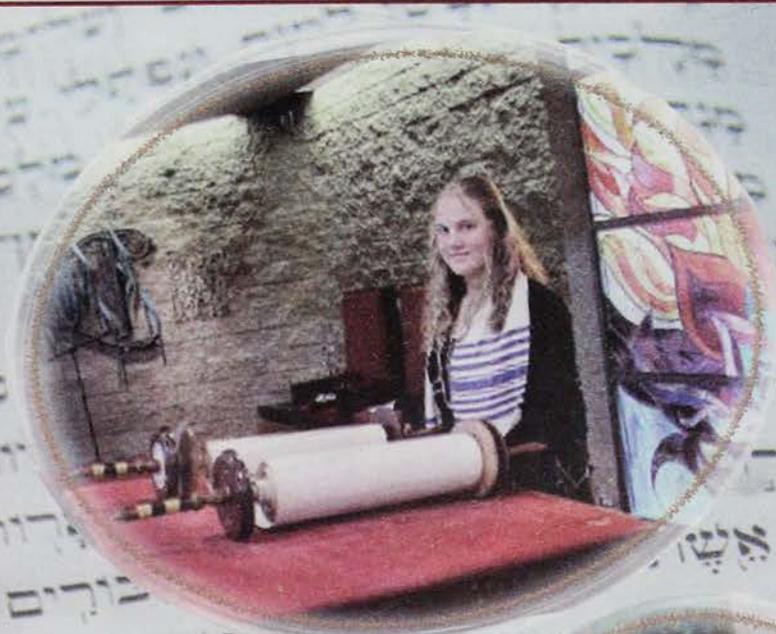
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The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is a *hamsa*, the hand that protects those in need, blesses our people with Jewish learning and celebration and reaches out to connect us to Jews around the corner and around the world. With your help this community can extend our reach.



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**Jewish Voice & Herald  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning Guide**

October 19, 2007

# Celebration trends — From (mini) soups in espresso cups to Fenway franks

## Kids falling for the latest game — the levitation

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Kristin and David Soforenko of Lincoln were a little tired from staying at Fenway Park last Saturday night until 2 a.m. only to see the Red Sox lose in a heartbreaker, but that didn't stop them from coming to the party planning event held Sunday at the Jewish Community Center. The Soforenkos were shopping for invitations. Their daughter, Alyssa, will become a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth-El in June. She chose an environmental mitzvah project, and her field work entailed picking up trash and debris over the summer at a beach in Little Compton.

Several professionals in the event business said mitzvah projects, often anchor the celebrations' theme. Last weekend, Jay Lane of Golden Gate Studios in Cranston designed a young girl's Bat Mitzvah project into the table centerpieces. She had created



Jay Lane, owner of Golden Gate Studios, which provides floral and other arrangements for all kinds of events, was at the JCC party planning event on Sunday with an associate, Farrah Perl, a design student at Johnson & Wales.

fabric dolls for young patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital, along with a drawing kit of crayons and construction paper. They

formed the center of an autumn basket, decorated with gourds, leaves and autumnal grasses, and some chocolate gelt. Two

window boxes with these autumnal arrangements decorated the bimah at Temple Beth-El.

Lane is a very busy man; and although weddings and corporate events are his mainstay, he does a fair amount of Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations, as well as the décor for films shot in the Ocean State. The most recent was "27

Dresses," he said.

For those shopping for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, four to six months ahead is sufficient timing; weddings should book a year in advance, he said.

Peggy Oliver, director of special events at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings in Warwick, works closely with families, usually over a one-to two-year time frame, to develop the party environment. One particular one she had fun with was a boy named Joshua who had a New York Yankees theme.

Here? In Red Sox country?

"Well, many of his family members came in from New York," she said.

The décor included "Joshua's Dugout" with a Yankees banner as the roof and in which the children dined. Naturally, there was popcorn, hot dogs, place cards styled from Big Chew gum packaging, and an authentic subway sign from the Yankees Stadium station stop his father bought on E-Bay. The children were given Yankee jerseys to wear, and the Bar Mitzvah boy was ushered into the celebration by "George Steinbrenner" over the PA system no less! There was a seventh inning stretch as well.

The themes she has been working on this year include Noah's Ark, the Mad Hatter, See facing page

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# Celebration trends

From previous page



KRISTIN AND DAVID SOFORENKO of Lincoln are planning the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and were shopping for information at the JCC party planner event Sunday.



FROM LEFT, LAUREN KNASIN AND ERIKA TENNETT of Cranston accompanied Lauren's mom, whose is beginning to plan for her older daughter's Bat Mitzvah at Temple Sinai in 2009.

Harley Davidson and the Garden of Eden, chosen by a Bat Mitzvah candidate named Eden.

Robert W. Marshall of the Pawtucket business company Spirit Recognition, Inc. is in the party favors and recognition products for all kinds of events. He said parents can get a nice favor package for \$10-\$20 per child. For example, for a summer event, he might do a beach theme with hat, T-shirt, beach blanket, beach bag and a squeeze bottle.

He did a retro Bar Mitzvah with tie dye T-shirts, CDs of '60-70s rock bands, stickers, glow sticks, etc.

Terry Mulryan-Toomey, president of Future Affairs Productions, has been orchestrating events, both large and small, for over 20 years. She says the most important point to remember is that the event reflects the personality and interest of the child.

She said recent trends include smaller portions at action food stations; for example, a swallow or two of soup in an espresso cup with a tiny grilled cheese sandwich. Tiny little hamburgers on skewers or baby buns are everywhere. "People like the comfort

See CELEBRATION TRENDS, page 49



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JERUSALEM JOURNAL

# Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the *Kotel* in Israel

These days when you visit the *Kotel* (Western Wall) you can find a wide variety of people who have



Daniel Stieglitz

come for any number of reasons. Jewish men and women who have come to pray; non-Jewish tourists who wish to see the spot that Jews covet so dearly; foreign dignitaries who want to show their respect for the State of Israel;

and large groups of soldiers who have come to be ceremoniously sworn into the ranks of the Israel Defense Force (IDF). And, if you look carefully enough through this crowd of people, you can spot a different kind of ceremony taking place — that of Jewish children who have come with their families to celebrate their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah is a centuries-old tradition. For some it is as simple as being called up to the Torah for the first time. For others it consists of the child leading the entire ceremony, followed by much celebration with family and friends. So why do American families come all the way to Israel

to celebrate a single event that could just as easily be carried out in the comfort of their home community?

While thinking about this question I recalled a story I heard from Richard Joel, the current president of Yeshiva University, when he was speaking at my *shul* in Manhattan as its scholar-in-residence last year. He spoke about a birthright trip he had gone along with a few years back. The group was about to go visit the *Kotel*, many for the first time.

En route, one of the students approached Joel and asked him, "What am I supposed to feel when I see the *Kotel*?" His response was simply, "You don't have to feel anything." He went on to tell the student that while there is nothing that he is required to "feel," he should still take the time to touch the wall. While doing so he should look up at the *Kotel* and think about his ancestors and how much they yearned for the opportunity to simply touch the *Kotel*...but knew that they would never be able to.

This is just one aspect of the many reasons why families come all the way from America to celebrate the event of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in Israel, particularly by the *Kotel*. It is to show their children, who are about to fully inherit



A Bar Mitzvah at the Wester Wall in Jerusalem.

their individual role as a member of Jewish society, what their heritage is all about. So that they can see with their own two eyes the legacy with which they have been entrusted, and must now help to preserve. Israel is the birthplace of Jewish heritage, and the *Kotel* is a current symbol of that heritage.

For centuries the Jewish people have made sacrifices and suffered through hardships, in order to ensure that future genera-

tions could not only have, but even touch a piece of the past that they themselves had no access to. They must touch it with their hands in Israel, and continue touching it with their hearts back in America. By doing so, they will be able to help others understand what their past, and inevitably their future, is all about.

*Daniel Stieglitz of Providence has recently made aliyah and lives in Jerusalem.*

## Sterling Silver Torah Pointers

"When I go to the synagogue today, there is a deep feeling that this is my heritage, this is my people. I am very much moved. It brings me back to the little boy who was bar mitzvahed."

—ABE VICODA



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## Interfaith families and Bar/Bat Mitzvah: questions and opportunities

By Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff

Sam and Mary had an appointment with the rabbi. Their daughter, Rachel, was scheduled to become a Bat Mitzvah in less than a year. Mary was nervous. Sam did all the talking.

"With all due respect, rabbi," Sam began, "we want to know what we are getting into before Rachel starts her Bat Mitzvah studies. You see, rabbi, Mary is not Jewish. And we want to be sure that she can be a part of our daughter's celebration. We really want the whole family to participate."

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a wonderful event. The child stands before family, friends, and community and declares: "Being Jewish is important to me. I stand today — just as my ancestors did at Mt. Sinai — as a responsible Jewish (young) adult."

How marvelous! How equally marvelous it is that non-Jewish parents and relatives wish to support this Jewish effort and commitment. So, how do interfaith families join together for this occasion?

Here are a few suggestions for interfaith families contemplating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration:

- **Talk with your rabbi early to know what the opportunities might be.**

Each synagogue is different. There is only one way to know what a congregation and a rabbi will permit family members to do: ASK! Most non-Jewish parents are relieved just to know what they and their "side" of the family can do in a religious service. Rabbis and congregations owe it to their interfaith-married families to share openly the policy for non-Jewish participation in Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

For example: Can non-Jewish relatives participate in any of the honors given out Friday night or Saturday morning (such

as opening the ark, dressing the Torah, reciting prayers or blessings)? Remember, synagogues are in the business of helping

which non-Jewish family members can participate.

- **Teach non-Jewish family members about the upcoming ceremony of Bar/Bat Mitzvah.**

Take the time to let non-Jewish relatives understand why your child is preparing so hard for his/her special Shabbat (Sabbath). Help them learn what Torah means, how Jews understand Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Among the books available, I recommend two in particular: *Bar/Bat Mitzvah Basics: A Practical Family Guide to Coming of Age Together*, edited by Cantor Helen Leneman, et. al.; and *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah*, by Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin.

- **Show non-Jewish family members what being Jewish means to your family and to your community.**

Invite them to join you when you celebrate a holiday or Shab-

bat in your home. Allow them to experience another child becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, so they will be more comfortable when their relative stands on the bimah.

Such preparation can begin a few months before the ceremony or even before a baby is born. But there is another type of preparation. The challenge of an interfaith family raising Jewish children is balancing each parent's own religious tradition and the Jewish tradition in which the child is raised. Emotional and religious dynamics come to the forefront during this time.

It is an extraordinary opportunity for learning and growing. Asking a few questions — both of self and of synagogue — and sharing one's Jewish heritage in advance can make the event one of true celebration for every member of the family who attends.

*Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel, in Columbus, Ohio, has worked with interfaith families and on behalf of outreach for over 18 years.*

*Reprinted from interfaithfamily.com*



Jewish families live Jewish lives. Each community has its limits and privileges. Just as a non-Christian would not take communion, so too, synagogues have frameworks within

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# L'chaim!

# Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony began circa 15th century

From MyJewishLearning.com:

Many people are surprised to find that "becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah" happens automatically when a Jewish boy reaches the age of 13 and for a girl age 12. The ceremony that today occupies center stage is actually a historical afterthought, with evidence of observance only from sometime between the 14th and 16th centuries. Because the ceremony marks reaching the age of majority, many traditional Jews observe it on the Sabbath immediately following the child's birthday.

For the rabbis, the significance of this life-changing moment was in the child's new stage of physical, intellectual and moral development. They saw 12 and 13 as the ages at which girls and boys, respectively, were beginning to develop a conscience. The term Bar/Bat Mitzvah — which means "obligated to perform the Jewish *mitzvot* (commandments)" — reflects the child's newfound capabilities and responsibilities.

Although the ceremony that communally affirms the child's coming of age is medieval in origin, there is evidence in rabbinic literature that the father may have recited a blessing when the child reached the age of majority. This blessing, called *baruch she'pitarani*, thanks God for



freeing the father from responsibility for the child's behavior, signaling a transition of control and hence responsibility from parent to child.

The relatively late development of the Bar Mitzvah ceremony probably derives from changes in communal customs regarding what ritual activities a child was allowed to perform. According to the *Talmud*, which was completed around the sixth century CE, boys were permitted to perform many ritual acts whenever they were able to recite and understand the rituals' significance.

Later this changed, and children were not allowed to perform these rituals until they had

reached the age of majority. At this point, a ceremony celebrating their first performance began to make sense.

### First Bat Mitzvah

The Bat Mitzvah ceremony observed in the liberal movements came much later. It grew out of a broader societal focus on women's rights, with the first American Bat Mitzvah ceremony occurring in 1922. The concept of a girl becoming Bat Mitzvah within traditional Judaism is far more recent.

Because Jewish law limits a woman's religious responsibilities primarily to commandments that are not time-bound (meaning, not required to be performed at a particular time), a woman's

Jewish activity occurred primarily within the private, familial realm rather than the public, communal one. Because women were not required to perform any overt and visible mitzvot as were men, a ceremony made little sense. Yet in the late 20th century, as observant women became more Judaically educated, they began to press for more meaningful rituals for Bat Mitzvah.

Because the rabbis specified no ritual requirements for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, except for the parental blessing, the roles played by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the service and even the timing of the service itself can vary widely. The typical Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony takes place during the Sabbath morning service, where the child is called up to say the blessings over the Torah — his or her first *aliyah*.

The celebrant may read from the Torah; chant the *Haftarah*, lead some or all of the congregational service; and offer a personal interpretation of the weekly Torah portion, called a *d'var Torah*.

The ceremony takes on similar roles when it occurs on a holiday, on Rosh Chodesh — the first day of the new Hebrew month, on a Monday or Thursday morning or on a Sabbath afternoon. The Torah is not read on Friday nights.

The year of intensive preparation that precedes the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony itself signals a change in the relationship and

"balance of power" between the parent and child along with the immense changes in the child's own physical and intellectual persona. On a religious level these changes are acknowledged by the *baruch she'pitarani* blessing.

This period requires new models of decision making as well as the adoption of new familial roles. When a child misses this rite of passage, he or she certainly is still Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but the chance is seemingly gone for the spiritual coming of age of the new teenager.

And what of converts who want to affirm their attachments to Judaism by devoting extra time to Jewish learning and those who came late to religious observance? In the last 30 years or so, a solution has developed — a belated celebration called adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Small groups of adults join together in synagogue-based classes for one to two years, studying Jewish history, theology, texts and prayer, and learning to read Hebrew and to chant Torah and *Haftarah*. The process of study culminates in an adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony where adults publicly reclaim their spiritual heritage.

*MyJewishLearning.com*, a comprehensive and interactive online Jewish learning resource, is a project of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

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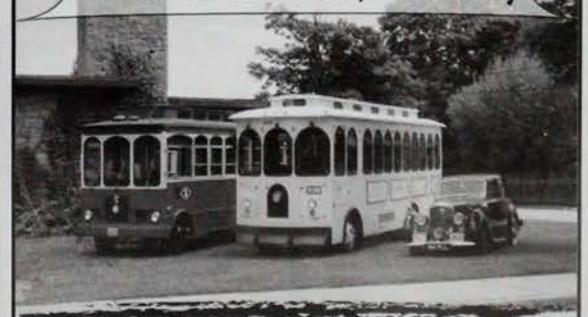
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# The evolution of the Bat Mitzvah

On Saturday morning, March 18, 1922, 12-year old Judith Kaplan, the daughter of Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan, stepped to the *bimah* of her father's synagogue, the Society for the Advancement of Judaism. She recited the preliminary blessing, read a portion of the Torah portion in Hebrew and English and then intoned the closing blessing.

"That was enough to shock a lot of people," she later recalled, "including my own grandparents and aunts and uncles."

The shocking event they had just witnessed, according to historian Paula Hyman, was the first Bat Mitzvah conducted in the United States. Reflecting on her historic moment, Kaplan observed, "No thunder sounded. No lightning struck." Rather,

Judith Kaplan and her father, founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, set the model for what has now become a widespread American Jewish practice.

As Hyman notes, "The Bat Mitzvah ritual was introduced into American Judaism as both an ethical and pragmatic response to gender divisions in traditional Judaism."

In Jewish law, a girl reaches majority at age 12, but until the invention of Bat Mitzvah there was no ritual ceremony to mark this passage. Mordecai Kaplan intended Bat Mitzvah to give females equal standing with males and stimulate Jewish education for women so they would be better able to transmit Jewish knowledge to their children.

### Conservative Movement

While it started with Recon-

structionism, Hyman attributes the further evolution of Bat Mitzvah to the American Conservative movement. In the mid-19th century, American Reform began moving away from traditional ceremonies such as male Bar Mitzvah. Instead, Reform congregations introduced group confirmation ceremonies when the boys and girls in their religious schools completed their education, around age 15.

Confirmation, then, was more of a graduation ceremony than a Bar Mitzvah. Traditional Orthodoxy did not allow women to read the Torah. Thus, if girls of 12 or 13 were to have a coming-of-age ceremony equivalent to Bar Mitzvah for boys, it fell to the Conservative Movement to define what that ceremony should be.

Change came gradually. As late as the 1930s, despite Judith Kaplan's pathbreaking example, only a handful of Conservative synagogues had adopted Bat Mitzvah. By 1948, however, one-third of Conservative congregations conducted them and, by the 1960s, the ceremony became the norm within Conservatism.

They were usually held on Friday nights, when the Torah is not read or, if held on Saturday morning like Judith Kaplan's, the Bat Mitzvah girl would read from a printed book containing the bible, rather than from the Torah scroll itself.

### Reform Movement

The first recorded Bat Mitz-

## Mordecai Kaplan planned first Bat Mitzvah for daughter

*(The following is an excerpt from a historical article written by Deborah Stern, director, Mordecai M. Kaplan Library, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.)*



Judith Kaplan at her adult Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

Mordecai Kaplan, the philosophical founder of Reconstructionism, had four daughters and no sons, which led to his orchestrating the first Bat Mitzvah ceremony on record, for his daughter Judith in 1922 at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, the synagogue Kaplan founded that year. What ever Kaplan's original motivation was, he continued to champion equality for women in Judaism. In 1936 he summed up his thinking in an essay in *The Jewish Reconstructionist Papers*, entitled "The Status of the Woman in Jewish Law." He wrote: "She must attain in Jewish law and practice a position of religious, civic and juridical equality with the man, and this attainment must come about through her own efforts and initiative...The Jewish woman must demand the equality due her as a right to which she is fully entitled...There is no reason why the Jewish civilization should persist in treating her in this day and age as though she were a minor, a half-wit, or a slave."

vah at a Reform congregation occurred in 1931 but, as with

the Conservative movement, the ritual did not catch on right away. By the 1950s, only one third of Reform congregations conducted them. Since the 1960s, as Reform has placed increasing emphasis on traditional rituals, Bat Mitzvah has grown to near universality in that movement's congregations. A number of Modern Orthodox congregations have now adopted some form of Bat Mitzvah as well.

The introduction of Bat Mitzvah, which was originally meant only to mark the passage from Jewish girlhood to Jewish womanhood, raised a series of issues. As Hyman puts it, "How could a girl be called to Torah as a Bat Mitzvah and then never have such an honor again?" Both Reform and Conservatism grappled with this problem and, by the 1970s, a majority of congregations in both movements called women to the Torah.

*Reprinted from www.jewishvirtuallibrary.com. This article originally appeared on the American Jewish Historical Society (www.ajhs.org).*



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## Bar/Bat Mitzvah websites

The following websites are just a handful of virtual Bar/Bat Mitzvah information and marketplaces on the web. Ask family and friends for their favorite sites.

- [bjeri.org](http://bjeri.org) — Website of Bureau of Jewish Education of R.I. For some really cool Jewish links for teens, click on cool links.

- [jfri.org](http://jfri.org) — Jewish Federation of R.I. website, link to e-cards.

- [ujc.org](http://ujc.org) — United Jewish Communities website. Practical suggestions for interfaith ceremonies. Click on Jewish life, click on Interfaith Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

- [Mazeltops.com](http://Mazeltops.com) — Themes, themes, themes — from Casino to Jerusalem to music to design-your-own.

- [www.photofetti.com](http://www.photofetti.com) — Half-inch to one-inch paper photo circles or stickers of Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant. For tables, invitations, confetti (check if hall allows the latter).

- <http://jewish-shopping.com/> — Jewish shopping mall.

- [www.bible.ort.org](http://www.bible.ort.org) — Want to know the date of your new baby's Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Click on "Find My Bar/Bat Mitzvah," enter birthday and check whether baby was born in the Diaspora, after sunset and at what age the ceremony will occur (12 or 13). It will give you the date, Torah portion.

- [myjewishlearning.com](http://myjewishlearning.com) — Click on the lifecycle events tab, go to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The site has a quiz, advice on how to choose a mitzvah project, a list of recommended books, how to involve non-Jewish parents, and articles on the history, practicalities and contemporary issues in planning the celebration.

- [www.shopinisrael.com](http://www.shopinisrael.com) — This is a virtual mall linked to merchants in Israel, selling just about anything you need for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

- [www.barmitzvahfindit.com](http://www.barmitzvahfindit.com) — A virtual American mall. Every kind of vendor imaginable is on this site.

- [mitzvahchic.com](http://mitzvahchic.com) — Link to book of same name. As the site describes itself: "a new approach to hosting a bar, bat, or bas mitzvah that is meaningful, hip, relevant, fun, & drop-dead gorgeous!" Ideas, tools, budgeting, interesting tzedakah links. Great toast quotations: "Adolescence is a period of rapid changes. Between the ages of 12 and 17, for example, a parent ages as much as 20 years." — Anonymous

- [Jewfaq.org](http://Jewfaq.org) & [Judaism.about.com](http://Judaism.about.com) — An encyclopedia of links.

— Compiled by Mary Korr



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## JEWISH PARENTING

## Glimpsing the modern American Bar Mitzvah from the outside in

By Sharon Duke Estroff

"All names have been changed. Any similarities are purely coincidental.

It's been said that when it comes to raising children, the days go slow and the years go fast. As I find myself in the thick of planning my second son's bar mitzvah celebration, these words ring all too true. But who has time for sentimentalism when you've got to pull off a colossal bar mitzvah bash in less than a year?!

The first item on my party-planning agenda was to secure the entertainment. "Bar Mitzvahs R Us," said a perky voice on the telephone.

"I'd like to know if you have availability on April 7th, please." I inquired, cordially.

"2009 or 2010?"

"2008," I answered, panic rising.

"Ha!" said the voice (no longer sounding so perky). "Good luck."

Fifteen phone calls and fourteen rejections later, I'd managed to land a living breathing Master of Ceremonies (who'd miraculously just had a cancellation for my date).

The next morning, I was sipping Starbucks with an MC

named Rhythm — a hulking albeit friendly man who, I can only assume, plays for the NFL during his off-season — to nail down the details of my family's fast approaching event.

"Do you want to do the *Motzi*?" asked Rhythm.

"Yes," I answered, "Of course."

"How about a Candlelighting?"

"Umm, I'm not sure."

Things proceeded in this manner. Was I interested in the *Birchat*? What about feather boas? Did I want to do the *Hora*? How about the chicken dance?

As Rhythm threw me option after option without missing a beat, I felt myself entering a transformational spin. Like Lynda Carter on the old Wonder Woman TV show. And when I stopped whirling, I was sitting on the other side of my frappuccino — in Rhythm's shoes (enormous though they might be).

I could suddenly grasp the stark bizarreness that this 300 pound linebacker — whose bling didn't include a single Star of David — was so incredibly well versed in terms like *Motzi* and *Birchat*; and, more bizarre yet, was using them in conjunction with terms like feather boa and chicken dance.

I could now clearly see what Rhythm (and the rest of the gente world, for that matter) must think from the outside looking in at the modern American Bar Mitzvah phenomenon. And how he might interpret the ways we Jewish parents choose to celebrate these meaningful religious rites of passage for our children.

On the heels of this revelation came an unsettling flashback to a website entry I'd encountered earlier during a cyber-hunt for hopping bar mitzvah party themes. It was written by a non-Jewish mother about her son's experience at a friend's bar mitzvah. Here it is, slightly abbreviated and 100% true.

### Best Bar Mitzvah Party Theme — Terminator

My son William was recently invited to his friend Josh's Bar Mitzvah. William had never been to a Bar Mitzvah before and he's still talking about it.

The invitation was a video tape of Josh, dressed like the Terminator and doing an Arnold Schwarzenegger impression: "Come to My Bar Mitzvah, Or Else!"

When I dropped William off at the five star hotel ballroom, everything was decorated to look like metal. There were robots standing guard with blinking eyes and moving arms; destroyed

tanks and cars strewn about (rented from a movie prop house); and inflatable jungle gyms and slides, all in camouflage colors. There was even a life-sized Arnold Schwarzenegger cutout for guests to sign.

After the "*Aliea La Tora*," Josh made his grand entrance on a "T2" motorcycle — his Bar Mitzvah gift from his parents!

Following the "*Hamotze*," a live rock band played modern techno music. Josh did a really cool robot dance.

During the traditional candlelighting ceremony, Josh lit 13 candles with a butane lighter shaped like a Terminator rifle. My son wished he could take it home with him.

At midnight, Josh's parents announced that a collector's Terminator action figure was hidden somewhere in the ballroom. While everyone searched, an Arnold Schwarzenegger look-alike dressed like the Terminator walked in. Every kid got a picture taken with the surprise guest.

William had such a great time that he asked if he could have a bar mitzvah, too.

Fueled with newfound perspective and courage (and an unmistakable wave of nausea), I thanked Rhythm for his time and made a dash for my bookshelf to retrieve my dog-eared copy the



Sharon Duke Estroff

Book of Jewish Values to see what the ever wise and rational Rabbi Joseph Teluskin might have to say about the situation. He didn't let me down.

"Out of the desire not to appear cheap or unloving to their children, many...Jews feel forced to spend far more on [Bar Mitzvah] parties than they can or want to," writes Teluskin. "Furthermore lavish parties often end up diminishing, sometimes even eliminating, the religious significance of the Bar Mitzvah. For many of the celebrants, what counts is the "bar", not the mitzvah."

What we desperately need, says Rabbi Teluskin, are some "wealthy moral heroes...prominent, affluent Jews in our largest Jewish communities — to throw a simple bar or bat mitzvah celebration, one in which the party is very pleasant and celebratory, but not lavish." In doing so, he holds, "the good they would do for their fellow Jews would be almost incalculable."

In my community, I've seen a few brave parents heed this critical calling with wonderful results; and I — post-Wonder-Woman-style transformational spin and faithful *Teluskin* fan — plan to do the same (even if I may fall a tad short of affluent, pillar of the Jewish community status at the present time).

At this stage in my Bar Mitzvah planning process, I'm still not sure where this journey will take my family. But I do know where it won't. I welcome you to join me along this road less taken.

Stay tuned.

Sharon Duke Estroff is an internationally syndicated parenting columnist, award-winning Jewish educator and mother of four. Her book, "*Can I Have a Cell Phone for Hanukkah?*" is now available for pre-order on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and will be released by Broadway Books this October. [www.sharon-estroff.com](http://www.sharon-estroff.com).

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# Bat Mitzvah gift shopper turns frustration into unique business

**Kimberly Trompeter  
Baltimore Jewish Times**

SUDBURY, Mass. — Rob Cohen had no idea that the search for his daughter's Bat Mitzvah gift would lead him to become co-founder of MitzvahArt, an Internet-based business offering a unique take on traditional Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts.

For Cohen, the purchase of an ordinary mitzvah gift that his daughter would spend or soon forget about was simply not an option. He wanted to give her something to commemorate the significance of her spiritual passage. Unfortunately, Cohen quickly found that available options for a unique gift were very limited. "When my daughter became a Bat Mitzvah, I searched for a beautiful piece of art that had her Torah portion. I could not find anything on the Web," states Cohen.

So Cohen got creative. He teamed up with his sister, an artist and book designer, knowledgeable with fonts, to create what would soon become the first product of MitzvahArt, which is based in Sudbury, Mass. The result: a beautiful, well-crafted, framed print of his daughter's English and Hebrew name, English and Hebrew Torah portion and location — which his daughter loved.

Soon after finishing the gift, Cohen and his family realized that they had a profound item to offer. He decided to sell his item online, making it readily accessible to anyone with Internet access.

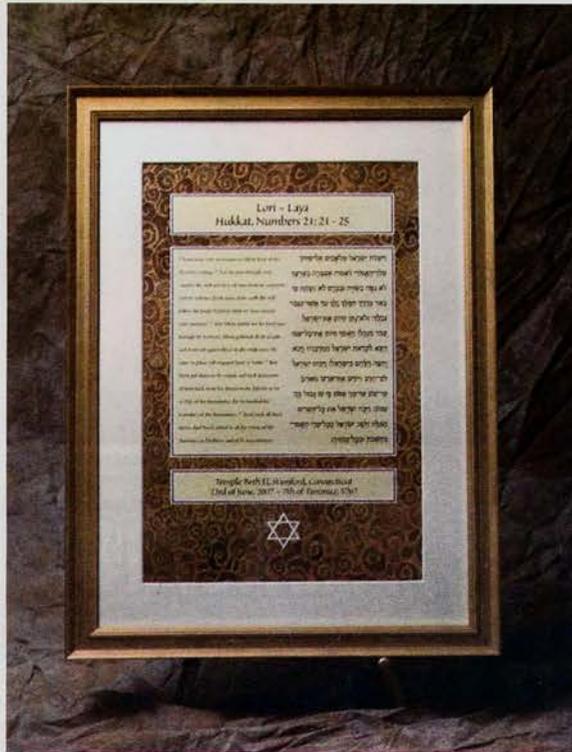
One client, Barry Ruditsky, chose MitzvahArt after searching for his nephew's Bar Mitzvah gift. Like Cohen, Ruditsky wanted to give his nephew a valued gift; something other than money that he would remember. The end result was "gorgeous" exclaims Ruditsky.

According to Ruditsky, "MitzvahArt.com's website was extremely easy to use. While on the site I could actually build how it was going to look and instantly see the results. I was able to make the entire purchase online and felt secure in using the site the entire time."

The website offers a catalog of artwork to choose from, including a variety of backgrounds and a choice of frames. MitzvahArt's products are made from archival materials such as high-quality, acid-free paper, preservation quality frames and

Plexiglas. Prices begin at \$250 and the young adult's Torah portion, name and location must be provided.

More importantly, Ruditsky



says that when his 13-year-old nephew opened his gift, he exclaimed how "cool" it was. For Ruditsky, who thought that the gift might end up being more for his nephew's parents, hearing how special the gift was for his nephew made him realize that making the purchase was the right decision. "Hearing a 13-year-old say that means it was well done. I plan on buying another one for a family member in the near future," he states. In addition to constructing a customized bar/Bat Mitzvah gift, MitzvahArt also gives back to the community by donating \$18 per order, in honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, to their congregation.

For Cohen, running this business brings value to his life. In every aspect of the business, MitzvahArt's products are constructed and marketed with the help of his family. His sister designs, his brother-in-law does the framing and his wife plans and organizes many aspects of the business. Cohen notes that, "The nice thing about the business is that it provides something for the young adult becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. They think — after the party — that they're done. But with a framed Torah portion from MitzvahArt they can remember that they are members of the Jewish community. It helps them remember their accomplishment and realize that they can do anything they set their mind to."

For more information, log on to MitzvahArt.com.



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## Repairing the world, one mitzvah at a time

By Marylyn Graff  
mgraft@jfri.org

There was a time when the Bar or Bat Mitzvah had only (!) to learn some blessings, the Torah portion and a short speech. In the past 20 or 30 years the *mitzvah* or *tikkun olam* project, which adds immeasurably to the significance of the occasion has been incorporated. The young people are enthusiastic at the opportunity to plan and carry through something that makes them grown-up.

These projects may take weeks or months to complete or may even be ongoing. Often they are related to the Torah portion of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah week. At Temple Sinai in Cranston, Stephanie Abbott, whose Torah portion is Noah, has chosen to work with her local animal shelter. An animal lover with several family pets, she has been (literally) a godsend to the Warwick animal shelter. She has collected food, treats and toys and made up baskets for the shelter. When a deserted house yielded numerous cats, she collected and brought in extra food. In addition, Stephanie is asking the Saturday morning guests at her Bat Mitzvah to

bring a donation of pet food. She says that God cared for animals through Noah, so she feels that people should continue God's work.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin reports that an upcoming Bar Mitzvah at Temple Emanu-El, whose special sport is swimming, volunteers to coach swimming at the "Y" in Lincoln.

Other projects at Emanu-El include a young man who saw a television program about the Camp Better Days Foundation, dedicated to kids who lost parents on 9/11. He was inspired to collect contributions to send them for a camping experience, where they could help to heal each other.

A voracious reader is collecting books in good condition to give to Hasbro Children's Hospital and other places to help widen the world for other readers.

A loving young person is dedicating *tzedakah* to favorite charities of dear grandparents in their memories.

Ross Frank in the Silver Scholar Bar Mitzvah program at Emanu-El has a family interest in the Holocaust Educational and Resource Center and wanted



ROSS FRANK created videotapes at the Holocaust Center into DVD format.



to use his technical skills to help the center. Conferring with May-Ronny Zeidman, the director, he found that the large collection of educational VHS tapes, now obsolete, needed to be converted to DVD format for the use of the

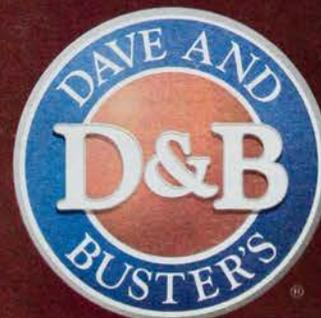
schools and groups. Accordingly he is working steadily to accomplish this important mission.

At Temple Am David, Cantor Rick Perlman sits down with each youngster to emphasize the importance of every person's

work towards *tikkun olam*. learns what they feel passionate about and, without making suggestions, has them design their own projects, which they then discuss at their ceremony. One young woman took her Bat Mitzvah gifts to Israel and divided the proceeds among worthy causes that she found. Another collected Barbie dolls to take to Israel to give to kids who couldn't afford them. "Locks of Love," cutting long hair to be made into wigs for young people suffering hair loss due to chemotherapy has been done by several. Some make up food baskets as table centerpieces to be distributed to food banks. A celebrant placed cards on the tables for each guest to be sent to President Bush to request help for the people of Darfur.

A recent Bat Mitzvah was aware of a classmate suffering from juvenile diabetes. She got a group together from her dance class, created a talent show and sold tickets to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

There are about as many ideas for helping others through Bar and Bat Mitzvah projects as there are celebrants, creating thoughtful, giving adults for ours and their future.



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# Choosing a caterer: from the Idiot's Guide

*The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Choosing a Caterer* by Phyllis Cambria and Patty Sachs, published by Penguin Publishing; softcover, 214 pages; \$9.95.

While the authors are quick to point out you are certainly no idiot, they also point out you should not let the experience of planning a party leave a bad taste in your mouth! This book gives you a foolproof recipe for success. All types of parties are discussed.

Your best advantage is to attend other parties and speak to the hosts afterward. Did all go as they planned? Were they completely happy with their caterer? How did you find the caterer on that event? Were you impressed? Your synagogue will also be able to advise you about a number of caterers.

Questions to ask perspective caterers include:

1. How long have you been in business? What is your specialty? Can you accommodate menu adjustments for special dietary requirements, themed menus, or family recipes? What types of food and beverages can you provide on my budget?
2. Do you cook from scratch or do you prepare elsewhere and bring it in? Do you use fresh or frozen food? How is the food transported? How soon before the event will the food be delivered?
3. What is the minimum amount of guests you will work with and when do I have to give you a final head count?
4. May I have contact information for your last six clients and also customers who had a similar event to mine in the last year?

**Included in this guide are:**

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- Tasteful advice on planning a menu your guests will love
- Helpful tips on how to get your money's worth
- Learn about guarantees, refunds, and gratuities
- Straightforward advice on everything from checking references to signing the catering contract, handling legal and insurance issues

You'll read that success starts with the right ingredients, and all about food and drinks.

Included in the facts: there are two times you will want to see your proposed caterer in action. One is just before an event. The other is when the party is in progress. You will want to meet every key person, do a thorough kitchen inspection for hygiene and potential safety issues, and attend a pre-event wait-staff meeting to evaluate your catering manager's performance. Dressed properly, in order to appraise their performance, you will also want to stop in to an event where the group is working.

You'll learn about party themes, adding your personal touches, and equipment suggestions. In selecting the perfect menu, you will want to give your guests' needs to the caterer. Does your caterer do kosher cooking? Can he/she supply vegetarian meals to the few who need them?

Evaluating proposals and discussing costs and contracts are an important part of your affair, and this book will help you every step of the way. An important addition to the rest of your plans, it is available in your local bookstore, or online at [www.idiotsguides.com](http://www.idiotsguides.com).

— By Joan G. Friedman



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## Caterers talk trends; how about a circus theme with (hungry) baby elephant?

By Marylyn Graff  
mgraaff@jfri.org

Years ago Bar and Bat Mitzvah parties were not much different from wedding celebrations. That is, they were keyed to the adult guests while the young people had to fit in as best they could. More and more, the kids are being consulted and their ideas incorporated. People are choosing a unique theme, tying it to an interest of the young teenager.

The planning process should begin at least a year ahead of the date. It's advisable to choose a venue and talk to one or more caterers. Most people have attended these events and have some opinion about which caterer will fit with their ideas. You can also ask around among friends and relatives. You should have a pretty good sense of how many guests there will be, especially how many will be contemporaries of the B'nei Mitzvah. Also establish a budget to communicate to the caterer.

If there are a lot of young persons, you may want to have separate entertainment.

One recent Bar Mitzvah party was for a young man with a strong interest in cooking. Bob

**Another group, with more eclectic tastes used "Raiders of the Lost Ark." They had faux snakes and other exotic creatures to startle the guests.**

Burke of the Federal Reserve had the younger group set up as a cooking school with aprons, chef's hats and mitts, each having a kit with (cooked) fish, the chef directing how to make sushi. They then learned the art of flipping dessert crepes.

Another suggestion is to have a "mocktail" bar, separate from the adult bar. There may also be a separate buffet with "kid food." The event should reflect the transition into adulthood. Family videos can be set up as a background rather than boring the guests with a long film.

One family with a very athletic boy is planning to hold their celebration at a rock-climbing venue with separate entertainment for the adults; both groups meeting for the meal service.

### Beach, jungle themes

Down by the shore in Narragansett, people lean toward beach themes. Jim Le Donne of Amalfi Caterers says he will even bring sand into his ballroom along

with surfboards and palm trees, to carry out the theme. He's also working on a jungle theme for a family, bringing in small animals and macaws. (Small animals only because he remembers a jungle-themed event years ago in California where the overly-ambitious inclusion of a young elephant resulted in the destruction of the premises.)

There are about as many ideas for Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations as there are families.

### Do-it-yourself sushi bars

Most caterers and venues are happy to accommodate (insofar as possible) their wishes.

Larry Levine, a kosher caterer, combines with Tevya of Peabody, Mass. for the events. Again, one of the popular foods is sushi, with ready-made and do-it-yourself sushi bars. (After all, we Jews have been eating pickled herring forever.)

Some of the themes he's encountered have been: for a family that enjoys international

cruises, a midnight buffet set up like shipboard with food stations from several countries. Another family chose a horse-western theme with a cowboy-style barbecue and horse décor (no live horses, though.) Larry's own daughter had a rainforest set-up in a tent with tropical plants, a real waterfall and live (non-edible) fish swimming.

### Watch out for the paparazzi!

Heather Bernardi, special events manager at Dave and Busters, reports that sports themes are popular. Others have come up with shows such as Hollywood and Emmy awards with "paparazzi" rushing around to photograph the guests. Heather agrees that it's a good idea to set up a separate buffet for the adults and kid-friendly food for the youngsters.

Family hobbies may inspire the theme of the party. Tova kosher caterer in Norton, Mass., says that one family chose a fishing theme, with tackle boxes as decorations and balloons hang-



ing from fishing rods serving as centerpieces. Tablecloths were in ocean colors. Another group, with more eclectic tastes used "Raiders of the Lost Ark." They had faux snakes and other exotic creatures to startle the guests. I didn't ask about the menu.

It seems that nowadays, when invited to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration, the prospective guests should be ready for anything. Consulting the kids makes the occasions less routine and lots more fun.

## Bar Mitzvah sponsors party for aboriginal youth

By Sheri Shefa  
Canadian Jewish News

When most kids think about their Bar Mitzvah, they hope their friends will have a good time at the party and they pray they won't make a mistake during their Torah reading.

But Zachary Baruch wanted to make sure that his Bar Mitzvah would be more meaningful to his family and the people in his community.

On Sept. 16, four days after his 13th birthday, and about a month before his Bar Mitzvah celebration, Baruch hosted a dinner for 40 aboriginal youths at a homeless shelter in Toronto called Tumivut.

Zachary, a Grade 8 student at Upper Canada College (UCC) and a former Bialik Hebrew Day School student, came up with the idea with his father, Ron, who is on the board of directors of Ve'ahavta - the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, which assists the needy both locally and nationally.

"We came up with the idea of how can we parallel our festive celebration by helping others," Baruch said, adding that his son wanted to sponsor a dinner with the gifts he'll get from his Bar Mitzvah as it's scheduled so close to Thanksgiving.

"I inquired with the people at Ve'ahavta and it so happens that Tumivut, an aboriginal youth shelter, in the St. Clair [Avenue] and Bathurst [Street] area, were looking for funding for a dinner that they promised to the kids, about 40 youth, in the summer. They didn't have funding for it."

Zachary decided this was a good opportunity to help.

"When I heard that they were promised a steak dinner and a party, and they couldn't do it because they didn't have enough funds, I felt really bad. And because I'll be getting Bar Mitzvah money, I thought since I'm really fortunate, I should help them," he said.

Baruch and his father felt that since they were preparing for a night of dinner and dancing for his son's Bar Mitzvah, it would be nice to treat others to a similar kind of celebration.

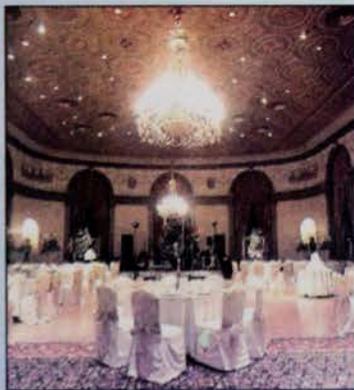


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## *B'nai Tzedek program teaches teens about individual philanthropy*

By Jessica Waterman

I am 15 years old, and I am a junior at the Rocky Hill School in East Greenwich. I love the arts, as well as community service! For this reason, I joined *B'nai Tzedek* at the Bureau of Jewish Education two years ago.

I decided to join *B'nai Tzedek* because it is a teen philanthropy organization, and I wanted to make more connections with people my own age. Our program and committee meetings are casual, and very inclusive — everyone has a voice. The events are planned and implemented by the *B'nai Tzedek* participants, so that everyone has an opportunity to take a leadership role.

Each year, as I distribute the earnings from my fund, I have contributed to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. The food bank tends to be most needy during the holiday season. For this coming year, I am hoping to find a less well-known agency that might need additional support, perhaps one that works to help people in need in developing countries.

As a participant of *B'nai Tzedek*, I look forward to learning about new non-profit organizations and becoming a more involved member of the community. I hope to make a difference in the world, one little step at a time. I hope that other teens will join *B'nai Tzedek*, so that they too have the opportunity to help others. *B'nai Tzedek* is an opportunity to see your ideas become realities, and a way to learn about the world. When you become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you are welcomed as a member of the adult Jewish Community. *B'nai Tzedek* is a great way to put that new responsibility



Jessica Waterman

into action.

For more information about *B'nai Tzedek*: Teen Philanthropy Rhode Island, contact Rachel Mersky Woda at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (401.331.0956, ext. 178; rwoda@bjeri.org).

*B'nai Tzedek* is funded through the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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# Bar Mitzvah guide for non-Jewish guests

By Ted Roberts

The following text may be used by any who wish in a Bar/Bat Mitzvah booklet given out at the ceremony.

## Introduction

The ceremony that we are celebrating today marks the passage of a Jew from childhood into adulthood. From this day on he/she is ethically, morally responsible for his/her behavior; literally a Bar/Bat (son or daughter) Mitzvah (Commandment), a son or daughter of the Commandments. And contrary to the common wisdom, our Bible is jammed with 603 commandments in addition to the familiar 10. The youth undertakes a heavy obligation.

We realize that some of our friends may never have attended a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Therefore, we offer this guide to the morning's activities.

All ancient cultures used some sort of maturity rite to assess the worthiness of the male adolescent for membership in the

adult community. In Judaism, this test is spiritual and intellectual, and today, for young women as well as young men. Hopefully, our brief explanation of this child's test will allow you to enjoy the service as well as the reception that follows.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony and the subsequent celebration is not a commandment, only a custom. It developed slowly.

Nothing the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student has accomplished so far in 13 years of life has demanded the hard work and dedication this task has required. It's stressful; it's heavy neural traffic for a young man. Like they say, timing is everything and unfortunately Bar Mitzvah time is adolescent time in the human life cycle.

## The service

The Bar Mitzvah ceremony, the rites of maturity for a Jewish child, usually takes place within the setting of the normal Saturday morning Shabbat service. These services consist of tradi-

tional prayers that go back many centuries.

The highlights of the Saturday ceremony — the highlight of every service where the Torah, the Law, is read — is the removal of the sacred scroll from its draped alcove — the Ark or Ark of Covenant as it's called in the Bible. The Torah is carried by the rabbi or a congregation member around the aisles of the synagogue as the worshipers sing a joyful song of praise and thanksgiving. Congregants crowd around "The Law" to kiss it, to touch it with their prayer shawl or their prayer book. This exuberant procession is also a sign that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, who has thus far been in the wings, is ready for the spotlight.

After the appropriate blessings our honoree will read directly from the Torah. Not a simple task even to a student of Hebrew — because the ancient lettering has no vowels. ('t 'nt 'sy — that's the English for "it ain't easy" — but without vowels.) Furthermore, it must be sung to a time-honored tune.

Besides the Torah chanting, the child, after a blessing, sings a passage from the Haftarah, the prophetic section of our bible.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah cel-

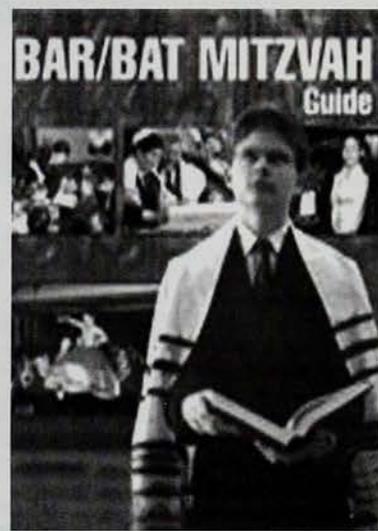
ebant follows the Haftarah performance with another tuneful blessing. The challenge of the day, you see, is musical as well as scholarly.

Then finally, after deciphering and reciting passages from a 3,500 year old language, the candidate must present an exegesis on the Torah and Haftarah. Congregants bombard the Bar/Bat Mitzvah with candy, which younger members of the synagogue and a few adult candyheads retrieve.

When the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child finishes his or her speech, the normal services are resumed.

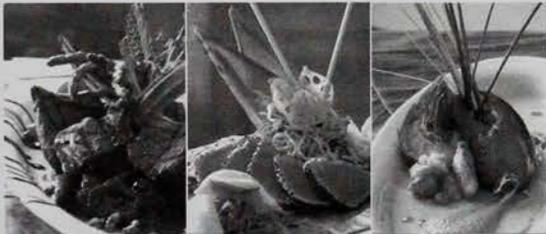
## Note:

Moses, Ruth, and King Solomon; as well as Elijah and his prophetic brethren prospered and preached without cell phones, cameras, and camcorders. On this holy Sabbath we'll try to do the same. Derek's performance shall vividly live in our memory.



*Ted Roberts, a Rockower Award winner, is a syndicated Jewish columnist. He does not boast of his piety or his scholarly knowledge of Judaica, but looks at Judaism through a new lens. A spoonful of humor helps the learning go down, he says. When he's not writing, he worships at Etz Chayim Synagogue in Huntsville, Alabama, where for 25 years he has served as Bar Mitzvah teacher.*

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# Bar / Bat Mitzvah planning guide reduces stress

## 1-3 years ahead

- Set the date.
- Set a budget.
- Reserve the synagogue.
- Reserve the hall for additional receptions.
- Arrange for caterer, party planner, and band or DJ.
- Buy a loose-leaf binder or start a filing system on index cards.

## 10-12 months ahead

- Begin Hebrew lessons.
- (Continue to) attend weekly Shabbat services as a family.
- Arrange for photographer and videographer.
- Book hotel accommodations and investigate transportation for out-of-town guests.

## 6 months ahead

- Plan colors and theme.
- Arrange for florist and make guest list.

## 4-5 months ahead

- Order invitations and thank-you notes, imprinted napkins, and personalized party favors.
- Shop for clothing and shoes.
- Purchase a *tallit* and *Tefillin* if applicable.
- Choose a calligrapher.

## 3 months ahead

- Plan Sunday brunch of applicable.
- Order printed *kippot*.

## 2 months ahead

- Meet with photographer and videographer.

- Meet with florist and/or decorations coordinator.
- Mail out-of-town invitations.

## 6 weeks ahead

- Order tuxedos.
- Take care of clothing alterations.
- Order wine for Kiddush.
- Mail in-town invitations.

## 4 weeks ahead

- Prepare Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech.

- Finalize reservations and transportation.

- Meet with caterer.
- Make welcome gifts for out-of-town guests.
- Arrange *aliyot*.
- Send honorary gift to synagogue.
- Meet with rabbi.
- Make seating charts for reception (and dinner).

## 2 weeks ahead

- Give final count to caterer.
- Check with florist.
- Order Bar/Bat Mitzvah cake, cookies, pastries for Friday night Oneg.

## A few days ahead

- Have rehearsal and take *Bimah* photographs.
- Make copies of speeches, room and table layouts, and give them to a friend to hold for you.

Last minute helpful hints are coming your way! Read on.

### Tallit and Tefillin:

Is someone special presenting your son or daughter with these wonderful gifts? If so, has the correct size been ordered and will it be arriving in plenty of time?

A few days before the Mitzvah date, arrange to have the presenter [a grandfather?] meet on the *Bimah* with the grandchild and show him how it is worn. As it is being arranged, snap a lot of photos. There will be no other opportunity for this special moment.

If people are arriving Friday evening before sundown, take photographs outside as they walk toward the building. With most synagogues, you must stop as the sun is going down. Check with your rabbi.

### Arranging seating:

Write each guest's name on a Post-it. Use a paper plate to represent each table. This way it will be easy to place and change names and tables every time you are told "so and so" doesn't want to sit with someone.

Remember not to seat the older people near the

band. Never have just one single at a table with couples. You need two singles to line up with couples.

### The reception:

Make certain there is parking; handicap parking should also be available.

If there is a cocktail hour, what is planned for children?

Think of the guest list. In place of the candle-lighting, you say basketball is the theme and each relative will be asked to "make a basket?" As I said, think of the guest list!

Above all, get written contracts with the caterer, band or DJ, florist, photographer, video-grapher, etc. Give the last two a list of everyone special for additional or group photos; list their table number and name. Give a close friend a copy of the lists and ask her check that the professionals are capturing all these special photos. Perhaps the videographer should ask for a few words from each guest, and more than a few words

from certain relatives.

### Remember:

Some things, such as a sign-in board, can be made in advance. Have those photos laminated so all the moustaches and horns can be erased.

Make hospitality bags filled with goodies for the out-of-town guests or hire someone to do them. Make sure they are driven to the hotel the night before your affair and have the recipient's name securely attached to each bag. You'll want to include juice and/or wine, chocolates, cookies, and a piece of fruit for each person. Keep in mind those on special diets. Enclose a note thanking them for coming.

Don't forget to include a bag or small case for yourself. This should include necessities such as a sewing kit, safety pins, band aids, hair brush and hair spray, deodorant, tissues, panty hose, Tylenol, stomach medicine, antacids, etc. Be prepared!

— Joan G. Friedman

## Ultra organized – are you?

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**Books**

**BOOKSHELF**

**Quick picks**

By Marylyn Graff  
mgraft@jfri.org

We Jews are not known as the "People of the Book" for nothing. In preparation for an upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah we can consult a variety of literary efforts on every phase of the celebration, from the spiritual aspects to the party.

Here are a few recommendations of new and tried-and-true books:

• **Doing Mitzvot — Mitzvah projects for Bar/Bat Mitzvah**, by Rabbis Ronald H. Isaacs and Kerry M. Olitsky is a light-hearted manual and workbook about the history and meaning of mitzvot along with suggestions. It lists eight specific mitzvot ideas ranging from studying the weekly Torah portion to starting an ecology project. KTAV publishing.

• **The Bar /Bat Mitzvah Memory Book: An Album for Treasuring the Spiritual Celebration**, by Jeffrey K. Salkin and Nina Salkin. This is a guided

album to help preserve important moments and memories of the occasion. Jewish Lights Publishing.

• **Girls' Guide: The Young Jewish Woman's Handbook for coming of Age**, by Penina Adelman, Ali Feldman and Shulamit Reinharz. Practical advice for adolescent girls using Judaism as a guide through everyday experiences and problems.

• **My Bar Mitzvah**, by Richard Rosenblum. A story written for younger readers describing an old-style Bar Mitzvah. William Morrow & Co.

• **Coming of Age as a Jew — Bar-/Bat Mitzvah**, by Shoshana Glatzer. A teacher's guide to preparing youngsters for b'nei mitzvot. Discusses basic Judaism, mitzvot, symbols, and Torah portions; everything the candidate should know.

• **Pink Slippers, Bat Mitzvah Blues**, by Ferida Wolff. A novel about a post-Bat Mitzvah who lives to dance but is torn by other interests. A pleas-

ant story that would make a nice gift for a young teenager, especially one who loves dance. The Jewish Publication Society.

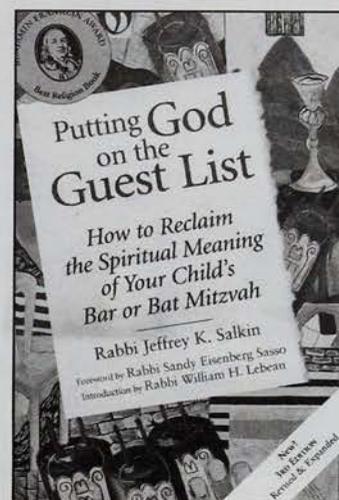
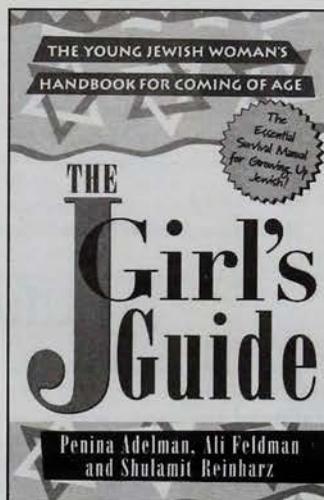
• **The Bar Mitzvah Mother's Manual**, by Alice Keidan Lanckton. This was written in 1986 when most Bar and Bat Mitzvahs were a little less elaborate, but there is some good history and sensible advice. Worth looking at for the planner. Hippocrene Books.

• **Bat Mitzvah, A Jewish Girl's Coming of Age**, by Barbara Diamond Goldin. This book begins with the information that the first Bat Mitzvah in North

America was Judith Kaplan, daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionist Judaism. The very readable book goes into the history of

women in Judaism and the personal experiences of real people. Viking Press.

Marylyn Graff is a copy editor at the Jewish Voice & Herald.



**Bar/Bat Mitzvah bookshelf**

By Judith S. Greenblatt

Bar Mitzvah! Bat Mitzvah! Is there one in your future soon? Anticipating with pleasure? Or fear and trepidation? No matter where you stand, there are lots of books available to help both the parents and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

A good place to begin is the following book:

**Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah**, by Jeffrey Salkin. Jewish Lights, 1992.

Salkin feels that the Ameri-

can focus on Bar/Bat Mitzvah is counterproductive because we define our goals too narrowly, and put too much emphasis on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah event. Instead, his book provides a way to shift the focus to teaching the wisdom that Judaism offers to those reaching the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. To this end, he discusses the background of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, its spiritual importance to parents and grandparents, the significance of reading the Torah, how to put the mitzvah back in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and related topics.

Salkin is the author of another book, this one aimed specifically at the kids. Called For Kids — Putting God on Your Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah. In kid-friendly language it explains Judaism's core values. Extras include questions at the end of each chapter that will help readers clarify their thoughts, and a guide to appropriate tzedakah projects.

Another for kids is:

**Mitzvah Magic: What Kids Can Do To Change the World**, by Danny Siegel with Naomi Eisenberger. Kar-Ben.

A book full of mitzvah projects that can start everyone thinking about the right mitzvah project

You want the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to be meaningful, but you also want to throw a great party. Try looking at:

**Mitzvah Chic: How to Host a Meaningful, Fun, Drop-Dead Gorgeous Bar or Bat Mitzvah**, by Gail Anthony Greenberg. Simon and Schuster, 2003.

Yes, there's a lot about the party in this book. But there is also a brief summary of each Torah portion, a chapter on the basics of the service, a section for the non-Jewish parent, and a section on finding a mitzvah project. It also has a time line, and great questions to ask the photographer you're considering hiring. Not for everyone, but the style and content may be just what you need.

See BOOKSHELF, facing page

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**Books**



ALFIE, the beagle character created by Shari Cohen, author of "Alfie's Bark Mitzvah," joins Cantor Marcelo Gindlin, featured on the book's accompanying CD, and Cohen at PETCO in Chandler, AZ to promote pet adoption and raise money for the PETCO Foundation.

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"Alfie's Bark Mitzvah" is a children's picture book about the Jewish ritual celebration of becoming an adult - only told from a puppy's point of view.

The cheery rhyme captures the jubilant spirit of this occasion, and is accompanied by a CD with five children's songs created especially for the book by Gind-

lin, an internationally acclaimed performer and cantor.

To learn more about Alfie's Bark Mitzvah, visit [www.alfies-barkmitzvah.com](http://www.alfies-barkmitzvah.com).

**BOOKSHELF**

From page 46

**Two classics for the kids:**

**Bar Mitzvah — A Jewish Boy's Coming Of Age**, by Eric A. Kimmel, Viking.

Kimmel makes a case for separate discussion of Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Here he provides historical background, explanation of ceremonial objects and rituals, and real-life stories about Bar Mitzvah.

**Bat Mitzvah — A Jewish Girl's Coming Of Age**, by Barbara Diamond Golden. Viking. And on the other side, Golden provides a perspective for young women in this work that contains a history and description of the Bat Mitzvah ceremony and personal stories of Jewish women in history.

**And a few good stories:**

**Gabriel's Ark**, by Sandra R. Curtis. Los Angeles, Alef Design Group, 1999.

When it is time for his Bar Mitzvah, Gabriel, a special needs child, is helped by his whole family, as well as the Rabbi.

**My Bar Mitzvah**, by Richard Rosenblum. Morrow, 1985.

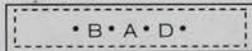
Using the picture book format, Rosenblum describes and illustrates his Bar Mitzvah day in Brooklyn, in the 1940's. Pre/pri

**Ike and Mama and the Seven Surprises**, by Carol Snyder. William Morrow.

Ike's father is hospitalized with tuberculosis, and a newly-arrived, jobless cousin, who is living in their small apartment insists on sitting in Ike's father's chair. Can you blame him for being skeptical when his mother

promises seven surprises (all good) in the month before his Bar Mitzvah? The fact that this Sydney Taylor Award winner can be found on Amazon 22 years after its publication says it all.

*Judy Greenblatt, is the former Director of Library Services, Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.*



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# *The Bar Mitzvah boys of yesterday*



Herman Brier



Robert Kotlen  
March 3, 1940



Charles Lindenbaum  
(March 1919)



Harry Schwartz  
(Oct. 7, 1961)



Julius Brier



Jacob S. Smith  
(Dec. 12, 1925)



KAT WATERHOUSE, an event manager at Future Affairs Productions, said LED lighting is opening up a whole new look to the celebration environment.

## CELEBRATION TRENDS

From page 31

foods," she says, although the sushi bar still remains very popular.

She describes planning for one of her events as designing a comprehensive and comfortable but unique environment, with creative lighting, glassware, and — if the occasion calls for it — the Green Monster a la Fenway. Her company has over 25,000 props and "set designs."

In the case of the Green Monster, the Red Sox environment was created for guests as they entered the party through "locker rooms" and then came out into the "stadium" complete with bleachers (for the kids.) Future Productions provides computer CAD drawings and blueprints to show customers exactly what they are getting.

This is one piece of advice she offers to parents: Don't start planning five years ahead; kids change. One to two years is plenty of time.

Donna Diorio, director of catering at the Providence downtown Marriott, points out some recent trends in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration. She said tables of different shapes are showing up — rounds, squares and oblongs. On the dessert table, the pastry is of a wide variety but miniature. The make-your-own-sundae bar is still popular with the kids (and with some parents) and candy tables for the kids are big as well. For the grown-ups, she does a Godiva table with truffles, nuts, chocolates, and Godiva coffee and hot chocolate.

One very popular station is the mocktail table for kids, who are served frozen non-alcoholic concoctions, such as Pina Colodas.

"The theme of the event should really reflect the child, rather than making something up," she said. Here's one example with pizzazz — a young Bat Mitzvah who played piano was rolled out into the ballroom sitting on the hotel's grand piano. Each table was themed around a singer or band.

She said the key to a success-

ful celebration is keeping the kids entertained. "You have to pick the right DJ who knows how to coordinate with all the other activities that take place."

DJ Roland A. Couto, Jr. said in addition to the limbo, and Coke and Pepsi game, the Levitation game is big. "It's not for adults," he says. In fact, he had to go to You Tube to see how it was done before he began offering it at the parties he plays for. The guests are in a line and seated on chairs; one by one the chairs are taken away, and then the fun begins.



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# My Voice

## The once and future Bar Mitzvah

By Stanley M. Aronson, MD

1935 was a momentous year, a year of turmoil, dismay and crisis. It was a 12-month interval that witnessed the Italian fascist invasion of Ethiopia, the German rejection of the Versailles Treaty followed by its program of intensive rearmament, the infamous Nuremberg anti-Semitic Laws, the terrible Dust Bowl tragedy culminating on April 14th, called Black Sunday, when dust storms obliterated the sun over much of the Midwest, the hurricanes which razed much of the Florida Keys; and it was the sixth year of this nation's relentless depression. But not everything was gloomy: The Roosevelt administration passed the Social Security Act and the Works Progress Administration [WPA], nylon was invented and the Parker Brothers, toy manufacturers, marketed a new game called Monopoly.

In a tenement-ridden site called Brooklyn, the Aronson family was also facing its personal series of misfortunes. My maternal grandmother had died and, shortly thereafter my mother was hospitalized with advanced cancer of the breast. My father was vainly trying to earn a living, pay the rent while simultaneously staying by my mother's bedside at the hospital. And I was about to celebrate the 13th year of my life.

Age 13 was deemed the time when a Jewish child reached the age of responsibility; and for countless ages this event was marked by a solemn rite of passage, a ceremony called Bar Mitzvah.

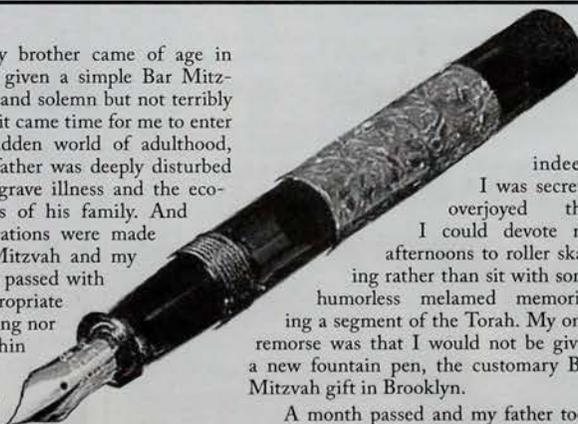
I can remember that my father was visibly distracted and torn by many conflicting feelings. When he was a child in an impoverished Lithuanian *shtetl* he had been given a formal Hebrew education in *cheder* and his entrance into adult life was then marked by an appropriate Bar Mitzvah ceremony. But his early adulthood in the 1890s, now living in America, was influenced by the many alien pressures — both social and political — touching the lives of so many young Jewish males. Many struggled to discard an older agenda consisting of meek compliance with autocratic rule [Czarist or otherwise], faith without reason as well as the narrow theology of their grandfathers. There was an intense spirit of enlightenment amongst these younger Jewish immigrants and an impulse to assimilate themselves into a free-thinking, pluralistic American society. So my father, now filled with thoughts of political and intellectual emancipation, taught his two sons the overriding value of individual thinking, skepticism and ultimate belief in the humanity of an educated mankind.



**'My only remorse was that I would not be given a new fountain pen, the customary Bar Mitzvah gift in Brooklyn.'**

When my brother came of age in 1927, he was given a simple Bar Mitzvah — earnest and solemn but not terribly lavish. When it came time for me to enter the anxiety-ridden world of adulthood, in 1935, my father was deeply disturbed by his wife's grave illness and the economic distress of his family. And so, no preparations were made for my Bar Mitzvah and my 13th birthday passed with neither appropriate Hebrew training nor ceremony within a synagogue.

I felt, then, no sense of deprivation;



indeed, I was secretly overjoyed that I could devote my afternoons to roller skating rather than sit with some humorless melamed memorizing a segment of the Torah. My only remorse was that I would not be given a new fountain pen, the customary Bar Mitzvah gift in Brooklyn.

A month passed and my father took me to a vegetarian restaurant in the Brownsville district of Brooklyn for a serious discussion. It was an utterly new expe-



rience for I was treated now as an adult. My father, a solemn and undemonstrative man, talked about my mother's illness, that she would be returning home within days and that we must do nothing to distress her. He talked, too, in neutral terms about the "missed" Bar Mitzvah making neither promises nor even speculating about the future. Our immediate problem, then, was the preservation of the family. It was, perhaps, the last time that we ever discussed the Bar Mitzvah.

I still reflect occasionally upon my unconsummated Bar Mitzvah, no longer as my ritual entrance into the ill-defined domain of adulthood but rather as my gateway into the brotherhood and sisterhood of my coreligionists. And so I speculate at age 86 that I may, some day, approach the rabbi of my synagogue and begin anew the process of learning the hard lessons preceding my repassage into maturity.

Stanley Aronson, MD, writes a regular column for the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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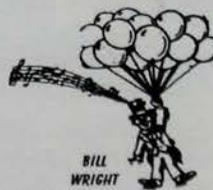
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# My Voice

## The heart of the Bat Mitzvah

By Nava Winkler

It began at the start of the seventh grade. Everyone was preparing for the celebration of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. That is, everyone except me; I had chosen not to celebrate my Bat Mitzvah. I remember feeling turned off by all the talk about money and presents. After attending about 15, I began to detest the falsity of the whole ceremony; how kids I knew wouldn't show a hint of interest in Judaism, and then one weekend throw a lavish party celebrating their supposed religious maturity. People would ask me, shocked, why I, a girl passionate enough about Judaism, would decide not to "have" a Bat Mitzvah. "There isn't much to it," I would say, "I just don't see the point in making my parents broke over a weekend of meaningless partying." The planning, the invitations, the reservations, the money, the headaches, the attention, the preparation; it just didn't seem worth it! I figured I was "adult" enough to understand the significance of becoming a Bat Mitzvah, without turning everyone's worlds upside down.

However, that was my personal decision; one that I had made at age 12. It is arguable whether I had done the right thing; on the one hand, I had no desire to celebrate extravagantly and make a big deal out of my age, but on the other hand, by not celebrating my Bat Mitzvah, religiously, I hadn't exactly learned much either.

Not every Bar/Bat Mitzvah, though, is as materialistic as a 'sweet 16' birthday party. For instance, both my sisters, Naomi and Sarah, had Bat Mitzvah celebrations,



Nava Winkler, center, with her sisters.

I figured I was "adult" enough to understand the significance of becoming a Bat Mitzvah, without turning everyone's worlds upside down.

and though the parties were quite humble in comparison, everyone had a wonderful time.

### In Israel

Both of my sisters celebrated their Bat Mitzvahs in Israel. Naomi, the older one, had hers in the well-kept backyard of my aunt Yoni's house in the city of Rosh Ha'ayin (near Tel Aviv). Sarah, the younger,

had hers in the courtyard of the neighborhood synagogue in Rishon Letzion (also not far from Tel Aviv), the city of our mother's extended family. Though they hadn't read Torah portions or led any services, they had prepared speeches and recited Dvar Torah's at each of their ceremonies. For the most part, their Bat Mitzvahs were joyous, somewhat sponta-

neous, celebrations where family and close friends came from all over Israel to make their appearances and congratulate the Bat Mitzvah girl. The parties were relatively modest, yet they seemed to be more satisfying, concentrating on the essentials: food, music, people, and a coming-of-age speech that spoke of Torah and Jewish responsibility. Outdoors, under the stars, in the biblical land where it all began; you didn't forget that it was a Bat Mitzvah you were celebrating. The fact that our guests were mostly family and close friends made them intimate celebrations, and having it in the only Jewish state in the world, made the experiences all the more powerful.

Another effective Bar Mitzvah was my cousin Inon's. His family planned a weekend in The Old City in Jerusalem, where they reserved rooms at a hotel for all of their relatives to come celebrate. It was a beautifully planned and meaningful Bar Mitzvah, complete with family, good food, and that Jewish feeling you can only get in Jerusalem. That Sabbath, after the Bar Mitzvah boy led in prayers and read from the Torah, we walked together through The Old City in the direction of The Western Wall.

Had I witnessed these meaningful events earlier on — who knows? Maybe my skepticism would have softened, and I would have been inspired by their truthfulness and authenticity to celebrate my own Bat Mitzvah. Or perhaps I shouldn't have needed to travel so far to find the heart of the Bat Mitzvah.

*Nava Winkler was a summer intern at the Jewish Voice & Herald in 2006.*

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The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI). B'nai Tzedek is funded through the generosity of the Endowment Fund of JFRI.



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October 19, 2007

## Mayor Cicilline leads mayoral delegation to Jerusalem

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

PROVIDENCE — Mayor David N. Cicilline of Providence led a delegation of U.S. mayors to the 25th Jerusalem Conference of Mayors held this week.

"I'm looking forward to exchanging ideas and best practices with other mayors in an international setting as we focus on common issues and challenges affecting urban centers around the world," said Mayor Cicilline last Friday before he departed for Israel.

The U.S. delegation also included the mayors of Madison, Wis.; Baton Rouge, La.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Dayton, Ohio and Green Bay, Wis. They were among 60 mayors from cities in South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

"The focus centered on the role of the mayor in promoting peace and security as well as dealing with the unique challenges of running capital and metropolitan centers in these trying times," said Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski.

The mayors met with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, President Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. They participated in round-table sessions that explored topics such as intercultural and economic challenges facing cities and the role of mayors in the international arena.

On Wednesday, the Associated Press reported the visiting mayors from the United States said "they were interested in joint projects with Israeli concerns, following a tour of the country's leading biotechnology companies." Haaretz reported that "For most of the mayors, Peres, 84, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was the highlight of their political meetings." The newspaper quoted Mayor Cicilline as saying, "Meeting Shimon Peres, and listening to him speak, was extraordinary. Hearing him talk about our responsibility as mayors ... was really powerful."

"In sponsoring this annual gathering of mayors from around the world we hope to give them a fresh and open look at Jerusalem, and a new understanding of Israel and its achievements," said Jack Rosen, the chairman of the main conference sponsor, AJCongress-Council for World Jewry.



Photo: MATTY STERN / BPH IMAGES

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak greets U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the start of their meeting Sunday in Jerusalem.

## Barak focusing on security

By Roi Eitan

TEL AVIV (JTA) — On his first U.S. tour as defense minister for the Olmert government, Ehud Barak is hoping to shore up Israel's security interests ahead of any major peace moves with the Palestinians.

In Washington this week for talks with Bush adminis-

See BARAK, page 11

## Palestinians: Parley likely to be postponed

RAMALLAH, West Bank (JTA) — Mahmoud Abbas said the Palestinians will not attend next month's U.S.-sponsored peace conference "at any price."

The Palestinian Authority president made the comment to reporters after meeting Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

His comments came as senior P.A. officials said it was almost certain the conference in Annapolis, Md., would be postponed because Israeli and

Palestinian negotiators have failed to achieve progress on any of the fundamental issues such as Jerusalem, the borders and refugees.

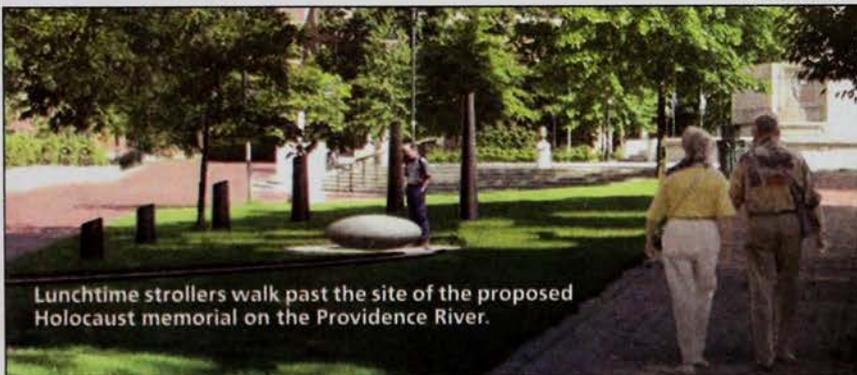
The Palestinians are demanding a comprehensive agreement with Israel on all the core issues before the conference, as well as an agreement on a timetable for implementing the agreement within a fixed period of time. "We can't waste more time," Abbas told reporters. "We can't go to the conference at any price. This is unacceptable." Abbas said he complained to

Rice about the lack of time the Israelis and Palestinians had to reach a deal ahead of the planned conference.

Meanwhile, President Bush at a news conference in Washington expressed optimism about the prospects of the peace conference and said peace depends on the Palestinians having the prospect of statehood.

He added: "In order for there to be lasting peace, the deal has to be good for the Palestinians as well as the Israelis."

Photo by Mary Korr



Lunchtime strollers walk past the site of the proposed Holocaust memorial on the Providence River.

## JFRI to develop Holocaust memorial

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

PROVIDENCE — Holocaust survivor David Newman, 86, is suing the Jewish Federation of R.I. (JFRI) and the Holocaust Education & Resource Center (formerly the Holocaust Memorial Museum) over the development of a Holocaust memorial downtown.

The suit was filed in Providence County Superior Court recently after Federation was designated by the city to develop the memorial for the Jewish community of Rhode Island.

See HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, page 6

# Jeffrey Goldberg is coming to Providence

## Community

# Foundations taking applications for grants

PROVIDENCE — Three Jewish charitable foundations are now accepting grant applications and proposals from non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

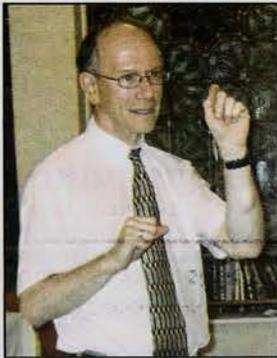
The Helene Donig and Bertram L. Bernhardt Charitable Trust will accept applications until the end of the year. Jewish organizations, especially those with whom the late Bernhardt's have had previous connections, are encouraged to apply. Last year the trust distributed \$497,746 to 11 non-profit Jewish organizations in its first fiscal year. They included Temple Beth-El, Camp

JORI, and various Jewish agencies and programs. Grants ranged from \$1,000 to over \$150,000.

The Dr. Seebert J. and Gertrude N. Goldowsky Foundation and the Pearl W. and Martin M. Silverstein Foundation will accept applications through mid November. Open to both Jewish and non-Jewish non-profit organizations, grants in the past have ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

For more information, write to: Melvin L. Zurier, Tillinghast Licht LLP, 10 Weybosset St., 10th floor, Providence RI, 02903. (401-456-1200)

## Rabbi Kaunfer to retire



PROVIDENCE — Temple Emanu-El President Nathan Beraha announced last week that the officers of the temple have accepted Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer's request to retire from full time duties effective July 1, 2008.

"Rabbi Kaunfer informed us that he wishes to have more time to devote to his outside teaching, and to his family. He has been a guiding light and source of great inspiration for our community for over three decades. Fortunately, Rabbi Kaunfer will continue to reside in Providence and has indicated

a willingness to assume a limited role with Temple Emanu-El; the exact nature of which will have to be decided at a later date," Beraha stated in a message to congregants.

A committee will be formed to begin the process of finding a new rabbi.



Photo by Jaime Lowe

## Presidential frosting

Johnson and Wales University President Irving Schneider helps ice and decorate the birthday cake that Johnson & Wales students made for the St. Charles Soup Kitchen Sept. 27 as Community Service Chef Linda Kane, assists. The cake celebrated all of the guests who had September birthdays. President Schneider helped prepare and serve a dinner for approximately 300 guests to spotlight the involvement of Johnson and Wales University in the community.



Photo by Mary Korr

## Little green visitor

Last Wednesday, this little visitor was waiting on the doorstep outside the Jewish Federation offices when bookkeeper Jennifer Ripa-Silvia arrived at work.

She bent down and cradled it in her hand and its wings flew open. She placed it safely beneath a thick bush next to the stairs and surmised it must be tired from migrating. In short order, she placed water and some cereal flakes around it, suet not being readily available in Federation's kitchen. A Google search showed a remarkable resemblance to a Tennessee warbler. After a brief rest, he flew away, with nary a farewell to his new friend at Federation. (Don't tell Jenn's cats, avid birders, about this episode.)

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## Quote of the Week

"...he remembers a jungled-themed event in California where the overly ambitious inclusion of a young elephant resulted in the destruction of the premises.

— See caterers, page 42



The Bar Mitzvah that wasn't See My Voice, page 50.



Jerusalem Journal - Bar Mitzvah in Israel. See page 32

**Community**

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BJE EMISSARIES, Anna Esilovich and Hadas Naky.

Photo by Jessica Perlman

**Israeli emissaries arrive**

By Jessica Perlman

perlman\_jessica@yahoo.com

PROVIDENCE — The Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) recently welcomed two young Israeli emissaries, Anna Esilovich and Hadas Naky, who will serve as bridges between both young Israeli and American Jews.

"We came to America to talk to the kids and show them our lives," explained Naky, 18. "I really wanted to see and get to know the

American community, and it really is so special because it's my first time here," she said.

A self-described, "regular Israeli teenager," Naky lives in Jerusalem, with her parents, brother and two sisters, though one is currently in the army. As children, both her parents made aliyah separately, from Iran. An avid fan of fashion and design,

See EMISSARIES, page 13



**Candle lighting times for greater Rhode Island**

Oct. 19	5:39
Oct. 26	5:29
Daylight savings time ends Nov. 4	
Nov. 2	5:20
Nov. 9	4:12

**State proposes changes to special ed regulations**

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — A proposed change to special education regulations may adversely impact students at private schools, including the two Jewish day schools.

Among the proposals put forth by The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education, the chief policy setting board for the Department of Education, is a change in the way schools are reimbursed for special education costs.

By Rhode Island law, the town where the student lives is responsible for the costs, even if the student attends a private school outside of his or her town.

By the end of the school year in June, the state will have to adopt federal guidelines, which states the municipality where the school is located pay "proportionately" for special education services.

In Rhode Island, the Board of Regents would allow school districts to set up a two-tier system: full-services to residents with special needs who are in private schools but restricted services to similar students who come from outside the district in which the private school is located. The latter would not receive any services that are normally funded locally—just those provided by federal funds, which would amount to approximately \$1,100 per student. This amount would pay for less than a month or two of service.

This monetary limitation for special education costs has the Bureau of Jewish Education's (BJE) Larry Katz, and other educators and administrators throughout the state, very concerned.

For the 2006-'07 school year, 33 students were deemed eligible to receive special needs services at the Providence Hebrew Day School;

See SPECIAL ED, page 6

**Public hearings**

The public will be able to comment on the proposed changes regarding special education regulations on:

Nov. 7, 5 p.m., Community College of R.I. (CCRI), 400 East Ave. in Warwick, Room 4080.

Nov. 8, 5 p.m., URI/RIDE Shepard Building, 255 Westminster St., Providence, Paff auditorium.

To view proposals, visit [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov), click on the learning link.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, December 2, 2007**

**7:00 p.m.**

**2008 Campaign Donor Event**



Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Live Generously. It does a world of good.

Doris Feinberg, 2008 Campaign Chair

Herbert B. Stern, President

Stephen R. Silberfarb, Executive Vice President/CEO

## Opinion

## A MAJORITY OF ONE

*Sitting down at the peace table*

If you are looking for a free, catered, gourmet dinner that will be both kosher and halal, visit next month's American-sponsored Middle East Peace



**Yehuda  
Lev**

Conference in Annapolis, M.D. There won't be a seat reserved for you at the table but there will be a number of empty places available and provided that you are not wearing a hat with an Al Qaeda message on its brim, no one will notice your presence.

The Syrians are not coming because their big issue, the return of the Golan Heights, is not even on the agenda. Hamas (Gaza Strip) is not coming because the Palestinian Authority (West Bank) doesn't want them anywhere near the neighborhood. And several of the other Arab invitees are hemming and hawing because they are worrying about the

## Guess who's not coming to dinner?

consequences of failure if they sign on to an agreement that falls apart as soon as they return home. The Middle East is the lodestar for politicians whose agendas are crisis-driven and any attempt to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict offers a wide range of opportunities for such folk.

### Four major issues

There are four major issues to be settled including the fate of the Palestinian refugees, the boundaries of both Palestine and Israel, and the future of the Israeli settlers. These would entail a symbolic return of some of the refugees and compensation for others, the return home to Israel of most of the settlers with exchanges of territory for those in a few areas too thickly populated, and reverting the boundaries of Israel and the Palestinian state mostly to

those of pre-1967. The fourth issue, of course, is Jerusalem.

Put like that, Jerusalem reminds one of the apocryphal questions asked of Mrs. Lincoln. "Aside from that, ma'am, did you enjoy the play?" Assuming even that the first three issues are resolved, the division of Jerusalem is the rock upon which all previous attempts have foundered. Going back to the boundary lines of 1949 with a dividing wall running through the heart of the city is unacceptable for Israel. Yet the Palestinians have legitimate claims to unfettered access to the Temple Mount and to sovereignty over the Arab quarters of Jerusalem. Both sides have strong religious ties to Jerusalem, many of them based on myth and political convenience but potent nonetheless.

Those of us who lived in

Jerusalem during the years of physical separation recall the unease we felt at the constant possibility of some Jordanian soldier opening fire as a way of relieving stress after a fight with his wife. It happened to me once at my office at the Israel government's radio station about 100 yards from the wall. Crossing the courtyard that separated my office from the broadcasting studios, I heard the whistle of an incoming mortar shell and sprinted toward the door. I made it just in time. The shell landed in the middle of the courtyard, shattering many windows and my nerves. When I read the news on the air, our national audience must have wondered at the quavering voice in which it was presented but residents of Jerusalem probably understood.

There are some things going for this conference, most importantly is the fact that most of its participants don't want it to fail (although they differ on definitions of success.) The Palestinian Authority badly needs the boost that economic and political support could provide

it. The Bush Administration could use a Middle East success in its fading months as could Republican candidates for office in 2008. The Saudis, Jordanians and Egyptians want an end to the Palestinian chaos that threatens their regimes. And the Israeli government, its political opposition excepted, wants nothing more than peace and quiet and a collective response to the threat from Iran.

So when you sit down to the table (first carefully checking the brim of your hat) and are handed the official document all have agreed on, read it carefully. If you find no reference at all to shared sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem or the necessity of redrawing borders or the mechanism for getting Jewish settlers out of the West Bank or returning any Arab refugees, use the document the next time you burn logs in your fireplace. And enjoy your meal. Everyone agrees that the White House catering service is first rate.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Re: 'The Table is Set'

As Marty (Cooper) or Mr. Handyman, wrote very recently, "The Table is Set."

The Sox and Indians will be a great series. The winner will hopefully get the spoils of the NL for dessert. The Browns and Pats were the gefilte fish and the Indians and Sox will be the brisket.

I hope all is well at home, especially with all the power cable fixing and landscaping that needs to be done.

**Bruce A. Wasser**  
Mansfield, Mass.

### Obituary charges and the Old Olivetti

In regard to the subject of the *Voice & Herald* charging for obituary notices, it seems to me that the market response will tell you if the community buys into this proposed charge. Picture the individual who has contributed throughout his life to the annual Federation campaign, paid his temple dues, contributes to all manner of Jewish organizational fund drives and discovers that there is still one more bill to pay to the Federation, his obituary.

Those who decide to meet the financial requirements of notification may be so few that the entire issue will have to be revised.

However, not to publish Josh Stein's personal opinion because he does not agree with the policy regarding obituaries is a whole other matter. The need for intelligent, thoughtful dialogue and listening to dissenting opinions is the American way. For a Jewish newspaper to practice this kind of censorship is disheartening and does not speak well of Federation.

Must all letters to the editor be of one voice, an echo? Shouldn't the Federation want to know how the community reacts, and hear voices other than their own?

**Selma Stanzler**  
Riverside

*(Editor's note: This letter was received before the Old Olivetti column ran in the following issue. The column was withheld for clarification and fact checking when a discrepancy arose.)*

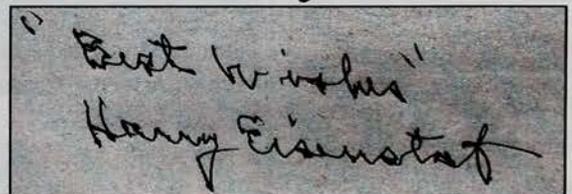
## FROM THE INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR

### Good old Harry

By Marty Cooper  
mcooper@jfri.org

We always search for heroes. As Jews we tend to be partial to successful Jews such as actors, singers, comedians, writers and sports figures. My mom and dad enjoyed Eddie Cantor and Al Jolson as well as Jack Benny, George Burns, Sam Levenson and Myron Cohen. When they were on TV the sound was turned up so my folks could hear their *shtick*.

But my heroes came from my father's love for the "game," baseball. Sure, growing up in Cleveland, Rocky Colavito was a childhood hero of mine. But my special hero in those days was Al Rosen, whom I never saw play a baseball game. Rosen played for the Cleveland Indians from 1947-56. What



**HARRY** was a bit nervous when he signed the page. He did tell me that the Indians traded for him because he had beat Feller in that 1-0 game.

made him my hero was that he was Jewish and had played for my hometown team. I liked him so much that until I did the research on Jews in baseball, I had assumed he was in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Not true and to me an injustice that needs to be corrected.

My other Jewish baseball heroes growing up were Hank

Greenberg, (well before my time) the first Jew to make it into the Cooperstown Hall of Fame, and Sandy Koufax, also in the Hall of Fame. To this day I remember getting off the school bus and running over to a friend's house to see Koufax pitch in the World Series on a color TV. The announcer was Vin Scully.

See **HARRY**, page 7

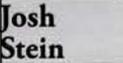
## Submission Guidelines

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

THE OLD OLIVETTI

On Primo Levi, forgiveness and dangers of complacency

Last week I attended a lecture at Brown University given by Alvin Rosenfeld on Primo Levi, the Italian Jewish chemist caught up in the Nazi Holocaust who survived Auschwitz and wrote several books about the experience, most notably "Survival in Auschwitz." The question Rosenfeld addressed is whether forgiveness is possible for someone who has undergone Auschwitz, specifically whether Levi ever forgave his tormenters. It's a good question, but it's insufficient. If we only ask about forgiveness by others of others we ignore the value of history and literature as predictive mirrors of our lives.



I write from memory, not from notes, but my impression is that Levi started out despising Germans, not only Nazis who he saw as microcosms of the whole. The worst Nazi crime was to deny him his humanity by stripping him of reasonable alternatives, of creating a Kafkaesque world. But over time he tried to understand them, even going so far as to learn German to better communicate with any Germans who might be so inclined. No interviews ever took place. In the end, Levi could not forget, could not forgive. Despairing of coming to grips with the destruction of his soul, he may have committed suicide in 1987. He left no note, but Rosenfeld does not doubt that the fall down a flight of stairs was deliberate.

As I listened, I wondered. First I asked myself if it is time for those of us who never endured the Nazi horror to forgive, but then my thoughts wandered to a more pressing issue. Suppose we are the guilty ones who will be asking our descendants to forgive us. Do we deserve it? Was Walt Kelly right? Have we met the enemy...and he is us? What have we allowed in our name as we have ignored what has been imposed on us and the world by those who claim to reflect darkly our attitudes, and in the process perverting our ideals. Nazis took a country that was in the forefront of human cultural development and dragged it down with them into the slime of Auschwitz. Is this Act II of the same crime?

The following Sunday I began my day, as I always do, by opening up Frank Rich's column in The New York Times. He begins with this broadside: "Bush lies don't cut it anymore. It's time to confront the darker reality that we are lying to ourselves." He then discusses torture. That's done in our name, folks, but denied in our name as well. All of which goes to show that George Orwell's dystopia is alive and well and living in Washington, D.C. Rich reminds that the claim is made that we don't torture, we engage in "enhanced interrogation" techniques. We knew that. What we (I) didn't know is that the term is from the Gestapo who called it *Verschärfte Vernehmung* which means "enhanced interrogation." (And who knew that when Richard Nixon was speaking about the "Great Silent Majority" which supported his war on Vietnam he was inadvertently quoting from Homer, who referred to the great silent majority as those who have died? I did!) Rich holds our feet to the fire for countenancing Abu Ghraib and now for turning our backs on the scandal of outsourcing to fight our wars in our names so that we don't pay attention when Blackwater mercenaries indiscriminately kill Iraqi civilians. In our name. He doesn't even mention the illegal detentions in Guantánamo, but he does compare our methods with those used by American interrogators of Nazi prisoners. "We got more information out of a German general with a game of chess or ping-pong than they do today, with their torture," says one. Another "recalled that he 'never laid hands on anyone'... adding 'I am proud to say I never compromised my humanity.'"

Rich concludes with this: "Our humanity has been compromised by those who use Gestapo tactics in our war. The longer we stand idly by while they do so, the more we resemble those good Germans who professed ignorance of their own Gestapo."

Is it time to forgive the Nazis? Levi asked. I ask if it's time to forgive ourselves. Maybe in the first case the answer is yes; the Nazis are dead. In the second, only if we want to avert our eyes, like the good Germans.

Josh Stein can be reached at [jstein@rwu.edu](mailto:jstein@rwu.edu).

NOW BATTING

What happened in Syria? Is peace coming with the Palestinians?

Peering through an opaque glass

Sometimes, politics is clear and sometimes it's opaque. Results of elections present visible outcomes; the winners form governments and administrations and the losers go home. Legislators pass or do not pass laws. Supreme Court Justices rule laws constitutional or not. What about wars? Most people think that wars end with one side hoisting a victory flag, dictating the political results, and transforming subsequent events. The First and Second World Wars are classic examples of this kind of outcome. But many wars cease without clear resolution. The Korean conflict ended in an armistice that has still not been turned into a peace treaty. So far, no one can say who won and who lost Israel's fight with Hezbollah last summer. What about Israel's other wars? The War of Independence, the Sinai Campaign, and the Six-Day War ended with Israeli military victories that did not bring peace; neither did the first Lebanon War. The treaty with Egypt that followed the Yom Kippur War led eventually to a state that is neither war nor peace. Even the more successful treaty with Jordan is a peace between the two governments but not the two peoples. Clouds of confusion frequently hide political outcomes

Let me try to shed light on two other opaque events, one that occurred more than a month ago and the other that is fast approaching. The first involved a reported strike by the Israel Air Force in Syria, an event that official Israel still denies having occurred and which official Syria says involved blowing up an empty building. The second is next month's peace conference scheduled for Annapolis, Maryland that will bring together Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA), and perhaps one or more Arab states.

I don't know what happened on Sept. 6 in Syria. Without security clearance in Israel, Syria, and the United States, no one can know. I can only interpret - hoping to peer through an opaque glass. Based on various reports, Israeli planes, helped by commandos on the ground, destroyed a Syrian military facility, where North Korean technicians were working with Syrians to produce weapons of mass destruction. Seeking approval for the raid, Israeli officials brought the intelligence information to the United States in the early summer. The American government balked, with Secretary of State Rice opposing and Vice President Cheney standing in favor. And so, because Israel does not want to embarrass Rice (after all, she is still working to bring peace between Israel and the Arabs, including Syria,) it has still not admitted to the raid. In this interpretation, Israel not only destroyed a potential threat to its existence, it demonstrated that Syria (and by implication Iran) has a porous missile defense system. Am I correct? Remember in this opaque world, one cannot know for sure. I can offer a plausible account, one that is strengthened by noting that it is hardly likely that Israel risked a general war in the Middle East in order to blow up an empty building in Syria.

What about the imminent peace conference? All reasonable people desire peace, so they

seek signs that it will arrive. As the conference approaches, the sides release statements. Are they real, diversions, or trial balloons? On Oct. 10, the PA's President Abbas laid out the borders of the future Palestinian state (all the land that Israel obtained from its military victory at the end of the Six Day War, or its equivalent in size.) Israeli Cabinet minister Hajim Ramon announced his willingness to pull Israel out of the Arab portions of Jerusalem and other Israeli talk about a land swap. Defense Minister Barak linked Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank to the presence of a missile defense system (which won't be ready for several years, if then.) It is difficult to know which statements will remain and which will evaporate, when the negotiations begin.

Sometimes, clarity comes from ignoring what the political leaders say and setting aside our dreams in order to examine the core issues. Consider first the issue of the two-state solution, creating Palestine next to Israel. One might think that this is easy, only a matter of boundary lines that would be solved by a land swap: Israel keeps significant settlements in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Palestine gets land in the Negev to link the West Bank and Gaza. Sounds simple and obvious, but if that were true, it would have happened already.

How the sides approach boundaries hinges on what each means by Israel. Is Israel a Jewish state or is it just the state whose boundaries are the armistice lines of the fighting in 1948-49? The PA calls for two states: one Palestinian and the other without a national identity. Israel wants two states: one Palestinian and the other Jewish. Moreover, each side is ambiguous even about their actual positions: does each really want two states? Either way, resolution of the differences does not seem possible.

Now consider that without agreement on the two states, there would seem to be no chance to address the future of Palestinian refugees, another critical matter. If Israel is a Jewish state, then Israel, acting on its right to monitor immigration, can and will deny the inflow of massive numbers of people who want to deny its Jewish character. If there is nothing Jewish about the state, then the millions of Palestinians who claim refugee status should have the right to return to their homes within that state.

There is little reason to expect Israel to offer enough land for the PA to agree to resettle their refugees in the West Bank and Gaza. Similarly, there is little reason to expect the PA forego this right of return in order to induce Israel to go back to its boundaries that preceded the Six Day War. Neither side has the domestic political will or ability to make such fundamental concessions to the other. Remember, sometimes politics is clear.

Alan Zuckerman can be reached at [alan\\_zuckerman@brown.edu](mailto:alan_zuckerman@brown.edu).



Alan Zuckerman

Neither side has the domestic political will or ability to make such fundamental concessions to the other.

## Federation

# Rovin's task: to connect young Jews to greater community

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

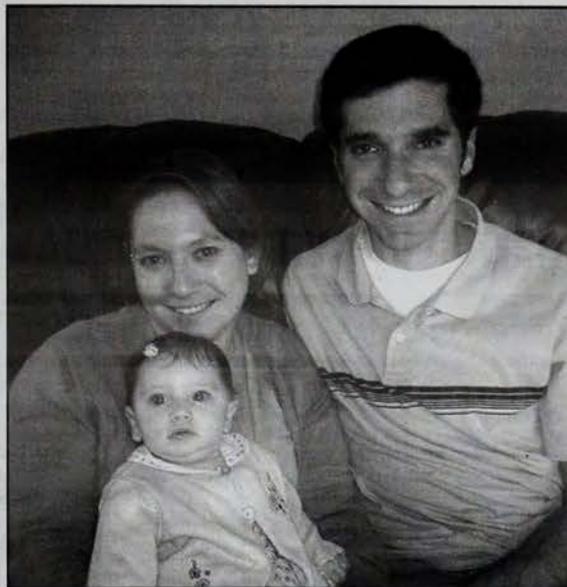
PROVIDENCE — Amy Rovin, the recently hired director of outreach and leadership development at the Jewish Federation, a newly created position, accepted the post in order to "effect change in my own community," she said, explaining why she left her job as community connections coordinator at interfaithfamily.com in Newton, Mass.

She exudes energy, passion, commitment — and can she sing! Ask those who heard her exquisite chanting of Torah at Temple Habonim on Yom Kippur. Even her 6-month-old daughter Roxy listened quietly. She and her husband Michael joined the Barrington synagogue three years ago; she serves as chair of the social action committee.

An abiding concern for social justice was imbued in her by Rabbi Joel Soffin, of Temple Shalom in Succasunna, N. J., the congregation her family belonged to. She describes him as the "pre-eminent Reform leader in social action. My spiritual path began there," she says.

### College years

When she arrived at the University of Maryland to begin



Amy Rovin of Cranston with her daughter, Roxy and husband, Michael.

college, her mother, who grew up Orthodox, walked her right up to the Hillel and told them to sign her up, put her on the list. "I got involved against my wishes," she laughs. Involved she did get, as well as in other areas. She was a co-founder of Kol Sasson, the

accomplished Jewish A Capella choir. One of her biggest gigs was at the White House for the presidential lighting of the national menorah.

She also worked for the Reform Movement as a biennial coordinator in Washington D.C.

under Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, another influential person in her life.

As a Jewish history major with a concentration in German history, she graduated in 1999, and began to consider her options. An opportunity arose at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Hillel, and she surprised herself by accepting the position of director of Jewish Student Life; she had other offers from Hillels nationwide but liked the feel of Rhode Island — its compactness, its friendliness.

But she does admit she had one concern about coming to Rhode Island as a single Jewish woman "living in Cranston." Fate intervened when she attended a Perspectives event and met her future husband, Michael, a music director at several radio stations. It was the only time he had ever gone to a meeting of the group. *Basbert.*

After several years at URI she made the difficult decision to leave because of the lack of staffing and frequent staff turnover. She was also teaching Hebrew classes at Temple Torat Yisrael and Temple Sinai.

### The path ahead

In her new position, she will

focus outreach efforts on several fronts. One is to unaffiliated Jews between the ages of 25 and 45, who are seeking Jewish connections, in both informal and formal ways, particularly as they experience life cycle events.

At a pre-natal yoga class she attended before the birth of her daughter, she met many young Jewish mothers-to-be looking for Jewish links: "Do you know a *mohel* should I need one?" is one example. "Who can I call to do a baby naming for us?"

"I will go and reach out to younger Jews where they are," she says. "Right now young people don't know how to get connected to the Jewish community and to each other," Rovin says.

Identifying and training young Jewish leaders is a top priority for Rovin, whose task is to create innovative new leadership development programs and opportunities.

She also plans to establish affinity groups, such as young business professionals, or medical professionals and hold special events for those groups.

"It's not about me, it's about us," she says, "the Jewish community and the next generation who will lead it."

## State proposes changes to special ed regulations

From page 3

at the Jewish Community Day School, there were 42 students eligible. And while not all receive government-funded services, a proportion do.

Katz, asst. exec. director/educational services at BJE, spoke out against these changes as a member of a task force examining them last year at the Department of Education.

"It is an extra financial

burden to ask the schools to provide the services themselves," he said, "especially for schools already under a financial strain. All students with special needs should be treated equally by the state."

Miriam Esther Weiner is a Judaic studies teacher at the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS), as well as the liaison between the school and the state Department of Education.

She said about 20 students there are receiving government-funded special need services and parents often have to juggle schedules to make sure their children receive the services they are entitled to. She uses the example of one student who receives both speech and occupational therapy. "He has the speech therapy in his hometown public school, arrives late to PHDS, and then gets

occupational therapy there."

She is also concerned over another proposed regulation which would revamp who would be entitled to speech therapy. "If a child has a speech impediment, he would only receive therapy if it can be shown to impact his academic performance — if it doesn't it would not be considered a school issue," she said. "Every child in the state who has an approved individual education

plan (IEP) should be serviced equally."

The Board of Regents is holding two public hearings on Nov. 7, 8. This will be followed by a review process before a final vote is taken, most likely in January. Katz encourages parents, teachers and school administrators to attend and have their voices heard.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

From page 1

The site, within Memorial Park, is a triangular piece of land in the shadow of the World War II Memorial — a project that itself is nearing completion after many years.

The Holocaust memorial site was approved in 2004 by the Board of Park Commissioners, largely through the more than 20-year effort led by Newman, and the board of directors of a group he founded, the Holocaust Survivors of R.I.

Although the planning of the memorial and design work was underway, the latter by URI

professor and landscape architect William A. Green, the project was stymied by a lack of financial resources.

"This is for the Jewish community of Rhode Island," said JFRI president Herbert Stern. "It is to honor all our survivors, all those who perished, and to have an impact on people walking by. I have observed people of all ethnicities walking by the public Holocaust Memorial near Faneuil Hall in Boston. By the time they have walked through the third tower, I see a look of wonderment and awe on their

faces. The enormity of what happened speaks for itself."

"We want to honor David and all who survived the Holocaust," Stern said. "Our appeal was not to take anything away from David. Our appeal was to be allowed to build a memorial and have David be part of the building process. He rejected that out of hand after a series of negotiations that have been ongoing for years. I think all of us feel that the community deserves the kind of statement a Holocaust memorial makes."

The Federation is going for-

ward; its first step is to form a planning committee by November.

"We would hope that David would help us in the building of this memorial," Stern said.

In a telephone interview Tuesday evening, Newman said he has dedicated his life to this project. "We (the Jewish Federation) have our differences about the memorial. My wish is that Federation recognizes and respects Holocaust survivors and that we can iron out our differences. I feel terrible about this and hope that it can

still be straightened out...but no matter what happens, it is still going to be David Newman's project...I want the Jewish Federation to stop representing the Holocaust survivors and the six million souls, including my parents, sister...I don't want to fight them. I want them to be a sponsor of the memorial. The design is done," he said

"This site has been given to the Jewish community and we are grateful to the city for providing us with this opportunity," Stern said.

### Good old Harry

From page 4

Heroes may come to us at any age. One such hero came to me when I was in my early twenties. His name was Harry Eisenstat. Harry pitched for the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians. He was not a star like Koufax or Greenberg. He became my hero because he was mentioned in a book which had been my father's. The book was given to me by my mom shortly after my father's passing. *The Strikeout Story*, Bob Feller's autobiography, included Feller's autograph. It was written while Feller was still pitching for the Tribe. In one chapter he tells the story of how he struck out 18 Tigers in a game and still lost. The victor was good old Harry. He beat the Tribe 1-0 in 1938. But this is not how he became my hero.

Years later, many years later, in 1979 I was employed at the same company where Eisenstat was the national sales manager. People pointed him out to me

**Even though we are few in numbers, each of us will find at least one Jewish hero during our lifetime.**

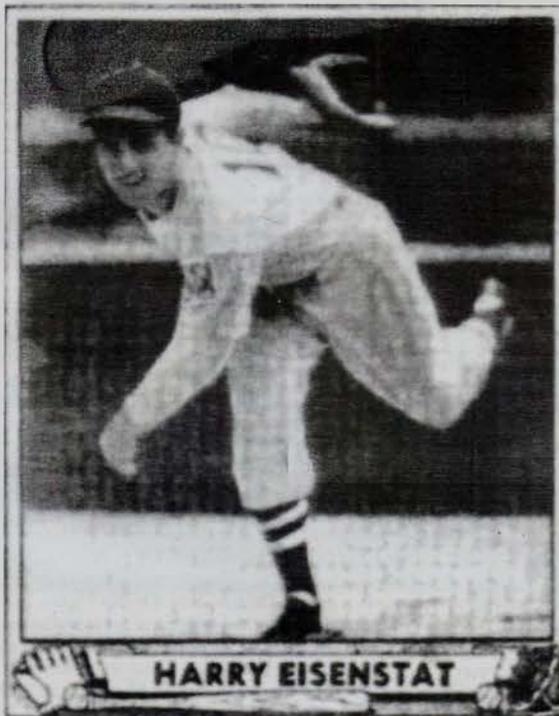
because he, besides the president, was the only other Jew in the company. It took me some time to muster up the courage, but finally I introduced myself to Harry and asked him to sign the book in which his name was mentioned. Harry laughed and then proceeded to sign this special book for me. It was then that he became my hero; for no other reason than he simply took out a pen and autographed a book that meant, and still means a lot to me more than 25 years later.

Harry became my hero because he was Jewish and a baseball player. He was also the first and only Jewish baseball player that I was able to meet and talk to. And he was successful and respected. His being Jewish was the primary reason for me

to want his autograph. Although Bob Feller's signature is in the book and I have another more personal autograph from Feller, the signature of Harry Eisenstat is still a very special possession of mine.

Interestingly enough, when I asked Eisenstat for his autograph he said that I was the first one in years in the company to make such a request. I strongly believe it is because we were both Jewish.

As Jews we have a special bond with other Jews. We have a need or a desire to connect with each other. Perhaps it is because we share a history, a tradition and a religion that promotes community. Even though we are few in numbers, each of us will find at least one Jewish hero during our lifetime.



1937 baseball card of Harry Eisenstat

# ARE YOU 70 1/2 OR OLDER?

## GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON!

*Time is running out — this offer expires December 31, 2007*



The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows you to make a gift to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island from your IRA with **no** adverse tax consequences. All you have to do is instruct the trustee of your IRA to make a direct distribution to JFRI. This direct distribution counts toward your annual IRA distribution requirement.

Since you can distribute as much as \$100,000 from your IRA, your distribution can be used to contribute to JFRI's annual campaign or to establish an endowment fund. This fund will support forever, whatever charities you like.

**Do not delay! This charitable IRA rollover opportunity is only available until the end of this year. Of course, you should also consult your professional advisor as well.**

**Call Meyer Goldstein, Endowment Director, at 401.421.4111 ext. 174 for further information.**



## News Briefs

### Jew is oldest Nobel recipient

Leonid Hurwicz, 90, became the oldest recipient of a Nobel Prize. Hurwicz, professor emeritus of the University of Minnesota, will share the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science with economists Roger Myerson, a professor at the University of Chicago, and Eric Maskin, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., both 56. They were awarded Monday for their work in mechanism design theory, a field initiated by Hurwicz and developed further by his co-honorees. Hurwicz was born in Russia and grew up in Poland, where his parents fled after the outbreak of World War I. He was studying in Geneva when World War II broke out and was forced to move to Portugal. His parents and brother were interned in Soviet labor camps. The three economists, who all are Jewish, will share the \$1.56 million prize money. (JTA)

### Supreme Court rules on children with disabilities

WASHINGTON: The United States Supreme Court has ruled that children with disabilities can receive tuition assistance from the government to cover the costs of private schools. The decision is expected to be a boon to Orthodox Jewish families. "There are many learning-disabled children in the Orthodox community who receive their education in non-public schools. This will yield a significant benefit to them," said Nathan Diament, the public affairs director for the Orthodox Union who helped draft the original disability act. Diament said the law guarantees a "free and appropriate" education to children with learning disabilities." (JTA)

### Tutu reinvited

MINNEAPOLIS: The president of the University of St. Thomas, Rev. Dennis Dease, has backed away from his cancellation of a lecture by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and re-invited him to speak at the

school. This, after a storm of protests from many who felt the school was knuckling under the power of Jewish organizations to quash public criticism of Israel and a dispute within the Jewish community itself about whether such pressure was justified. "I have concluded that I made the wrong decision earlier this year to rescind my invitation to the Archbishop," said Dease, "I did not have all of the facts and points of view but now I have." The internal Jewish issue arose when the Anti-Defamation League sent a letter to Dease, asking him to re-invite Tutu against the wishes of more conservative Jewish organizations. Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and an internationally recognized humanitarian, had given a speech some years ago comparing Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands to South Africa's apartheid policies. (JTA)

### Jews for Jesus billboard

JOHANNESBURG: The South African Advertising Standards Authority has ruled that a series of Jews for Jesus

billboards is "offensive" to Orthodox Jews. Complaints about the billboards were filed by the Union of Orthodox Synagogues. The billboards, which are located in a Johannesburg suburb with a sizeable Jewish population, state that "10 out of 10 Jewish doctors recommend Jesus," according to the *Sydney Times*. The Authority, in its ruling, stated that it was "indisputable that the advertisement attacks, or is aimed at, the central tenet of the Jewish faith . . . that Jesus is not the Messiah." Jews for Jesus said the ads were meant to stimulate debate and not offend. (Sydney Times/JTA)

### Livni to lead peace delegation

JERUSALEM: Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has chosen his foreign minister, Tzipi Livni to head the Israeli delegation to next month's American-sponsored Middle East Peace Conference. The choice of Livni came as a surprise to many, including vice-premier Haim Ramon who had been the expected delegation leader. Observers saw this as a slap at Ramon who, a few days earlier had proposed to cede East Jerusalem to the future Palestinian state. Olmert has avoided public comment on the issue but his office did deny a report in a Palestinian newspaper that Israel has decided to cede control over the Temple Mount and Arab Jerusalem to Jordan. (JTA)

### Hamas to meet with Fatah

GAZA STRIP: The head of Hamas, the extremist Muslim faction that now controls the Gaza Strip, says he expects to

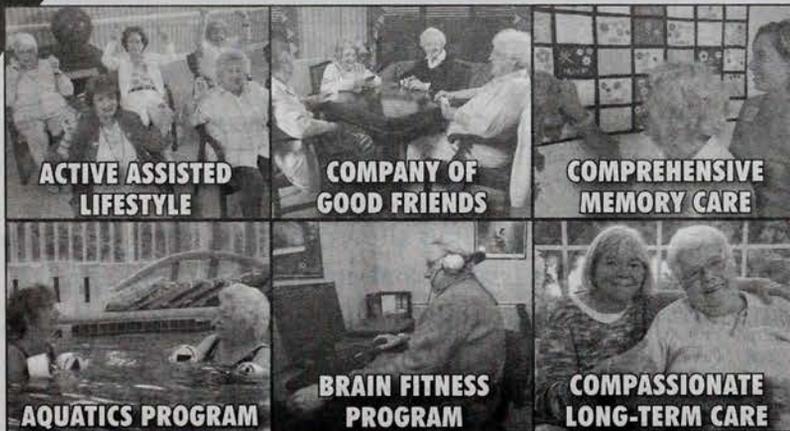
begin negotiations with the head of Fatah, which now commands the West Bank. Ismail Haniyeh claims that representatives of his group will meet this week with Fatah to mend ties severed in June's civil war. Haniyeh described Hamas' rule in Gaza as "temporary", an indication that the territory might revert to Fatah's control should there be a factional rapprochement. Fatah has ruled out engagement with the radical Islamist group unless it first gives up Gaza and renounces terrorism. (JTA)

### Would you believe...?

JERUSALEM: Herewith some notes on social and family developments in Israel. According to leading Israeli dieticians, the average Israeli Jew gained 4.5 to 13 pounds during the recent High Holy Days. The reason? A quiet succession of high calorie meals. But this was probably compensated for by Israeli Muslims for whom the Jewish Holy Days coincided with the month of Ramadan during which they could not eat between sunrise and sunset. An Israeli Arab has set a national record by siring 67 children with the assistance of eight wives. He far outdoes the second in line, another Israeli Arab who is the father of a mere 39 children, but then he has had only four wives. And a wealthy Israeli businessman who recently returned home from a long stay in San Diego, is offering \$60,000 in prizes to any citizen who can devise plans to make Israelis more courteous. He said he deplores what he described as "the spread of chutzpah in recent years."

(JTA)  
Compiled by Yehuda Lev

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NEWS ANALYSIS

# Defying U.S., Putin in Iran warns against military action

By Paul Abelsky

MOSCOW (JTA)— When Vladimir Putin arrived in Tehran this week for the first visit by a Russian leader to Iran in more than 60 years, the event bore an eerie connection to the last such visit, in 1943.

Then, a German assassination plot famously shadowed the wartime summit between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt. This week, the Russian president came despite intelligence reports that suicide bombers were preparing to make an attempt on his life.

The coincidence may end there, however.

The meeting between Stalin and his colleagues cleared the way for the opening of the second front against Nazi Germany and the establishment of the United Nations. Putin went to Iran for a summit of the five Caspian nations, and he seemed more intent on shielding the rogue republic than censuring it.

Putin's strongest statements in Tehran focused on opposing military action against Iran.

"Not only should we reject the use of force, but also the mention of force as a possibility," Putin said. "This is very important. We must not submit to other states in the case of aggression or some other kind of military action directed against one of the Caspian countries."

Putin's visit comes at a critical moment for the Middle East.

The future of Russian-Iranian relations has direct repercussions for regional politics, Israel's security and, many say, the security of the free world. Questions about Iran's nuclear program have overtaken the Tehran summit's primary agenda of territorial demarcation in the Caspian Sea.

Russia is resisting calls to strengthen U.N. sanctions against Iran, while France and the United States are pushing for them.

Also at stake is Russia's commitment to the construction of

See PUTIN, page 26

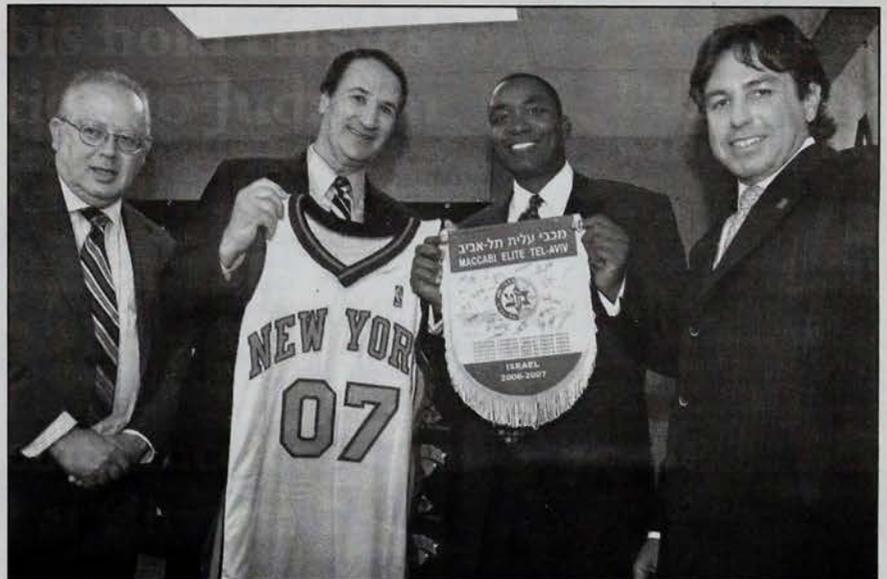


Photo: Noam Galai/Creative Commons

ISIAH THOMAS, TAL BRODY, TONY FROMER, AND ARYE MEKEL. The New York Knickerbockers defeated Maccabi Tel Aviv, 112-85, at Madison Square Garden on Thursday, Oct. 11.

## Jewish Dems: GOP candidates must chide Coulter

Jewish Democrats called on Republican presidential candidates to denounce a right-wing pundit. The National Jewish Democratic Council urged the GOP hopefuls to take a public stand on Ann Coulter's recent statement that Jews should perfect themselves by becoming Christians. Top Republican candidates for president -- Rudolph

Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain and Fred Thompson - are among those scheduled to address the Republican Jewish Coalition on Tuesday in Washington. "Paying lip service to a Jewish audience is all well and good, but Jewish voters want to know from the Republican candidates, will you have the courage to stand with us by criticizing

one of your most vocal supporters?" NJDC Executive Director Ira Forman said. "Several GOP leaders were quick to condemn MoveOn.org, but that was easy for them because they are all at odds with MoveOn politically. Will they have the guts to condemn Ann Coulter, a prominent political ally?" (JTA)

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# Community Calendar

**SAT., OCT. 20**

**Am David Tot Shabbat**

10:30 a.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Shabbat morning family service, singing, dancing, storytelling and more. For children up to 7 with a parent/caregiver. 463-7944.

**SUN., OCT. 21**

**Agudas Achim fall fair**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 901 North Main St. Attleboro, MA. Bake sale, children's activities, ethnic food, gently used children's clothing, toys & books sale, raffle. 508-222-2243, www.agudasma.org.

**Sinai interfaith book discussion**

9 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, Tree of Life area on the first floor.

Discuss the book, The Bless-

ing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children, by Wendy Mogel. For more information, contact Marianne Cocchini-Beck at 461-4917 or aermac@cox.net.

**Am David mah jongg tournament**

1 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Fall event sponsored by the women of the temple. Refreshment break. Prizes and awards at 5 p.m. RSVP by Oct. 15. For more information and to register, call 463-7944.

**Yiddish workshop**

1:30 p.m. JCC, 401 Elm-grove Ave. Providence. "What American English Owes to Yiddish." Interactive workshop, led by educator Henny Lewin, explores how Yiddish terms have become part of American English. Presented by the R.I.

Chapter of Hadassah. Free. For information: Hadassah 463-3636 or JCC 861-8800.

**MON., OCT. 22**

**BJE workshop with author, educator**

7 to 9 p.m. Creativity Center of the BJE, 130 Sessions St., Providence. Jewish educator and author, Maxine Segal Handelman: "What's Jewish about Butterflies" workshop. RSVP to Diane Cerep at 331-0956, ext. 182 or dcerep@bjeri.org.

**Jews Without Borders Workshop**

7 p.m. URI Multi-Cultural Center, 64 Lower College Rd. Free interactive workshop of story-telling and multi-cultural celebration with author, artist and musician, Loolwa Khazzoom. Sponsored by URI Hillel, co-sponsored by Hadassah. All are welcome. For more information call, Amy Olson at 874-2740.

**Brown lecture: Rome and Jerusalem**

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Salomon Center, Room 001. "Rome and Jerusalem: The Clash of Ancier t Civilizations." Elga K. Stulman Visiting Scholar Martin D. Goodman, University of Oxford. Professor Goodman has edited both the Journal of Roman Studies and the Journal of Jewish Studies. Currently professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford. Free and open to the public.

**TUES., OCT. 23**

**K'Tantant Boker Tov**

11 a.m. Temple Beth-El 70 orchard Ave., Providence. For children not yet in preschool and their parents. Older siblings always welcome! Songs, stories, snacks and playtime. Meets in the Silverstein Meeting Hall.

**Portuguese Jews topic of talk**

7:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Prof. Joseph Abraham Levi of Rhode Island College will speak on the Portuguese-Jewish Diaspora. The lecture, part of the Temple's ongoing adult enrichment program, is free and all are welcome.

**WED., OCT. 24**

**"Ask a rabbi" class**

10:30 a.m. with Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer. Everything you always wanted to know about Judaism. Monthly class facilitated by community rabbis. All welcome no charge. For more information call 861-8800 ext 107.

**Looking Glass Theatre fundraiser**

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The Hi Hat: 3 Davol Square, Providence, RI. Silent auction, jazz ensemble. All proceeds from this evening will go to benefit Looking Glass Theatre. The cost of admission is \$25 per person in advance and \$35 at the door.

**Adoption families, panel**

6:30-8:30 p.m. at the United Way Building, 229 Waterman St., Providence. Adoption Options, a division of Jewish Family Service, is hosting its annual panel discussion, "The Many Faces of Adoption: Families Tell Their Stories." Followed by dessert and an opportunity to speak informally with the presenters. For more information, contact Peg Boyle, 331-5437 or peg@jfsri.org.

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 23**

**Art Exhibit at Perkins Gallery "A New Song in our Heart"**

Striar JCC, 445 Central St., Stoughton.

**FRI., OCT. 26**

**Yiddish Shmooz**

9:30 a.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence. Social 1/2 hour followed by program on Yiddish from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Music, culture and learning. For information, call Elly at 861-8800, ext. 107.

**Am David new member dinner**

6:15 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Friday night service followed by a deli Shabbat dinner. RSVP by Oct. 22, 463-7944.

**Tot Shabbat at Etz Chaim**

6:30 p.m. Temple Etz Chaim, 900 Washington St., Franklin, Tot Shabbat and family service, followed by oneg. Bring a small snack to share.

508-528-5337 or admin@temple-etzchaim.org or visit www.temple-etzchaim.org.

**SUN., OCT. 28**

**Torat Yisrael's book fair**

9 a.m. to noon. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Come enjoy picking out a book for yourself or for a gift. Also on Oct. 30: 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Nov. 4: 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

**Book-A-Palooza!**

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Jewish book fair for kids of all ages, hundreds of titles to choose from. Jewish board, story, chapter, and cookbooks, games, puzzles, videos, software and music. Ongoing story telling by BJERI's PJ Library. Lunch and snacks available.

**JCDS open house**

1 to 3 p.m. Jewish Community Day School interactive open house. 85 Taft Ave., Providence. Parents and children invited. 751-2470. (www.jcdisri.org).

**MON., OCT. 29**

**Talmudic Ethics**

Six Mondays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Center, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. A course spon-

sored by the Jewish Learning Institute of Chabad of RI. The cost \$118, textbook included. Scholarships are available. To register, or for more information, call Rabbi Laufer at (401) 884-7888.

**KIDSTUFF sale**

Donations for the 7th KID-STUFF sale to benefit the JCC Early Childhood Education program will be accepted the week of Oct. 29. New or gently used items including clothes (infant through teen), maternity clothes, bedding, toys, games, books, videos, music, baby gear, kid's furniture, and sports equipment. Items must be in good, clean, saleable condition. Bring donations to the Social Hall at the JCC during regular business hours any day during the week of Oct. 29th. Tax-deductible receipts will be available. For more information, contact Shirley Moskaluk at 861-8800 ext. 130 or smoskaluk@jccri.org.

**TUES., OCT. 30**

**Men's health screening**

6 to 6:45 p.m. The Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence. Get screened for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, prostate, body fat analysis, testosterone levels.

7 to 8:30 p.m. Hear the experts on men's health at midlife, prostate cancer, and see robot-assisted technology. Refreshments, information booths. Register by calling Lifespan Health Connection, 444-4800, 1-800-927-1230 or visit miriamhospital.org.

**"Too Young to Retire" author at JCC**

7 - 8:30 p.m. Jewish Community Center. Planning your life after age 55? Author Howard Stone will help you gain a fresh perspective on retirement. Cost is \$40 for JCC members and \$45 for non-members. Includes autographed copy of "Too Young to Retire -- 101 Ways to Start the Rest of Your Life."

**WED., OCT. 31**

**"Witches and Spirits in Jewish Texts"**

2 p.m. Epoch Assisted Living, 1 Butler Ave., Providence. Talk with Rabbi Sarah Mack of Temple Beth-El.

**SAT., NOV. 3**

**Environmental Shabbat at Emanu-El**

9:30 a.m. Temple Emanu-El, Providence. "Eco-service" followed by informational fair, lunch. See Community.

**TUES., NOV. 6**

**Kristallnacht remembrance**

5:30 p.m. At Providence City Hall. The Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island, in conjunction with

See CALENDAR, facing page

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**CALENDAR**

From previous page

Mayor Cicilline's office, will hold a Kristallnacht remembrance A reception to follow. The community is welcome. RSVP to Paula Olivieri at 453-7860. See Community.

**Rabbis for Human Rights founder to speak**

7 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Rabbi David Forman, Founder of Rabbis for Human Rights to discuss "Three Major Concerns of the Jewish State".

**WED., NOV. 7**

**Cranston Senior Guild meeting**

1 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Entertainment will be the "Sababa Band," featuring Galina and Sergei Kpuptsov, singing in Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew and English. A raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting.

**FRI., NOV. 9**

**K'Tantan PJ Shabbat**

6 p.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Join us for prayers, songs & a story on the bimah. Snacks and schmoozing to follow. Remember to wear your favorite PJs!

**SUN., NOV. 11**

**Sisterhood Brunch**

Noon. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

**ONGOING**

**JCCRI creative photo memory class**

6:30 — 8:30 p.m. continuing through Nov. 21 in the JCCRI studio. For information call 861-8800 ext.107 or 139

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understand and learn about the Jewish heritage and its significance in the 21st century. Most locations provide a selection of classes. For more information, call 383-2786, email info@providencekollel.org or visit www.providencekollel.org.

**In Oct.**

22 Judaism 2.0 at Brown Hillel

24 Judaism 2.0 at Warwick and in South County

29 Judaism 2.0 at Brown Hillel

31 Judaism 2.0 at Warwick and in South County

**TEMPLE EMANU-EL LEISURE CLUB**

**Mondays**

10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

**Oct. 22 and 29:** "RI: A Genuine History" — Glen Laxton, retired broadcaster, author.

**Nov. 5:** "Inside Mayor Cicilline's Office" — Sue Robbio, director of senior services City of Providence.

**Nov. 12 and 19:** "Standing at Mount Sinai" — Miriam Abrams-Stark, Leisure Club Coordinator

11:10 a.m. to noon.

**Oct. 22:** "Age Well RI" — Beth Laramée, information specialist.

**Oct. 29:** "My Mother Was a Witch" by Wm. Tenn and "Jewish magic" — Tess Hassenfeld book review/

**Nov. 5 and 12:** "Musical Mornings," — Norman Jagolinzer

**Nov. 19:** "Ipods, Internet and Individuality: The Millennials' Generation and Jewish Identity" — Samantha Pohl, program director, Brown-RISD Hillel.

**Thursdays**

10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

**Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15:** "Basic Teachings of Tai Chi," — Terry Connan, Tai Chi instructor.

**BARAK**

From page 1

tration officials and congressional leaders, Barak is trying to promote joint U.S.-Israel missile defense projects and exchange views on the threats posed by Iran's nuclear program.

Among others, Barak is meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney, Bush national security adviser Stephen Hadley, congressional leaders and Barak's U.S. counterpart, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

A former prime minister, Barak is no stranger to the United States and its vital role as Israel's guardian ally. But now, playing outrider for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Barak is tasked with preparing the ground for next month's Israeli-Palestinian peace conference in Annapolis, Md.

It may not be a role Barak relishes.

Tarnished by the failed Camp David peace summit of 2000, Barak has voiced reluctance to authorize Israeli concessions to the Palestinians that might compromise Israel's security, such as the removal of West Bank roadblocks.

When he met U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Jerusalem on Sunday, Barak said Israel would reserve the right to exert security measures in the West Bank even if the territory is ceded to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"It seems that Barak is trying to reassert himself vis-a-vis the Americans," one veteran Israeli diplomat observed.

Barak took over the defense ministry this summer with a pledge to rehabilitate Israel's armed forces after their unexpected setbacks in the 2006 war against Lebanon's Hezbollah.

With one eye on the prospects for a nuclear-armed Iran and the other on the low-tech terrorist threats posed by the Palestinians, Barak has ordered new arms and tougher training. He also has instituted an ethos of official silence.

This approach was made manifest in Israel's mysterious airstrike in Syria last month for which Jerusalem has refused to provide any details.

The New York Times reported over the weekend that the target of the Sept. 6 sortie was a fledgling nuclear reactor and that some Bush administration officials felt Israel had struck too early. Barak in Washington may be facing fresh questions on the airstrike.

But Israeli officials said that in his talks with Cheney and Gates, Barak instead is focusing on the future — specifically how Israel will protect itself should it no longer control the West Bank.

11:10 a.m. to noon.

**Oct. 25:** "AJR: Pluralistic Multi-Denominational Rabbinic and Cantorial Education" — Rabbi Anne Heath, Agudath Achim, Taunton.

**Nov. 1:** "The Silent Jewish Majority: Building a Pro-Israel Peace Movement" — Judy Kaye and David Joseph.

**Nov. 8, 15:** "Gods Change

Places: But Prayers Remain Forever — Yehudah Amichai's Last Poems" — Rabbi James Rosenberg, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Habonim, Barrington.

**STRIAR ART EXHIBIT**

Oct. 24 - Nov. 23 Striar JCC, 445 Central St., Stoughton. Boston Haifa Kids' Art Exhibit at Perkins Gallery "A New Song in our Heart"

**UPCOMING SUN., DEC. 2**

**Touro Fraternal holiday concert with Warwick Symphony**

2 p.m. Touro Fraternal Association, the Warwick Symphony Orchestra, presenting a free winter holiday concert, to be held at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

Sun Nov 4

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Sun Nov 11

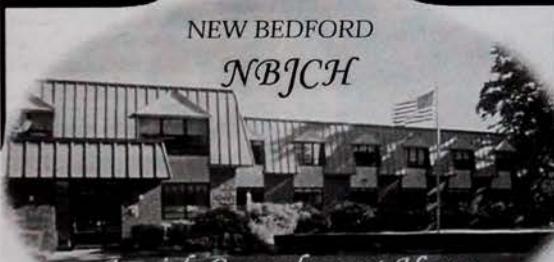
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**BOOKSHELF**

*The Zookeeper's Wife*  
 Diane Ackerman  
 W. W. Norton & Company  
 ISBN 978-0-393-06172-7  
 2007  
 This is a true story about two Christian zookeepers in the Warsaw zoo who saved hundreds of people from the Nazis by smuggling and hiding their "Guests" in the zoo.  
 "Antonia rarely knew when to expect Guests, or where they came from; Jan handled the plotting and liaised with the Underground, and as a result, no one hiding in the villa guessed the full measure of his Underground activities. They didn't know, for example, what was hidden inside the Nestle or Ovaltine boxes which would appear from time to time on the shelf above the radiator in the kitchen."  
*A Hanukkah Present*  
 Mark Binder  
 Light Publications  
 ISBN 978-0-9702642-6-8  
 2007  
 Taking place in the village of Chlem, this charming collection of short stories, (and one novella,) introduces readers to many memorable characters, as they celebrate Hanukkah, family, friends, and love.  
 "Warm lights burning, the smell of delicious food, and the gathering of family. Do you hear

the sound of laughter from the midwinter party?"  
 "The name of the village is Chlem — you pronounce it like you've got something stuck in your throat."  
 "For instance, gifts, as Shmeenic Schlemiel says, are wonderful things, but they aren't essential. The essential ingredients are friends and the stories we tell each other on those cold winter nights."  
*Celebrating the Jewish Year*  
*The Winter Holidays:*  
 Hanukkah, Tu b' Shevat, Purim  
 Paul Steinberg  
 The Jewish Publication Society  
 ISBN: 978-0-8276-0849-8  
 This book examines the holidays throughout the years, allowing the reader to have a better understanding of each festival, offering.  
*Children of Jihad*  
 Jared Cohen  
 Gotham Books  
 ISBN 978-1-592-40324-0  
 2007  
 This book follows the author on his real-life travels through the Middle East, as he "defies government orders and interviews terrorists face-to-face, touring through hostile lands to learn about Middle Eastern youth — and uncovers a subculture that defies every stereotype."  
 "For a third Wednesday in a row, I had lunch at a Western fast food chain in Beirut, Lebanon. This time it was McDonald's. I was alone and American, but it wasn't the comfortably bland Western decor or the universally recognizable taste of a Big Mac that drew me to one of Beirut's most popular fast-food restaurants. It wasn't homesickness at all that brought me to Macdonald's; it was Hezbollah, one of the world's most notorious terror organizations."  
*Voyage*  
 Adele Geras  
 Harcourt, Inc.  
 ISBN 978-0-15-206100-5  
 1983  
 This book follows Mina, passenger on the SS Danzig, she and her family prepare to make a new life in America. (For ages 12 and up.)  
 "We put down our lives like suitcases, and tomorrow will take them up again. All the things that were of such importance to us here on the ship will fade into insignificance before the problems and pleasures of real life. That's where life is, there, on land. This has been an interval a space between two worlds, and when it's over it will be like a dream."  
*Being Jewish*  
 Ari L. Goldman  
 Simon & Shuster  
 Paperbacks  
 ISBN-13: 978-1-4165-3602-4  
 ISBN-10: 1-4165-3602-7  
 2007  
 This book examines the past traditions of Judaism, as well as the present, analyzing Judaism in the twenty-first century.  
 "What connects this dispersed people? Some say common history. We all share a story that includes both triumph and tragedy."  
 "One's fundamental responsibilities as a Jew change with bar or bat mitzvah. According to tradition, if a minor sins, the parents bear the responsibility for the transgression. It is only after a bar or bat mitzvah that a child is held fully accountable for his or her actions."  
 — Compiled by Jessica Perlman

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# South County welcomes its new Torah



**NARRAGANSETT** — The Jewish community of South County received a new Torah on Simhat Torah this year. To welcome their new Torah, a gift from Temple B'nai Israel in New Britain, Connecticut, which is closing its doors, members of the community walked with the Torah scroll from the South County Jewish Collaborative Center at the Narragansett rotary, to Temple Beth David.

The group of 30 adults and children sang their way along the one mile route, accompanied by an accordion and a shofar. People took turns carrying the Torah under a makeshift huppah of tallit and branches. As night and fog descended, the group entered the Temple and placed the Torah in the Ark as the congregation chanted Etz Chaim.

In addition to the Torah, Beth David received the Ark,



THE SOUTH COUNTY JEWISH COMMUNITY celebrate the arrival of a new Torah on Simchat Torah.

along with tallit holder, bimah chairs and reader stands. These ritual and bimah articles will become part of the new sanctuary, soon to be built next to the Center.

Ethan Adler led the march and subsequent Simhat Torah

service. Joining the march was Stephen Silberfarb, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Silberfarb also addressed the congregation, offering words of congratulation and encouragement.

The concept of "I'dor v'dor"

was felt, as the Torah was passed from one congregation to another.

For more information on the South County Jewish community, visit their websites at: [www.bethdavidri.org](http://www.bethdavidri.org); and [www.jewishcollaborative.org](http://www.jewishcollaborative.org).

## EMISSARIES

From page 3

Naky also enjoys traveling and watching movies. She also makes jewelry, and is interested in the theater, music and books. Next year, Naky plans to join the Israeli army.

Esilovich, almost 18, resides in Afulah. Along with her parents and brother, she made aliyah from Russia when she was 1 1/2. A "tomboy," Esilovich is mainly interested in computers and mathematics.

Currently, the girls are staying with two families — Naky, with the Noorpavars, and Esilovich, with the Oster family.

"We have a good time together," Naky said, of the Noorpavars. We always do special things, and they took me to Newport, and we went apple picking."

The Osters took Esilovich to New York, which proved to be an interesting experience for her.

"It was a little bit scary," she laughs, in regard to the constant commotion of the city. "I'm from a small town, smaller than Providence."

A typical day for the emissaries consists of speaking to children in various schools, and synagogues across the state. By contributing to these children's

understanding of Israel, Naky and Esilovich feel as though they're truly accomplishing their mission here. This feeling is especially stimulating, immediately after a classroom session.

"Moments after we get out of class and we've had a good a lesson and the kids really liked participating in everything, that's when we feel like we're really doing something," Naky explained. "Then it's like, Yeah! I know why I came here."

Esilovich wishes to teach the children that while Israel and America may be far away from one another, there are many similarities between the two.

"My main goal is to educate people about Israel. We have a lot of the same television shows and movies, and we may not have a Wal-Mart, but we do have big supermarkets."

The girls are also doing a weekly lesson for students to take part in after school, in which they'll be teaching the Hebrew language through song and conversation.

Anyone interested can email Esilovich: [Ani4ka222@gmail.com](mailto:Ani4ka222@gmail.com) or Naky: [Udes123@gmail.com](mailto:Udes123@gmail.com).

Jessica Perlman is a freelance writer from East Providence.



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**Sports**

# Making our mark in the game

By Marty Cooper  
mcooper@jfri.org

Brian Bark, Happy Forman, Buddy Myer, Bill Cristall, Harry Eisenstat and Jonah Goldman. Who are these people and what do they have in common? All are Jewish and played baseball for the Boston Red Sox or the Cleveland Indians.

Although Jewish baseball players did not have to wait until 1947 to play in the major leagues like Afro-Americans, there have not been many Jewish players in the game. To date there are no more than 150 to play since the inception of professional baseball.

The first was Lipman Pike, who many baseball historians believe may have been one of the first paid professional baseball players. Lipman played with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1866 before major league baseball became popular and a league of its own. But since Lipman Pike's arrival there have been only a few Jewish ball players to reach the majors.

Afro-Americans and Jews have been discriminated against in baseball. Jews, because of anti-Semitism by fans, players, managers and owners. It was not until the emergence of Hank Greenberg in 1930, that there was a Jewish "Superstar" in baseball. In 1938, Greenberg compiled 58 home runs. Many historians of the game believe that Greenberg would have broken Babe Ruth's 60 home-run record had pitchers late in the season not walked him because he was Jewish. Shortly after retirement Greenberg became general manager and owner of the Cleveland Indians. In 1954 Greenberg became the first Jew elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. In 1959 he purchased the Chicago White Sox along with Bill Veeck.

Greenberg's emergence helped lead the way for more Jews to play in the major leagues. Al Rosen, nicknamed "The Hebrew Hammer," was a four time All-Star and 1953 Most Valuable Player while playing



JACOBS FIELD, "THE JAKE" Cleveland named after David and Richard Jacobs, owners of the Cleveland Indians from 1986-2001. "The Jake" opened in 1994.

for the Cleveland Indians. A case can be made that he should be in baseball's Hall of Fame. Rosen drove in over 100 runs five years in a row while leading the American League in Home Runs and RBI twice. After retirement Rosen went on to be the first General

Manager, (GM) for the Houston Astros and then GM for the San Francisco Giants. He was also a VP and General Manager for the New York Yankees in 1979 and 1980.

At the time of this writing there are four teams vying to

become the "world champions" of baseball. The team from Cleveland is playing the team from Boston. A team in Colorado is playing a team in Arizona. All four have a history that includes Jews who have played professional baseball, managed a team or owned a team.

**Boston Red Sox**

Player	Position	Years Played	Years with team	Notes
Brian Bark	Pitcher	1995	1995	
Moe Berg*	Catcher	1923, 1926-39	1934-39	Considered a WWII hero**
Lou Boudreau*	Shortstop	1938-52	1951-52	Manager 1952-54
Craig Breslow	Pitcher	2005-present	2005-present	In minors
August "Happy" Foreman*	Pitcher	1924, 1926	1926	3 games Boston
Joe Ginsberg*	Catcher	1948, 1950-54, 1956-62	1961	24 at bats for Boston
Gabe Kapler	Outfield	1998-2006	2003-06	Managed 07 Boston minors
Bob Melvin#	Catcher	1989-94	1993	Manager in majors 2003-present
Charles "Buddy" Myer	2b/SS/3b/P	1925-41	1927-28	
Jeff Newman*	Catcher	1976-84	1983-84	Converted to Judaism
Al Richter	Shortstop	1951-1953	1951-1953	
Si Rosenthal	Outfield	1925-26	1925-26	
Adam Stern	Outfield	2005-06	2005-06	
Kevin Youkilis	1b & 3b	2004-present	2004-present	In this year's playoffs

**Cleveland Indians**

Ruben Amaro, Jr.	Outfield	1991-98	1994-95	Currently Asst. GM for Phil.
Moe Berg**	Catcher	1923, 1926-39	1931-34	See Boston notes
Lou Boudreau***	Shortstop	1938-52	1938-50	Hall of Fame, mother Jewish
Bill Cristall	Pitcher	1901	1901	
Harry Eisenstat	Pitcher	1935-42	1939-42	
Milt Galatzer	Outfield	1933-36, 1939	1933-36	
Joe Ginsberg	Catcher	1948, 1950-54, 1956-62	1954	2 at bats for Cleveland
Jonah Goldman	Pitcher	1928, 1930-31	1928, 1930-31	
Hank Greenberg	First base	1930, 1933-41, 1945-47		Owner, General Manager 1950-57
Barry Latman	Pitcher	1957-67	1960-63	
Jesse Levis	Catcher	1992-1999	1992-95, 1999	
Andrew Lorraine	Pitcher	1994-95, 1997-2000, 2002	2000	Appeared in 10 games for Clev.
Jeff Newman	Catcher/Coach	1976-84, 1992-99	1992-99	Drafted by Cleveland
Scott Radinsky	Pitcher	1990-92, 1995-01	2001	Appeared in 2 games
Al Rosen****	Third base	1947-56	1947-56	Considered 3rd best Jewish player
Richie Sheinblum	Outfield	1965, 1967-74	1965-69	
Eddie Turchin	Third base/SS	1943	1943	Appeared in 11 games

**Arizona Diamondbacks**

Bob Mevin#	Catcher/Manager	1985-94, 2003-present	2005-present
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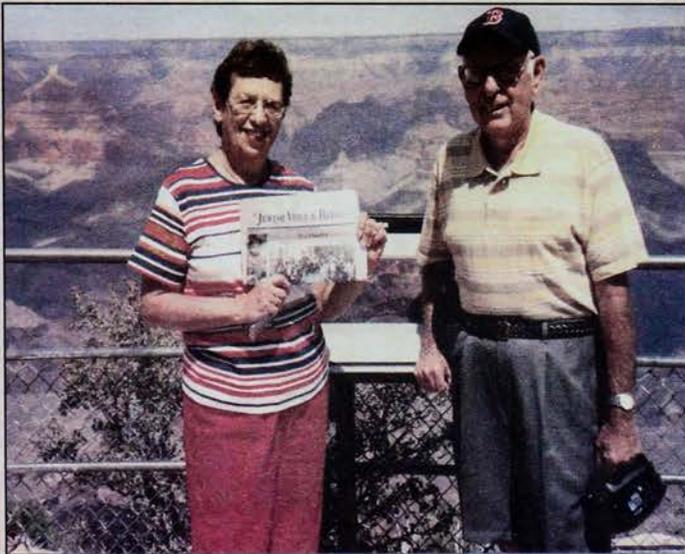
**Colorado Rockies**

Mike Saipé	Pitcher	1998	1998	Pitched 2 games
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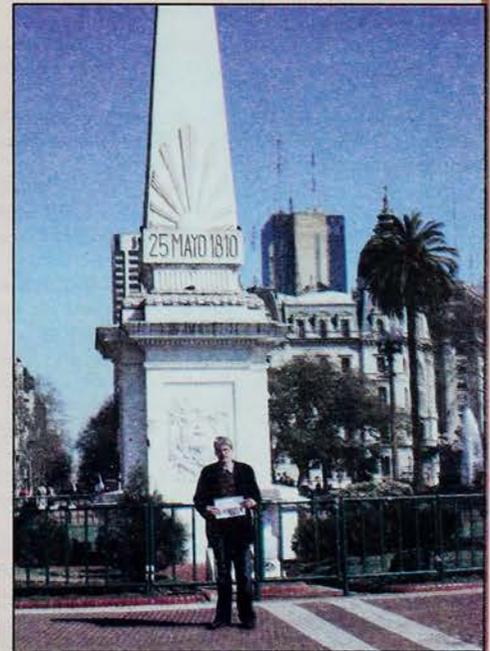
\* Played for both Boston and Cleveland  
 \*\* Moe Berg believed to be a spy for allies during WWII  
 \*\*\* Boudreau is known as a player manager for Cleveland. Hall of Fame in 1970. (Boudreau is not always recognized as Jewish)  
 \*\*\*\* Only behind Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax  
 # Played for Boston and manager for Arizona

# We Are Read Everywhere

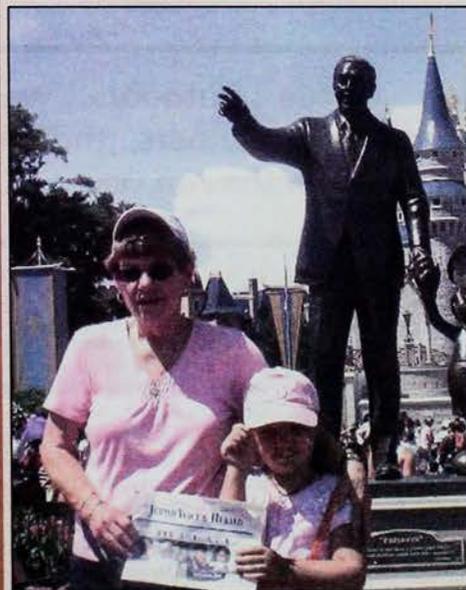
(Where in the world will we go next?)



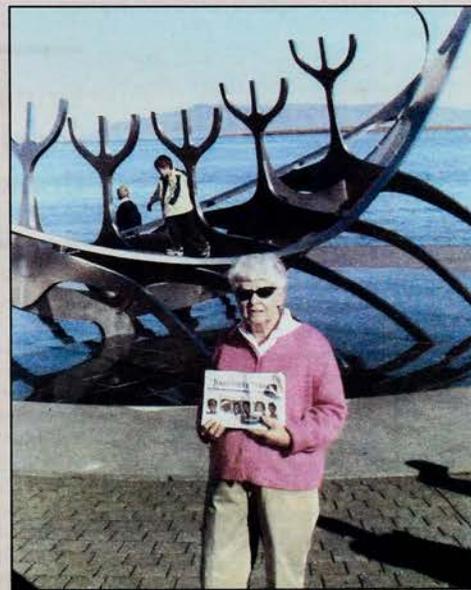
SANDRA AND FRED BROWN, at left, of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Providence, were celebrating their 50th anniversary at the Grand Canyon in early September when this photo was taken.



DAVID KLEYMAN, at right, of Harrisville had this photo taken on a recent family vacation to Buenos Aires.



TOBY HOROWITZ, of Warwick, with her granddaughter Alanna, of Newton, Mass., on vacation in Disney World at the end of August.



MARJORIE MOSKOL, of Pawtucket, stands in front of the Viking Ship statue, in Reykjavik, Iceland.

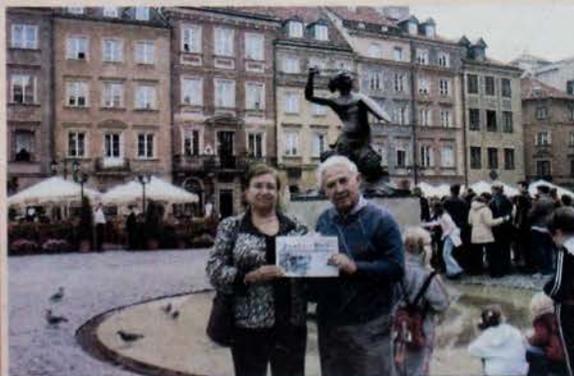
## We have been to:



Argentina, Peru, Turkey, Brazil, Jerusalem, Jordan, the Great Wall of China, Florida, California, Tanzania, 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 [voiceread@jfri.org](mailto:voiceread@jfri.org), with "We Are Read Everywhere" in the subject line. Or, send to JV&H at 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI, 02906.



Warsaw



Budapest



Vienna

Faina and Alex Tabenkin, traveling in eastern Europe, were photographed with their Voice and Herald in Budapest with the kosher restaurant "Hanna" behind them; in Warsaw on the Jewish Square in front of the Memorial to the Austrian Jews

and the wooden door of the temple, and in Warsaw at the main square of the Old City, which was destroyed during World War II and restored after the war.