

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

5 Tivet 5768

Vol. V — Issue XXXVIII

www.jvhri.org

December 14, 2007

## Reaching the next generation of Jewish kids

*The publisher of JVibe and Babaganewz talks about the technological revolution in Jewish educational content*



BY RICHARD ASINOF  
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PROVIDENCE — When Amir Cohen, the CEO of Jewish Family & Life, talks about the future of Jewish life in America, his focus is on Jewish youth — preteens and teens — in the 4th through 10th grades.

His premier publications — *Babaganewz* and *JVibe* — are both print and web products, providing educational content about Jewish life and Jewish

values to tens of thousands of young American Jews. Other publications and web platforms include *JBooks* and *Sh'ma*.

“In the last year, Jewish Family & Life has produced more than 1 million hours of web content,” Cohen, a resident of Providence, said proudly, in an interview with *The Voice & Herald*.

According to Cohen,



### JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS

See KIDS, Page 8

## Peace talks begin in Jerusalem

BY LESLIE SUSSER  
JTA staff writer

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinian Authority held the first round of peace talks launched at the Annapolis conference. Israel's chief negotiator, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and her Palestinian Authority counterpart, former Prime Minister Ahmed Queria, met in a Jerusalem hotel Wednesday for 90 minutes of talks.

**“On Dec. 17, France will host a major donor conference as the economic follow-up piece to Annapolis.”**

The meeting was overshadowed by Palestinian Authority displeasure at an Israeli plan to expand the controversial Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa. Queria's aides said he pressed the Israelis to stop construction on land where Palestinians seek to build their state.

See TALKS, Page 2

## Into the darkness, eluding the Nazis

### Recounting a Jewish miracle in Priest's Grotto

In Part One, readers met the Stermer and Dodyk families in 1943, struggling to survive in the small town of Korolowka, in eastern Poland, now in Ukraine, during the Nazi regime.

The miraculous story of their survival by hiding in bunkers dug under their barn, and in a tourist cave complex near their home which was discovered by the Gestapo, was the subject of a memoir, *We Fight to Survive*, written after the war by the matriarch of the family, Esther Stermer. It was brought to the attention of *The Voice & Herald* by Samuel Dodick, a family member, who lives in Woonsocket.

The following is the account of how they survived for 344 days in a hitherto undiscovered cavern complex, now called “Priest's Grotto,” since it lies under a wheat field owned by the parish priest.

### (PART 2)

BY MARY KORR  
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THE SITUATION was desperate. On May 5, 1943, the police ordered all Jews to leave Korolowka. Any Jew found the next morn-

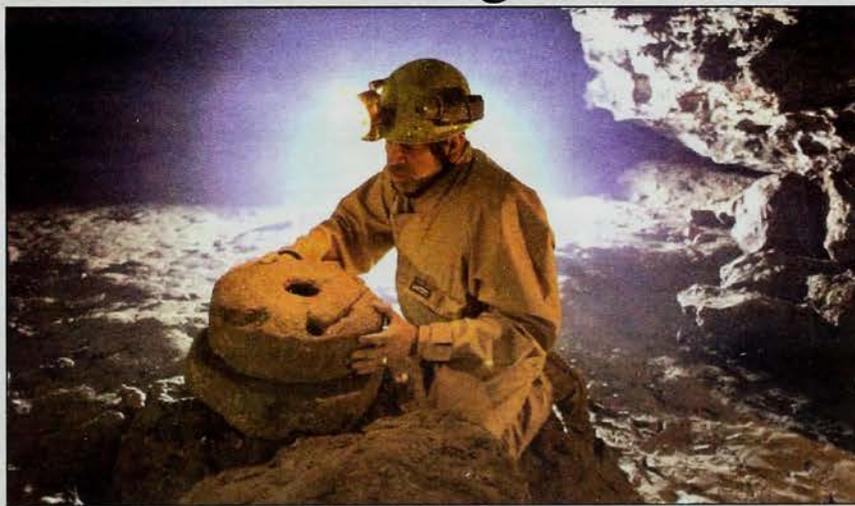


photo copyright Peter Lane Taylor 2003

Chris Nicola examines the millstone which Nissen Stermer carried on his back for two miles in the forest one night so that the survivors would be able to make their own bread in the cave.

ing would be shot. That night the Stermers, Dodyks and extended families — 38 Jewish men, women and children — filled a horse-drawn wagon with tools and supplies and fled north to their new hideout. The Stermer and Dodyk sons had discovered it days earlier, led to the spot by a friendly peasant named Munko, who had seen a fox disappear into an opening in a wheat field owned by a priest. The young men had

investigated and found an extensive cave complex with fresh water. But Nissen Stermer had one worry — that his mother Esther wouldn't fit into the narrow entry.

She writes in her 1960 memoir, *We Fight to Survive*: “I told him that whatever will happen to me is not so important; first I must see all of you safe. Possibly, too, I hoped we might chisel the stone a bit so that I, too, might squeeze in.”

To enter, the group had to slide down, one by one, through the “foxhole,” 30 feet into a knee-deep muddy pit that stank of decaying animal carcasses. On one side of the pit there was a narrow corridor between two rocks that led to the interior. The nimble children easily slipped through and spent the night scurrying supplies in before the dreaded dawn

See MIRACLE, Page 16

### A big thank you!



Joan Riss Reeves, reading from *The Voice & Herald*, introduces her son-in-law, journalist Jeffrey Goldberg, on the bimah at Temple Emanu-El, at his talk Dec. 2.

See CAMPAIGN, Page 7

## TALKS: Palestinians, Israelis at the table

From Page 1

Israeli officials described the talks as preliminary and an opportunity for the sides to air their views.

The next step will take place on Monday, Dec. 17, when France will host a major donor conference as the economic follow-up piece to Annapolis. In Paris, the Palestinian Authority is expected to ask for a whopping \$5.5 billion over three years for budgetary support and development. The money is meant to stimulate the economy, fund new infrastructure construction and pay for government reforms.

Britain this week pledged to give the Palestinian Authority \$500 million in aid if it makes peace with Israel. Douglas Alexander, the British secretary of state for international development, said Monday that his government would pledge \$500 million over three years if positive results come out of the Annapolis conference.

Alexander met with P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli officials in separate meetings. Alexander said Britain was prepared to help the Palestinians work to recover their economy.

Israel plans to set up a peace administration similar to the one that operated during the Camp David process in 2000. It will have 14 teams of experts for the 14 working committees.

The economic track is meant to serve as a catalyst for political progress, with foreign investment giving Palestinians the incentive to create a peaceful state and the capacity to run it.

Thus, a massive influx of international investment should serve

both as a carrot for Palestinian peacemaking and as a means to help the Palestinians create functioning institutions and a viable economy. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the special envoy of the Quartet group of peace sponsors – the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations – is the main mover and shaker.

Blair already has identified four special projects: a Gaza sewage treatment plan, an industrial park sponsored by Turkey, a Japanese funded agro-industrial park, and a plan to revive tourism, especially in Bethlehem. Blair emphasizes the huge job-creating potential of all these labor-intensive projects.

### SECURITY

Israel has agreed to allow a shipment of 25 Russian-made armored vehicles, 1,000 rifles and 2 million rounds of ammunition for Palestinian Authority security forces in the West Bank. The idea is to provide short-term support for forces loyal to P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas against Hamas militants active in the Nablus area and, in the longer term, to give Abbas the wherewithal to carry out his principal road map commitment to disarm all terrorist militias.

In November, 300 Palestinian special police troops, trained by U.S. Gen. Keith Dayton, started operating in the Nablus area. Israeli and Palestinian forces also have resumed coordination on the ground, including intelligence exchanges. If the Nablus experiment and the coordination on the ground prove successful, Israel will hand over more West Bank cities to P. A. forces.

## We've become the new greenhorns

*Our new world, as it turns back towards Jewish traditions*

By JOHN J. CLAYTON  
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**I**F YOUR FAMILY, like my family, comes from eastern Europe – my mother was born in Kishinev,

my father's father in Odessa – in America they went though a time of being seen as a "greenhorn."

Being seen and seeing themselves. And their children, immersed in American schools, learned not to be greenhorns, learned to be embarrassed by their parents and to become purely American.

There's a large Jewish-American literature devoted to this; for instance, Abraham Cahan, *The Rise of David Levinsky*, Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*, Anna Yezierska, *The Breadgivers*. On and on. They struggled to speak with proper syntax and without a Yiddish accent; to dress like an American; to

avoid "vulgarity" of gesture: no waving the hands, no speaking loudly. In fact, no being expressive.

Jews wanted to blend into the dominant culture – to become American – and they succeeded.

The grandchildren of the greenhorns are hardly recognizable as Jews at all.

In my family the process occurred in a single generation. On my father's side, he and his brother grew up in Chicago, where my uncle learned stenography at night and as a teenager became a court reporter.

During the First World War he was made an officer, secretary to a big shot general in D.C., and came out of the war with goyishe panache and enough knowledge of American life to become a successful businessman. My father worked for him.

For business reasons – no, come, come, not just for business reasons – my uncle wanted to hide his Jewishness completely, and so before I was born he changed his name from Louis Cohon to Lloyd Clayton. And he paid my father and his other siblings to change their names to Clayton, too. He wore a Stetson

hat and a western drawl. The whole family became secular Americans.

My mother and her family fled Kishinev after the 1903 pogrom. She grew up in an

Orthodox family and never renounced her Judaism, but her Jewishness – that was another story. She became a successful coat buyer for Bonwit Teller, and she spoke with a very slight British accent. When I was born,

she pressed my nose just a little, over and over, everyday, hoping that I wouldn't have a "Jewish nose."

But her position wasn't simple, a mixture of Jewish self-hatred (see David Mame's *The Wicked Son*) and Jewish pride. For while she wanted to speak like, dress like, act like an upper-class Christian New York lady. Ironically at the same time, her first language was her beloved Yiddish, and she made certain I became a Bar Mitzvah. She lit *yahrzeit*

See GREENHORN, Page 9



PROGRESS IN AMERICA

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### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

For Greater Rhode Island

Dec. 14 3:56  
Dec. 21 3:58  
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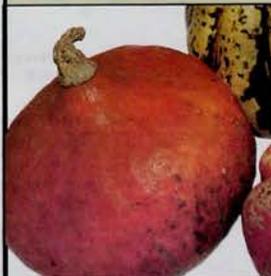


### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's not the way to learn your Torah portion, but it may make you a more complete Jewish kid."

Amir Cohen, CEO Jewish Family & Life

SEE Page 1



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A squash recipe for every season.

SEE Page 26

### COMING NEXT ISSUE:

The Voice & Herald's Hanukkah writing and drawing contest winners

# At Exchange City, students rule – and make the rules

*A day in the life of a big city – with students working as judges, lawyers, shop owners, bankers, police officers, and editors*

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

**T**HE FIRST DAY on a new job can be exciting and nerve-wracking, especially if you're 12 years old. Thirty-nine Middle School students at the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) found this out when they ran Exchange City for a day on Dec. 3, partnered with 49 students from the Woodlawn Regional Catholic School in North Providence.

The mock city, which cost \$1.2 million to build, and which opened in May, is a 30,000-square-foot urban enclave located in the Harbourside campus of Johnson and Wales University. It is an experiential, national program new to Rhode Island, designed to align with state educational standards and curriculum frameworks. This year, 8,000 students are signed up for the program, which costs about \$25 per student.

Administering the city was the culmination of months of preparation. But, as in real life, you have to be prepared for exigencies, both small and large. Take Judge Daniel Brandes' black robe. The sleeves were way too long for the sixth-grader. Fortunately, there were safety pins in City Hall. And when his microphone died while he was addressing a town assembly, he immediately called for technical assistance.

In an interview before he began his official duties, he discussed his recent election, which was held before the electorate



**STUDENTS RUN THE SHOW**  
Top left: Judge Daniel Brandes, confers with Mayor Ashley Galvao of Woodlawn school.

Top right: Daniella Levine, left, on the job in Exchange City, with colleagues Daniel Katz, Rachel Mernoff and Ruben Litmanovich.

Bottom right: Police officer Cameron Brenner, at left.

Bottom left: Exchange City head Ken Fish reviews schedule for the day.



Photos by Mary Korr

of both participating middle schools.

"I told the voters that a good judge is fair and knows all the laws and that I have these attributes," he said. He added that should he need legal consultations (math being his specialty), he had expert advisors to consult. "I have lots of lawyers in my family, uncles and cousins."

When Steve Jablow, JCDS Middle School coordinator, initially met with Ken Fish, the executive director who runs the R.I. Exchange City, he was immediately sold on the "reality" program. Jablow said students had to research careers, prepare resumes, apply for jobs, go on interviews, learn how to write a check and balance a checkbook, draw up a business plan, pay taxes – in short, all the skills needed to run

a free enterprise system. "We talked about how all busi-

**"My plan is to become a policeman first, and then run for office. I'm going to be the first Jewish president."**

**Police Officer Cameron Brenner, a sixth-grader**

nesses do not succeed, and how planning and marketing go into the success of a product," Jablow explained, during one of several worker-training sessions at the

Woodlawn. The Exchange City curriculum requires 30 hours of preparatory time before the students go to the simulated city.

"I believe the program's greatest value lies in the skills that students develop – problem-solving, decision-making and teamwork," Fish said.

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

On Dec. 3, Exchange City came to life for these students. A stroll around the grassy Town Square revealed more than a dozen businesses and government offices getting ready to open. The Broadcast Center blasted "Girlfriend" by Alicia Keys. There was a rush on the bank; all the merchants had to secure loans before opening for business. The accountant for

the Sports Shop, David Labine, applied for a loan for \$154; with interest he would have to pay back \$169.40 due by the end of the day. Once loans were secured, the merchants converged on the distribution center for merchandise and marketing materials.

Keeping the peace was Police Officer Cameron Brenner, a sixth-grader. He was on the lookout for bank robbers, gum chewers, and anyone cutting across the grassy green town square or picnicking on it – no food or drinks were allowed outside the snack area.

Brenner paused in his police duties to answer a few questions.

**Q. "Why did you want to be a police officer?"**

A. "Well, I applied for the job because I thought I could do the right thing for everyone in this city. Usually I do that in real life."

**Q. "What kind of training did you get?"**

A. "I read a book on different careers, including law enforcement. As I patrol today, I realized it could be dangerous. But I'll be careful."

**Q. "Does the job pay well?"**

A. "Yes, \$5.90 a day."

**Q. "Now that you've gained a little real-life experience, do you think you might want to become a police officer when you graduate 8th grade?"**

A. "That's a very interesting question. My plan is to become a policeman first, and then run for office. I'm going to be the first Jewish president."

Meanwhile, chronicling the day's events was the staff of the *City Times*, whose slogan was: "We sell news that you can use." The staff was on a tight deadline – it was 11 a.m. and the paper was due out by 2 p.m.

Photographer Daniella Levine,

See EXCHANGE CITY, Page 12

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The Jewish Voice & Herald (ISSN number 1539-2104, USPS #465-710) is printed bi-weekly, except in July, when it is printed once a month.

All submitted content becomes the property of The Jewish Voice & Herald. Announcements and opinions contained in these pages are published as a service to the community and do not necessarily represent the views of The Jewish Voice & Herald, or its publishers, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Copy Deadlines: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: voiceherald@jfri.org

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**Advertising:** The Jewish Voice & Herald does not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish, or attest to the kashruth of any product.

**Business Committee:**  
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Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI  
POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to:  
Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
**The last words**

BY RICHARD ASINOF  
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THE LAST WORDS of reporter Daniel Pearl, "I am Jewish," have served to become an important tipping point in transforming a horrific act of terrorism into a new, proud watchword reaffirming our identity as Jews.

The book, *I Am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl*, edited by Pearl's parents, Judea and Ruth, with its very personal reflections from the famous and the not-so-famous, has sold more than 60,000 copies. Jewish Lights Publishing, a small publishing house in Vermont which published the book, will soon celebrate its two millionth book sold.

On Dec. 10, the Pearls joined with President Bush in a menorah-lighting ceremony at the White House, using the Pearl family menorah. The lighting of the menorah is a powerful symbol of inspiration and victory over tyranny. One can only hope, with a firm belief in miracles, that the import of this ceremony will somehow transform a political photo op for a stiff-necked-president into a heartfelt exchange.

Jeffrey Goldberg, the Washington correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly*, spoke recently at the JFRI community event at Temple Emanu-El. Listening to Goldberg, I could not help but think of Daniel Pearl as the journalist described a recent journey to visit a Palestinian friend in Gaza.

Goldberg described how his taxi was being followed by menacing, masked, bearded gunmen, and, fearing that he was about to be kidnapped, called his friend on his cell phone. It turned out the friend, a higher-up in Fatah's security service, had provided him with an escort.

One of the most revealing stories Goldberg told was the dialogue he had with this Palestinian friend, in which he asked him bluntly: How do you respond to your son when he tells you he wants to be a suicide bomber?

For many Palestinian youth, the honor of being a suicide bomber is a cultural norm promoted throughout the community. As Goldberg recounted, there is a process by which the individual choosing martyrdom withdraws from all contact with the community, eventually becoming zombie-like, in anticipation of the horrendous act.

Goldberg also recounted the answer another Palestinian father had given his son, telling him that it was his duty to live and grow old, in contradiction of Islamist propaganda. Goldberg offered this tale as a way of saying, there is a modicum of hope to be found in the dialogue between Palestinians and Jews.

SIXTY YEARS have passed since the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British mandate of Palestine into three separate entities, a Jewish state, an Arab state and a Jerusalem-Bethlehem enclave under the control of the UN. (Note that in 1947 the Zionist leadership agreed to a Jewish state without Jerusalem, an unimaginable concession in 2007.)



**Yehuda Lev**

The vote, largely the result of agreements involving the Vatican, Soviet Russia and Great Britain, was intended to end a low-level conflict that seemed endless and involved the loss on all sides of treasure, lives and prestige. The Vatican wanted a say in the future of Jerusalem; hence the enclave in return for its influence on 20 Catholic Latin American states to support partition. (A two-thirds majority vote was required in the General Assembly.) The British wanted out, exhausted by World War II and, with the loss of the Indian subcontinent and British colonies in Southeast Asia, no longer in need of Palestine as a base from which to help protect the Suez Canal. Russia and its European satellites wanted in. They supported partition and finally got their wish with the first Soviet-Egyptian arms-for-cotton deal in 1953.

That Israel survived was largely due to a decision by the Zionist leadership as early as the beginning of the 20th century to begin preparations for a Jewish political state in Palestine. Gradually this "shadow" entity was created with an army (*Haganah*), a politically organized population (*Yishuv*), a government, political parties, a legal system, an independent press, agricultural and industrial bases, an educational structure and most of the necessary elements of a functioning democratic state. When the time came, on May 14, 1948, the institutions and individuals of this parallel Jewish government simply changed titles and offices and, with some difficulties, took over from the British. Palestinian Arabs made no such preparations and had no civil or military structure when the need for them arose.

There are those among us who object to this version of the Israeli narrative, some who claim that it was the *Etsel* and the *Lebi*, the two extremist segments who drove the British out by violence. Others will ask why there is no reference to the Balfour Declaration of 1917 in which the British promised to support an eventual Jewish State in Palestine. But the declaration promised no such thing. Instead, the British government said it "views with favor the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine." That could mean a cultural or an ethnic homeland but a Jewish state meant only a political homeland and the British were too clever to climb out on that limb.

With seemingly everyone supporting partition, why did it fail to bring an end to the conflict over Palestine? One of the contesting parties, the Arab world and especially the Arabs of Palestine, refused

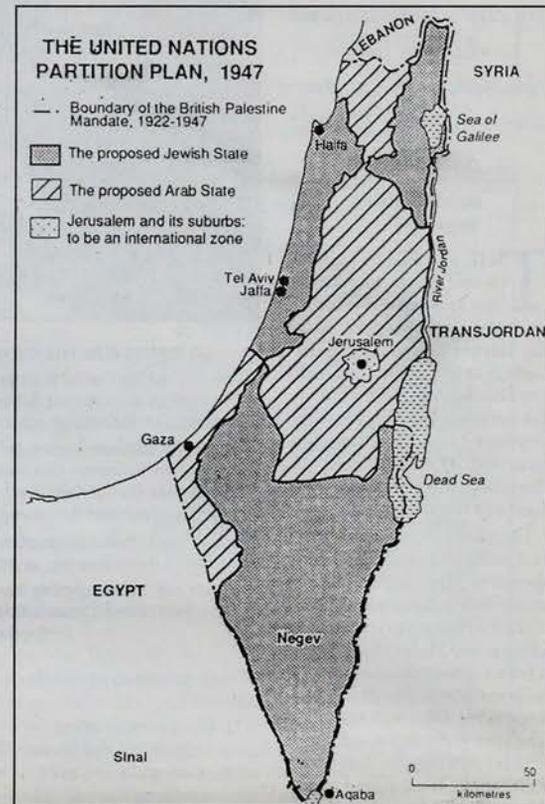
A MAJORITY OF ONE

**Partition and the birth of Israel**

to accept it. The day after the UN vote, Jewish buses were fired upon and the first Jewish deaths occurred. There would eventually be more than 6,000 of these, more than one percent of the total Jewish population of Israel at its founding.

The Arab world had a different Palestinian narrative. They saw the Jews arriving in Palestine as western colonialists encroaching upon lands that were rightly part of an Arab world, coming as Crusaders intent upon conquering and subjecting the native population to a foreign culture and an alien religion. They also attributed western support for the new state to expiation for the crimes of the Holocaust. They too studied the Balfour Declaration, especially the part that read: "Nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine." And while Arab resistance to Jewish settlement in Palestine was originally a conflict between two nationalisms, it has since become a much more virulent clash of ideologies, fueled by religious passion.

The Arab response to partition was first a civil war between Palestinian Jews and Arabs and then, after May 14, 1948, a military conflict between Israel and four Arab states,



Transjordan, Egypt, Iraq and Syria. Lebanon and Yemen contributed troops but to a lesser extent and without effect. The Arab Liberation Army, largely Palestinians, acted as a guerrilla force but was badly led and more an irritant than a threat.

How did Israel survive on the battlefield? For that we wait until May and the 60th anniversary of its War of Independence.

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**Dry Bones MR. HISTORY**



## THE OLD OLIVETTI Whence cometh the Religious Right?

**I** WONDER WHY, as a Jew, I should care what kind of Christianity is acceptable to the religious right of the Republican Party. Do I really care whether Mitt Romney's religion is a legitimate branch



**Josh Stein**

of the Protestant tree, or a cult that has sprung up, like myriad others in the fertile soil of American credulity? No,

but I have to admit that this question is of importance to someone out there.

I used to hate it when old folk would begin a sentence with "When I was young..." or its variant, "It used to be that..." but now that I'm approaching mid-life myself I suppose I'm entitled to say, "When I was young it used to be that public piety was the exception to the rule, not a requirement for the presidency

equal to, or more important than, knowledge of foreign policy." Samuel Johnson once famously said that "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." I humbly add, "...and religion is the first defense of the inadequate politician." Did Eisenhower flog his religion in public? Even that scoundrel Nixon somehow managed to avoid recourse to his Quaker piety. Barry Goldwater, the modern standard-bearing forerunner of the Republican right wing, said many things about religious tests for office, but they boil down to this one statement, "I don't have any respect for the Religious Right."

So, what happened? How did religion come to dominate a party that purports to stand for strict construction of the Constitution — which states clearly that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States?" And how is it that even Democrats are bowing before the altar of faith? Here the culprit, as is often the case, is Ronald Reagan, whose

handlers decided that wooing the Moral Majority would win votes. His success taught the others. At first religion was disguised as "family values" but out of the closet it came with the 2000 Republican debates. George W. Bush announced that his favorite political philosopher was Jesus Christ — foolshol! Thom Jefferson thought the correct answer was John Locke!

**"Even that scoundrel Nixon somehow managed to avoid recourse to his Quaker piety."**

When Bush won despite his obvious deficiencies, those who would be his successors learned to play the same card.

As to Romney, his speech to Evangelical Christian leaders spoke volumes in what he said, and what he omitted. He asked not to be rejected based on his religion, but only once in the course of his 20 minutes did he mention the word "Mormon."

He said that he would not let his faith intrude on decisions, but then called for "a robust role for religion in public life, declaring there was a common moral heritage across religious lines in the country that he would champion," according to *The New York Times*. He promised, in his words, to "take care to separate the affairs of government from any religion, but I

will not separate us from the God who gave us liberty." He also said, "In recent years, the notion of the separation of church and state has been taken by some well beyond its original meaning. They seek to remove from the public domain any acknowledgment of God. Religion is seen as merely

a private affair with no place in public life." (I plead guilty to that one!) Then he said two other things, but ignored their opposites. He said that "Americans do not respect believers of convenience. Americans tire of those who would jettison their beliefs, even to gain the world." Then he cited as proof that the founders did not want an

absolute separation of religion and state, a story set during the Continental Congress. When someone suggested that a prayer be said, he was told that there were too many different religious views present. "Then Sam Adams rose, and said he would hear a prayer from anyone of piety and good character, as long as he was a patriot." What Romney failed to say was that in 1774 there was no Constitution of the United States to guide proper action; what he failed to say was that when, during the Constitutional Convention an acrimonious debate ensued, prayer was again suggested — this time met with embarrassed silence — before the founders got back to business. What Romney failed to say is that despite the fact that "Americans do not respect believers of convenience," when he was Governor of liberal Massachusetts he was pro-choice; now that he's running for the Evangelical vote he's pro-life. Is anyone surprised?

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

### NOW BATTING

## President Bush and Israel

**T**HE MEETINGS at Annapolis are now behind us. Forty-one nations and international bodies attended, with the United States, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority the prominent participants. Not only were Egypt and Jordan — countries already at peace with Israel — represented, but the Saudi



**Alan Zuckerman**

foreign minister was there too, even the deputy foreign minister of Syria. The meetings were serious, polite, and, even hopeful, at least for some people.

Of course, this is not the first such meeting. In 1991, we recall that there was a peace conference in Madrid, where representatives of Israel, Arab states, the United States, and other international actors attended. Prime Minister Shamir was dragged into going, and the meeting degenerated into fights over the Palestinian representatives. One can only wonder what

President George H. W. Bush and Secretary of State Baker were thinking, or perhaps the meeting in Madrid was just a thank you to the Saudis for their support during the first Gulf War (to save Saudi Arabia).

As an effort to move towards peace, the Madrid meeting failed.

Since then, we have witnessed the Oslo peace process, the failure at Camp David, road maps to peace that went nowhere, and years of intermittent violence, and the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and more violence. No one would argue that the peace treaty that Israel and Jordan signed in 1994 was the result. Will Annapolis be different? Is this finally the road to peace? Will it lead to two states: Israel, the democratic state of the Jewish people, and Palestine, the democratic state of the Palestinian people? No one knows.

Indeed, in my previous column, I highlighted the core elements that continue to block a peace treaty: recognizing Israel as a Jewish state negates allowing Palestinian refugees to immigrate there. And it's not just a question of ideology; as a place where real people live, the government of Israel cannot destroy their neigh-

borhoods and towns, in order to allow "returning" Palestinians to move there. It just won't happen. As important, the Israelis and the Palestinians are still far apart on boundaries of Jerusalem in particular and more generally the two states. Negotiations between the two sides will be difficult.

What will possibly lead to peace? Was anything accomplished at Annapolis to move in that direction? Let's analyze what President Bush said at the Annapolis conference. Why consult him? For the next year, he — and not Secretary of State Rice — will make America's fundamental decisions about Israel, the Palestinians, and peace. I know that it's popular to denigrate this president: most of the people closest to me do it without hesitation. But even they can be wrong. President Bush will decide.

Bush is a "big picture" guy; he deals with fundamental values, not details. What are his principles regarding peace between Israel and the Palestinians? Let's analyze what he said at the conference: "For these negotiations to succeed, the Palestinians must do their part. They must show the world they understand that while the borders of a Palestinian

state are important, the nature of a Palestinian state is just as important." This state must "create opportunity for its citizens, govern justly and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure." It must enhance peace and stability for Palestinians, "and for the people of Israel and for the whole region." Peace demands that the Palestinians need to construct a peaceful and democratic regime.

What about Israel? What is their part in this process? First, Israel "must be ready to bring an end to the occupation that began in 1967, through a negotiated settlement." OK. The unilateral pullout from Gaza failed. Successful negotiations between the two sides should end the occupation. What else? Israel should remove "unauthorized outposts, end... settlement expansion, and find other ways" to help the Palestinian Authority develop, "without compromising Israel's security." Note: Israel should not violate its own laws and commitments; it should help the Palestinians so long as that assistance does not endanger Israel. Nothing to object to here; indeed, again it is smart and reasonable.

At the end of the road, what

does the president hope to celebrate? "The [peace] settlement will establish Palestine as the Palestinian homeland, just as Israel is the homeland for the Jewish people... The United States will help Palestinian leaders build... free institutions. The United States will keep its commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish State and homeland for the Jewish people." Note the implications for a core issue: Palestinian refugees will return to Palestine, not Israel.

Bush's focus on the big picture ignores details about boundaries: let the two sides work that out. Israel will decide how much, if any, of Jerusalem should be traded for a peace treaty, or really for how many peace treaties with how many other states? The Palestinian Authority will decide whether it is willing to forego the "right of return" and Jerusalem in order to have a state of its own. If negotiations work, the United States will support two democratic states for two different peoples. That's the best that a reasonable person can hope that an American President can offer Israel and the Palestinians.

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

## Career Opportunity

Director, Women's Alliance,  
Young Adults & Affinity Groups



Jewish Federation  
of Rhode Island

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is seeking a dynamic individual to oversee the Women's, Young Leadership and Affinity Groups donor segments. Reporting to the Chief Philanthropy Officer, the position also involves building relationships and soliciting financial support from corporations and foundations.

### Responsibilities:

- Plans, creates and organizes programs and activities to achieve fundraising and other objectives
- Directs and implements activities to motivate women, young adults and others within identified affinity group in the Jewish community to assume responsibility for significant roles and participation in the work of the Federation
- Implements programs and activities and oversee other campaign projects as assigned by the CPO
- Assigns and rates pledge cards within division
- Effectively communicates with and develops, manages and recognizes solicitors within division
- Recruits, trains and motivates, engages and communicates with relevant volunteers
- Recruits, trains and helps assign volunteer workers to implement activities and programs, and provides guidance and leadership in the conduct of an annual fundraising campaign

### Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree and 3-plus years related experience
- Strong communication and presentation skills
- Demonstrated success migrating donors and prospects
- Knowledge of current trends in charitable giving, particularly in areas of "moves management" and data utilization

Submit resume to: [Shalom@JFRI.org](mailto:Shalom@JFRI.org) or WA, YA & Affinity Groups Position, c/o Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906.

## New chief philanthropy officer joins Federation

*Bradley Laye from Atlanta will come aboard in January*

*The Voice & Herald Staff*

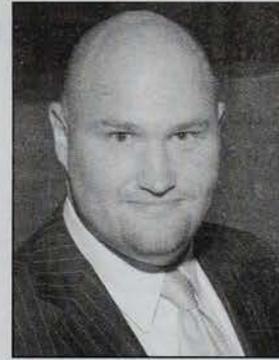
PROVIDENCE – Bradley Laye, the current Legacy Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, will join the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island as the chief philanthropy officer in January 2008.

Laye is a graduate of Tulane University in Jewish Studies. He was also a student at the The Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He had previously served as the CEO of Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach in Florida.

In his role in Atlanta, he solicited "ultimate and permanent" mega-gifts starting at \$1 million, and established relationships with top donors to better help them fulfill their philanthropic goals.

Laye also served as the Director of Jewish Studies at the New Orleans Jewish Day School in Louisiana. He recently attended the Certified Financial Planner Certificate Program at Emory University.

In a recent interview, Laye voiced great enthusiasm for his



**"I want to help the Rhode Island Jewish community become the single-best Jewish community in North America."**

**Bradley Laye**

new job in Rhode Island. "I see nothing but pure opportunity ahead," he said. "I want to help the Rhode Island Jewish community become the single-best Jewish community in North America, to provide the highest quality programs and services housed in inspired and efficient facilities in order to meet the needs of our constituencies."

My job, Laye said, "is to focus on the ability to raise the money to make that vision happen. I know we'll be successful."

In terms of immediate challenges, Laye spoke about the need to move forward: "JFRI is in the midst of implementing an ambitious realignment plan.

That means from day one I can immerse myself in getting things done and not only planning. Of course, I have a lot to learn about the community and many people to meet. I can't wait to get started!"

From a broader perspective, JFRI's new chief philanthropy officer said that "the community has a very strong sense of itself and a strong sense of history. While the community is accepting change, change isn't easy. "I believe that our future can be really robust and dynamic," Laye said. "But it's going to take everyone's efforts and participation – and continued generous donations to our community."

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## GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON!

*You must act soon — 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.

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



# A great campaign donor thank-you!

*Insightful talk by journalist Jeffrey Goldberg highlights Dec. 2 celebration*

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

**J**OAN RESS REEVES, the mother-in-law of *Atlantic Monthly* correspondent Jeffrey Goldberg, held up a copy of *The Voice & Herald* and quoted from it as she introduced her son-in-law from the *bimah* of Temple Emanu-El. Goldberg, who had married Reeves' daughter, Pamela, at that same *bimah*, had worried out loud in the interview about what his mother-in-law might say about him.

He need not have worried; Reeves spoke glowingly of her son-in-law, setting the stage for Goldberg's riveting narrative of his dialogue with Palestinians, many of which were included in his book, *Prisoners*.

The campaign donor thank-you event began earlier that evening with a Pacesetters' reception at Joan Ress Reeves' home, where more than 70 guests gathered to

celebrate the successful results so far of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's annual campaign. To date, more than \$3.3 million has been raised, according to JFRI's Meyer Goldstein.

Goldberg, who often punctuated his presentation with humor, told how he had once been given the assignment for a talk at Hadassah, where he had a mere 15 minutes to discuss all the relevant topics of terrorism, the future of Israel, the threat of Iran, and the conflict in Iraq. Because it was Hadassah, he said with a laugh, "I couldn't say no."

Goldberg told haunting stories of meeting with Palestinian "friends," whom he had first encountered when they were prisoners in an Israeli jail in the Negev and he was an Israeli military policeman. He had asked these men what they said to their own sons when the young men said they wanted to become suicide bombers. One such Palestinian father, according to Goldberg, told his son he had an obligation to live to a very ripe old age, going against the cultural imperatives promoted on the streets

see DONOR, Page 13



Joan Ress Reeves, second from left, and her three daughters, Pamela, left, Caroline, second from right, and Ellen at the reception



JFRI Pacesetter Chair Richard Licht and his wife, The Honorable Roanne Licht.



Journalist Jeffrey Goldberg, left, and JFRI's Executive Vice President and CEO Stephen Silberfarb

Photographs By Michael SKORSKI



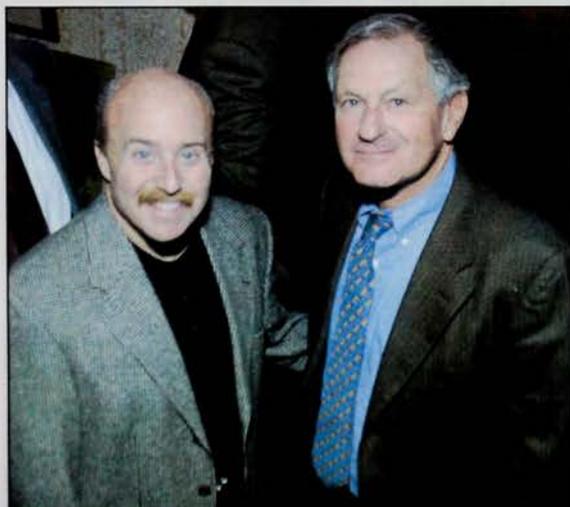
David Yavner, left, Doris Feinberg, JFRI 2008 Campaign Chair, and Bea Ross, JFRI Women's Alliance President



Dr. Arthur Klein, left, and Herbert Kaplan



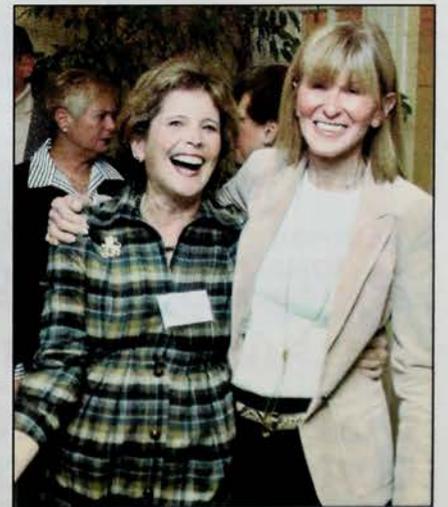
David and Tina Odessa



Past JFRI Campaign Chair Alan Litwin, left, and next year's Campaign Chair, Ralph Posner



Marcia Riesman, left, and JFRI Board President Herb Stern



Doris Feinberg, JFRI 2008 Campaign Chair, left, and Merle Goldstein

**KIDS:** We've created a new kind of Jewish educational playground that focuses on teens and pre-teens

From Page 1

*BabagaNewz* is currently distributed at more than 40 percent of the Jewish religious schools in America which are part of the Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements. The magazine – as well as its teacher's guide – are provided to schools through the generous support of the Avi Chai Foundation, which provides about \$1.5 million a year. Subscriptions at \$9.95 per student cover about 15 percent of the costs.

Since its inception in 2001, *BabagaNewz* has published more than 2 million copies, averaging 35,000 subscriptions, creating educational content focused on more than 50 Jewish values.

Cohen has set a bigger goal – to have every Jewish school in America able to provide all of its students with *BabagaNewz*, free of charge, working in strategic partnership with Jewish federations. In San Francisco, for instance, the local Jewish federation has agreed to underwrite the cost of *BabagaNewz* subscriptions for all of its students.

Here in Rhode Island, the Bureau of Jewish Education is collaborating with Jewish Family and Life in efforts to underwrite the cost of distributing *BabagaNewz* to all the Jewish children in the fourth through seventh grades in the region it serves. (See "Bringing *JVibe*, *BabagaNewz* to Rhode Island.")

"Every issue of the magazine is dedicated to a Jewish value,"

Cohen continued. "The up and coming issue is focused on the 'love of Israel.' In addition to *BabagaNewz*, we will be publishing three special supplements, leading up to the 60th birthday of Israel, with each of the three supplements covering 20 years of Israel's history." The first supplement will be part of the "Ahavat Israel" issue for *Tevet*.

The look and feel of the magazine – and its companion web pages – separate the publication from past Jewish educational products. "It's fun, it's not something that looks like a boring text book; we have film star Natalie Portman on the cover," Cohen said.

**JEWISH TEEN CONSCIOUSNESS**

While *BabagaNewz* is, as Cohen calls it, "the mother ship, the strongest, most significant contribution that Jewish Family & Life has made," the teen magazine, *JVibe*, is slowly emerging as a new force in Jewish teen consciousness.

In the next issue, *JVibe* will be announcing the results of its

Jewish Music Awards, which it expects to garner about 2,000 Jewish teen ballots to help pick the winners. The magazine features a Jewish teen advisory board comprised of 55 Jewish teens, including a representative

they're involved, and they tell their friends."

Cohen draws a distinction between this generation – and previous generations of Jewish youth. "It's very much about technology," he said. "If you want to reach young people, you need to get them on the web. That's where they communicate."

"We're looking to engage with Jewish kids with both strong

distinctions, Cohen responds: "The next generation is not looking at Judaism the way we did, or the way our parents did. They're participating differently, they're looking for different things. Through *JVibe*, we're creating new platforms for them that are very exciting. They want to play," he continued, "and we've created a new kind of Jewish playground."

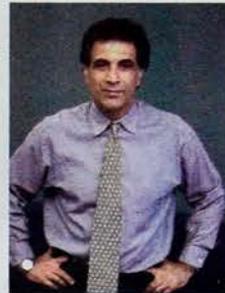
Cohen often waxes passionate about the results. "We create something that is fun for the kids to do, and we sneak Jewish values into it, so that it doesn't look like typical learning exercises," he said. "We call it 'edutainment.' It's not the way to learn your Torah portion for your Bar Mitzvah, but it may make you a much better, more complete Jewish kid."

That finding is supported by research at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University in Waltham,

See CONTENT, next page

**"It's not the way to learn your Torah portion for your Bar Mitzvah, but it may make you a more complete Jewish kid."**

**Amir Cohen, CEO  
Jewish Family & Life**



from Rhode Island.

"They are engaged in the production of the magazine, it's editorial, photographic and programmatic content," Cohen said. "They write, they're informed,

web content and print materials at a time when as many as 70 percent seem to 'drop off the planet' as post-B'nai Mitzvah students."

Asked to explain further the

**Bringing *JVibe*, *BabagaNewz* to Rhode Island**

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

The Rhode Island Bureau of Jewish Education, working in partnership with Jewish Family & Life, is applying to a local private foundation for a grant to provide 1,000 Rhode Island Jewish students with subscriptions to *BabagaNewz* and

*JVibe*, according to BJE Associate Executive Director Larry Katz.

Under the proposed two-year, \$42,600 project, the cost of subscriptions for the two publications would be shared by the Avi Chai Foundation (\$13,000), Jewish Family & Life and the Bureau of Jewish Education (\$10,300 combined), with the

remaining \$19,300 provided by the local foundation.

"These publications will provide young Jewish Rhode Islanders with the opportunity to enjoy learning about being Jewish beyond the school setting," Katz said. "It will help strengthen the connections to a positive Jewish identity."

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**CONTENT: A more complete Jewish kid**

From page 8

Mass., which found that the magazine *BabagaNewz* created a greater awareness of a larger Jewish community, as well as a more positive Jewish identity.

Cohen poses the question rhetorically: "If I could talk with every Jewish mother and father with teenagers, I would ask them: 'Why wouldn't you want your kids to receive *JVibe*?' At \$18 a year or \$36 for three years, it's a great Bar/Bat Mitzvah present. And, it's guaranteed to keep them involved in something Jewish for three years after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah."

**MORE SCHOLARLY ENDEAVORS**

For Cohen, a former business manager with *The Forward* and publisher of *The New Jersey Jewish News*, the work at Jewish Family & Life is a labor of love, in which he often finds himself working 75 hours a week. He was a bit reticent about being interviewed,



because he believes strongly that the focus should be on the content, not on him.

Cohen also spoke fondly about another of the publications produced by Jewish Family & Life, *Sh'ma*, a journal of Jewish thought: "I believe that every lay person of every Jewish organization should read *Sh'ma*," he said. According to Cohen, one of the nicest compliments about the publication came from Barry Shrage, the head of Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston, Mass., who said that he always found at least one article in each issue of *Sh'ma* that he wanted to send along to everyone he knows.

"We just need funding, much like many things in Jewish life," he said. One major difference, said Cohen, is that Jewish Family & Life is ready to move forward. "We have the plans, we have the products, we have the vision and mission, and, with our focus on Jewish youth, we can make a difference in reinventing our Jewish future as very few do."

**GREENHORN: Harriet becomes Hannah, Helen becomes Hadar**

From Page 2

candles and whispering prayers in Yiddish or Hebrew, would weep for her mother and father.

That struggle to assimilate, to pass, seems over. We're not the old kind of greenhorns. We're the new greenhorns. My son goes to a prep school with only a few classmates who think of themselves as Jewish. His true need is not to lose his Judaism nor his Jewishness. And this is a generally felt need. It's easy to assimilate. Now, I see a struggle to dissimilate. So many in our synagogues are becoming baalteshuva, turning back to Jewish traditions. Back to traditions they personally never knew about.

Let me be honest. I never lit Shabbos candles until about 15 years ago. I never even knew what a Havdalah candle was until 10 years ago. I'd forgotten my Hebrew alphabet and had to relearn it. I didn't know a mitzvah had anything to do with a commandment; I thought it meant just any good deed. My total Judaism involved a yearly half-serious, half-joking Seder. We showed a snippet of DeMille's Ten Commandments - Charlton Heston as Moses holding up his arms and the Israelites crossing the Sea of Reeds.

At the Seder, we hoped for liberation of oppressed people - I think we, my friends and I, felt that it was a little self-indulgent to speak just of our own liberation.

This has changed for me, and I think it's changed for a large proportion of American Jews who used to be Jews in name only - if that.

Now behold: names change in the opposite direction: Harriet becomes Hannah, Helen becomes Hadar.

Earl turns back into Irv. We work hard to prepare for Passover and are proud to make a serious (though not grim) Seder.

We become *shomer* Shabbat and our friends learn not to call on Friday night or Saturday. Or we don't become *shomer* Shabbat but move a little closer. Often the children of fairly observant Jews become intensely observant - more "Jewish" than their parents.

In synagogues in my area there are a lot of converts. Some have married Jews and often become the most passionate Jews themselves. Others come to us because the traditions and rituals and emphases of Judaism speak

to them. They - we, all of us, Jewish-born and converts - feel like greenhorns - but greenhorns of a new sort. That is, like the old greenhorns, we don't know enough about the culture we want to be part of; we're not well versed in the languages of that culture - Yiddish and Hebrew.

Those of us who were born Jewish feel ashamed that we're so ignorant; those of us newly Jewish feel they've arrived at a new, beautiful shore, a country the shape of the heart. Though a little uncomfortable, we are in the Golden Land where we can use our hands to express ourselves, where we're free at last to be both Americans

and Jews. In the harbor of this New World, if we can imagine a revised Statue of Liberty, she'd have curly black hair and a nose like Barbara Streisand's.

**"It's easy to assimilate. Now, I see a struggle to dissimilate. So many in our synagogues are becoming baalteshuva, turning back to Jewish traditions. Back to traditions they personally never knew about."**

**All in the Family**

JEWISH Family & Life bills itself as "the world's leading publisher of original Jewish content" online.

Among its web sites are:

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- [www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com)
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Photo by Irving Schild

**The governor, gelt and Hanukkah fun**

GOV. DONALD CARCIERI gives out Hanukkah gelt to children gathered at the State House last week for the annual lighting of the menorah with Chabad Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer

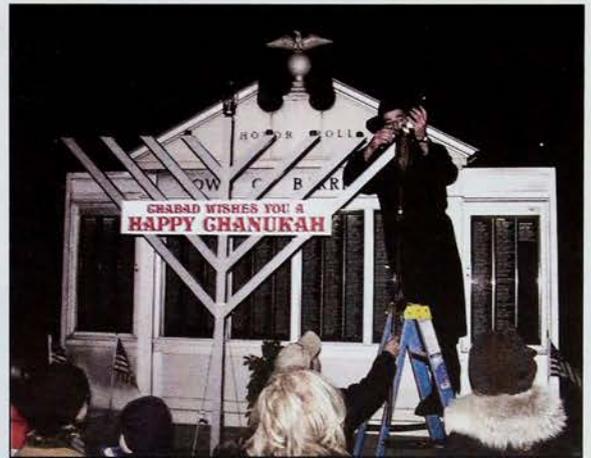


Photo by Mary Korr

**First menorah at Barrington Town Hall**

CHABAD RABBI MOSHE LAUFER lights a large Hanukkah menorah in front of Barrington Town Hall for the first time in the town's history, on Dec. 4, the first night of the holiday. The menorah was up for several hours, allowed by new regulations passed by the town which allows various displays as part of a new public forum regulation.



Photo courtesy of Chabad

**Menorah lighting at Warwick Mall**

SEN. JACK REED joined Rabbi Yossi Laufer and the members of the Chabad community in Warwick at their annual Hanukkah celebration at the Warwick Mall last week.

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JAY PAVAO

# Jewish News Briefs

COMPILED BY YEHUDA LEV

**TEL AVIV:** According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, President George Bush will visit both Israel and the Palestinian Authority on Jan. 9-11. The trip will be the first to Israel for Bush since he became president. Bush is expected to encourage Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas to begin serious negotiations as a follow-up to last month's meeting at Annapolis. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will fly there on Dec. 19 to make preparations for the meetings. So far, no word on this from the White House. (JTA)

**NEW YORK:** Senator Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani came in first and second in a poll of approval ratings among Jewish voters conducted by the American Jewish committee. Senator Clinton, the front runner among Democrats, scored 53 percent approval in the poll and Giuliani scored a 41 percent favorable rating. Giuliani was also ahead, albeit by a small margin, of Senator Barack Obama and former Senator John Edward who tied at 38 percent. Such a staunch showing for a Republican presidential candidate is unusual in a Jewish community that tends to be strongly Democratic. (JTA)

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert may have cancer surgery next month, according to a report on Israel's Channel 2 TV station. In October Olmert announced

that he had early stage prostate cancer. The surgery would mean that Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni would temporarily assume the prime minister's powers. While Olmert's office has not yet commented on the report, his hospital stay and recovery would presumably occur after President Bush's forthcoming visit to Israel, earlier next month. (JTA)

**BOSTON:** Andrew Tarsy has resigned his post as New England Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, just months after he was fired and then rehired, following widespread protests from ADL supporters in New England. Tarsy resigned because of what the Boston Globe described as "the culmination of a months-long dispute with the national organization over its failure to fully acknowledge the Armenian genocide of 1915." The ADL stood by its refusal to endorse a congressional resolution that would recognize the slaughter of nearly 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Turks, during World War I as genocide. Last month ADL leaders in Boston failed in an attempt to have the national organization take the additional steps. (BOSTON GLOBE/JTA)

**MOSCOW:** A chief rabbi of Russia, head of the Chabad-led Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, has come out in support of Vladimir Putin as prime minister. Rabbi Berel Lazar was commenting

See NEWS, Page 12

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**NEWS**

From Page 11

on the selection by Putin of Dmitri Medvedev as his successor as president and Medvedev's choice of Putin to be Russia's next prime minister. Lazar said that "President Putin has shown that he is equal to any task. It will surely be a great present if the government is headed by the most efficient statesman in Russia." (JTA)

**WASHINGTON:** Last Monday night, in the White House Grand Foyer, President George Bush lit a Chanuka menorah that had belonged to the great-great grandmother of

Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was slain by Islamic militants. Pearl's parents, Ruth and Judea, were present as were Homeland Security head Michael Chertoff and his family. Earlier in the day the president met with a number of Jewish immigrants to mark International Human Rights Day. To each group he said; "The forces of intolerance can suppress the menorah, but they can never extinguish its light." (JTA)

**LOS ANGELES:** Is the world ready for Elvis Elvis? Or Elvis Shmelvis? Or the Chinese Chelvis? Or the Mexican El Vez? They are among the

100,000 Elvis impersonators doing their acts around the world. When the King died, in 1977, there were fewer than 200 but the profession has expanded hugely. Still, behind the faade is usually someone like Willard Morgan, a nice Jewish boy from New York whose repertoire includes "Don't Step on My Blue Suede Yarmulke" and "Heartburn Hotel". Morgan says that when you assume the character of Elvis you are totally put at ease due to the King's charismatic and nonchalant nature. Perhaps, he suggests, a white, sequined jumpsuit might be the perfect treatment to combat Jewish neuroses. It works for him so why not? (LA JEWISH JOURNAL)

**EXCHANGE:** JCDSers run \$1 million city for a day

From page 3

an eighth-grader, was reviewing photos from the town meeting she had snapped on her digital Canon. "Everyone says I have an eye with a camera. It's the angles that I look for, the composition I'm after," she said.

Reporter Rebekah Heath checked in with managing editor Aaron Kaplan, a seventh-grader. "I'd like to do an article on religion," she said. The idea of a story on what it means to be kosher was discussed by the editorial team.

"Kashrut, not kosher," the managing editor corrected. He gave a quick synopsis and then

moved on to the letters to the editor that the postal worker had just delivered.

Volunteer parent Laura Merhoff was furiously typing in news releases. Her daughter Rachel was the city's videographer. "This is a blast," she said. "I'm here to help out; but it's hard to get work done; we're constantly getting interrupted."

Near the bank, teacher Lisa Bergman described the city as a "brilliant set." She said the program applies and integrates social studies, language arts, economics, math and science, and technology. Bergman did, however, wish

there was a theater and performing arts center in Exchange City, with someone applying for grants. She also thought there should be a homeless shelter run by students to convey Jewish values, which "are so much of who we are."

Major funders include the Champlin Foundations, United Way, Johnson & Wales University, Hasbro Children's Charitable Foundation, Ronzio Pizza, Rhode Island Credit Union, Verizon, Hassenfeld Foundation, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Pascoag Electric, and Citizens Charitable Trust.

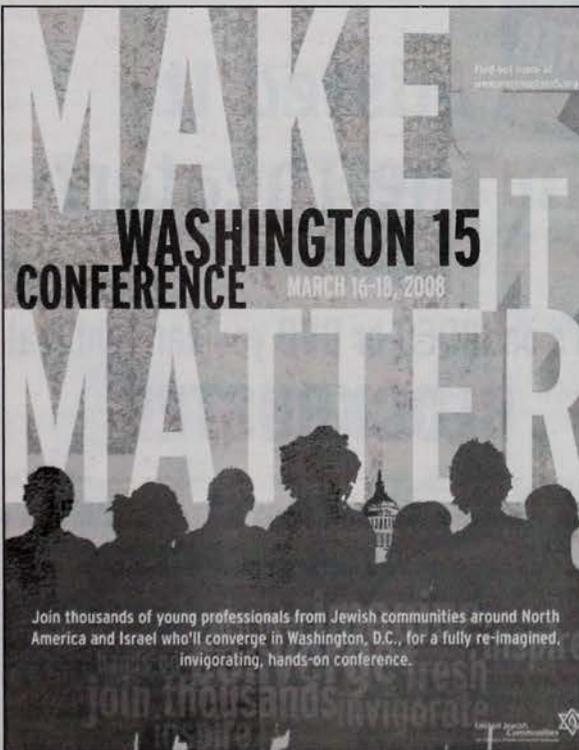
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**DONOR:** Campaign reaches impressive \$3.3 million to date

From Page 7

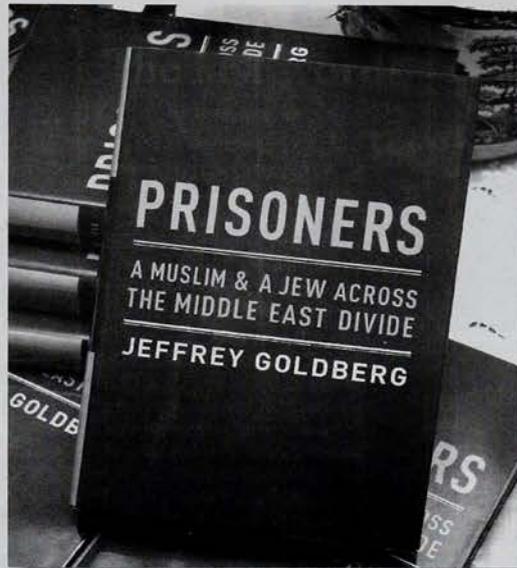
of Gaza, where martyrdom is marketed.

In that exchange, Goldberg said that he found a modicum of hope.

He also told about an interview he had conducted with the radical founder of Hamas, who claimed that the historical imperative was with Islam.

Goldberg responded by telling Sheik Hassan that one constant of Jewish history is that "we are survivors," and the Jews outlasted many, many tyrants.

With a touch of humor, he added, "I was about to say I'd make a bet with him that the Jews would outlast Hamas," but decided it might not be prudent at that moment to make a bet with the Hamas leader.



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**Claire (Abrams) Bell, 85**

PROVIDENCE — Claire (Abrams) Bell died Dec. 7 after a brief and unexpected illness. She had been married to Bernard E. Bell since 1946, and was the daughter of the late Saul D. and Anna (Schreiber) Abrams of Providence.

She was a graduate of Hope High School and, in 1944, of Wellesley College.

Mrs. Bell spent a number of years working in biochemical pharmacology research at Brown University, and had been at various times the president of the R.I. Chapter of Hadassah, president of the R.I. Wellesley Club, and a member of the board of the Tockwotten Home. She was active in philanthropic work throughout her life.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Jonathan J. Bell of Pawtucket, a daughter, Deborah Bell of Kansas City, Mo., and close family friend A.J. Morse. She was the mother of the late Daniel Bell.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to Hadassah, or to American Friends of Hospice of the Upper Galilee, both of which can be sent to P.O. Box 603048 Providence, RI 02906.

**Ruth Book, 83**

EAST PROVIDENCE — Ruth (Schlomowitz) Book, 83, died December 8. She was the wife of the late Leonard Book.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Max and Nellie (Zwetchkenbaum) Schlomowitz, she had lived in Rhode Island since 1960.

She leaves her daughter and best friend, Rebecca E. Book of Riverside. She was the sister of

the late Joseph Sloane and Sidell Schlomowitz.

Burial was in Mt. Nebo Cemetery, Taunton. Contributions may be made to the Make a Wish Foundation, 757 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910.

**Daniel Finger, 80**

DARTMOUTH, Mass. — Daniel Finger, 80, died Dec. 10. He was the husband of the late Helga (Gerlich) Finger. Born in New Bedford, he was the son of the late Samuel and Sylvia (Levy) Finger.

He was a graduate of MIT with a degree in engineering. Prior to his retirement he was an owner in the family business, Fiber Leather Manufacturing Corp.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran

 Mr. Finger was a longtime member of Tifereth Israel Congregation.

He leaves a son, Michael Finger and his wife Deborah of Boca Raton, Fla.; two daughters, Leah Finger of Seattle, Wash., and Judith Finger and her husband Charles Larson of West Long Branch, N.J.; and two grandchildren, Samuel and Julia Finger. He was the brother of the late Louis and Morris Finger

Burial was in Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford.

Contributions may be made to: New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, 200 Hawthorn St., New Bedford, MA 02740.

**Dr. Jack M. Fireman, 81**

EXETER — Dr. Jack M. Fireman, 81, died Nov. 26 in Beverly Hills, Cal. Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., a son of the late Nathan and Anna (Caplan) Fireman, he had lived in Rhode Island since 1971, previously

residing in Philadelphia.



He was a World War II Army veteran serving in the Pacific Theatre.

Dr. Fireman was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, class of 1950 and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, class of 1970. He was a family practitioner at Post Road Medical Associates for 26 years. Dr. Fireman was a member and past president of the RI Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, winning their "Man of the Year" award. He was a member of the Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

He belonged to Temple Beth-El and the Kent County Cancer Society.

He leaves a daughter, Marjorie Fireman of West Hollywood; and a brother, Dr. Phillip Fireman of Pittsburgh, Pa. He was the brother of the late Edward and Thelma Fireman.

Contributions may be made to the Jack M. Fireman, D.O. Fund or the Jack M. Fireman, D.O. Israel Fund, c/o The Rhode Island Foundation, 1 Union Station, Providence.

**Solomon Igolnikov, 95**

PROVIDENCE — Solomon Igolnikov, 95, died on Dec. 11.

**Ruth Israeloff, 88**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Ruth Israeloff, 88, died Dec. 7 in Florida. She was the wife of the late Milton Israeloff. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Rose Shaulson, she had lived in Fort Lauderdale for more than 40 years, previously residing in Providence.

Mrs. Israeloff was the co-owner with her husband, of Beacon Record Shop in Providence for more than 20 years, retiring 31 years ago.

She leaves two sons, James and Samuel Israeloff, both

of Fort Lauderdale; a brother, Gerald Shaulson of Cranston; two grandchildren, Jacqueline Anglin of Chicago, and Tracy Gordon of Germantown, Md.; and three great-grandchildren, Madeleine, Matthew and Conor. She was the sister of the late Joseph Shaulson, Freida Mayberg, Dora Luff, Martha Kapnick and Sessile Goren.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Home and Hospital, 5200 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33137 or to a favorite charity.

**Leon Resnick, 87**

PROVIDENCE — Leon Resnick, 87, former longtime resident of Pawtucket, died Dec. 4. He was the husband of the late Shirley Irene (Osofsky) Resnick.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Benjamin and Esther (Waldman) Resnick.

A decorated World War II Naval veteran, he served in the Pacific Theatre.

 Upon his return from the war he worked in his family's market in Central Falls as a meat cutter; as well as in several other markets over the years, prior to his retirement at Risho's Market in Pawtucket.

Mr. Resnick was a well liked, helpful and sociable gentleman who often drove people to various appointments and assisted them in doing errands. He had been a member of the Charlesgate 670 Club and also found enjoyment in calling numbers for the bingo games at Charlesgate. He had a warm sense of humor and took great pride in his family.

Mr. Resnick leaves his daughter and son-in-law, Janis and Bill Corsair (McGroarty) of Manhattan. He was the father of the late Francine Debra Resnick Eisenhuth and brother of the late Israel "Larry" and Gilbert Resnick.

**Gladys D. Shapiro, 96**

FALL RIVER — Gladys D. Shapiro, 96, a longtime resident of Fall River, died Dec. 9. She was the wife of the late Mannis I. Shapiro. Born in Fall River, she was the daughter of the late Nathan and Ida (Goralnik) Dashoff. A graduate of Mills College in New York, Mrs. Shapiro taught school for many years.

She was a member of Temple Beth El of Fall River and its Sisterhood as well as Hadassah.

Mrs. Shapiro leaves her son Norman S. Shapiro and his wife Barbara of Newington, Conn.; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Jack L. Shapiro and the sister of the late Aaron Dashoff.

Burial was in Temple Beth El Cemetery, North Main St., Fall River.

Contributions may be made to: Fall River Jewish Home, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720

**Mildred St. James, 92**

WARWICK — Mildred St. James, 92, died Dec. 11. She was the wife of the late Bernard Goodman and William St. James. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Sarah (Spivack) Fishman, she had lived in Warwick since 2006, previously living in Cranston for 57 years.

She leaves a daughter, Rachelle Principe of Warwick; two grandchildren, Bryan and Marcia; and four great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Marcia (Goodman) Broomhead.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

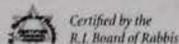
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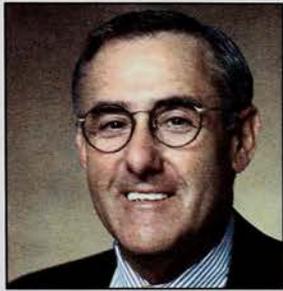
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**People**



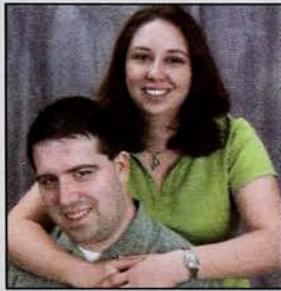
**Alan M. Gilstein**

**PROVIDENCE** — Alan M. Gilstein, the current chairman of The Miriam Hospital Foundation, was recently named Miriam's Person of the Year for his commitment to upholding the mission and integrity of the hospital for more than 30 years. He was presented with the honor at the annual meeting.

Gilstein first became involved with The Miriam Hospital in 1976 as part of the finance committee. In 1978 he became a member of the board and since that time has served on nearly all hospital committees. He was vice chairman and treasurer of the board, as well as chairman for four years. In 2005, he assumed the leadership role as chairman of The Miriam Hospital Foundation, which he continues to chair today. He worked with the community to gain approval and launch the hospital's current building projects, which celebrated a milestone in June with the opening of the Victor and Gussie Baxt Building.

"Through his many leadership roles and long-standing relationship with the hospital, Alan's vision and leadership has been exceptional," remarked Kathleen C. Hittner, MD, president and CEO of the hospital. "I am grateful for the time, effort and enthusiasm he continues to provide and am delighted to recognize him as The 2007 Miriam Person of the Year."

**Engagement**



**Amy Charren and Stuart Fields**

Mr. and Mrs. Marc Charren of East Greenwich, announce the engagement of their daughter Amy Charren, to Stuart Fields, son of Laurie Parkerson of Warwick and Allen Fields of Atlanta, Ga.

The bride is the granddaughter of Burt and the late Dorie Charren of Cranston and the late Carl and Sylvia Rosenfeld originally of Elmont, N.Y.

The bridegroom is the grandson of Helen W. Owen and the late Thornton W. Fields of Atlanta, Ga. and F. Codman Parkerson and the late Elsa Schwartz Parkerson of New Orleans, La.

The bride earned her bachelor's degree from Northeastern University, completed master's work in science education at Florida Institute of Technology, and is currently finishing her master's degree at the University of Texas.

The bridegroom earned a bachelor's degree at the Florida Institute of Technology in aerospace engineering, and is a project engineer for ESCG at Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

The wedding is planned for Sept. 6, in Newport.



**Rebecca Sugrue**

Rebecca (Becca) Sugrue became a Bat Mitzvah on Nov. 10. Becca is the daughter of Stephen and Michele Sugrue of Gainesville, Fla. She is the sister of Andrew Sugrue, granddaughter of Gloria Williams of Providence and niece of Janice Totten of Cranston. Becca is an honor student in the Lyceum Program at Lincoln Middle School.



**Shoshana Rachel Feld-Sobol**

Shoshana Rachel Feld-Sobol, daughter of Dr. Sheva Feld and Richard Sobol, was called to the Torah to become a Bat Mitzvah on Nov. 10 at Congregation Kol Shofar in Tiburon, California. Her grandparents are Charlotte and Bernard Feld of Warwick.



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## MIRACLE: I see my children and my grandchildren and I say to myself: It was worth the fight to survive

From page 1

arrived. Esther was the last to enter. She squeezed and squirmed to no avail. Nissen and his brother began to dig furiously through the mud under one of the rocks.

Esther writes in her memoir: "I stretched out fully. They held me from above. From below they maneuvered my body and placed me wherever they could until, finally, I found all of myself in."

### SETTING UP HOUSEKEEPING

The group traveled deep into the labyrinth, with a rope guideline, stooping and crawling through low, circuitous passages, until they reached a large series of interconnecting mazelike chambers. Inside this dank, dark and mysterious tomb, they felt safe. They were sure no human being had ever been there before.

The families set up their homes in stony enclosures entered through burlap "doors."

The men hammered logs together to make beds, working by the light of a small kerosene lamp. By candlelight, the women set up a kitchen near the pool of fresh water the children would later name the Black Lake. They set up their stove — two copper pots on tripods placed over a small wood fire — and engineered a system to divert smoke away. Their diet consisted of potato or barley soup and unleavened bread when Nissen, with the strength of Hercules, managed to carry in two weighty rocks which his brother Shulim chiseled into a millstone.

In the blackness, time as they knew it ceased. To conserve fuel and matches, they rested for 22 hours a day, bundled together for warmth on the log beds.

Cleanliness meant survival, as did keeping the dampness at bay. The women washed clothes with water from the lake and then boiled the clothing in the pots, and wrung them and beat them as dry as they could. Keeping the bats out of their hair was a constant task.

Eventually, the rough floor wore through their shoes, and by the time they left, most were barefoot or bound with rags.

Esther kept two calendars, a Jewish one to keep the holidays, and a general one to track the phases of the moon. It was only on the darkest nights that the young men would go out to forage for food. When they left

When we get together like this and I see the grandchildren,  
I see the family and it's an affair and I see nice kids...  
And I say to myself,  
'It was worth the fight to survive.'



In the second row of this photograph from the book, *The Secret of Priest's Grotto*, are the living survivors. From left are Etka, Henia, Chana, Yetta, Sholmo, Shulim, and Nissen's wife, Pearl.

in small groups, the younger boys would seal the entrance with a large stone from inside. They used passwords to re-enter. Two older men stood guard. Esther writes: "If any of the murderers had tried to come in, our men would be ready with axes to chop their feet off. One could enter the cave only by climbing down feet first." One night, calamity struck. Mendel Dodyk discovered the entrance to the cave had been sealed. They were buried alive! He ran screaming to tell the group. This is the first time in her memoir Esther shows fear — that they would all starve to death.

But, there was hope — Fishel Dodyk, Esther's son-in-law, was on the outside, trying to gather news of the war, and food. When he returned and found the cave's entrance sealed, he ran to Munko, who came with a few peasants to clear the rock and debris — Fishel bribed them with the promise of \$20 American, a rare fortune in those days, but which the family had obtained after they secured visas for Canada in 1941, just as Poland was invaded and their plans interrupted.

Once opened, Fishel found the group safe inside. Fighting terror and cave-ins, they had

managed to carve a small second exit. Fishel went out and told the peasants his family was gone, and, to prove this, told them to reread the entrance.

Once the men left, he told Munko the truth and arranged with him that when liberation was at hand, the peasant would put a note in a bottle and let it down by a string into the grotto. He did so, and on April 12, 1944 the group straggled from the darkness, caked in yellow mud. The sunlight blinded them. Esther's granddaughter screamed

"put out the kerosene light." After 344 days, the child had forgotten about daylight.

Even today, it is the longest record of survival for human beings under ground.

Later, Esther would write: "We were masters of our own fate in the cave...we were free."

### AFTERWARD

When the families returned to Korolowka, they found everything in ruins. Esther's husband, Shabsy, and her son-in-law Fishel were both murdered a short time later.

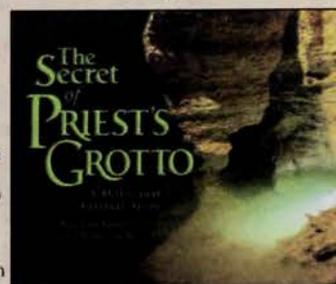
The remaining Stermers and Dodyks journeyed to a displaced persons' camp in Germany and after several years they immigrated to Montreal and New York. In 1960, Esther Stermer wrote her privately published memoir. She died in 1985.

Today, a total of 14 of the cave dwellers are alive, living in the United States, Canada and Israel. The oldest is Saul Stermer and Fradel Kittner, both 86. Nissen died in 2001. Plans are underway for a major motion picture on the story.

## How the story came to light

IN APRIL 2007, *The Secret of the Priest's Grotto*, was published by Kar-Ben. It was written and photographed by New York spelologist Christos Nicola, who found the cave by accident in 1993.

He returned with writer/photographer Peter Lane Taylor in 2003; their story and photos first appeared in *National Geographic Adventure* magazine in 2004. In



August of 2006, Nicola returned to the caves with some of the

remaining survivors, now in their 80s, to begin work on a documentary.

For more information, or to see a slide show of the cavern, visit Nicola's website at: [www.uaycef.org](http://www.uaycef.org)

For information on the book, *The Secret of Priest's Grotto*, visit [karben.com](http://karben.com).

There is a teacher's lesson plan on the site.

BAA!  
Alton Jones  
offers 'green'  
camps for  
kids  
SEE Page 22



# Jewish Camping

December 14, 2007

The Jewish Voice & Herald

Page 17



Recreational  
swim means  
fun at Camp  
Laurelwood  
SEE  
Page 25



Photo courtesy Cohen Foundation

THE DOR L'DOR Israeli leadership program is for young people who have attended the Cohen Foundation camps and completed the 10th grade.

## Camping with the Cohens – for 75 years

*Fresh air camps  
with Jewish hearts  
still flourishing*

By MARYLYN GRAFF  
mgrafl@jfri.org

**E**LI AND BESSIE Cohen established their foundation more than 75 years ago with the aim of building Jewish community through bringing together Jewish youth in positive surroundings where they could learn about their heritage and take joy and pride in it. To this end the foundation has established three distinctive summer camps in New England.

The foundation and the camps are still family-run, with the third generation now in charge in the person of Jonathan Cohen, who honors his grandparents for their foresight and dedication.

All three of the camps operate two sessions; so campers

can attend for three and a half or seven weeks. The camps are geared to children ages 8 to 13, in grades three through 10, plus an Israel experience for 10th grade and up.

Camp Pembroke, an all girls' camp founded 70 years ago, is located on Lake Oldham in southeastern Massachusetts. The camp welcomes some 450 girls each summer, about 300 in each session, including carry-overs. Water and land sports, arts, swimming and horseback riding are some of the activities offered in the camp's comfortable Jewish environment.

As with all the Cohen camps there is a Shabbat celebration with services on Friday night and Saturday morning and a *Havdalah* at the close of Shabbat. *Kasbrut* is observed and there are prayers morning and evening and at meals.

Camp Tel Noar, (Hill of Youth) on Sunset Lake in Hampstead, N.H., is a co-ed camp established more than 60 years ago in a cluster-style arrangement with central areas for communal

**"The foundation and the camps are still family-run, with the third generation now in charge in the person of Jonathan Cohen, who honors his grandparents for their foresight and dedication."**

See COHEN, Page 21

## INTO AFRICA: A summer to remember

*A young Jewish woman builds homes, makes friends and faces extreme poverty*

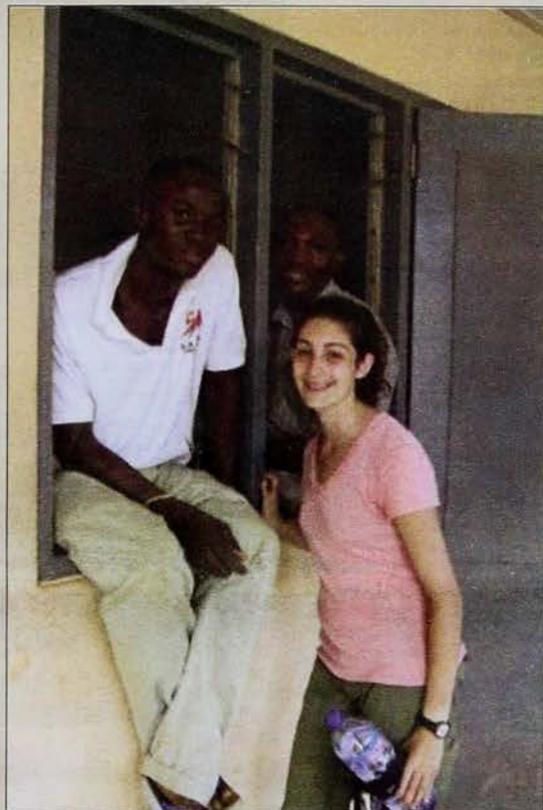
By HANNAH FINE

Special to The Voice & Herald

**T**HE FIRST TIME I saw Likpe Mate, the rural village in Ghana that would be my home for two months last summer, I was shocked at how different it looked than anywhere I had ever been before. Nestled among mountains covered in lush rainforests, it was definitely a much more natural setting than I had seen. More than that, though, was the difference in the people, the community, and the unimaginable poverty.

Early on I could tell that there really are enormous cultural differences between the Western world and the developing world. That first afternoon I spent in Likpe Mate we were welcomed by a huge gathering of people, from Mate and the other 11 Likpe villages. They had all come for "bo-bo-bo," a huge circular dance with lots of drummers in the middle, performed in our honor. All of the chiefs came to greet us and give us gifts of bananas

See GHANA, Page 22



HANNAH FINE SPENT last summer volunteering with American Jewish World Service in Ghana. She is now a senior at Moses Brown.

**"I saw two ceremonial goat killings, one event I wish I had not gotten the chance to see."**



A TYPICAL RURAL village in Ghana.

# Camp JORI brings back great memories

*Special needs consultant joins JORI as assistant director*

By IRA KITTRELL

Special to The Voice & Herald

ACCORDING TO Thomas Wolfe, "you can't go home again." Maybe so, but during the past two summers, I've gotten mighty close!

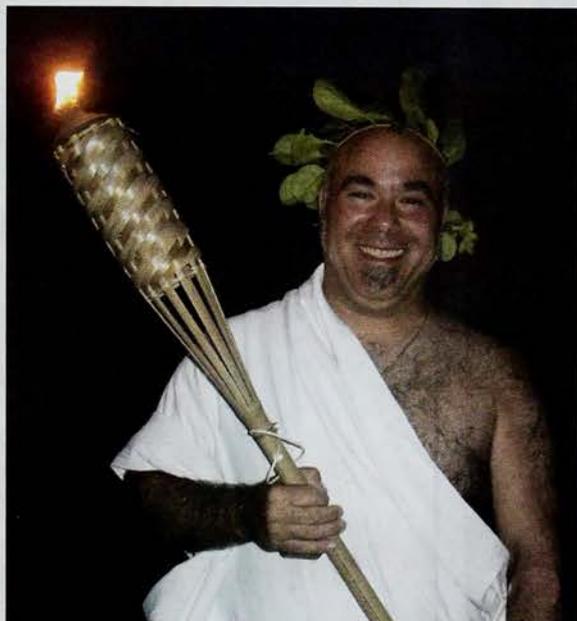
I grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., the child of a couple who met at Camp Modin in Maine. We spent summers in the Catskill Mountain bungalow colonies and, of course, attended day camp. I loved day camp but knew that Jewish overnight camp was in my future.

Then it happened; my brother Gary and I were sent to Cejwin Camps, and I loved it! As one of the oldest Jewish overnight camps in America, Cejwin offered old-time tradition. We sang songs and cheered cheers created by Cejwinites decades before we set foot on the grounds.

When my daughter entered 3rd grade, my wife deemed them "of age," to go to overnight camp and the tour of Jewish non-profit camps began. We hit most of the "biggies." They all had much to offer: programming, facility, environment, tradition, staffing or *yiddishkeit*.

However, there is an underlying current letting you know that you've found the place for you, so I told them: "When you see it, you'll know it!"

During the process, I saw



IRA KITTRELL IN Olympean garb at Camp JORI last summer, and at right, with his dog, Otto.



an advertisement for an assistant director at Camp JORI in Wakefield, R.I. I'd never heard of the camp, but the ad described a "beautiful new facility" (sure to make my wife happy) and a job involving programming and working with staff and campers (a selling point for me).

It also quoted the mission statement: "to provide a quality overnight Jewish camping

experience, while holding true to our core values that no child will be denied an opportunity to attend due to an inability to pay

certainly met my vision of non-profit Jewish camping. So we made an appointment to see the camp and interview.

**"I was looking for something else: the camp "neshuma" – its soul, the thing that makes a camp unique and special."**

Ira Kittrell

and that the camp be affordable to full-paying families," which

– it sure didn't look like the camp of my youth. The grounds

matched my memories, with wooded playing fields and a spectacular lake for boating.

However, the all new cabins had siding, and had both toilets and showers! There were pools and a big new dining hall with ... a salad bar? My wife was sold, but I was looking for something else: the camp "neshuma" – its soul, the thing that makes a camp unique and special.

I learned a little about that when meeting with Ronni and learning about the more than 70-year history of the camp, the programming and the traditions and in playing "Jewish camp geography." I learned about the strong Israeli connection and Jewish culture program. I was sold, was offered and accepted the job, and began to prepare for summer.

What would Camp JORI really be like? Would my family make the adjustment? Would it meet my thirst for overnight camp and rekindle the joy I felt as a youth?

The answer: it was everything that I hoped and more. Camp JORI seemed to have an "old camp soul" inside that shiny new facility. The traditions were old, rich and joyous.

I learned them in due time and have slowly helped to build new traditions as well. I experienced camp Shabbat, reveling in the culmination of the week, and then havdalah with swaying, singing and preparing together for the week to come. I did folk dancing, led by our many *shlichim/emissaries* from Israel.

I worked 18-plus hours each day and woke up with a smile. My children immediately took to camp life. And what about my wife? Although she had no defined role, she was drawn into the JORI experience and found herself attending activities, handing out snacks, taking children to the nurse and loving every moment.

The place may be different and the name may be, too. The alma mater may be a foreign tune, as are so many of the cheers. Some traditions are shared, but most are new to me. I'm an adult and a father, and it is different from the camping of my youth. Yet somehow ... I've come home.

*Ira Kittrell is a speech-language pathologist and special needs consultant during the year and, during the summer, the assistant director of Camp JORI in Wakefield, R.I. He lives in Holliston with his wife, Lisa, children, Ilana Rose and Reuben, and dog, Otto (a great camper!).*

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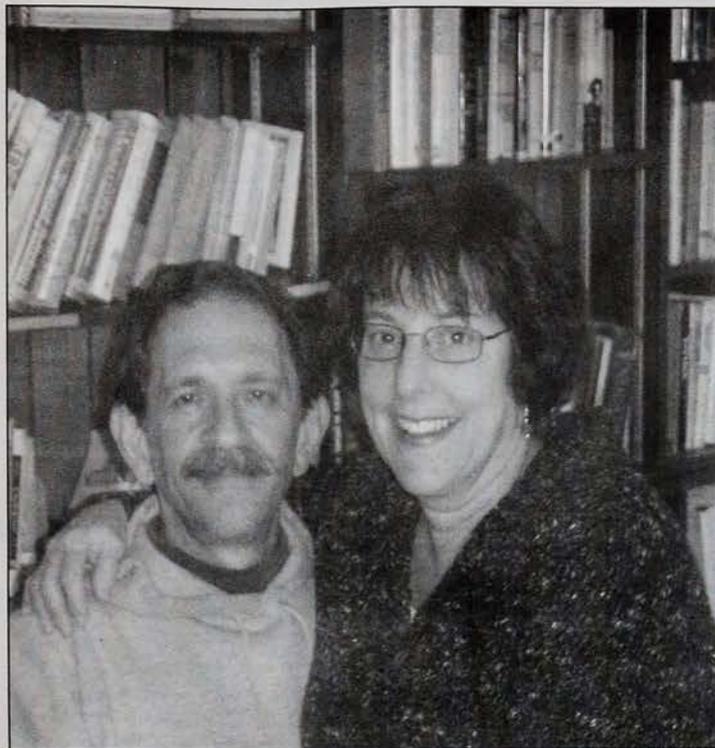
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Aaron and Deborah Rosen

Photo by Jessica Perlman

## Former campers live happily ever after

*Aaron and Deborah Rosen of Warwick first met in a Jewish summer camp in Michigan*

By JESSICA PERLMAN

Perlman\_jessica@yahoo.com

**T**HEY may not have realized it at the time, but for Aaron and Deborah Rosen, a session at Camp Habonim in Michigan sealed their fate as husband and wife in the summer of '65...and it all began with a missing pair of pajamas.

"We (the campers) were doing all the laundry and everything got mixed up," explained Deborah. "He went home in the middle of the summer with my pajama bottoms."

Aaron had been planning on spending the full eight weeks in camp, when he learned after four weeks that a family emergency in Cincinnati would require him to return home. The pajama bottoms would also make the trip.

Aaron says he had been surprised to find the stowaway pajamas and quickly mailed them back to her home in Chicago.

"For weeks my mother was muttering under her breath, 'why would a boy have her pajama bottoms?' Deborah said.

Though their time together in camp may have been cut short, the future bride and groom still had opportunities to see one another again. Many of the kids from the camp belonged to a youth movement during the rest of the year. They would frequently visit one another in their various cities.

"We always had mutual friends through this network," Deborah explained. "Even though we went to different colleges, we all kept in touch."

"Some of us went to Israel on the Habonim workshop," added Aaron. "I did that and a lot of our good friends did it as well."

"One weekend, Aaron and a friend went to visit Deborah at school in Wisconsin. The friends spent the evening at the music bar, "Nitty Gritty." Deborah soon graduated and moved back to the city; she had made a decision.

"I decided I was going to go out with you," she said to Aaron. "And the rest is history!"

Deborah  
Rosen

The Rosens married in 1972 and moved to Rhode Island in 1992, when Deborah accepted a job at the University of Rhode Island (URI). She is currently a professor of marketing at URI and Aaron is a consultant for the Pfizer Corporation. They have two daughters who have attended Camp JORI and they are members of Temple Am David in Warwick. And who would have imagined all this from one simple laundry error?

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# Top 10 things to know about choosing a Jewish camp

*(The following article is from the Foundation for Jewish Camping.)*

**T**O HELP YOU navigate through national sign-up-for-camp-month, as December is fondly known in the camp community, the Foundation for Jewish Camping has prepared a "Top Ten" list on things you need to know when choosing a Jewish, overnight summer camp for your child:

- Give your child the opportunity to mature and gain independence in a camp atmosphere that is warm and inviting. Campers develop a strong sense of self, gaining confidence and social skills in a shared, nurturing and healthy environment. Campers mature through learning more about themselves as well as building relationships with others — all interwoven with the common experience of being Jewish.

- Search for the appropriate camp for your child. The Foundation for Jewish Camping's online camp directory lists over 150 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps in North America that span the denominational and regional spectrum. Search the directory by religious denomination, location, special needs availability or gender. Visit the Find a Camp directory at [www.jewishcamping.org](http://www.jewishcamping.org).

- Choose a camp that will complement and strengthen the Jewish affiliation and identity of your child. The magic of Jewish camp is rooted in its 24/7 atmosphere, where Jewish

values, connection to Israel, and the culture of Judaism are entwined into every aspect of daily activity in way that makes campers feel proud to be Jewish. From Orthodox, Reform and Conservative to Reconstructionist, Zionist, Humanist and Non-denominational, there is a Jewish camp for every expression of Jewish life.

- Jewish specialty camps enable your child to hone a specific skill or interest within the context of Jewish values, such as teamwork, fair play and good spirit. Jewish specialty camps offer programs in the following areas: jewelry making, pottery, ceramics, painting, filmmaking, drama, basketball, soccer, tennis, swimming, baseball, astronomy, physical education, biology, chemistry and physics.

- Jewish camps offer various models to accommodate special needs campers, including mainstreaming, separate programming, and exclusive special needs camps. Regardless of the function level of your child, there is a Jewish camp to provide him/her with the summer of a lifetime. Visit [www.jewishcamping.org](http://www.jewishcamping.org) to access a list of Jewish special needs camps and programs, including those targeted to children with Autism, Down Syndrome, and Aspergers.

- Check out the camp's website to learn about camp features, including programs, facilities, and daily schedules. Keep in mind, however, that while websites can provide plenty of useful

information, the best way to get a sense of the camp environment is to visit it during the summer.

- Narrow your options to about 5 or 6 camps. Take into account size, activity offerings, atmosphere, security, cost and location. It may be helpful to involve your child in the search to ensure that his/her needs and expectations are met.

- Talk to veteran families or your child's friends who have attended the camp. Ask them about the details of day-to-day life at camp that cannot be gleaned from the website or a camp visit. Keep in mind, however, that just because a camp works for your friend's child does not mean it is the right camp for your child.

- Visit the camp you are considering the summer before you plan to send your child, to get a sense of its culture and environment. Look for drive-up appeal, not whether it is rustic or modern but how well it is maintained, cleanliness, how the staff greets visitors, and if they know the campers by name.

- Equip your campers with the tools they need to have an amazing summer. Be sure to send your child to camp with self addressed envelopes to keep in touch, but consider leaving the cell phone at home so your child can grow and mature by being truly independent. Healthy snacks, family photos, and school summer reading are always good.



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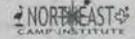
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**COHEN: Camp Tel Noar, Camp Pembroke and Camp Tevya**

From Page 17

living. This is designed to create a sense of closeness among the 350 campers who make up the two sessions each summer. In addition to the usual summer camp activities of water sports, land sports and arts, Tel Noar boasts a state-of-the-art photography studio and darkroom and an outstanding drama program. As at all three camps, the campers enjoy traditional and modern Jewish song and dance.

Camp Tevya, which occupies nearly 600 acres in Brookline, N.H. on Lake Potanipo, is the largest of the three Cohen camps. Tevya was founded in 1939 as a fresh-air camp, catering to Jewish inner-city kids who would not be able to attend a camp without the help of the Cohen Foundation. While this is largely not the case anymore, the foundation does offer scholarships to all three camps for those who need them.

Tevya is a co-ed camp offering day and evening programs, campouts, special events and trips as well as regular summer camp activities. It has a top of the line woodworking studio for those inclined to that form of creativity.

Camp Tevya is excited about

purpose of these courses is to develop team building, problem-solving and leadership. (It also looks like a lot of fun.) All three camps now have low ropes courses, limited to six feet or less in height. In addition, Camp Tevya will have a full-size soccer field this coming summer.

The Dor L'Dor leadership program is for young people who have attended the Cohen Foundation camps and completed the 10th grade. In recognition of Eli Cohen, the founder, who was an early Zionist, the eligible campers will spend a five-week tour in Israel visiting historic and religious sites

and museums, returning for a final week or so as Counselors in training, (CITs).

Jonathan Cohen says that he is especially proud of the fact that the foundation's camps have developed family traditions, with campers returning for the third (maybe fourth) generation. The foundation fosters an alumni network that continues to partner in Jewish communities.



its innovative "Low Ropes" course. Low (and High) Ropes courses are challenging physical and mental activities consisting of elements such as ropes and beams strung among trees, rock climbing walls and other obstacles requiring planning, discussion and cooperation to solve problems and successfully execute the course. One interesting activity is figuring out how to pass a teammate through a giant rope "spiderweb." The



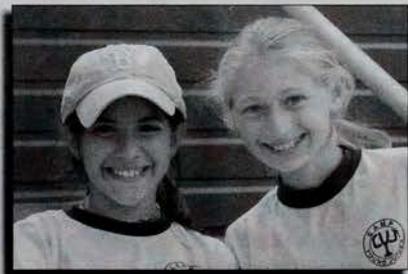
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# GHANA: High school student spends summer volunteering with American Jewish World Service

From Page 17

and pineapples, and from that point on we were completely accepted as part of their warm and tight-knit community.

The technical reason I traveled halfway around the world was to work with American Jewish World Service (AJWS, [www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)) and 14 other teenagers to build teacher housing for a secondary school and teach a class at a local primary school. AJWS works on alleviating poverty in the developing world through grassroots organizations and sustainable development. Mainly, the group gives grants to

non-governmental organizations (NGO), but another large part of their program is sending college students, and a few high school students, all over the world to do service.

Our group would start every day building the teacher housing with members of the community. We did everything from mixing the cement, to molding bricks, to pounding down the dirt for the house's foundation. The work was an amazing opportunity to really get to know community members and learn more about Ghanaian culture.

For me, the most rewarding

experience was teaching a class of 6- and 7-year-olds. Even though our classroom was only in the shade of a nearby tree and we had only a few school books for the entire class, the kids never lost their enthusiasm for learning. Each afternoon as I came in they would all stand up and greet me with an enthusiastic "welcome Madame Hannah" and then we would start in on our lessons, whether they were on subtraction, reading English stories, or singing English songs. A favorite of theirs was "head, shoulders, knees and toes."

However, one shocking

aspect of teaching young children in Ghana is the complete lack of respect for kids. My class' teacher would routinely skip class, either to go shopping in a nearby village or just relax in her house, and this happened often with many other teachers at the school. Also, hitting children as punishment is legal in Ghana, something that, from a Western perspective, is unbelievable. Because children are not considered as equals in their society, it was especially satisfying to give them the opportunity to be the center of attention for older people. The children loved this attention so much that they would spend all of their free time with us, either playing soccer, dancing, or teaching us some of their favorite games.

I was lucky enough to see and experience so much in Ghana that I know opened my eyes to an entirely different cultural perspective. I was able to see an "enstoolment" ceremony, when a new chief is literally presented with a stool and swears an oath to his villagers. I also saw two ceremonial goat killings, one event I wish I had not gotten the chance to see. I learned how to cook traditional Ghanaian foods, everything from red-red, a dish of baked beans and fried plantains, to fufu, cassava pounded into balls that you use your hands to dip into soup. I learned Ghanaian songs, dances, and attended their many church services.

My trip to Ghana also dispelled many myths about poverty for me. People there lead dif-



GATHERING WATER AT sunset.

icult lives, but there are also countless NGOs and individuals working very hard to better their own situations. The chief of Likpe Mate, Newland, was in the process of getting funds together to start building a clinic, as the nearest hospital is four or five villages away and a long trip. I also began to truly recognize the different types of poverty. The rural poverty we lived with day-to-day greatly contrasted with the urban poverty of Accra, Ghana's capital.

I think it is necessary for everyone to become more aware of global issues, particularly ones of poverty and education. Although living in the developing world for two months is a pretty extreme way of educating oneself about another way of life, just making an effort to understand what is happening in other places, and how what you are doing affects that, is a huge step. I know that now I am trying to be much more aware of how my actions and my lifestyle can affect people in my immediate community and in the global community, and I feel so grateful I was able to have such a, hopefully, life-changing experience.



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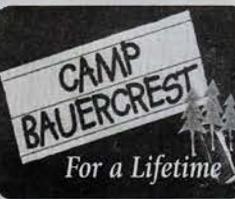
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University of Rhode Island  
West Greenwich, RI

# Book studies the impact of Jewish summer camps on kids

**Summer Camps as Jewish Socializing Experiences**  
 Amy L. Sales, Leonard Saxe  
 Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life; Brandeis University Press University Press of New England - \$24.95  
 Paper, 1-58465-347-7

From Brandeis University

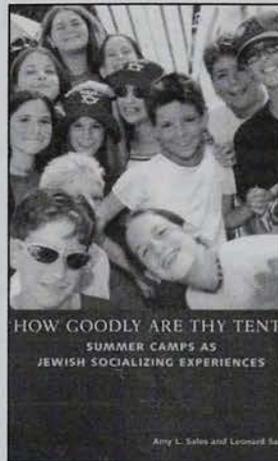
**I**N THE SUMMER of 2000, social psychologists Amy L. Sales and Leonard Saxe, along with a team of colleagues, spent several days at each of 20 Jewish summer camps located throughout the United States. They spoke to camp directors, counselors, and other staff members, and they closely observed daily life, including mealtimes, special activities, and Sabbath rituals. The result of their investigation is this enlightening book.

In addition to the rich ethnographic material gleaned

**"The American Jewish camping experience has become a major mechanism for building 'children's understanding and feelings about Jewish life.'"**

Amy L. Sales and Leonard Saxe,  
*How Goodly Are Thy Tents*

from their participant-observation field study, the authors offer a national census of Jewish residential camps, organizational analyses of camps, and social psychological surveys of the attitudes and motivations of the young adults



presumably non-educational. However, the authors believe that every Jewish camp has the potential to socialize Jewish children and young adults into *k'lal Yisrael* (the Jewish people). After documenting how the camp environment and the relationships formed at camp lead to social learning, the authors show how camp envelops campers and staff in a Jewish environment, exposes them to Jewish leaders and role models, and often teaches them Jewish history and Torah. Camps, they conclude, are extraordinary environments for the Jewish socialization of children.

partake of these experiences. They present an insider's look at the camps, with descriptions of the characteristics of residential camps that can make them powerful socializing environments; analysis of the varieties of formal and informal Jewish education found at camp; and insight into the religious practices, Jewish space and symbolism that abound at camp.

They also present data from the perspective of the professional staff and discuss the potentially far-reaching impact on emerging adults of a summer at a Jewish residential camp. Sales and Saxe conclude by considering ways in which the field of Jewish summer camping might evolve in order to become a model of and inspiration for Jewish education and community writ large.

For more information, call University Press of New England at 800-421-1561 or visit [upne.com](http://upne.com).

who work at camps. "How Goodly Are Thy Tents" provides a vivid snapshot of the world of Jewish summer camps.

Jewish camps are often divided into two classes, those that are considered "educational camps" and others that are

Their analysis begins with an overview of Jewish residential camps. Drawing on their national census of such camps and on their field research, they present data on the range of experiences available and on the number of Jewish children and adults who

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## Camping in the Berkshires with URJ

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF  
[voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org)

**T**HE UNION for Reform Judaism runs two camps in the New England region in the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts. Crane Lake Camp is located in West Stockbridge, and Eisner Camp is located in Great Barrington.

Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai in Cranston, who has been a parent of a camper at Eisner Camp for several years will be a member of its faculty this coming summer. Both camps, in addition to regular summer sports and activities, have a strong Jewish component. They have daily prayer, Hebrew lessons, Jewish studies, singing, and of course, emphasis on Shabbat. Rabbi Stein stresses that these are not just camps for Jewish kids, but camps to teach Judaism.

Meals are kosher-style, meaning no milk and meat served together, no pork or shellfish or other outright *treif*. Most cabins are new. Though rustic, all cabins have indoor plumbing. Campers and staff sleep on bunk beds (all

### Leadership camp for teens

The URJ also sponsors a Kutz leadership camp for teenagers 14 and older. Rabbi Peter Stein has been on its faculty for several years and speaks highly of its accomplishments. This camp, located in New York State, about 50 miles north of New York City, reaches across the country to bring together future Jewish leaders, each focusing on a specialty of their own choice,

such as music, dance, program planning, Judaic studies, Israel, arts and others. Accommodations are camp-style rustic amid beautiful wooded surroundings. There are also the usual sports and recreation along with daily services, prayer at meals, Shabbat and Jewish religious studies. Meals are kosher-style although strictly kosher is available on request.

top bunks have bed rails). Storage units (cubbies) are provided in every cabin for campers to store their belongings.

Two R.I. campers whose families attend Temple Sinai endorse Eisner Camp with enthusiasm. Isaac David, age 11, who attended Eisner Camp last summer and intends to return again this coming year, commented that, in addition to all the other activities, he really enjoyed the hour each day of Jewish studies "because they made it fun to learn."

Stefanie Abbot, age 13, an eighth grader, said she really loved the camp and is going back for her fourth summer. She commented on the Shabbat dinners and services with singing and Israeli dancing. Both youngsters said that they made lots of new friends at camp, which was a major part of the summers' enjoyment.

### CRANE LAKE

Crane Lake is a traditional-style camp program for campers entering the 3rd - 10th grades, which is based on rotations of cabin groups and activities within units (grade groups). The sport-intensive program provides campers with new skill instruction and the opportunity to compete. Activities unique to Crane Lake include: waterskiing, windsurfing, canoeing, paddle boating, kayaking, surf biking, wakeboarding and row boating and inter/intra-camp sport competitions with specially trained staff.

The camp is situated on a large lake and also has a swimming pool with Red Cross supervised swim instruction.

The focus is on building self-esteem, strengthening team skills

and group dynamics. There is an animal program featuring puppies, farm animals and small reptiles.

Adventure activities include low ropes course, zip line and some high rope elements.

*A K'far Teva Program* teaches overnight camping and nature skills.

There is a general arts and crafts program which includes ceramics, Judaic arts, candle making, tie-dyeing, beading and stained glass.

The camp offers a full-scale drama production per session.

The faculty consists of our Northeastern regional congregational rabbis, cantors and educators with camper created and led services, song sessions, Israeli dance and Shabbat celebrations.

There is daily activity oriented Judaic programming.

### EISNER CAMP

The Eisner camp is a campus-style program for campers entering 2nd - 10th grades, where the rotations are by unit (grade groups) and based on individual choice. The recreational programming enables campers to choose from a variety of art and athletic chugim (electives). Activities unique to Eisner include: radio, videography, photography/dark room, climbing wall and high ropes.

At Eisner, there is:

- Focus on recreation/group play
- One period of skill-based sport instruction a day (individually chosen)
- One period of recreational chug (elective) sport per day

For more information on dates, costs, sessions, visit [www.necamps.urjcamp.org](http://www.necamps.urjcamp.org)

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## Camp Laurelwood offers grants

**T**HE CANOES have returned to winter storage, and the mess hall is quiet now as Camp Laurelwood's seventieth summer in Madison, Conn., fades into history. But Connecticut's only Jewish community overnight camp is already making tracks and aiming high for Summer 2008. For a limited enrollment period and through the generosity of camp alumni, community donors and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, first-time Jewish campers will be eligible for special "Fun, Friends, Forever," grants for Summer 2008.

The "Fun Friends Forever" program offers one-time grants of \$1,500 for new campers who enroll for the entire Summer 2008 season, June 22 - August 10. A \$1,000 grant will be offered for those who enroll in session one June 22 - July 20, or session two, July 20 to August 10. A \$500 grant will be offered for a two week session, June 22 - July 6, or July 20 - August 3. The Summer 2008 Laurelwood incentive may be used in combination with other grants, offers or discounts and are not conditional on financial need. Camp Laurelwood will continue to provide scholarship assistance as in previous years. Applications are being accepted immediately.

Announcement of Camp Laurelwood's Summer 2008



FUN, FRIENDS AND TENNIS at Camp Laurelwood.

incentive program coincides with recent studies showing the power of Jewish summer camp in shaping and strengthening Jewish identity outside of the home. "As Connecticut's only Jewish community overnight summer camp serving boys and girls with a full slate of sports and outdoor adventures, boating, swimming, Judaics, kosher dining, arts, special events and travel options, Laurelwood is a precious asset. "We are uniquely situated geographically and communally to build a future of strong Jewish connections for our kids" says Dan Papermaster of West Hartford, a Camp Laurelwood alumnus, board member and parent.

In addition to establishing the "Fun, Friends, Forever" fund, Camp Laurelwood is planning new programs, a new website

and promotional campaign as well as capital improvements

Camp Laurelwood is accredited by the American Camping Association and maintains relationships with the Jewish Federations and JCC's of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. For more information, contact Ruth Ann Ornstein, Camp Director, (203)421-3736, or info@laurelwood.org.



## Environmental camps

**E**nvironmental camps for kids are what Alton Jones is all about. Campers can choose from Woodvale Farm Day Camp (ages 5-8) and Eco-zone Ecology Day Camp (ages 8-11), overnight Earth Camp (ages 9-13), or Teen Expeditions (ages 12-17) which feature off-campus backpacking, canoeing,

kayaking, rock climbing and rappelling trips both nearby and in natural areas throughout New England. The camp is located at the University of Rhode Island, W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich, a 2,300-acre wilderness preserve. For more information, email altonjones@uri.edu or call 397-3304, ext. 6043.

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# Squash — from acorn to zucchini

By MARYLYN GRAFF  
mgraiff@jfri.org

**E**VERY SEASON has its squash, but nowadays you can find most kinds all year. This versatile vegetable can be made into soups, stuffed as main dishes and finish the meal as dessert.

Since it's December, let's go with the winter varieties. These squash are so attractive and colorful that you may want to buy several different ones, pile them on a tray to decorate your dining table and cook them as you go along. Winter squash will generally keep for at least a couple of weeks indoors.

## SQUASH SOUP

This soup can be made with pumpkin (which is technically a member of the squash family), butternut (the mildest) acorn, Hubbard or any other variety. You can begin with fresh squash or buy frozen, mashed or cubed. You can also substitute sweet potatoes or yams, although the flavor will be much sweeter. Canned pumpkin or squash is not recommended for soup.

## INGREDIENTS:

1 Tblsp. butter or parve margarine  
1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped  
1 or 2 cloves garlic, crushed

and finely chopped

6 cups vegetable or chicken broth

2 lbs. fresh squash, peeled and cubed or 1 1/2 lbs. frozen squash, cubed or mashed, thawed.

1 cup cream or half and half, opt.

1 tsp. curry powder or to taste  
1 tsp. ground cumin, or to taste.

(If you don't like curry and cumin you may use ground ginger and nutmeg or favorite herbs.)

## Method:

If using fresh squash, the easy way to get it out of the shell is to

cut in halves or quarters, brush with butter or margarine and roast in the oven at 350 until soft enough to scrape out of the shell. This is a good flavor enhancer as well.

Melt margarine or butter in a soup pot, stir in onion and sauté until clear, adding garlic, curry and cumin near end.

Pour in broth, stir in squash, bring to a simmer and cook for about 30 minutes. Puree in a blender or with a stick blender. Return to the pot, stir in half and half or cream and heat to

simmer. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve at once. Garnish with flat-leaf parsley or freshly toasted croutons.

Note: to cut down on fat, and make a thicker soup, you may add one or two potatoes, peeled and cut up, to cook along with the squash. Leave out the cream.

## SQUASH MUFFINS

I bake a batch of "healthy" muffins for my usual hurry-up breakfasts to be eaten on the run. Warning: they make crumbs in your car.

## INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
1 1/2 cups oat bran  
1 Tblsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. allspice  
1 cup mashed pumpkin or squash, canned is okay here  
2 eggs, lightly beaten, or egg substitute  
1 cup skim or low fat milk (you can substitute apple or orange juice)  
1/3 cup canola oil  
1/3 cup honey  
1 cup raisins, dark, blonde or both

1/2 cup dried cranberries  
Other dried fruit or nuts, cut up, as much as you like

Note: A heaping Tblsp. of wheat gluten added with the dry ingredients will help to lighten these very substantial muffins.

## METHOD:

Put all dry ingredients into a large mixing bowl and stir together.

Break egg into medium bowl and stir with a fork or whisk lightly, stir in rest of wet ingredients.

Pour wet ingredients into dry and stir together just until moistened and mixed. Spray a 6

See SQUASH, Page 27



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## SQUASH: A vegetable for all seasons

Continued from previous page

or 12 space muffin pan lightly and divide batter equally. Bake at 375 for about 20 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean, about 5 minutes longer for 6. Cool in pan on a rack for about 10 minutes and remove muffins onto the rack to cool. They freeze nicely.

### STUFFED ACORN SQUASH

This is a good main dish and looks pretty on the plate.

#### Ingredients:

- Two medium acorn squash
- 1 Tblsp. olive oil
- 1 lb. ground turkey or chicken
- 2 eggs
- 1 large or 2 medium onions, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/3 cup whole wheat couscous, cooked
- 1 Granny Smith or other tart apple, unpeeled, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, thinly sliced
- 1 tsp. each dried thyme, basil and tarragon
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### METHOD:

Cut squash in half through the "equator." Remove seeds and take a thin slice off the bottoms so they'll stand up straight. Place on a foil-lined baking sheet and bake at 400 for about 40 minutes or until barely tender. Cool slightly and scrape out leaving about a half inch thick shell, and chop coarsely if needed.

Heat olive oil in a sauté pan and cook onions, celery and apple until just tender.

Beat eggs lightly with a fork in a bowl and mix in ground turkey or chicken, squash, couscous,

onions, apple, celery, herbs and salt and pepper to taste. Form into 4 portions and place each in the hollow of a squash half. Put into a baking pan and add about 1/2 inch of broth. Brush with oil, sprinkle with paprika. Bake at 375 until cooked through and light brown on top.

### SPAGHETTI SQUASH KUGEL

If you've never had spaghetti squash, this is a fun dish to make and delicious to eat. You can use light cheeses and sour cream if you wish, but not fat-free.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 medium spaghetti squash
- 1 pint cottage cheese or ricotta
- 1 pint sour cream
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup sugar or to taste
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 cup blonde raisins, opt.
- 1/2 tsp. salt

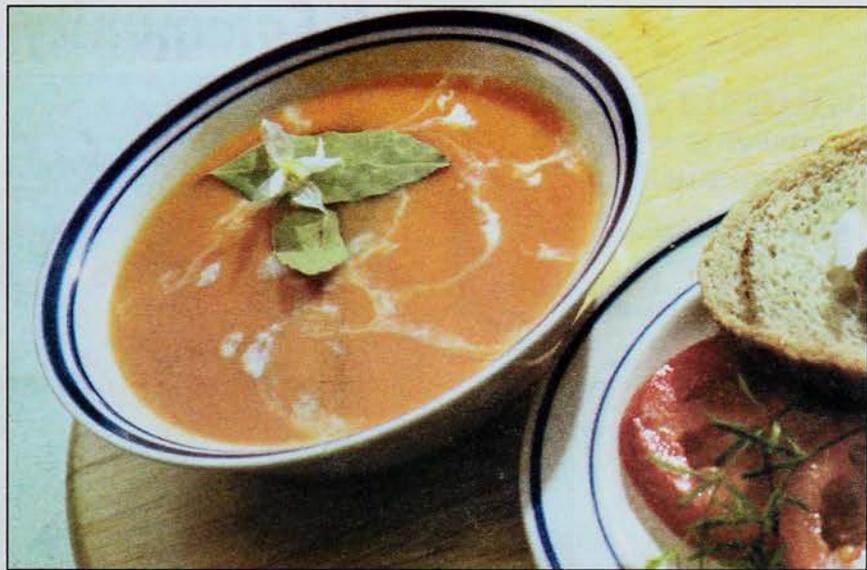
#### METHOD:

Mix cottage cheese, sour cream, cream cheese and eggs. Stir spices into sugar and stir in.

Cut squash in half the long way. Place upside-down in a shallow pan with a little water and either

bake in the oven or steam on the stove until barely tender. Remove and cool until you can handle them. Take a fork and scrape out the strands the long way. Put strands into a large bowl and mix in other ingredients.

Spread out into a baking pan, sprinkle with a little more sugar and spice and bake at 350 for about 30 minutes until golden brown on top.



## Two good additions for kosher kitchens

*Quick & Kosher: Recipes From the Bride Who Knew Nothing* by Jamie Geller. New York: Feldheim Publishers, 2007. 359 pp. \$34.99

By AARON LEIBEL  
Washington Jewish Week  
Arts Editor

Food shows are one of my addictions — Jacques Pepin's *Fast Food-My Way* and America's Test Kitchen, both PBS staples, and, of course, the Food Network's *Emeril Live* and Rachel Ray's *30-Minute Meals*. It's the imaginary, calorie-less eating, more than the recipes, that I find so appealing.

But I can't help cringing when Emeril yells that pork fat rules, and I have been known to yell "kashrut" at the TV when Rachel adds heavy cream to her meat gravies. (Where's Joan Nathan when we need her?)

Obviously, TV cooks can

use whatever ingredients they choose, but basing dishes on bacon and shrimp impinges on my fantasy fresses. It's frustrating being a Jewishly observant foodie.

But, recently, two books — at least in appearance, the yin and

### "It's frustrating being a Jewishly observant foodie."

yang of cookbooks — have been published that have helped ease my angst. The sisterhood at Keshet Israel Congregation in the District has put together *Red, White & Blueberry*, a compilation of recipes of members of the Keshet community (including Sen. Joseph Lieberman [I-Conn.], with Baba's Honey Cake, and his wife Hadassah's Vegetable Soup) and their relatives and friends, and Jamie Geller

gives Rachel Ray a run for her money with her *Quick & Kosher*. (She doesn't quite equal Rachel's super-fast meals at 30 minutes from start to finish. But her recipes supposedly can be prepared in 15 minutes or less for cooking or chilling.)

This cookbook of more than 160 recipes is evidence that she learned what she needed to.

Among the more scrumptious-looking recipes — 120 of the recipes are accompanied by color photos of the finished product — are Crispy Artichoke Hearts and Spiced Gefilte Fish appetizers; fish dishes like Grouper with Pineapple and Corn Chutney and Seared Yellowfin Tuna over White Beans; Veal Stew with Apricots and Prunes and Beef Sukiyaki with Noodles in the meat section; and Jelly Roll and Chocolate Liqueur Pie among desserts.

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# Jewish Community Calendar

## Saturday December 15

### Temple Sinai Tot Shabbat services

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m.

### Temple Am David's Tot Shabbat program

Shabbat morning service open to the entire community. Children up to 7 years with a parent or caregiver. Celebrate with singing, dancing, prayers, and story telling.

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 48 Gardiner St., Warwick  
**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 463-7944 or www.templeam david.org

## Sunday December 16

### Am David Congregational breakfast

December congregational breakfast for members.

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP 463-7944

### The 2007 Galkin Hanukkah Concert: The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra

Temple Torat Yisrael Presents the concert, which is sponsored



FISHEL BRESLER'S KLEZMER Hasidic Ensemble will perform again this year for the traditional Dec. 24 concert. Kosher hot dogs, snacks and beverages will be on sale. The concert will be at Congregation Ohawe Shalom Coffee House, 671 East Ave. in Pawtucket.

by the Ira S. and Anna Galkin Charitable Trust.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston.  
**WHEN:** 2 p.m.  
**COST:** Free and open to the public

### Brit Tzedek presents the film: "Encounter Point"

Brit Tzedek-RI will be showing the multi-award-winning film, "Encounter Point", about Israeli and Palestinian peace activists.

**WHERE:** Home of Co-chair Judy Kaye, 8 Upton Ave., Providence. (East side)  
**WHEN:** 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP helpful but not required. 751-8665 or 258-0475

### Striar JCC presents new art exhibit

Art exhibit, "Earth & Fiber" featuring artists Laurie Wohl, Stella Perlov and Lisa Goren.

**WHERE:** Striar JCC, 445 Central St., Stoughton, Mass.  
**WHEN:** Open during regular hours until Dec. 28  
**MORE INFO:** 508 238 345

## Monday December 17

### Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club

"Ethiopian Jews Today: My Recent Trip" – Bonnie Steinberg, Temple Emanu-El member, Psychologist.

"Satan in Judaism" – Rabbi Mitchell Levine, Judaic studies Principal, JCDS of RI

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.  
**WHEN:** First presentation: 10 a.m. to 10:50. Second presentation: 11:10 a.m. to noon.  
**COST:** \$18 per year

### JCCRI's ESL class

Last class of the fall semester

**WHERE:** JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave.  
**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. to noon  
**MORE INFO:** 861-8800 ext. 107

## Tuesday December 18

### JCCRI MEALS-ON-WHEELS FUNDRAISING MEETING

Volunteers and interested individuals.

**WHERE:** JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave.  
**WHEN:** 1 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP at 401-861-8800, ext.107

## Wednesday December 19

### Sinai Sisterhood book review

Temple Sinai's Sisterhood will host a review of the book "I Feel Bad About My Neck" by Nora Ephron.

**WHERE:** RSVP to Temple Sinai for location info. 942-8350  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

### Jewish Community Day School architecture and design exhibition (ONGOING)

Middle-school students will display their work at Three Sisters Café

**WHERE:** Three Sisters Café, 1074 Hope St., Providence.  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** Open to the public

### GTECH Computer Lab Opening

Opening for the new GTECH After School Advantage Program Computer Lab at the JCCRI. Mayor David Cicilline and City Council member Cliff Wood will attend.

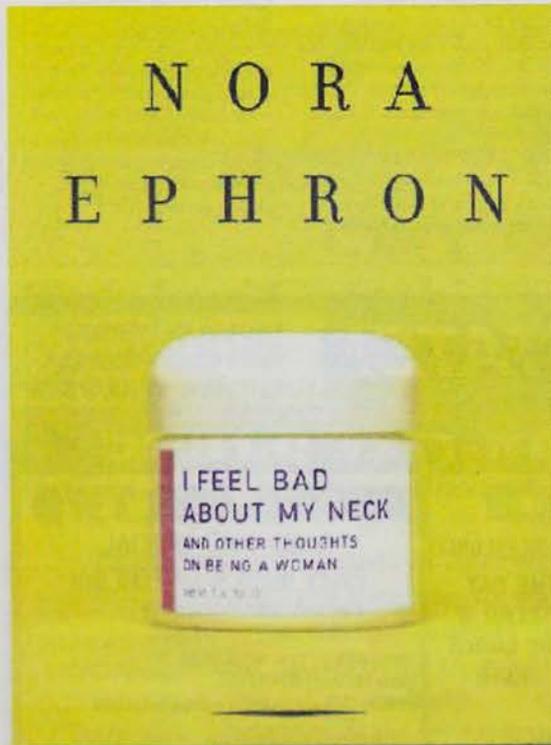
**WHERE:** JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** 3:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 861-8800

## Thursday December 20

### Am David's "Learn How to Lay Tefillin"

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick  
**WHEN:** 6:45 a.m. to around

Continued on next page



TEMPLE SINAI'S SISTERHOOD will host a review of the book "I Feel Bad About My Neck" by Nora Ephron on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 8:00 p.m.



ON SATURDAY, DEC. 15, Temple Am David's Tot Shabbat program offers a Shabbat morning service at 10:30 a.m. that is open to the entire community. Children up to 7 years with a parent or caregiver. Celebrate with singing, dancing, prayers, and story telling. TEMPLE SINAI in Cranston also offers a Tot Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15.

# Jewish Community Calendar

From previous page

7:35, followed by a French toast breakfast  
**COST:** Free and open to the public  
**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

**Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club**  
 "Catholic-Jewish Relations Since Vatican II: A Continuation"  
 - Helen Kagan

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to noon  
**COST:** Leisure Club: \$18 per year

**Am David's adult education**

Jewish history continuing series. Special note: There will NOT be a Kosher deli lunch and learn on Thurs., Jan. 3 due to Winter vacation.

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick  
**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP to 463-7944

**Yad L'Tomchim: Support for Caretakers at Torat Yisrael (ONGOING)**

The group will provide those caring for the sick or the elderly with a supportive and understanding circle to share the challenges of caretaking.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 7 P.M.  
**MORE INFO:** EVERYONE WELCOME

**Hineinu Caring Committee meeting**

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

**Friday December 21**

**Torat Yisrael Shabbat service & dinner**



**ON THURSDAY, DEC. 20, Learn How to Lay Tefillin at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick at 6:45 a.m. to around 7:35, followed by a French toast breakfast**

Family-friendly Shabbat service followed by dinner.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**COST:** \$18 adults children 10 and under, free.

**JCCRI Lunch & Learn: 'The Forgotten Refugees'**

The David Project's film explores the mass exodus of Jews from Arab countries in the

20th century, including the history and destruction of Middle Eastern Jewish communities. Kosher lunch by 'Accounting For Taste.'

**WHERE:** 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** noon to 1:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** Reservations required by Wed., Dec. 19. 861-8800 ext.107

**Monday December 24**

**The Big December 24th Klezmer Concert**

Fishel Bresler's Klezmer Hasidic Ensemble will perform again this year for the traditional Dec. 24 concert. Kosher hot dogs, snacks and beverages will be on sale.

**WHERE:** Congregation Ohave Shalom Coffee House, 671 East Avenue in Pawtucket (corner of Glenwood, where Blackstone Blvd. meets Hope Street) Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.)  
**COST:** \$10 adults, \$7 children  
**MORE INFO:** 401-273-9814

**Thursday December 27**

**Hug N'hamah: Circle of Consolation at Torat Yisrael (ONGOING)**

Provides those mourning the loss of loved ones a supportive circle to which to bring the emotional and spiritual challenges of their grief.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston,  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**Friday December 28**

**Yiddish Shmooz**  
 Regular meeting

**WHERE:** JCC 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** 9:30 — 11:30 a.m.

**JCCRI Lunch & Learn**

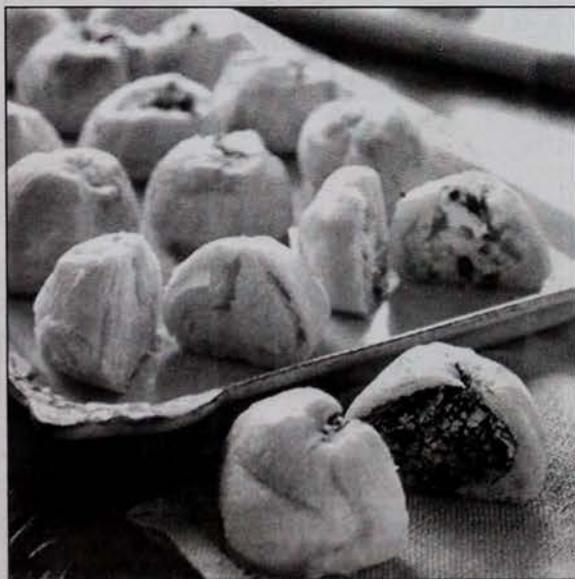
Kosher lunch by 'Accounting for Taste.'

**WHERE:** 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** Noon to 1:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** Reservations required 861-8800

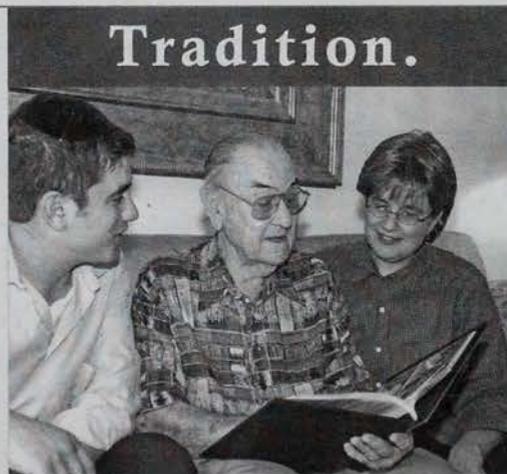
**Saturday December 29**

**Bresler & Shelley Katsch & their Klezmer Hasidic Music**

**WHERE:** The Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House, 209 Douglas Ave., Providence.  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
**COST:** \$9  
**MORE INFO:** www.brooklyn-coffeeteahouse.com, or call 575-2284



**ON FRIDAY, DEC. 28 the JCCRI will hold a kosher lunch by Accounting for Taste from noon to 1:30 p.m. Call 861-8800 for reservations.**



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# Adashi steps down as Brown's dean of medicine

**BY BROWN UNIVERSITY MEDIA**  
 PROVIDENCE — Eli Y. Adashi, M.D., M.S., FACOG, dean of medicine and biological sciences and the Frank L. Day Professor of Biology at Brown University, has announced his intention to step down at the end of the current academic year.

A noted physician and scientist and an internationally renowned reproductive biologist and endocrinologist, Adashi was introduced as Brown's new dean in December 2004. Next July Adashi will be considering a sabbatic leave and a possible return to full-time teaching and research for the 2009-10 academic year.

"Under Eli Adashi's leadership, Brown has been able to move forward with extensive plans for investing in the life and health sciences," said Brown Provost David Kertzer, who

announced Adashi's decision to the campus community. "The Division of Biology and Medicine is now well positioned for continued growth in the Alpert Medical School, the public health program, and the basic biological sciences."

Highlights of Adashi's tenure as dean include:

- A transformational \$100-million gift to the medical school from the Warren Alpert Foundation, which will allow Brown to keep medical education accessible to students from diverse backgrounds; to enhance support for faculty and research; and to plan for construction of a new medical school building;

- A 75-percent increase in life science laboratory space, including dedication of the new Sidney E. Frank Hall for Life Sciences

and public health, including more than 20 new faculty positions as part of the University's Plan for Academic Enrichment. He helped to achieve a more than 40-percent increase in the size of the entering medical school class and an increase in the University's undergraduate pre-med matriculants; a new pre-clinical medical curriculum, including a new two year-long course in "doctoring" and new scholarly concentrations

that provide opportunities for broader medical education in a variety of disciplines including global health, women's reproductive health freedom and rights, and medical ethics; a

rise of nine positions in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings during the last four years, tying Brown's Alpert Medical School with its counterparts at New York University, the University of Rochester and Boston University; a more than 40-percent increase in the medical financial aid endowment from 2004 to 2007. "President Simmons and I want to express our gratitude for the energy, vision and commitment that Eli has demonstrated as dean," Kertzer said.

"These last few years have witnessed great progress and remarkable achievements for Brown's programs in the life and health sciences," Adashi said. "To all of those who have played such an important role in advancing this enterprise of ours, especially the divisional leadership team, I express my deepest gratitude and appreciation."

**"Under Eli Adashi's leadership, Brown has been able to move forward with extensive plans for investing in the life and health sciences."**

**David Kertzer**  
 Brown Provost

and the complete renovation of research space within the Biomedical Center; purchase of an 11-story office building at 121 South Main as a new home for the Program in Public Health;

- A larger faculty in biology

# Rhode Island, Miriam Hospitals rank in top 100 for cardiac care

**BY LIFESPAN MEDIA**

PROVIDENCE — Thomson Healthcare, formerly known as Solucient, again named Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital among the nation's 100 top hospitals for cardiovascular care. Thomson's annual study identifies hospitals that are setting benchmark levels of performance for cardiovascular services throughout the nation.

It recognizes the hospitals and their management teams for superior clinical, operational and financial performance in the area of cardiovascular service. This is the second consecutive year that Rhode Island and The Miriam were both named to the list, and they remain the only hospitals in the state to be honored with this recognition.

George Vecchione, president and CEO of Lifespan, says,

"This ranking recognizes Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals' continuing leadership in the area of cardiac care. Our cardiac physicians and surgeons, along with the technical and nursing staff at both hospitals, are committed to providing outstanding care to our patients. This recognition is confirmation of that commitment."

Using Medicare cost reports

and Medicare Provider Analysis and Review data, each hospital was ranked on the basis of its performance on each of eight key performance measures: risk-adjusted medical mortality, risk-adjusted surgical mortality, risk-adjusted complications, core measures score, percentage of heart bypass patients with internal mammary artery use, procedure volume, severity-adjusted average length of stay,

and wage- and severity-adjusted average cost.

The hospitals were then assigned to one of three comparison groups: teaching hospitals with cardiovascular residency programs, teaching hospitals without cardiovascular residency programs and community hospitals. Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital are among only 30 hospitals across the country in this category.

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# Conservatives adopt ethical *hekhsher*

By SUE FISHKOFF  
JTA staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Conservative movement is poised to take a major step toward establishing a system for using ethical standards to certify the practices of kosher food production.

Delegates to the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's biennial conference in Orlando, Fla., recently considered the resolution supporting a "*hekhsher tzedeck*," or certificate of social justice, to be given to food produced in a manner that meets certain environmental and labor standards, including worker safety and fair wages.

The certificate will appear alongside existing kosher certification rather than replace it, say members of the *Hekhsher Tzedeck* Committee, a joint commission of the United Synagogue and the Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative movement's rabbinical arm. The initiative, under development for a year, is the latest illustration of growing Jewish interest in social justice issues. It is the first concrete effort of any major stream to expand the definition of what makes food "fit to eat," the literal meaning of the word kosher.

A second goal of the initiative is to make *kashrut* appealing to Jews interested in social justice

concerns by demonstrating that the Conservative movement takes both values seriously.

It makes sense that the Conservative movement has taken the lead on the issue, said the director of the project, Rabbi Morris Allen of Beth Jacob Congregation in Mendota Heights, Minn.

"Conservative Judaism is uniquely positioned," he said. "We are committed to *kashrut*, which some other movements might not be, and also committed to social justice. The *hekhsher tzedeck* is that point where *halachic* intensity meets ethical imperative."

A similar initiative within the Reform movement to develop Reform standards for ethical food production lost impetus this year, according to Reform sources, while the general attitude within Orthodox circles is that existing, conventional *kashrut* standards are sufficient.

Rabbi Menachem Genack, head of the Orthodox Union's *kashrut* division, noted that concern for the environment, workers' rights and animal welfare are all part of biblical and rabbinic law, and it is correct for Jews to be concerned about them. But, he added, it's not something the religious movements should regulate.

"We believe these issues are more properly and effectively

handled by existing federal and state agencies," he said. "They have the resources, the legal mandate and the expertise to handle it."

Nigel Savage, executive director of Hazon, a non-profit dedicated to Jewish environmentalism and social justice issues involving food, applauded the *hekhsher tzedeck* initiative, which he said is a beautiful example of taking existing Jewish law to a higher level. "In our generation, a growing number of Jews keep kosher and care about ethics, about treating workers fairly, about respecting the land," he said.

Richard Lederman, the professional at the United Synagogue who is working on the *hekhsher tzedeck* project, said the initiative came about in reaction to last year's controversy over Agriprocessors, the nation's largest kosher slaughterhouse in Postville, Iowa.

Critics have accused the slaughterhouse of mistreating workers and animals, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cited the plant for safety and sanitary violations. A commission of inquiry established by the Conservative movement visited the plant, and developed a set of environmental and labor standards by which to judge kosher food producers.

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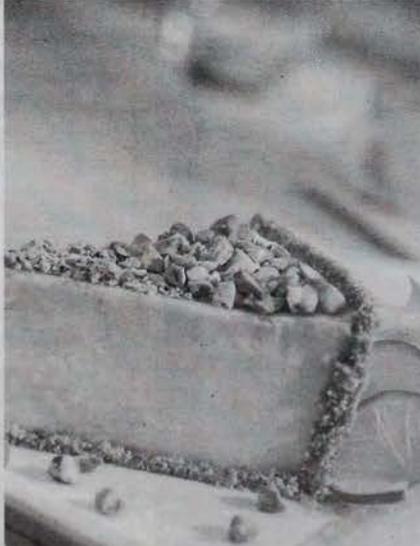
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## Eco-kashrut extends to kosher meat

By SUE FISHKOFF  
JTA staff writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — This Thanksgiving, New Yorker Linda Lantos didn't have to compromise her Jewish or ecological values: She served free-range, organic, non-genetically engineered turkey that was also kosher.

"In the last few years it's become important to me to find meat that's organic and kosher, and that's hard," says the 27-year-old chef and nutrition teacher, who has kept kosher since childhood.

The two turkeys Lantos bought this month from Kosher Conscience, a year-old kosher meat cooperative that promotes sustainable agriculture and humane slaughter methods, weren't cheap. But that doesn't bother her.

"I'd rather eat meat less frequently and know where it comes from," she says. "Frankly, meat is too cheap. It's a living thing and should be valued more highly."

For 30 years the eco-kashrut movement has promoted back-to-the-land values of sustainable agriculture, organics and local, seasonal farming. Now a growing number of those Jewish foodies are trying to apply the same values to their meat, demanding that the animals be raised and slaughtered in an ethical manner.

"If I'm going to eat meat, I have to do everything possible to make sure the process is as

humane as possible," says Kosher Conscience founder Simon Feil.

Caring for animals is deeply ingrained in Jewish law. The Torah provides for "tzar ba'alat hayim," the need to protect animals from unnecessary pain. That's why kosher slaughter must be done by an observant, trained *shochet*, or ritual slaughterer, who uses an extremely sharp knife to kill the animal as painlessly as possible, with one cut across the jugular vein.

Many Jews believe that because of this extra religious concern, the kosher meat industry is exempt from the more egregious practices of non-kosher slaughterhouses. But controversies last year at Agriprocessors, the nation's largest kosher slaughterhouse in Postville, Iowa, buried that myth amid media stories alleging sloppy, cruel killing methods and underpaid, badly trained workers.

The Agriprocessors case was a Jewish wake-up call.

### CONSERVATIVE RESPONSE

It spurred the Conservative movement to start developing a *hekhsher tzedeck*, a certificate given to food produced according to certain standards of workers' rights and environmental concerns. The certificate was announced at the Conservative movement's biennial several weeks ago in Orlando, Fla.

It inspired Feil, a Brooklyn-based actor, to procure, slaughter

and process 24 turkeys using humane practices this month. He found buyers among young New York Jews, and dropped off the turkeys two days before Thanksgiving at an Orthodox synagogue on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

It put meat on the agenda of last year's food conference sponsored by Hazon, a nonprofit dedicated to Jewish environmentalism and food sustainability.

Much of the impetus for the socially just *kashrut* movement comes from Conservative circles, but there's interest within Reform Judaism as well. A committee of Reform rabbis is working on standards for socially just food production along the same lines as the Conservative *hekhsher tzedeck* initiative.

"A lot of people are faced with the decision, ethics or *kashrut*," says Devora Kimelman-Block of Washington, a Hazon activist and longtime supporter of sustainable agriculture. "Or they just decide to be vegetarian."

Kimelman-Block eats meat, but had cut down in recent years.

"I don't feel it's ethically a problem to eat meat," she says, "but I have a problem with the unethical raising and processing of meat."

It's easy to be pious when you're talking about fruit, but most people would rather not think about where their steak comes from.

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# Jewish Eldercare presents Hanukkah gifts

By MICHELLE KIER  
JERI Staff

This year all Jewish nursing home residents received a soft fleece throw and a box of tissues for Hanukkah from Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency. The JSA Women's Association donates gifts to Jewish nursing home residents four times per year (Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Purim and Shavuot) and volunteers deliver the festive presents. The Women's Association helps to provide financial support to the JSA through its membership fees, annual raffle, and the proceeds from their knit shop, which is located at Tamarisk, 3 Shalom



BERNICE WEINER, left, chair of the Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island Oversight Committee and Susan Adler, Director of JERI, get ready to dig into bags of fleece throws they packed for Hanukkah gifts with other volunteers.

Dr., Warwick. The knit shop offers hand knitted children's sweaters, afghans and lap robes. For a knit shop appointment call 944-8398 or 921-2130. Annual

membership in the Women's Association is \$15. A lifetime membership is available for \$200. For more information call 994-8398 or 944-8397.

## JFS is moving to 959 N. Main St.

By SARA MASRI  
JFS Staff

ON DEC. 27 Jewish Family Service is moving from its Waterman Street location to 959 North Main St. The Jewish Family Service programs which will be housed at the new location include Adoption Options, Home Care, the Counseling Center, Lifeline RI and AgeWell, the senior information and referral service.

This new location will make it

easier to provide a comfortable space for both clients and staff.

Erin Minior, interim executive director, says that, "The professionals at JFS are pleased to be moving to a location that will enable us to better serve our clients. This space will also be more conducive to community programs and family life education."

Contact information will remain the same. The phone number is 401-331-1244, and the email is info@jfsri.org. The

move will not cause any change in services.

Jewish Family Service is an organization whose mission is to sustain, nurture and strengthen the emotional and general well-being and stability of families and individuals throughout the life cycle. JFS offers counseling, Family Life Education, Home care Services for sick, elderly or disabled individuals, Lifeline Rhode Island, Adoption Options, a Kosher Congregate Mealsite, Meals on Wheels and nutrition programs.

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WINE TASTING WAS one of many workshops held at the Evening of Jewish Renaissance held recently at the Jewish Community Center.

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| <p><b>Attleboro</b><br/>Cong. Agudas Achim</p> <p><b>Barrington:</b><br/>Barrington books<br/>Bagels, etc.<br/>Princes Hill Deli<br/>Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road</p> <p><b>Cranston:</b><br/>Art &amp; Soul Inc., 2007 Broad St.<br/>Borders<br/>Chabad CHAI Center,<br/>15 Centerville Road<br/>Cranston Public Library<br/>Dufusco's Bakery #2 Park<br/>Galaxie reservoir ave<br/>Phreds Pharmacy<br/>Rainbow Bakery<br/>Sonya's on 766 Oaklawn Avenue<br/>Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Avenue<br/>Temple Torat Yisrael Mealsite<br/>Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue<br/>The Water's Edge,<br/>2190 Broad Street<br/>Ursula's european pastries,<br/>1860 broad street</p> <p><b>East Greenwich:</b><br/>Blossoms Florist<br/>Felicia's Coffee (5757 Post Rd.)</p> <p><b>East Providence:</b><br/>Town Wine &amp; Liquors<br/>Centre Court Tennis Club</p> <p><b>Middletown</b><br/>Temple Shalom</p> <p><b>Narragansett</b><br/>Cong. Beth David</p> <p><b>Newport:</b><br/>Inn on Bellevue<br/>Touro Synagogue</p> <p><b>North Kingstown</b><br/>Daves<br/>North Kingstown Library</p> <p><b>Pawtucket:</b><br/>East Side Eden, 1 Afred Stone Rd.<br/>Garden Grille<br/>Modern Diner<br/>Old World Furniture<br/>Quality Rentals<br/>Russian Market<br/>Yarn outlet<br/>Pawtucket Library</p> <p><b>Providence:</b><br/>Jewish Community Day School<br/>Books on the square</p> | <p><b>Providence (Cont.)</b><br/>Brooklyn coffee and tea<br/>Brown RISD Hillel<br/>Butcher Shoppe<br/>Chabad House, 360 Hope St. Prov<br/>Clark Florist<br/>Coffee Exchange<br/>Cong. Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St.<br/>East Side Marketplace<br/>East Side Prescription<br/>EPOCH Blackstone Blvd.<br/>EPOCH East Side<br/>Farmstead (former cheese shop)<br/>Fitness-Together, 145 Elmgrove<br/>Gourmet Deli on the square<br/>Highland court<br/>Jewish Family Service<br/>Judaic Traditions (Hope Street)<br/>Lasalle Bakery, 993 Smith Street<br/>Laurelmead<br/>Miriam Hospital<br/>Miriam Hospital (outpatient bldg.)<br/>Palmieri Bakery (Federal Hill)<br/>Providence Hebrew Day School<br/>Providence Public Library (downtown)<br/>Rochambeau Library<br/>Spoons, 485 Angell Street<br/>Swan Liquor<br/>Tealuxe, 225 Thayer Street<br/>Temple Beth El, 70 Orchard Avenue<br/>Temple Emanu-El, Taft Avenue<br/>Tockwotton Home<br/>Village Health<br/>729 Hope Street, at 729 Hope</p> <p><b>Seekonk</b><br/>Seekonk Liquors</p> <p><b>South Kingstown</b><br/>Temple Shalom</p> <p><b>Wakefield:</b><br/>Wakefield Prescription</p> <p><b>Warwick:</b><br/>Barnes + Noble<br/>Coffee Grinder<br/>Food Challet, Post Road<br/>Shalom 1 &amp; 2, 1 Shalom Drive<br/>Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive<br/>Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St.<br/>Warwick Public Library</p> <p><b>West Warwick:</b><br/>Galaxy II</p> <p><b>Wickford:</b><br/>J. W. Graham<br/>Wickford Flowers</p> |
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## From Bob Dylan to wine tasting, Jewish Renaissance evening draws 500

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF

OVER 500 PEOPLE attended the Evening of Jewish Renaissance on Dec. 1, and engaged in over 40 seminars ranging from human cloning to teens and risk-taking to Bob Dylan to Israel in American politics. A wine tasting workshop was filled to capacity, as tasters learned about the wide variety of selections available today.

The evening of Jewish learning has been an annual event held at the Jewish Community Center, funded by the Dr. James Yashar and Judge Marjorie Yashar Endowment Fund at the Jewish Federation, and coordinated by the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE). The judge flew in from Florida to attend the event and

some of the workshops.

"There's still a buzz going on in the community about the night," said Shira Garber Strosberg, director of community education at the BJE.

Rick Reamer, a professor of social work at Rhode Island College, and the producer of WRNI's "This I Believe," segment, welcomed everyone. Many Rhode Islanders have contributed to the show aired on National Public Radio.

Reamer introduced Curt Columbus, artistic director at Trinity Rep, who spoke on neighborhoods and community. Columbus, who lives in Pawtucket, spoke of the daily evening walks he takes around the neighborhood with his partner. "Children run up and show off a

praying mantis. We talk to their parents as the sun sets. These are simple random interactions that make me feel whole, that lead to connections and ties that bind."

He continued: "In the theater we spend our lives inviting people to come in; it becomes a part of their lives." He told the story of two couples who became friends through their season tickets that had them seated side by side for over a decade.

In contrast, movie theaters and the Internet contribute to the isolation of today's society, he said. "We get on a plane, plug in our earphones, open our laptops and disappear into ourselves."

"This really set the theme for the night," said Strosberg, "building community."

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# Israeli rabbi, J. Post writer to speak at Habonim

By MARYLYN GRAFF  
mgraiff@jfri.org

**R**ABBI MICHAEL BOYDEN, spiritual leader of Kehilat Yonatan (Congregation Jonathan) a new Reform congregation in Hod Hasharon, near Tel Aviv, will be speaking at Temple Habonim in Barrington on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. His topic will be "Israel at 60; Fulfilling a Dream."

making *aliyah* with his wife and two children in 1985. He was the founding rabbi of the Ra'anana Reform congregation in Israel, campaigning successfully for land and funds to build a synagogue and community center.

Congregation Yonatan,

founded in 2001, is named in memory of Boyden's son, a member of an elite Israeli paratrooper group, who was killed in 1993 while on active service in southern Lebanon.

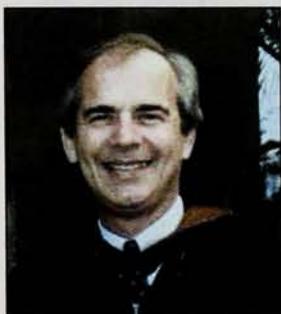
The congregation, registered in Israel as a charitable organization, holds regular services,

supports a center for Jewish studies and a social justice committee. They are engaged in plans for a new synagogue building.

Rabbi Boyden is a past president of the Israeli Council of Progressive Rabbis and serves as director of its national Rab-

binic Court. He is engaged in the struggle for equal religious rights in Israel and writes regularly for *The Jerusalem Post*.

Temple Habonim is located at 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. All are welcome to this free event. For more information call 245-6536.



Rabbi Michael Boyden

Rabbi Boyden, born in London, England, graduated in Hebrew literature from London University and was ordained by the Leo Baeck College there. He served as rabbi of Cheshire Reform Congregation before

## The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

# 2008 bridal showcase



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The Voice & Herald is read cover to cover.

## From our readers

**N**EAL DWARES of East Providence saw the R.I. Jewish Historical Association photos of the Hanukkah relay race in the Nov. 30 issue and informs us he remembers running the race with Lennie Kortick. "It wasn't an easy run but we had a great time," he recalled. Something of a history buff, he has saved the original newspaper accounts of the event, which featured then-Gov. Frank Licht at the finish line at the JCC.

Lucille Chernak read with interest the story of Mark Binder and the evolution of his books, and the locale of Chelm. She notes that author Solomon Simon published a book on Chelm in 1965 titled "More Wise Men of Chelm." In addition, Isaac Bashevis Singer wrote "The Fools of Chelm and Their History," published in English translation in 1973.

## Who says teens today only *connect* with one another on the Internet?

These teens sit in a circle – face to face – to make Judaism an experiential, hands-on, and challenging component of their high school experience.

In this "Israel Today" class at the Harry Elkin MIDRASHA Community High School, Jennifer, Emily, Pam, Meredith and Leah deepen their connection to Israel through an activity with our community's Young Israeli Emissaries. Together they learn about the different voices within Israeli society: their cultural, religious, historic similarities and differences, and ultimately a greater understanding about the complexities of the State of Israel.

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island is the place for Jewish teens to strengthen their connections to the Jewish community through a wide variety of innovative and engaging opportunities.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island ensures that more than 200 Jewish teens are actively engaged with Jewish learning, Jewish living and Jewish community.



The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island helps these teens and many others like them by allocating your financial contributions to programs and services offered by dozens of Jewish agencies in Rhode Island, including the Bureau of Jewish Education. Through the Federation, you can perform the sacred act of *tikkun olam* – healing the world – every day of the year.

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