

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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## Olmert pressed to quit; Israeli government may fall

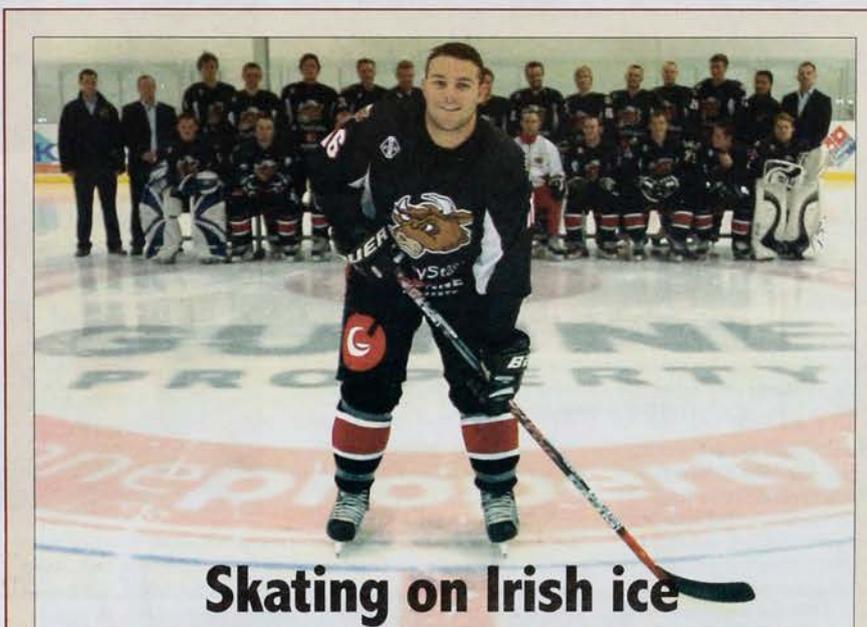
*Final Winograd Commission report due Jan. 30*

By LESLIE SUSSER  
JTA Staff Writer

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Seventeen months after the last shots were fired in the 2006 summer war between Israel and Hezbollah, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's political future again is under a cloud due to his poor performance in the war.

The growing pressure on Olmert to resign is expected to peak when the Winograd Commission he set up to investigate the Second Lebanon War publishes its final report on Jan. 30.

See OLMERT, Page 3



## Skating on Irish ice

JEWISH HOCKEY FORWARD ERIC HOGBERG from Cranston is playing for the Dundalk Bulls in the Irish Ice Hockey League this season.

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

ERIC HOGBERG, 23, is as surprised as anyone else to find

himself skating in the Irish Ice Hockey League for the Dundalk Bulls. The 5 ft., 8 in., 210-pound Jewish forward who shoots left, landed

a slot in the team's line-up when a friend playing in a tournament in Ireland recommended him last spring. He

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JTA photo  
PRESIDENT Bush in Israel.

## Bush begins 8-day tour of Mideast

*Sunrise in Jerusalem on the agenda*

By RON KAMPEAS  
JTA Staff Writer

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Turning out the lights before you leave Jerusalem may be an odd way to say you care, but it's what President Bush wants.

See BUSH, Page 9

## Washington 15: Young Jewish professionals to converge on D.C.

*JFRI plans new young adult division for social activism and leadership*

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Jennifer and Michael Oelbaum have been married for just six weeks, but there was little hesitation when, as their first project working together, the couple chose to serve as co-chairs of the local Rhode Island contingent for the Washington 15 gathering.

The conference, to be held from Sunday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 18, is expected to draw more than 3,000 young Jewish professionals between the ages of 25-45 from North America and Israel to the nation's capital.

The three-day event promises to be filled with opportunities for discussion and dialogue around issues of Jewish advo-

cacy on a local, national and global scale. It will also enable participants to make social connections and network. The last day will feature individual appointments with members of Congress, where the local Rhode Island delegation will visit with its two Senators and two Congressmen. A lobbying training session will precede the visit to Capitol Hill.

Washington 15 marks the 15th time in the last three decades Jewish young professionals and activists have gathered in Washington, D.C., organized by United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization of the Federation system. The event, which takes



Photo by Samuel K. Asinof  
MICHAEL AND JENNIFER OELBAUM, co-chairs of the Rhode Island contingent for Washington 15.

place approximately every two years, has a new sister conference, which meets in Tel Aviv every other year. The first session, called Tel Aviv I, was held in 2007.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) is the

See WASHINGTON 15, Page 7



Photo by Mary Korr

FAINA IBITSKAIA reads from her paper: "How I spent my Florida vacation." Tamara Boukhanova, who has been in this country since 1993, continues to work on her language skills.

## With help from Irving Berlin, Russian students learn English

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Elly Lewis was teaching her English-as-a-second-language class (ESL), which meets Monday mornings at the Jewish Community Center, the classic Irving Berlin tune: "Oh! How I hate to get up in the morning," from the film, "This is the Army." She had also given them a brief

biography of the Russian-born composer and lyricist.

Lewis, a former music, English and social studies teacher, who has taught or tutored ESL students at Miriam Hospital and at Brown University, told her Russian-speaking students that singing will help them speak more fluently.

See ENGLISH, Page 8

# Young artists display their work at 3 Sisters Café

JCDS middle school students create 3-D models as part of architectural design class

BY NANCY KIRSCH

Special to the Voice & Herald

**T**HE 3 SISTERS CAFÉ on Hope Street was transformed into a bright and cheery art gallery opening night on Dec. 19, displaying the work of 14 middle school students at the Jewish Community Day School. Their work was carefully mounted and displayed on the café walls and snacks and conversation with family, friends, teachers, and classmates took a back seat to viewing the creations.

"Visual arts help students become more creative," said Dani Steiner, head of school. "Students learn to pay attention to detail; we want them to know that everything they do, including the arts, is important."

For the architectural landscape design class, taught by art teacher Jennifer Bend, each student created a three-dimensional model of an office interior with cardboard, tape, glue, and colored paper. Students studied artists whose art serves as commentary on such issues as social justice, poverty, greed, hate, or indifference. They learned about closed and open offices, interior design, ergonomics, and shadow boxes. The office spaces ranged from an art gallery and ballet studio to a restaurant and a veterinary clinic.



Photos by Nancy Kirsch

ABOVE: JCDS FACULTY members, from left, Rabbi Mitchell Levine, Jennifer Bend, Karolyn White, David Raffeld, and Elana Riffle. TOP RIGHT: Students with artwork on display. BOTTOM RIGHT: Artist Jonathon Elyashir with his 3-D architectural design.

Sixth-grader Daniel Brandes happily pointed out the details of his art studio, a two-level architectural box that included such amenities as a sink and art supplies. "I like the process of exploring for myself," he said. "And, I like the freedom of using any materials I want."

Eavesdropping on that conversation, third-graders Ariel Weil and Molly Usher cheerfully acknowledge that they, as third-graders, didn't have the same degree of freedom to select supplies. "When we made our animals on wheels, we could only use four things," Molly said. "Clay, paint, toothpicks and yarn or string."

Ariel and Molly were quick to endorse Bend's decision to limit their choices, explaining that it challenged them to be creative.

Festival Ballet dancer and 7th-grade JCDS student, Victoria Volynsky created a ballet studio for her architectural office space. "Because I like to doodle and to paint, I thought the art elective would be a good choice. I've learned a lot from Mrs. Bend, especially about art terms," she explained.

In addition to the 3-D boxes, students created "streets for people" — line drawings of a street with building facades. Students were allowed to use pencil, colored pencil, and watercolors.

Students explored and identified the patterns of lines and shapes in the building facades in a specific painting.

Art terms or styles such as abstract, Ballets Russes, gouache, façade, Fauves, avant-garde, folk,



and primitive were among those students explored in their study.

Naomi Subotnick, a 7th-grader whose parents are both professional artists, credits Bend with teaching her a great deal about art. "At home, we have a lot of art materials and supplies, but it's Mrs. Bend who teaches us the mechanics of drawing and painting."

An art instructor and creative artist in her own right, Bend clearly inspires and is inspired by her students. "We feed off each other," she explained. "When I talk about my work with the students and they show me what they're working on, we are all

more creative and expressive."

Bend has created and posted an art studio agreement for all her JCDS students that imposes such expectations as: "I am an artist, I respect my art and the art of others, I respect art tools, we turn 'mistakes' into art, and we are not afraid to get messy." Bend's goal as a teacher, she said, is to lead by example and to teach students to learn from themselves and others. Curiosity is what drives students to learn, she believes.

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

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**CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES**

**For Greater Rhode Island**

Jan. 11	4:15
Jan. 18	4:23
Jan. 25	4:32
Feb. 1	4:41



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

"A *bew-glur* plays the *bew-gul*, which is like a trumpet, except the *bew-glur* just uses his lips to make the pitch."

**Elly Lewis, ESL instructor**  
SEE Page 1

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

The Providence Hebrew Sheltering Society has deep roots in RI  
SEE Page 23



**COMING NEXT ISSUE:**

*The Jewish Voice & Herald*  
2008 Bridal Showcase



# Extending the hand of friendship to Jewish elders

*JERI's Chaver program spotlighted by national Journal on Jewish Aging*

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – The *Chaver* (Hebrew for friend) program at Jewish Eldercare of R.I. (JERI), an outreach program at Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA), extends the hand of friendship to Jewish elders through its cadre of trained volunteers.

And, in reaching out, the results can be profound. Friendships are born. An isolated person reconnects to Jewish community, to the world beyond the walls of infirmity, loneliness, loss.

A national publication, *The Journal on Jewish Aging*, has spotlighted the program, now in its seventh year, in the hope that others will duplicate it in their communities.

Underlying the program is the mitzvah of *bikkur cholim*. In

the article's introduction, the words of Rabbi Abba are quoted from the Talmud: "He who visits the sick takes away one-sixtieth of his illness."

Volunteers are matched by location and visit once a month, sometimes more. They sing songs, recite prayers and psalms, and listen.

Ethan Adler, assistant director of the program, visits one person interested in talking about *Kabalah*, another who likes to talk about sports, a gentleman very concerned with what is happening in Israel and a doctor who wants to discuss medical innovations.



THE CHAVER PROGRAM at Jewish Eldercare of R.I. is coordinated by Ethan Adler, JERI's asst. director, and Susan Adler, JERI's director.

alone."

Referrals are received through adult children, synagogues, doctors, the R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs, other Jewish agencies, or the new AgeWell hotline, for example.

There is a strong spiritual component to *Chaver*,

which emphasizes the individual's dignity, and purpose in life. A volunteer might help the individual explore Jewish ethics and faith by asking questions such as: "How have your beliefs changed throughout your life experiences?" Or, "To what extent has your religious tradition provided

meaning to your life?"

Ethan Adler makes "end of life calls," sharing the final prayer of confession (*viddui*) and last rites.

The JSA Women's Association prepares holiday gifts and baskets four times a year for those living alone, in area nursing homes, or assisted living facilities.

Volunteers undergo training sessions over an eight-week period. At the end of the training, they receive a certificate and a copy of Rabbi Nachman's book, *The Empty Chair*.

Volunteer reunions are held several times a year. The program calls each volunteer once a month to discuss any issues.

The program would like to expand on its success by beginning to talk to high school and college students who may be looking for volunteer opportunities.

For more information on the program, call JERI at 621-5374.

## OLMERT: 'I will do what's best for Israel,' Israeli Prime Minister vows

From Page 1

Although the report won't call directly for Olmert to resign, it is expected to contain a damning indictment of his wartime decision-making.

The reserve soldiers and bereaved parents leading the public campaign against him are particularly incensed at Olmert's decision to launch a large-scale ground operation when the war was virtually over and a cease-fire was scheduled to come into effect.

They say soldiers died in an operation Olmert knew would have little effect on the war's final outcome and which he launched only to improve

his image. Israel suffered its worse single-day casualty figure during that period, with 24 soldiers killed, including the son of Israeli novelist David Grossman.

Olmert has said he has no intention of resigning no matter what the report says. To do so, he argues, would be tantamount to desertion.

The prime minister, who leads the centrist Kadima party, survived the Winograd Commission's strongly critical interim report last April that most pundits and many politicians thought would bring him down.

This time, however, the domestic political situation is different.

Labor leader Ehud Barak is under strong public pressure to honor a promise made last May

Kadima leader taking over as prime minister or Olmert forming a new government without Labor.

Barak may want to keep his post as defense minister to complete the rehabilitation of the Israel Defense Forces and to influence the Annapolis peace process with the Palestinians. But if the report is as scathing as most analysts expect, he will find it difficult not to make

Olmert's ouster a condition for Labor remaining in a Kadima-led coalition.

For now, Barak is keeping close to the vest.

**"As the pressure mounts, pundits are asking whether Olmert, the Houdini of Israeli politics, can escape again."**

to quit the Kadima-led government if Olmert refuses to resign after the final Winograd report is published. Labor's leaving or threatening to leave could prompt new elections, a new



JTA photo  
Prime Minister Olmert, left, shakes hands with opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I will read the report and do what's best for Israel," he declared enigmatically during a recent meeting of the Labor Party's Knesset faction.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

## A dream deferred

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

**T**HIRTY-EIGHT years ago, I started the Urban Mitzvah Corps in New Brunswick, N.J., with the goal of creating an opportunity for young Jewish teenagers to live and work together in *havurah* style within an urban setting, and to engage with the inner-city community.

The idea for Mitzvah Corps had come in part from my work as a volunteer at the Jacob Fuld House in the Central Ward of Newark, once a community center for Jewish immigrants, and then a refuge within an inner-city neighborhood that had been scarred by the 1967 riots. As a high-school junior, I helped an African-American woman, in her mid-thirties, with an 18-year-old son, with her math, so she could pass her high school equivalency test.

Although the "tutoring" program had started as an outreach effort through my youth group, it had been quickly scuttled by the higher-ups at the temple, who were frightened by the idea of their kids going into what they saw as deepest, darkest Newark, traveling down boulevards of burnt-out buildings. I chose to continue.

A Mitzvah Corps? In Newark? Forget-about-it! That was the reaction of most elders in the Jewish community, who were not thrilled about any kind of program that might involve Newark; a city they had spent most of their lives trying to escape from, in order to move to the suburbs. After a bitter argument, it was decided that New Brunswick was a more acceptable location; few adults believed that the program would ever get off the ground. Yet, somehow, I, along with a few dedicated high school seniors, managed to put the program together, raising more than \$10,000, hiring husband-and-wife rabbinical students to oversee the program, and getting Jewish teenagers to attend.

Most surprising, however, is that the program has endured. Mitzvah Corps will begin its 38th year, lasting longer than many marriages. One of my colleagues attended Mitzvah in 1993. Today, there are even adult Mitzvah Corps, I am told.

As the Rev. Martin Luther King's birthday approaches, 40 years after the civil rights leader was gunned down in Memphis, I am disheartened to see how little interaction there appears to be today between the Jewish community and the inner-city communities of Providence. I wonder: What about a Mitzvah Corps in Providence?

Is there a spark in the community to make it happen? A rabbi willing to challenge the young people in his or her congregation? There are plenty of community agencies to partner with.

All change, Dr. King said, begins on the inside. People have to be willing to change themselves before they can change the world. A Mitzvah Corps here would be a good starting point.

## A MAJORITY OF ONE Birthday kvetch and other seasonal gripes

**J**anuary 2 is the very worst day on which to have a birthday. Trust me. I have lived with that unfortunate birth date for 81 years. By the time my birthday comes around, the year is all of two days old and everyone still has hangovers from New Year's Eve, empty wallets from



Yehuda  
Lev

Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa or Id al-fitr, and is in too grumpy a mood to tolerate prolonging the festivities. In brief, if you are a believer in reincarnation, be sure to choose your return date carefully and avoid January 2 like the plague. Now that we have started on this kvetch-a-thon, have you noticed the paucity of attention being paid to our state's meager four electoral votes in the three-ring circus that passes for a national election campaign? Well, I have a suggestion that might cure that quadrennial ignoring of our existence. How about we schedule our primary after the elections, say in April or May 2009? Then when the electors meet to cast their official votes for president, they will notice that four of their numbers are missing. You should never elect a president unless the electors are all present. We'll offer to compromise and finally, after much negotiation, we'll agree on a date satisfactory to all but they will have to promise to campaign hard and spend as many millions of dollars in Rhode Island as they did in Iowa and New Hampshire.

And what is it with these polls? Has anyone called you lately to ask your opin-

ions on the issues of the day? Are you ever among the 500 randomly selected voters whose collective opinions affect the fate of national campaigns? I recall 1948 when, as a volunteer from New York serving on Israel's Negev front, I assured my fellow soldiers that Dewey was a shoo-in for the presidency and my credibility as a political prognosticator was shattered forever. Maybe that's why I am never included in the 500 who determine the future of millions.

**"I recall 1948 when, as a volunteer from New York serving on Israel's Negev front, I assured my fellow soldiers that Dewey was a shoo-in for the presidency."**

Here's another kvetch. The tribulations of Ms. Britney Spears must have come as a great relief to TV viewers and TV newsrooms alike. Working for many years in the newsroom of Israel's State Radio in Jerusalem taught me that two news stories inevitably crossed my desk in summertime. One was the annual statement of the British Flat Earth Society (yes, it does exist) denouncing those benighted space cadets who keep insisting that the earth revolves around the sun when anyone with an ounce of common sense can see every day that the sun revolves around us. And the Scottish Tourist Office announced annually a sighting of the Loch Ness

Monster when the tourist season slackened off. Now along comes Britney, just when we are all bored to tears with electioneering slogans, to take our minds off such nonsense and bring us back to reality programming. And the kvetch? Can't we live without a regular dose of misbehaving "celebrities" to pique our interest?

To close, a really angry kvetch involving one of those busloads of grade-school students who were trapped in their school buses for hours on the night of last month's snowstorm. You'll recall that, for a number of reasons, it was difficult to evacuate them even when the authorities finally realized what was happening. The driver of one of the buses tried to get the children to a warm place, especially one with bathrooms. The first door on which he knocked, a store as I recall, refused them entry and only when he asked at a Coca-Cola plant were they provided with warmth, food and the use of the facilities. These, mind you, were grade-school children. That

was bad enough but what caused the gorge to rise is that in no account that I read of the incident was the name of the offending store published. Was this a newspaper advertising decision? Was someone on the editorial desk afraid of the store's attorneys? Or, quite possibly, did your moralizing observer simply miss the name? If the last of these is correct, I will surely hear about it by our next issue. If not, someone should be placed in the stocks in the public square.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Regarding Stein's "Nightmare Scenarios"

I like to think of myself as not only a "Conservative Jew," but also a "conservative Jew." So, I've got to say something about Josh Stein's latest column. He says a "conservative" thinks society is as it should be while "liberals" think things could be better. That is wrong on so many levels.

Basically, a "conservative" believes a person knows what's best for himself, and a "liberal" thinks he knows what's best for society. Regarding his nightmare about Klinghoffer's book "How Would God Vote?": Without reading it, I'm assuming it's more catchy title than prediction. I'm hoping it explains how God would be considered more conservative than liberal. In Stein's examples from the *Tanakh*, he points to charity issues. Maimonides delineated eight levels of charity, the lowest of which is "One who gives unwill-

ingly." If that's as low as charity gets, then what is it when government takes money from you and gives it to somebody you wouldn't? Conservatives believe in charity; they just believe that it should come from the heart, not under threat of arrest.

Stein also indicates that too few think their children will be better off than themselves. Define "better off"! My children are young, but they have better technology, medicine, and educational opportunities, than I ever did. Limitations come from a liberal-controlled government taking more and more out of our wallets to make sure that everyone has the same thing. "From each, according to their ability; to each, according to their need." Sound familiar?

Michael Frank  
Warwick

### Writers with rose-colored glasses

The Dec. 14th issue of the JV&H was very interesting. Between Richard Asinof's "The Last Words" about Jeffrey Goldberg, Alan Zuckerman's "President Bush and Israel" and the advertising department's fine job in soliciting an advertisement from Brit Tzedek v Shalom, we see that rose-colored glasses are still in style today.

I would be ashamed to lend my name to that organization. Israel's "Palestinian" problem has less to do with land and more to do with anti-Semitism. The Arabs do not hate Israelis, they hate Jews.

I would suggest that Mr. Asinof read "Why The Jews?" by Dennis Prager & Joseph Telushkin and pay close attention to the section "Islamic anti-Semitism." Muslims are more concerned about eradicating the State of Israel than borders.

Their hatred is not limited to Jews, it is to Christians as well.

And finally I suggest that everyone read Dore Gold's recent book "The Fight for Jerusalem."

Clifford Lander  
Warwick

### Submission Guidelines

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

THE OLD OLIVETTI

# Catch-22 for Sudanese refugees in Israel

**I**MMIGRATION occupies the attention of candidates because it occupies the attention of voters. Democrats and Republicans agree that America is fast approaching, or has already passed, its saturation point. There is antipathy to illegal immigrants and resentment against the infusion of Spanish language options at ATMs and on the telephone. But two diametrically opposed sub-cultures welcome the immigrants—exploitive capitalists to whom the availability of cheap labor is very seductive, and those imbued with the spirit of Emma Lazarus' sonnet, "The New Colossus" which graces the Statue of Liberty, each glorifying the other. So, we are a conflicted nation.

Israel is as well. I offer as example Sudanese victims fleeing political violence. Some arrived in Egypt, only to find themselves subject to beatings by Muslim thugs, the same element which,

in the Sudan, had driven them from their homes in the first place. Faced again with poverty and brutal treatment, many walked across the desert to the border of the Jewish State, where they were arrested and put in the Ketziot Prison in southern Israel (the men separated from their wives and children) housed with Palestinian terrorists and common criminals. Their only crime was the attempt to cross Israel's border without proper papers or authorization. Are they refugees? Well, not by the usual definition of the word. In Egypt, maybe, but once they left Egypt they became an indefinable something else. But what is not disputable is their condition—hungry, tired, poor, homeless, often sick, and subject to a repatriation, the consequences of which not even Dante could adequately describe.

But all is not completely bleak. Israeli authorities are willing to release the Sudanese families if they have a home to go to in Israel. Enter my wife's cousin Glenn. First he formed a small

network of Israelis who have been working full-time to care for this population. Out of his own pocket he provided funds for three months' rent for a two-bedroom apartment in south Tel Aviv (plus one month's security deposit and one month's rental fee for the agent) which is now home to 11 Sudanese. Every drop in the bucket is still only a drop

considering plans to allow 498 of the Sudanese to stay in Israel but may transfer the others to Egypt (this despite probable deportation back to Sudan—if they avoid being killed in Egypt). The "Hotline for Migrant Workers" (the main organization coordinating what relief efforts there are) is planning to challenge this in the Supreme Court if and when the government tries to implement the scheme.

To make their lives even more difficult, the Sudanese are caught in a bureaucratic snafu. They were originally arrested under the "Israeli Infiltration" law which is administered by the Defense Ministry. But the Supreme Court ruled that they should have been arrested under the "Entry into Israel" law which is administered by the Justice Ministry. So, all of these cases now need to be reviewed and moved from the one Ministry to the other. In the meantime Defense says it cannot release the families because they are no longer under its jurisdiction and Justice says it cannot do anything until the cases are assigned to it.

*Gevalt!*  
The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, D.C. (RAC) has been accepting tax-deductible donations for the housing effort. The RAC will turn over the funds it receives to the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center in Jerusalem (IRAC) which will use the funds to pay for apartments.

Our cousin reminds that "I learned long ago, while working at the RAC and trying to help El Salvadoran refugees in the United States, that in the Torah the commandment to 'protect the stranger' is repeated more often (32 times, I believe) than any other commandment. It's not because it's the most important commandment, but because it's the easiest to forget." Strangers at the gates seeking asylum. In Israel and in America, two lands of refuge. The movement of populations seeking better lives is inexorable; the strangers will change the character of the places they seek to enter. The unanswered question is—if so, for worse, or for better?

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



Josh Stein

**"Still, of the 1,900 Sudanese in Israel, 600 are in jail, and 96 of them children."**

in the bucket, but it's a beginning. He was told that all of the Sudanese in Israel have blanket permission to work while they are there, so they can become completely self-sufficient during the three months. Others have followed his example.

Still, of the 1,900 Sudanese in Israel, 600 are in jail, and 96 of them children.

The Israeli government is con-

NOW BATTING

# Men's prayer groups and learning Torah

**T**wo articles in the previous issue of *The Voice & Herald* grabbed my attention. The first described a men's prayer service at the recent convention of the Union for Reform Judaism. My colleague Yehuda Lev's attack on outreach efforts by representatives of *Yeshiva Aish Hatorah* was the second. Both



Alan Zuckerman

Reform services. Not only do many more women than men attend the services, but as young rabbis replace older ones, more women than men will lead the services. In response, the movement is seeking to reach out to men, by offering them a separate service. I don't know if this is a marketing device; if too few men are attending mixed services, let them have their own, and so more Reform Jews will attend services. Perhaps these services are meant to respond to the

fundamental principle, which recognizes the need for women and men to remain apart when they pray.

No matter the good intentions, the effort will fail. Why? Marketing devices are ploys; they deal with style, not substance. More important, this effort contains a fatal flaw. Designed to get men "into the room," separate services for men among Reform Jews draws attention to the gender imbalance among people who pride themselves on gender equality. It also highlights the second-class status of the men's service — after all the main service starring women is in the sanctuary, not in a small out-of-the-way room.

As a result, it establishes gender separation among the members of a movement that denies that principle. Forced to choose between "reaching out" to men and maintaining gender equality, the Reform leadership will prefer the latter. As a result, the spiral of men feeling left out

at these services will continue. Indeed, it will get worse, when the young female rabbis replace older male rabbis as leaders of Reform services.

Religious services succeed, when the persons present are active participants, not passive observers. People need to know what they are doing when they are in a *shul*, and this brings me

version of Judaism. Here, too, marketing is not sufficient. But all Orthodox outreach groups are not the same. Chabad-Lubavitch, as a matter of principle, treats all Jews respectfully, no matter their levels of observance. The National Jewish Outreach Program, led by Rabbi Efraim Buchwald, is another success for Orthodox outreach. For more than 20 years, this group has taught Jews the skills that they need to participate in prayer services; they do it right.

And that takes us to the heart of the matter: it takes knowledge to be a good Jew, and there is a lot to learn. The first step in acquiring the skills that allow a person to take part in a religious service is to take an active part in the service — you need to do it. Sitting in the audience does not work. I commend the 40 men who attended the Reform service, and I encourage them to do it again and again, not once at a biennial convention, but regularly.

And, if they feel unwelcome at their Reform temples, they should know that they will be greeted with open arms at Orthodox *shuls*. Not only will they find lots of men, but, as is well known, men run the service. I know that this invitation applies to my *shul*, Congregation Beth Shalom, on Camp St. and Rochambeau Ave. Guys, email me, and I will tell you more about our services.

The more that Jews attend services, however, the more that they realize that doing by itself is insufficient. Serious Jews do not just do, they also know. In order to know, they must learn. The most disappointing characteristic of American Jews is the enormous gap between their command of the general culture and their ignorance of Judaism.

And so I offer another invitation: come to the day of learning that will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom, on Jan. 20. You will be exposed to Jewish knowledge at the highest level; you will be challenged and not patronized, and you will glimpse the intellectual depth of Torah. And bring your friends and wives too. E-mail me for the details.

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

**"Come to the day of learning that will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom on Jan. 20. You will be exposed to Jewish knowledge at the highest level."**

to Yehuda Lev's attack on *Aish Hatorah*.

Let me begin by stating that, like Yehuda, I am not a fan of this form of Orthodox outreach. He doesn't like what they teach. I'm dismayed by their patronizing air. Assuming that their interlocutors know nothing, representatives of this movement do little more than market their

# Bhutto assassination sets off Israeli alarms

*Slain leader had asked the Mossad for protection, according to reports*

BY RON KAMPEAS  
JTA staff writer

WASHINGTON – For Israelis, the assassin that killed Benazir Bhutto removed another barrier shielding the Jewish state from the Islamic bomb.

Israel's media and leadership portrayed the sniper-suicide bombing attack that ended the onetime Pakistani prime minister's life as a blow to hopes for a bridge to the Islamic world. They also suggested it raised the risk of Pakistan's nuclear bomb falling into militant Islamist hands.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert called Bhutto's death a "great tragedy," according to *The Jerusalem Post*. "I saw her as someone who could have served as a bridgehead to relations with that part of the Muslim world with whom our ties are naturally limited," the newspaper quoted Olmert as saying.

Tzipi Livni, the Israeli foreign minister, issued condolences to the Pakistani people.

Bhutto "demonstrated brave leadership for her people," Livni said in a statement. "Israel expresses the hope that Pakistan will continue along the path of reconciliation, moderation and democracy."

The chaos precipitated by the killing poses dangers beyond Pakistan's immediate neighborhood, said Jack Rosen, a past president of the American Jewish Congress, noting that Pakistan is one of a handful of declared nuclear powers and the only Muslim country with the bomb. Rosen, who was the first Jewish leader to host a Pakistani leader when the AJCongress held a dinner for President Pervez Musharraf two years ago, said he was trying to reach the leadership in Pakistan for an assessment.

"If the government fell into extremist hands, the bomb also falls into the hands of extremists," Rosen told JTA. "You don't need to worry about a nuclear Iran; you have a nuclear Pakistan in the hands of extremists."

Israel radio led its hourly news Friday evening quoting the Pentagon as saying that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal was "under control."

Prior to her return from exile in October, Bhutto, 54, had been reaching out to Israel as part of a broader strategy of garnering Western support for her confrontation with the military regime led by Musharraf.

According to a report in Israel's daily *Ma'ariv*, Bhutto reached out to the Mossad, among other security agencies, for protection.

Bhutto sensed that Musharraf was not fully committed to protecting her, the *Ma'ariv* report said. Among the routine protective requests Musharraf's government denied, the report said, were darkened windows on all the cars of her convoy and explosive detection devices.

Israeli authorities favored helping her, said *Ma'ariv*, which reported that she also had turned to Scotland Yard and the CIA for assistance. Hesitant to offend Musharraf, Israel's government had yet to make a decision, the report said.

Rosen said Musharraf still represented Israel's best hope for reconciliation, noting other signs of warming since the 2005

AJCongress dinner.

"Musharraf has done a number of things," said Rosen, who now chairs the AJCongress' Council for World Jewry. "He had his foreign minister publicly meet the Israeli foreign minister. He accepted aid from Israel for the earthquake victims."

For Jews and Pakistanis in America, the assassination presents an opportunity for dialogue, said Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

Coincidentally, Schneier said, a meeting between American Jewish communal leaders and Pakistani officials had been set just prior to the assassination. Now, he added, the meeting, to take place next month, was more imperative than ever.

## ANALYSIS

"She wrote me of how she admired Israel and of her desire to see a normalization in the relations between Israel and Pakistan, including the establishment of diplomatic ties," Dan Gillerman, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, told *Ynet*, an online Israeli news site affiliated with Israel's daily *Yediot Acharonot*.

## Talking about God with our children

*What do you say when your son asks: Where is God, anyway?*

BY JOHN J. CLAYTON  
jclayton@english.umass.edu

HOW do we speak about God with older children? For me, for most of the assimilated Jews I know, American Jews returning to Judaism, the problem is particularly difficult. Many of us feel insecure talking about God. We came to Judaism and to God as adults, and to try now to talk about God with our children may make us uncomfortable.

I'm telling about a time a few years ago, when my son was preparing for his *Bar Mitzvah*. A bright afternoon but filled with heavy clouds. Tired of practicing his *Haf-tarah* passage, he leaves the kitchen table and comes over to me at my laptop. "Dad?" he asks, "Where is God, anyway? Sometimes, I don't know about God," he says. "I don't know what I'm really talking about."

So we wrestle with "God." I almost said, "wrestle with the concept of God." But who cares about the concept? What matters is God in the heart, God in our lives.

I laugh when my son brings up this huge question, because

until only 15 years before, I'd thought the whole idea of God was a con whose function was to manufacture meaning and assuage pain. But now, at times, I've felt God's presence or felt the presence of something I think of as God or felt the workings of God in my



PROGRESS IN AMERICA

"Right. It's like everybody's saying 'Yea, God,' and I just sit there."

"All I can tell you is that I used to feel the same way. But then something happened. I felt a presence, I felt held in a presence. Do you think this is hokey?"

"No. But that's you."

"Well, I used to feel the same way. And sometimes still I wrap myself in my *tallis* and put on my *tefillin* and they're just a shawl and little boxes with holy words in

them. But sometimes I feel in God's presence. And right now, talking with you, I feel it, too.

It says in *Talmud*, "Where two Jews are talking Torah together, God is present. So," I say, looking over my glasses, "that's us. Here. Now. Two Jews. We're talking Torah. And *mazeltov!*

We're not just two. We're in the Presence. But it's subtle. Breathe, be quiet with me, see what you feel."

He breathes. He closes his eyes and breathes. Opening his eyes, he says, "I don't think I feel anything."

"I love it that you're honest with me. Look. You've got to live with it awhile. God starts to coat things, fill things, connect things. You breathe and there's God. You eat, and God is present. You laugh with your friends and God's there. You chant, and God

**FATHER: "God's not a noun, a thing. Of course, we can't see gravity either. We just feel its power."**

**SON: "Oh, Dad. That's different. God's not like gravity."**

life. So it's different.

"Can't see God, right?" I ask. "Right."

"Well, God's not a noun, a thing. Of course, we can't see gravity either. We just feel its power."

"Oh, Dad. That's different. God's not like gravity. I drop a ball and I know there's gravity."

"Of course it's different. But gravity is the description of an event. It describes conditions. You're right – it's easier to show gravity at work. And so tell me – in the prayer book, when we say 'Baruch atah Adonoi' – 'Blessed are you, O Lord,' do you feel like it doesn't mean anything?"



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**WASHINGTON 15:** Three days of Jewish advocacy, networking and community in Washington, D.C.

From Page 1

local coordinating organization for Washington 15, and it is also providing financial support.

For Michael Oelbaum, who works for Bank of America in the private wealth management division in Boston, Washington 15 will serve as "a great start to pull together a new young adult division at the local level. It's going to be a lot of fun."

He and his wife, Jennifer, who have been very involved with JFRI for a number of years, serving currently on the Fund Distribution Committee, are working in coordination with Amy Rovin, the director of outreach and leadership development for the Federation.

If the introductory meeting for Washington 15 was any indication, there is a strong swell of interest by young Jewish professionals to become involved. About 15 persons crowded around the table on Monday evening, Jan. 7, to discuss plans for the conference. From rabbis to young writers, from mothers to educators, from bankers to fathers, the mix of young adults reflected the diverse demographics expected at the conference.

"The demographics at Washington 15 will be diverse," Rovin told the group. "There will be singles, people who are married, people who are married without children, people who are married with children." The one common



Photo by Samuel K. Asinof

**AN ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP** attended the first informational meeting about Washington 15. Registration for the event will continue through February. For more information, contact Amy Rovin at [arovin@jfri.org](mailto:arovin@jfri.org), or call 421-4111, ext. 169.

denominator is that everyone wants to become more Jewishly involved, and to explore how to become leaders in the Jewish community within their own age group.

In an interview, Rovin talked about the how important the conference was, not just for what participants will experience, but

**"The demographics at Washington 15 will be diverse. There will be singles, people who are married, people who are married without children, people who are married with children."**

Amy Rovin

for what happens afterwards.

"At the conference, you are surrounded by Jewish people in your peer group, and there is an

amazing sense of energy," she said. "My hope is that participants will carry that energy back with them to Rhode Island, and participate in our community's Jewish life in a meaningful way."

Rovin is excited by the plans to build a new young adult division within JFRI, focused on social and political activism and com-

munity networking. "There are many young Jewish adults who want to get involved, but haven't quite known how to do it."

She cited a group of families from East Greenwich, where they informally meet together for "play dates," story hours and "Mom's night out," as an example of how there are new ways emerging for Jewish people to participate in non-traditional ways.

For participants attending Washington 15, Rovin continued, "it will be an opportunity to learn leadership, to network with thousands of young adults such as themselves."

According to Rovin, the cost of Washington 15 is \$595, plus hotel and travel. Rovin said that there are financial aid subsidies – "scholarships" – available to help participants attend.

One thing that will not be available at the conference this year will be child care – something of great interest to Rovin, a new parent. "Child care is always a big challenge for many young adults; hopefully, UJC will working on this in the future to make it easier for parents with children to attend."

For more information, contact Amy Rovin at (401) 421-4111, ext. 169, or e-mail her at [arovin@jfri.org](mailto:arovin@jfri.org). More information on the conference is available at [www.washington15.org](http://www.washington15.org), or visit the Washington 15 Facebook page.

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**ENGLISH:** Students learn by singing Irving Berlin: *'for the hardest blow of all, is to hear the bew-glur call'*

From Page 1

On this particular morning, she is continuing an exercise from the previous week on the different verbs an English speaker could use to indicate getting out of bed, as in, "I've got to get up, I have to get up, and I must get up in the morning."

Betsy Dietrich, a former ESL teacher in the public schools and an occasional volunteer in the course, said repetition contained in song is a useful tool to encourage fluidity and learn "Americanisms," they hear in the street.

One workbook they use is "Jazz Chants" by Carolyn Graham. The idea is to use song as a tool to develop the student's appreciation of the rhythm and intonation patterns of spoken American English.

The class is comprised of "very intelligent women," Dietrich said, "who want to become proficient speakers as well as learn English grammar." She said verb tenses are among the most difficult challenges for a Russian speaker to learn.

Back to the lesson of the morning. Students quickly grasped the meaning of: "Oh! How I hate to get up in the morning, Oh! How I'd love to remain in bed," but then things began to get tricky.

For the hardest blow of all, is to hear the bugler call – it was the "u" in bugler that showed how the long, rather than the short "u," can stump the non-native speaker.



Photo by Mary Korr

**ELLY LEWIS, right, teaches the English-as-a-second-language class to Russian students at the JCC.**

Thus, the class sang in unison, "For the hardest blow of all, is to hear the boogler call."

Lewis paused and stretched out the word: "Bew-glur. Bew-glur."

"What is a boogler?" a student asked.

"A bew-glur plays the bew-gul, which is like a trumpet, except the bew-glur just uses his lips to make the pitch," Lewis said as she mimed a trumpeter.

With that straight, it was time for more mayhem: "Some day I'm going to murder the bugler, Some day they're going to find him dead; I'll amputate his reveille, and step upon it heavily, And spend the rest of my life in bed."

Lewis demonstrated a Lizzie Borden-style execution, but let the class slide on the word *reveille*.

"It's a French word," she said.

It is an educated gathering, with professionals, engineers and musicians among the students in the class. Most have their pocket dictionaries from Russia with them. Inside the first page of Tamara Boukhanova's was written the telephone number of two social service agencies in Brooklyn, where she first lived, and underneath them three words: "Grilled pastrami sandwich."

"Those were the first words I learned in Brighton Beach," she explained. She arrived in Brooklyn in 1993. "I lived on 24th and Mermaid and ate grilled pastrami sandwiches."

The class, which meets Monday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Jewish Community

Center, has homework to do.

Faina Ibitskaia arrived in Rhode Island four years ago; she came to escape the anti-Semitism and what she termed the "fascism" of the Russian government. During class, she gave a report on her recent vacation with her husband. She begins to describe a lake in North Port, Florida.

"I remember in Russia some water like this place, near the Black Sea. But the concentration of hydrogen *soofid* is less than in Russia..."

*Soofid*? The pesky "u" had reared up again! *Sul-fide*, Lewis wrote on the blackboard. *Sul-fide*.

"H<sub>2</sub>S," Ibitskaia offered. She told the class the temperature of the lake was 90 degrees, which some students advised was too hot.

Ibitskaia replied that many people go there for an "illness of the bones."

Lewis supplied a new word to their vocabulary: arthritis.

The class weighed in on the merits of taking a dunk in this hot lake that clearly was not as transparent as those in Russia. One student said: "My opinion

is, this is very dangerous. You need the advice of a doctor. If you have cardio problems or other illnesses it is a very hot temperature."

Just then, Elly Leyman, who coordinates the JCC program, came into the classroom.



**TAMARA BOUKHANOVA'S POCKET RUSSIAN DICTIONARY had phone numbers of two social service agencies, and underneath them three words: "Grilled pastrami sandwich."**

Lewis announced, "Here's Elly Leyman, she wants the floor."

Quizzical looks. "She wants to speak," Lewis said. "She wants the floor means she wants to speak."

She reminded the class of other idioms she has taught them,

such as: "Let's get down to business. Mind your own business. I mean business."

Leyman was there on Hanukkah business; she held up colorful Hanukkah cards made for the class by students at the Jewish Community Day School. The women opened them and smiled at the drawings inside.

Lewis decided it was time to hand out the gifts she had brought. Inside the wrapped boxes were chocolate truffles. No translation needed.

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## BUSH: Visit includes stops in Ramallah, Saudi Arabia and Egypt

From Page 1

Jerusalem's municipality planned to shut down the Old City's familiar strobes on Thursday, Jan. 10, at dawn to give the president an unfettered look at the sun rising over its walls, spires and cupolas. The request came from the White House, Jerusalem officials said.

Bush landed at Ben Gurion Airport outside Tel Aviv shortly before noon Wednesday, Jan. 9, kicking off his first visit as president to Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The visit is the first leg of an eight-day tour to the Middle East that includes stops in the Persian Gulf states, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"The United States and Israel are strong allies," Bush said after a red-carpet reception at the airport by Israeli political and religious leaders, and by an honor guard.

"The source of that strength is a shared belief in the power of human freedom. Our people built two great democracies under difficult circumstances."

"The alliance between our two nations helps guarantee Israel's security as a Jewish state," he said.

Bush is meeting Israeli Prime Minister Olmert at the King David Hotel on Wednesday night, and again after he visits Ramallah to meet with P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas.

Bush's first stop was the resi-

**"The United States and Israel are strong allies. Our people built two great democracies under difficult circumstances."**

**President Bush**

dence of Israeli President Shimon Peres, where he was serenaded by a group of Jerusalem schoolchildren singing a medley of Israeli songs and "Over the Rainbow" in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

The U.S. leader initially tried to contain his laughter before giving up and embracing the children afterward.

In short remarks delivered while seated alongside Peres, Bush emphasized the overall tenor of the visit, confronting those who would obstruct peace.

"It's vital for the world to fight terrorists," he said. "I come as an optimistic person and a realistic person - realistic in my understanding that it's vital for the world to fight terrorists to confront those who would murder the innocent to achieve political objectives."

## IRISH: At home on ice in Dundalk

From Page 1

flew over to the Emerald Isle, tried out and was picked up.

"I came home for two weeks in shock. I was going to be playing left wing for the Irish national hockey league," Hogberg said during an interview on a recent visit home. "I had just graduated from URI in business management." He thought he would take a year off before applying to business or law school.

"What did your parents think?"

"My father, Jon Hogberg, was all for it. He played ice hockey for Providence College. He would have played professional hockey after college, if not for his injuries."

Hogberg first took to the ice on the Cranston youth team, the Edgewood Hawks. In high school, he played for LaSalle. "We reached the state championships four times and lost four times to Mt. St. Charles," he recalls. In college, he played for URI.

So far it's been a great year for the Bulls. They're first in the Irish Ice Hockey Association League, which also includes the Dublin Rams, the Flyers, the Latvian Hawks and the Belfast City Bruins. The season is from



Photos courtesy of Dundalk Bulls

ERIC HOGBERG, at left, No. 16, skates against Dublin Rams.

September to April.

Hogberg says the Latvian Hawks are formidable opponents. "There's a large Latvian community in Ireland they draw from. They grew up on the ice in Latvia."

Home ice is the year-old Dundalk Ice Dome, an Olympic-sized rink. Last April, the Division III Ice Hockey World Championship was held there. Team Ireland took the silver medal and jumped to the Division II level - the first time Ireland has advanced to a higher level of international hockey competition.

Hogberg lives in Dundalk, one hour north of Dublin, in a condo with another Rhode Islander, former URI left-winger, Bill McKiernan.

What does Hogberg like

about living in Ireland?

"I get paid in Euros. I get to travel through Europe."

"What do you do for fun?"

"There is no shortage of pubs in Ireland."

"How many members of the Dundalk Bulls are Irish?"

"One. The rest of the team, 23 members, come from 10 states in the U.S., Canada, and Europe," he said.

When he is not practicing or on the road, he also coaches the under-16 and under-10 youth leagues.

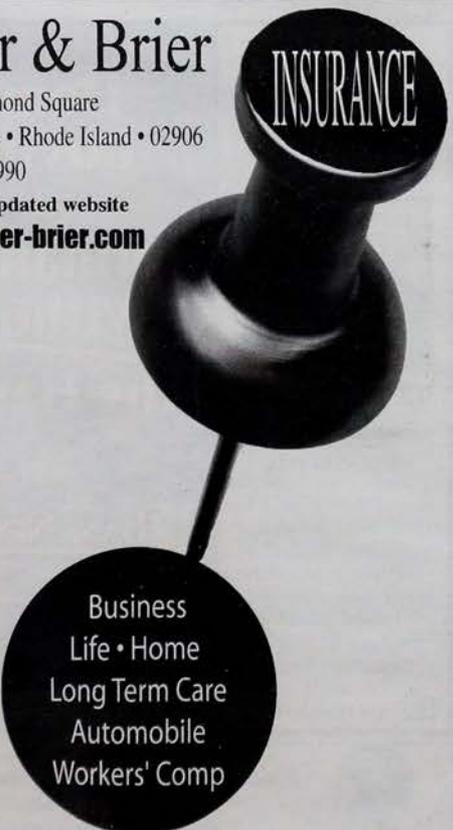
He's not sure what the future holds, but he's thrilled to be on the winning team and hopes they'll go all the way.

More information on the team and their standings can be found at [www.dundalkbulls.com](http://www.dundalkbulls.com).

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## Rhode Islanders to celebrate Israel@60

JFRI STAFF

**R**HODE ISLANDERS will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel's founding this year with a series of synagogue-based and organizational events, culminating with a June 1 festival at Roger Williams Park sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI).

The Israel at 60 in Rhode Island festival will feature music, dancing, entertainment, crafts, vendors, speakers and, of course, food, according to coordinator Marty Cooper, director of the JFRI's Community Relations Council.

"It will be a great day, and a great chance for Rhode Islanders to celebrate Israel," Cooper said.

The day will begin with a scenic hike called "Walk the Land," which will start at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, adjacent to the Roger Williams Park entrance.

Participants will walk together from Torat Yisrael into the park, showing their solidarity and support for the State of Israel. Along the route will be stations representing locations in Israel. They will arrive at the park's Temple of Music, where the festivities will be based.

Walk the Land is an internationally-coordinated effort, and participants will receive a t-shirt and water bottle.

Internationally, the commemoration of Israel's anniversary is known as "Israel@60," utilizing the "@" symbol to highlight Israel's contributions to the technology industries.

Prior to the June 1 Federation event, several synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout Rhode Island will sponsor speakers and other events to commemorate Israel@60.

All Israel@60 in Rhode Island events will be featured in a special Israel@60 calendar within the Jewish Community Calendar in *The Voice & Herald*, starting with the Jan. 25 issue.

Organizations that would like to list events in the Israel@60 calendar may e-mail them to [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org).



## CRC: Focal point for community advocacy

VOICE & HERALD STAFF

**PROVIDENCE** — The Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is the focal point of interfaith relations, social action and advocacy for the Rhode Island Jewish community.

Through its government affairs arm, the CRC provides a means to discuss issues and advocate with our political

leaders at the local, state and national levels.

The CRC also takes the lead in security matters, advising Jewish facilities on issues such as building security, and also investigating reports of anti-Jewish activity.

The CRC recently investigated the appearance of fliers along Hope Street on the Providence East Side, and is currently looking into incidents of vandalism and harassment. In both

instances, the CRC notified the proper authorities and is following up with the individuals who reported the incidents.

Anti-Semitism and harassment are serious issues. Community members who learn of incidents of anti-Semitism or harassment may report them to the CRC by calling JFRI at (401) 421-4111 ext. 171, or sending an e-mail to [mcooper@jfri.org](mailto:mcooper@jfri.org).

## Knitting together our community

**W**OMEN'S ALLIANCE community service group knits hats and scarves for local families and agencies. The community service group is chaired by Susan Gertsacov. The next session will be Monday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to noon in the JFRI board room.



BARBARA FELDSTEIN, right, instructs volunteer knitters at Women's Alliance gathering on Jan. 7. From left: Ada Winsten, Margaret Lederer, and Mitzi Berkelhammer.



KNIT TWO, PURL ONE: Sheila Indindoli, Barbara Sheer and Marilyn Myrow join in the knitting circle at the Women's Alliance gathering.



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# Jewish News Briefs

COMPILED BY YEHUDA LEV  
yehudal@cox.net

## Holocaust survivor Lantos leaving Congress

**SAN FRANCISCO:** U. S. representative Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor in Congress, will not run for a 15th term in the legislature because he is battling cancer of the esophagus. Lantos, who escaped from a Nazi slave-labor camp in Hungary, is known for his interest in civil rights issues and legislation involving Jews and Israel. Most recently he has been a strong advocate of reaching out to rogue states, even Israel's most dire enemies such as Libya and Iran, and seeking agreement with them on major differences. (JTA)

## Bush: Israel not involved in Iraq

**WASHINGTON:** Israel had no role in bringing about the war in Iraq, according to President Bush in an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Achranot* shortly before he left on his one-week trip to the Middle East. "My decision was based on U. S. intelligence, based on the desire to provide security for our peoples and others." A number of critics of the war have claimed that Israel and the pro-Israel lobby were a driving force leading the Bush administration to invade Iraq in 2003. (JTA/*Yediot Achranot*)

## Gaza fallout

**JERUSALEM:** Israel did not garner the expected international sympathy because of the Gaza withdrawal, according to two social science researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Israel's unilateral 2005 removal of troops and settlers from Gaza and four West Bank settlements had the effect of presenting Israel in a more negative light in the Western media. The researchers trolled through thousands of American and British press reports and government statements. "One of the main reasons for this phenomenon was that Israel continues to be viewed as a conquering state (and) that the demands from Israel for territorial concessions in the territories were not lessened but actually became stronger" said one of the researchers. (JTA)

## Rocket salvo from Lebanon

**JERUSALEM:** A rare rocket salvo from south Lebanon jarred Israel this week although no one was hurt. At least two Katyusha rockets hit the northern Israel border town of Shlomi, raising memories of barrages of Hezbollah rockets during the 2006

war. Israeli security analysts said that Hezbollah was unlikely to have been responsible and that the relatively small Katyushas were likely to have been fired by Palestinian terrorists seeking to disrupt President Bush's Middle East journey this week. (JTA)

## Kosher A-OK

**NEW YORK:** It is time to examine some of the positives for the Jewish world in the year 2007. Kosher, it seems, is the most popular claim found on food products in the United States. Its competitors for the title included "All natural" and "No additives or preservatives". Studies indicate that both Jewish and non-Jewish consumers believe that a product marked "kosher" is healthier and safer than non-kosher products. Muslims on a *halal* diet also eat kosher food, and people on lactose-free and meat-free diets also look for the kosher symbol to be sure that products do not contain foods harmful to them. (JTA)

## Jewish population: 13.2M

**JERUSALEM:** The world's Jewish population in 2007 rose to 13.2 million, an increase of 200,000 more than 2006 according to a study released by a Jerusalem population institute. The number of Jews living outside of Israel dropped by 100,000 while those living in Israel increased by 300,000, making it home to 41 percent of world Jewry. And this year saw the fewest Israeli deaths from Palestinian violence since 2000. A report from B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization, says that 13 Israelis were killed by Palestinians in 2007, down from 23 in 2006. In recent years the numbers have been in three figures. Security experts credit Israeli security measures, as well as exhaustion and infighting among Palestinians for the decrease in numbers. (JTA)

## Moustache champ

**BRIGHTON, ENGLAND:** And finally, a Jewish champion of whom we can all be proud. Alexander Antebi, a Los Angeles musician, was recently named the World Imperial Moustache Champion at the 2007 World Beard and Moustache Championships held in Brighton. Antebi, the first Jew and the first American to achieve immortality in this way, began his climb to the top of the moustache ladder four years ago because "It was something that helped me connect with antiquity." (Forward)

## Temple Sinai of Sharon, Mass.

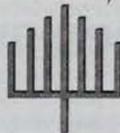
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**ALANA SAYS:** If you want your community event to be well attended, don't forget to send your announcement to The Voice & Herald at [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org).

## Study: Jewish charities missing out on biggest donations

*Only nine percent of gifts larger than \$1 million by Jews go to Jewish agencies*

By JACOB BERKMAN

JTA staff writer

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish organizations are generally failing to attract financial support from America's wealthiest and most philanthropic Jews, according to a report by the Institute for Jewish and Community Research.

The study released Tuesday showed that Jews gave 12 percent of all gifts of \$1 million or more donated to nonprofit organizations between 2001 and 2003, but only 9 percent of these Jewish donations were directed toward Jewish organizations.

Of the \$10 million-plus gifts by Jewish donors, only 5 percent went to Jewish groups — down from 6 percent between 1995 and 2000, the last period studied by the San Francisco-based institute.

Its president, Gary Tobin, said the low rate of "mega-gifts" to Jewish organizations does not

reflect poorly on the generosity of Jewish donors — their general level of giving is on par with their wealthy non-Jewish peers.

Instead, Tobin argued, Jewish organizations are not effectively reaching out to the ultra-wealthy.

"The conclusion I draw is that Jewish organizations are not effectively making their case," Tobin said, "whether that is in terms of not asking for enough or not making compelling arguments or getting access to the donors."

The institute is also looking at the years 2004-07, but the

preliminary data show a similar picture.

That is despite a slew of major gifts to Jewish causes that includes the \$100 million gift to Yeshiva University from fertilizer magnate Ronald Stanton; the \$75 million gift to Hadassah Hospital from Detroit Pistons' owner William Davidson; the \$100 million gift to the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology from aerospace entrepreneur Alfred Mann; and the nearly \$60 million given to birthright israel in the past year by casino mogul Sheldon Adelson.

Jews tend to give their gifts of more than \$10 million to higher education, the arts and health care, according to the study:

- Fifteen gifts totaling \$1.6 billion went to the arts, including a \$1 billion donation from the Annenberg Foundation to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.
- Thirty-two mega-gifts totaling \$1.6 billion went to private higher education.
- Sixteen gifts totaling \$649 million went to public higher education.
- Thirteen gifts totaling \$247 million went to health care.

By comparison, during that time frame, Jewish philanthropists made just 11 gifts of \$10 million or more totaling \$269 million to Jewish causes.

That, Tobin said, is probably a generous estimate, as he and his researchers were lenient in classifying Jewish causes.

For example, they counted the \$25 million that investor Michael Price gave to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in 2002. While Einstein is the medical school of Y.U., aside from serving kosher food and closing on Jewish holidays, it generally resembles a conventional medical school.

Researchers also counted two \$32 million allocations that the Avi Chai Foundation distributed to its Israel offices in 2002 and 2003.

None of the Jewish gifts of more than \$10 million went to local Jewish federations, human service organizations or religious institutions.

Jewish organizations did fare better when it came to gifts between \$1 million and \$9.9 million. About 30 percent of the money from those Jewish gifts went to higher education, but Jewish groups netted about 19 percent, pulling ahead of causes associated with the arts and health.

Jewish federations received 1 percent of those gifts, the largest of which was a \$6 million donation in 2003 to the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

The bottom line, Tobin said, is that Jewish groups have not capitalized on Jewish wealth. Whereas universities, museums and hospitals have dedicated resources to perfecting the art of courting the mega-gift, Jewish groups have failed to do so.

"The federations got some of the \$1 million to \$10 million gifts, but outside of capital campaigns you just don't see" those donations, he said. "It is not about identity; it is about structure and fund-raising techniques."

## Enrich the Lives of Jewish Women and Children



When you become a member of the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund (WAEF), you contribute in perpetuity to the well-being of Jewish women and children. Each year, members have the opportunity to review grant applications and vote on fund distributions. Your name will also be added to the WAEF member plaque, joining scores of women who seek to enrich Jewish lives—here in Rhode Island and overseas—through personal, active philanthropy.

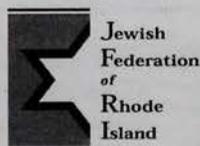
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# Jewish Community Calendar

## SATURDAY January 12

**Patriot's Football at Am David**  
Divisional playoffs in high definition on the big screen. Hot dogs, potato chips, popcorn and more.

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

**Dodgeball League**  
GesheryCity RI is starting a dodgeball league at the JCCRI

**WHERE:** JCCRI  
**WHEN:** Saturday afternoons beginning Jan. 12 for eight weeks  
**MORE INFO:** Cost is \$25 per person; e-mail JBrier@jccri.org

## SUNDAY January 13

**Torat Yisrael Men's Club speaker and breakfast**  
Keith Stokes, executive director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, talks about "350 Years of Faith, Family & Freedom."

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m.  
**COST:** Donations accepted  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP by Jan. 8, 785-1800 or Stephanie@torat-yisrael.org

**Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club Sunday program**  
Jim Gillen and the CODAC Band; musical performance by people who work with others in recovery from alcohol and drug abuse.

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence; in the Bohnen Vestry  
**WHEN:** 2 P.M.  
**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

**Shabbat skills workshop**  
Community educator Annette Lawson will lead workshop.

**WHERE:** Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, MA  
**WHEN:** 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.  
**MORE INFO:** (508) 222-2243

**Sinai Family Shabbat workshop**  
Workshop for third grade students and their families.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 8:45 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

**Sinai Tallit family workshop**  
Workshop for sixth graders and their families.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

**Sinai 7th grade confirmation/museum trip**  
Students visit Temple Emanu-El Jewish Museum to learn about the ritual and cultural objects, their histories and how they came to be in Rhode Island.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

**Am David adult education**  
Second semester resumes, beginners Hebrew and intermediate Hebrew classes.

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick  
**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 463-7944

## MONDAY January 14

**Emanu-El Leisure Club**  
Now Hear This! Talk by Jodi Glass, Doctor of Audiology

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** 10 - 10:50 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

## TUESDAY January 15

**Israeli Reform rabbi to speak at Habonim**  
Rabbi Michael Boyden, spiritual leader of Kehilat Yonatan, a reform congregation in Israel founded in 2001, will speak on "Israel at 60: Fulfilling a Dream."

**WHERE:** Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** Call 245-6536

**Kabbalah of Israel course**  
Six-week course. Discover and uncover where Israel is in the heart of a Jew and where the Jewishness is within the heart of Israel.



Photo by Lise Metzger

**LIZ LERMAN DANCE EXCHANGE** will be performing in Providence for two weeks, from Jan. 20 through Feb. 3. Lerman's work as founding artistic director of the company earned her a 2006 National Foundation for Jewish Culture Achievement Award. She will be giving a closed workshop for JCCS, Moses Brown and Sophia Academy students at the JCC on Fri., Jan. 25. On Mon., Jan. 28, there will be an open event at Brown Hillel exhibit gallery from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Visit [www.brownhillel.org/dance-exchange](http://www.brownhillel.org/dance-exchange) or call 863-6506 for a full schedule of events.

**WHERE:** Choose from one of three locations:  
Tues., 7 p.m. Warwick (Cowesett)  
Wed., 8 a.m. Providence (Downtown)  
Thurs., noon Providence (Downtown)  
**COST:** \$80 (Scholarships available)  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP to Chabad 884-7888

**Temple Sinai Classes (Ongoing)**  
Rabbi Peter Stein will host Tuesday classes through Feb. 26. Sessions focus on Elijah: The Man, The Myth, The Legend.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston.  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

## WEDNESDAY January 16

**Sinai Sisterhood movie night**  
See the film "27 Dresses" at the Showcase Cinemas at the Warwick Mall. Dinner at Panera on Route 2 prior to the film.

**WHERE:** Showcase Cinemas at the Warwick Mall  
**WHEN:** Call for info, 942-8350

## THURSDAY January 17

**Habonim Women's Lunch and Learn**  
Join education director Linda Silverman Levine in a women's Torah study. Bring lunch.

**WHERE:** Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington.  
**WHEN:** 12:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 245-6536

**WHERE:** Choose from one of three locations:  
Tues., 7 p.m. Warwick (Cowesett)  
Wed., 8 a.m. Providence (Downtown)  
Thurs., noon Providence (Downtown)  
**COST:** \$80 (Scholarships available)  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP to Chabad 884-7888

## FRIDAY January 18

**Habonim Sisterhood Shabbat Shira**

The sisterhood has collected prayers and special readings and will lead in song and chant from the Torah.

**WHERE:** Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington.  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 245-6536

**Torat Yisrael Shabbat service and dinner**  
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.  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP by Jan. 14. 785-1800

**Sinai Social Action Shabbat Ensuring the Heat Stays on**  
Talk by Liz Marsis, operations manager at the George Wiley Center, will address heating issues and how to help those less fortunate stay warm this winter.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

**Yad L' Tomchim. Support for Care-takers at Torat Yisrael**

Discussion group providing support for those caring for the sick and elderly. Facilitated by Dr. Judith Lubiner and Rabbi Amy Levin. All are welcome.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston.  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

**Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club: Meet Youth Emissaries from Israel**

Meet emissaries Ana Esilovich and Hadas Naky.

Ethiopian Jews Today: My Recent Trip Talk by Bonnie Steinberg, Temple Emanu-El member and psychologist.

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft

**WHERE:** Choose from one of three locations:  
Tues., 7 p.m. Warwick (Cowesett)  
Wed., 8 a.m. Providence (Downtown)  
Thurs., noon Providence (Downtown)  
**COST:** \$80 (Scholarships available)  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP to Chabad 884-7888

## SUNDAY January 20

**Sinai Dov/Dubah family workshop**  
Workshop for second-graders and their families.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 8:45 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

## WEDNESDAY January 23

**Touro Friendship Lodge meeting**  
Open to all Association members. Meatloaf and mashed potatoes followed by trivia night. Reservations required.

**WHERE:** Touro Hall, 45 Rolfe Square, Cranston  
**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m., call for info 785-0066 [www.tourofraternal.org](http://www.tourofraternal.org)

## THURSDAY January 24

**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 grief.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston,  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

**Sinai visit RI Community Food Bank**

Temple Sinai Social Action Committee members work at the food bank the fourth Thurs. of each month.

**WHERE:** RI Community Food Bank, 200 Niantic Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

## FRIDAY January 25

**Sinai Shabbat service**  
Ask the Rabbi - What have

See CALENDAR, Page 28



**RABBI MICHAEL BOYDEN**, spiritual leader of Kehilat Yonatan, a reform congregation in Israel founded in 2001, will speak on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Habonim in Barrington on "Israel@60: Fulfilling a Dream."



GESHERCITY RI is starting a dodgeball league at the JCCRI beginning Jan. 12. E-mail [jbrier@jccri.org](mailto:jbrier@jccri.org) for more information.

# PBS film depicts U.S. Jews as outsiders

Parts Two & Three  
will air on  
Jan. 16 & 23

By SUE FISHKOFF  
JTA staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — When I sat down to watch "The Jewish Americans," a six-hour PBS documentary set to air this month, I expected it to begin at Ellis Island.

## FILM REVIEW

That's the hackneyed image most often used to sum up American Jewish history: Nothing says American Jewry like an overcrowded boat sailing into New York harbor.

But this film opens differently, with a lonely Jewish peddler trudging through the woods and a voice-over proclaiming, "Jews were considered outsiders."

Ellis Island does show up later — along with the Catskills and the Holocaust — but in that first quiet image filmmaker David Grubin demonstrates his film will not be the usual chronological review of key moments in American Jewish history.

Instead, this film, which cost more than \$3.2 million to produce, is a fresh, intelligent take on the story of Jews in America, structured around the themes of



"THE JEWISH AMERICANS" is a three-part documentary by David Grubin that tells the history of Jewish Americans for the last 350 years. LEFT: Jewish immigrants arriving from Eastern Europe and settling in New York City's Lower East Side. MIDDLE: Louis D. Brandeis, first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, appointed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, serving until 1939. RIGHT: Songwriter Irving Berlin, pictured above in 1937.

identity and adaptation: how one small immigrant group fought its way into the American mainstream while managing to hold onto its core traditions.

Jews look good in Grubin's film. He emphasizes Judaism's prophetic tradition as he focuses on American Jewish contributions to abolitionism, civil rights, social justice and other universal causes, showing individual Jews reaching outside

their parochial interests to make America a better place.

Jewish warts show up largely as a function of wealth: Jews owned slaves in the antebellum South, Jews were the owners of the Lower East Side sweatshops that oppressed Jewish (and other) workers. It's a slant, but so is the more usual "everyone's-against-us-but-we-got-to-the-top-anyway" conceit at the center of some Jews' account of

**"Sections on the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the struggle for Soviet Jewry, the Jewish contribution to the women's movement and Jews in the civil rights battle are excellent."**

their own history in this country.

Much of what gives "The Jewish Americans" its lyrical beauty is its technique of having living Jews, famous or not, tell their ancestors' stories. It's a brilliant device that works just as well whether it's an unknown woman talking about her family's colonial-era matriarch or Irving Berlin's daughter offering tidbits from her famous father's songwriting career.

It's also great fun when Grubin gets famous personalities to move outside their comfort zone, a kind of People magazine titillation for the PBS crowd.

Thus we have Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner, usually interviewed defending gay culture, talking about his grandparents on the Lower East Side and his regret that young Jews today will never know that immigrant generation. Michael Tilson Thomas, music director of the San Francisco Symphony, tells the colorful story of his grandfather Boris Tomashvsky, star of the early Yiddish theater. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg relates how, in her freshman dormitory at Cornell University, she and the other girls on her corridor realized they were all Jewish, as if the school had put

them together "so we wouldn't contaminate" the other students.

Certainly, the thematic structure of this film and the way it dwells at length on key events and individuals that illustrate those themes means that a lot of history gets left out.

The most obvious is the story of how Judaism itself grew and changed in America, a story Grubin says wasn't his focus; he's interested in how American Jews interacted with the greater society, not how the community developed internally.

The least successful of the three two-hour episodes is the last, covering the postwar period, and it is still riveting. Sections on the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the struggle for Soviet Jewry, the Jewish contribution to the women's movement and Jews in the civil rights battle are excellent, particularly the filmmaker's uncompromising look at how the black-Jewish alliance of the early 1960s broke down.

The first part of "The Jewish Americans" aired on PBS on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Parts Two and Three will air on Wednesday, Jan. 16 and 23.

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# Fun for snowy day; let's bake!

By MARYLYN GRAFF  
mgraft@jfri.org

It's snowing three inches an hour; the kids have been in and out half a dozen times; you want to get them away from the TV and the computer and they're complaining there's nothing to do. Reach back into your childhood memories and you will come up with a great idea, "Let's bake cookies!" This will take up a good chunk of time and everyone will love the results. So here are some good old-fashioned recipes.

## Easy Chocolate Cookies

This is fun for the little kids as they roll the dough into balls.

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup canola or other veg. oil
- 3 1 oz. squares unsweetened chocolate
- 2 tsps. vanilla or 1 tsp. vanilla and 1 tsp. almond extract
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsps. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt

### Method

Melt chocolate over low heat or in the microwave and cool until warm. Place sugar, oil, vanilla and chocolate in a bowl and stir together. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Stir in milk. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together and stir into egg mixture. Put into freezer for 20 minutes or refrigerator for 45 minutes to chill.

Roll dough into balls, using about a Tblsp. for each. Roll in powdered sugar and place on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 for about 10 to 12 minutes. Roll again in powdered sugar while still warm. Cool on a rack. Makes about 4 dozen.

## Applesauce Raisin Cookies

This one is even easier.

### Ingredients

- 1 package 2-layer size spice cake mix
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup canola or other veg. oil
- 1/2 cup applesauce (either sweetened or un-)
- 1 egg

### Method

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and beat well by hand or with an electric mixer. Drop from a teaspoon about two inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from cookie sheet onto a rack to cool. Makes about 6 dozen. (If you don't have spice cake mix add a teaspoon each of cinnamon and allspice to a yellow cake mix.)

## Rolled Sugar Cookies

Shape these as you like.

### Ingredients

- 1 stick butter or margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup milk or orange juice



Photo from Better Home and Gardens  
Homemade Cookies Cook Book

## APPLESAUCE RAISIN COOKIES

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsps. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt

### Method

In a large bowl cream butter or margarine with sugar until well-blended. Mix in egg, milk or juice and vanilla. Mix flour, baking powder and salt. Blend into first mixture. Form into two balls, wrap in plastic wrap and chill in freezer or refrigerator for 20 or 30 minutes. Take out one ball at a time and roll out about 1/4 inch thick. Cut with cookie cutters to desired shapes and bake at 350 for 10 — 12 minutes. Or roll into long "ropes" about 1 inch wide, flatten slightly, indent all the way down the center and fill indentation with jam. Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes. Cool slightly and cut diagonally. Finish cooling on a rack.

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# Clinton now the presidential candidate favored by Jews

*Come-from-behind victory in N.H. primary buoys Sen. Clinton's campaign*

By RON KAMPEAS  
JTA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (JTA) — "People here are going to be happy to hear that," the campaign worker said, learning that U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) had top approval ratings in the field of presidential candidates among Jewish Americans.

The news, delivered by a reporter last month, was especially welcome in the Clinton camp because her lead in nomination polls — nationally and in early state polls — was slipping.

Seven years of hard work cultivating the Jewish leadership in New York and nationally had paid off for Clinton. Her approval rating among Jewish Democrats, according to the American Jewish Committee poll, was 70 percent. Among all Jews it was 53 percent.

As first lady, Clinton's pro-Israel record at times seemed one note, even superficial, against the

breadth and depth her husband brought to the issue.

Whereas Bill Clinton could name the streets of Jerusalem's Old City, opine on Zionist history and deliver a persuasive "Shalom chaver" at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral, Hillary Clinton's repertoire was limited to introducing an Israeli early childhood education program to Arkansas.

As late as December 1998, during the couple's visit to Israel, the first lady's affiliation with the Hebrew University's Home Instruction Program for Pre-

children. Clinton said later she hadn't been paying close attention to the simultaneous translation.

It soon became clear, however, that she was willing to listen. Some of the signals were politics-as-usual horse-trading. President Clinton's final pardons included four residents of the Hasidic enclave in New Square, N.Y., who had been convicted of defrauding the government. She received overwhelming support from the town during the election.

**"I prefer vigorous diplomacy, and I happen to think economic sanctions are part of vigorous diplomacy."**

Sen. Hillary Clinton

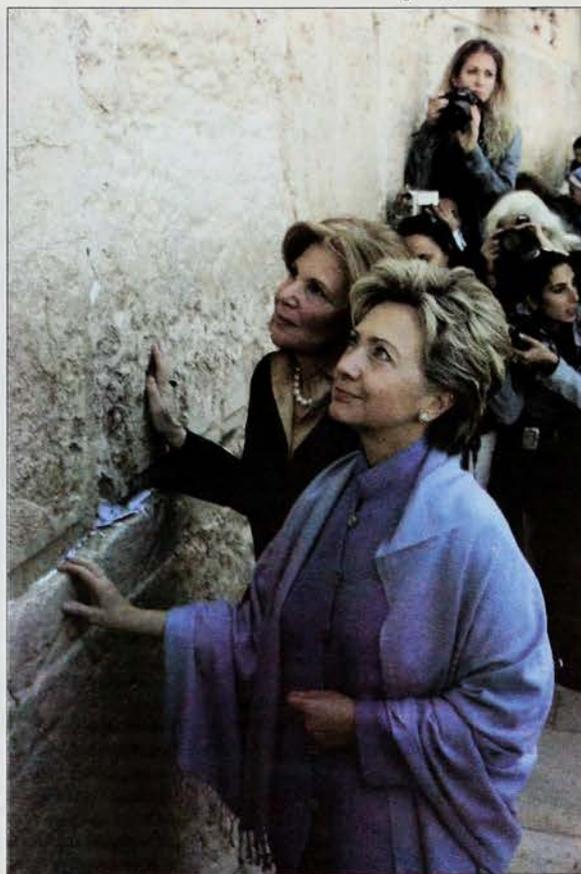
school Youngsters, known as HIPPI, was the centerpiece of her leg of the visit.

It didn't help her profile among Jews that the Clinton administration used her as a stalking horse to advocate for a Palestinian state. Then in 1999, on the eve of her first bid for the U.S. Senate, she embraced Suha Arafat after the Palestinian leader's wife accused Israel of deliberately poisoning Palestinian

Once elected to the Senate, Clinton reached out to Jewish organizational leaders and soon became a staple on the Jewish circuit. Hardly a Washington event run by a national Jewish group does not include an address by Clinton — often on Tuesday morning, just before delegates go to the Capitol to lobby.

On many issues, particularly in the domestic arena, little gap existed between Clinton and the predominantly liberal Jewish organizational community. As first lady, Clinton had an established record promoting universal health care, and as

See CLINTON, Next Page



PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, whose Israel repertoire has grown since she became a U.S. senator, at Jerusalem's Western Wall on Nov. 14, 2005. JTA photo

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## CLINTON: Votes in favor of Iran sanctions have strengthened her support

From Page 16

senator she worked hard to stop Bush administration rollbacks on the Medicare program, which is almost universally favored by a Jewish population aging more rapidly than other Americans.

In other areas Clinton exhibited a subtle grasp of issues that concern the community, strongly backing discretionary Homeland Security funds to help protect nonprofits from terrorist attack. The bulk of those funds have gone to Jewish institutions.

She also has adopted as her own a campaign to press Arab governments to remove incitement against Jews and Israel from their textbooks.

Clinton took a hit this fall from her party's base when she voted in favor of a nonbinding amendment that recommended sanctions against the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps. Bush eventually ordered the sanctions, favored by the pro-Israel lobby as a means of pressing Iran to give up its suspected nuclear weapons program.

That drew sharp criticism from her competitors, who said the vote would embolden the Bush administration into waging war against Iran. She stood her ground.

"Iran is seeking nuclear weapons," she said in an Oct. 30 MSNBC-sponsored debate. "And the Iranian Revolutionary Guard is in the forefront of that, as they are in the sponsorship of terrorism."

She added: "I prefer vigorous diplomacy, and I happen to think economic sanctions are part of vigorous diplomacy."

It was straight from the pro-Israel playbook, and it illustrates what has attracted not only Jewish voter support but, perhaps even more substantively, Jewish fund-raiser support.

Two of her major backers in this campaign supported polar opposites among the Democrats in 2004: Lonnie Kaplan of New Jersey went for Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and his tough foreign policy, and Steve Grossman opted for ex-Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who was fiercely anti-war.

At a National Jewish Democratic Council candidates' forum last spring, Grossman and Kaplan, both former presidents of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, sat next to each other and conferred occasionally on their favored candidate: Hillary Clinton.

**"Two former presidents of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, sat next to each other and conferred occasionally on their favored candidate: Hillary Clinton."**

## Clinton, McCain win in N.H.

By BEN HARRIS  
JTA staff writer

New Hampshire voters confirmed their reputation for independence Tuesday night, defying the polls that had predicted a resounding defeat for the presidential candidate most favored by American Jews.

U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), who earned top favorability marks in a recent survey of American Jewish opinion, had gradually been overtaken by U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) in the days after his stunning victory in the Iowa caucuses. But on Tuesday night, she edged out Obama in a race so close that both campaigns were exuding confidence and promising to continue their campaigns into the south and west and on to states with significant Jewish populations.

"It is very exciting," Ann Lewis, a senior adviser to the Clinton campaign with a key role in outreach to the Jewish community, told JTA. "We've got a lot of happy volunteers. Now they're celebrating. This is a pretty good moment."

On the Republican side, John McCain's victory has ratcheted up the pressure on another Jewish favorite, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, whose hopes now hinge on the Florida primary on Jan. 29. It comes after former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee's win in Iowa's GOP battle.



JTA photo

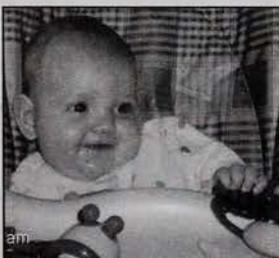
**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN topped his Republican rivals in the N.H. primary.**

With Democrats and Republicans both picking different winners in Iowa and New Hampshire, it seems increasingly likely that the nation could once again end up turning its collective eye to Jewish voters in South Florida. The Sunshine State — boasting the third largest Jewish population, behind New York and California — is poised to provide a major momentum boost, as the only state scheduled to hold a primary on Jan. 29 and the last to vote before Super Tuesday a week later.

In addition to New York and California, Feb. 5 will feature primaries in several other states with sizeable Jewish populations, including New Jersey, Illinois, Georgia, Connecticut and Arizona. In

total, on that day, 23 states with about two-thirds of the country's Jewish population will hold primaries.

Giuliani's so-called "late state" strategy, in which he neglected early states in favor of delegate-rich later states where he believed his chances to be better, was being increasingly called into question this week as his numbers began to slip in the Sunshine State. Even the existence of the strategy was challenged by ABC news, which reported that Giuliani had held more events in New Hampshire than any candidate other than Mitt Romney. The Giuliani campaign disputed the figures.



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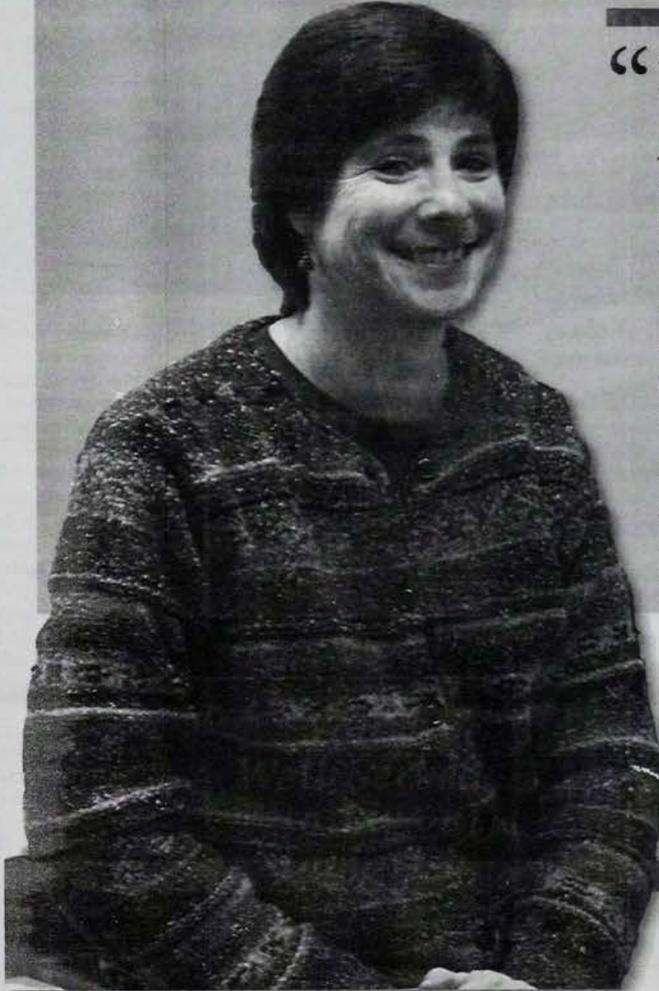
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Live Generously... It Does a World of Good

# Pawtucket native takes plunge as 'lone soldier' in IDF

Former intern at *The Voice & Herald* is now serving as a combat fitness instructor

By NAVA WINKLER  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**B**EFORE leaving for France as a high school exchange student more than a year ago, I applied only to ridiculously selective American colleges, while assigning no safe schools, in order to settle my dilemma of living in the U.S. or in Israel.

If I were to be miraculously accepted into one of them, with my average SAT scores in math and science and an unconventional high school transcript, then, and only then, would I have a reason to stay in the states.

Otherwise, I was going back to Israel to satisfy the other half of my split identity, and to figure out exactly what kind of relationship I have with that country. The only question was: should I join the Israel Defense Force (IDF) and serve for two years, or should I start studying in a university there and plan a career.

But once I decided to move to Israel, it seemed almost natural to sign up for military service. I wanted to do my small part in giving of myself to the country, while at the same time, gaining all the positive experiences and life skills that come with any military service.

In August, I took the plunge, and I moved to Israel, along with my sister, with plans to serve in the Israeli Army. To get help in realizing this goal, I joined a program called *Gar'in Tzabar*, a project of the *Tzofim* (Scouts), which assists those immigrants



NAVA WINKLER, at right, a native of Pawtucket, recently began service in the Israeli Army. Her older sister, Naomi, left, is already in her first month of training in external communications. Their mother, Yardena Winkler, is a *sabra*.

to Israel who wish to serve in the IDF. The program helps by guiding them through the various bureaucracies involved in enlistment, and the necessary steps that ensure they receive all their benefits as "lone soldiers" from the Israeli government.

I was taken along with 23 other *Gar'in Tzabar* immigrants to a *kibbutz* in the north of Israel, called *Kibbutz Yiz'el*. The ensuing three months were spent doing many things in order to prepare ourselves for enlistment in November. We settled down in our new homes (modular structures called "caravans"), became acquainted with

our host families, learned advanced Hebrew for four hours almost every morning, occasionally worked odd jobs in the *kibbutz*, and participated in various trips and seminars, including five days

I had a hard time prioritizing the order of my three choices. I was still unsure as to what type of experience I was searching for. Was it the hard-core, physical, down in the mud and dirt,

combat environment? Or, was I rather looking for something indoors, more intellectually engaging, with a job description that would look good on my resume?

Aside from the type of surroundings I desired, what did I want to do? Train soldiers? If so, what should be my area of expertise: weapons, fitness, tanks, or hummers? Or, should I go all out, G.I. Jane-style: become a combat fighter

of *Gadna* (a type of preliminary army training) and a week in sunny Eilat.

October was the deadline to send in our three preferred jobs to be trained for during our upcoming military service (or preferred army units for the boys).

**"What did I want to do? Train soldiers? Or, should I go all out, G.I. Jane-style: become a combat fighter and get the full experience?"**

Nava Winkler

and get the full experience, while I'm at it? There seemed to be a number of worthy options and many that would suit me fine. The challenge was finding the one that was right for me, so that once I finished my two years, I would not look back with regret and ask: "What if?" I could enjoy lots of different posts, but which was the one that was calling my name?

The selection process was a bit intimidating. For Foreign Relations, I took a five-page exam that touched on many subjects relating to history and geography of both modern Israel and the world. For combat fitness I had to do 45 push-ups, 85 sit-ups, and sprint two km. in eight minutes.

Luckily, I was accepted into all of my top choices, so I could decide without restriction what job I wanted. I chose to instruct combat fitness, as opposed to any other field, because if I will be teaching about one subject every day for the next two years, I want it to be something I enjoy doing myself.

My service is scheduled to begin on Jan. 9. I imagine my army service to be demanding and grueling hard, but one hell of a ride. The job I chose will physically and mentally push my limits and teach me skills that will make me a stronger person.

As I sit here writing this article, I am spending my last few weeks as a "civilian" at my aunt's home in Ashdod, practicing my newfound hobby of surfing and chilling out before what is bound to be a very challenging and hopefully fulfilling chapter in my life. I look forward to the upcoming months and years with no illusions or dreams, but with the confidence and enthusiasm befitting a country that is yet bursting with youthful energy and hope.

*Nava Winkler is a native of Pawtucket.*

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Volunteers serve kosher Christmas dinner



Photo courtesy of Temple Torat Yisrael

TEMPLE TORAT YISRAEL VOLUNTEERS served a temple-cooked meal to the residents at the R.I. Family Shelter in Warwick on Tuesday, Dec. 25. In the front row, from left are Brenda Wasser, Harry Wasser; middle row: Rachel Wasser, Susan Abbotson (Mrs. Wasser), Marcia Slobin, Roberta Arzac; back row: David Wasser, Barbara Karetny, Irma Bader and Laurie Tessier. Other member volunteers cooked at the temple on Sunday, bought presents for the children and baked desserts.

JCC begins series, "Abraham and Sarah's Tent"

*Jews by Choice* is topic Jan. 13 at Habonim

By JCC STAFF

Special to the Voice & Herald  
BARRINGTON — The Jewish Community Center will present the first program in a new series titled "Abraham and Sarah's Tent" on Sunday, Jan. 13, 9:30 a.m. at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington. The topic is "Choosing Judaism" and the program will be moderated by JCC Director Kevin Olson.

"In presenting these stories, we can learn a great deal about the appeal and relevance of Jewish life in the 21st century. We can also create an even more welcoming environment in our commu-

nity for those who choose to be Jewish," Olson said.

Olson will be joined by panelists Liz Kaplan and Pat Buff. Each panelist will briefly share her journey to choosing Judaism. Olson will facilitate a question and answer session.

Jewish tradition teaches that Abraham and Sarah's tent was open on all sides. The JCC is launching this new series focusing on including in our communal tent individuals and groups from a variety of Jewish and interfaith experiences. These facilitated discussions will share personal experiences and perspectives on engaging with Jewish life here in Rhode Island.

The next program will be on Sunday morning, Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the JCC and will focus on the topic "Raising Children Jew-

ishly in an Interfaith Marriage" and will be facilitated by Kit Haspel. On Sunday, March 23, at 11 a.m. the program will explore "Gay and Lesbian Encounters with Jewish Community" and will be held at Temple Sinai in Cranston.

Light refreshments will be served and the event is free and open to the community. For more information, contact Sue Suls at (401)861-8800, ext. 108.

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. These programs are presented in cooperation with Temple Habonim, Temple Sinai and Jewish Family Service and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Call the JCC for more information at (401) 861-8800.

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of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island as we gather to knit hats and scarves for those in need this season.

We are fortunate to have Barbara Feldstein at both sessions to teach beginners the basics, and to assist those who would like to expand their repertoires.

If you cannot attend but would like to participate, you may pick up yarn on Jan. 7 at the Federation, 130 Sessions St., Providence.

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## Holocaust survivor school program now available

By MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — The mission of the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island is to teach the history of the Holocaust in order to promote human dignity and justice, and to serve as a memorial to its victims.

One of the major programs of the Education Center is the Survivor Visit Program. Each year over 5,000 Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts middle- and high-school students have an opportunity to hear the testimony of local survivors who tell their story. Students are encouraged to ask questions of the survivor.

The Education Center welcomes smaller classes to visit and also travels to schools throughout our area for larger classes.

Teachers are welcome to call the Education Center to make



Peter Wegner visits with class at Derring High School in West Warwick.

arrangements to have a survivor speak to their classes. Trained Holocaust educators usually accompany the survivor to give the students a brief background on events that lead up to the Holocaust.

Survivors have spoken to groups as large as 300 students.

Students send the survivors notes, pictures, poetry and classes produced books thanking them for telling their story.

For more information regarding the Survivor Visit Program, contact Paula Olivieri at the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of RI at 453-7860.



Photo courtesy of JCDS

JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL SECOND-GRADERS greet Fania Gross at a Hanukkah event at Tamarisk. From left are Jessica Nassau, Sandra Gamm, Natalie Westrick and Chava Herzog.

## Second-graders sing at Tamarisk

By JCDS STAFF

Special to the Voice & Herald

WARWICK — The second-graders from the Jewish Community Day School visited with the residents of the Phyllis Sipperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence on the second day of Hanukkah. Their homeroom teacher, Susan L. Adler, taught her students some traditional Hanukkah songs as well as some original ones written by former second-graders. They also told the residents about Hanukkah customs from around the world.

During the course of the year in social studies, the students are engaged in an around the world curriculum. Adler felt that this would be the perfect opportunity for integration. One unusual custom is from Turkey. They make candlewicks out of the

fibers that the *etrog*, is wrapped in for Sukkot. The candle remains are then formed into another candle that is used for searching for the *chametz* before *Pesach*. The highlight this year was that Adler's kindergarten teacher, Fania Gross, is a resident. Each child warmly greeted her and said hello. More than 20 residents were in attendance.

Teachers Nicole Dunn and Miriam Cohen as well as some parents also accompanied the students. Mrs. Gross was not only Adler's teacher, but she also taught Miriam and Judy Westrick's mom, Natalie. Mrs. Gross was proud of her students. The program ended with everyone in attendance singing *Oseh Shalom* and there wasn't a dry eye in the room. The students will return to Tamarisk in March for their *Chumash* ceremony.

## Jewish chant, devotion workshop planned

By RI CENTER FOR JEWISH HEALING

Special to The Voice & Herald

WAKEFIELD — David J. Stern, a clinical psychologist, healer, trainer, and consultant practicing in Providence, will lead a workshop on Sun., Feb. 3, on "Tzaddik Nature." Through chanting and prayer exercises, and through exploration of different dimensions of reality, participants will learn how to enjoy greater healing and wholeness in all areas of life.

The event will be held at the Clubhouse on Indian Lake,



David J. Stern

Table Rock Rd., Wakefield, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is a

fundraiser for the R.I. Center for Jewish Healing. A donation of \$40 (sliding scale) is requested.

To register, send your check (payable to RICJH) to Tucker Lieberman, 1117 Douglas Ave. #210, North Providence, RI 02904. For more information, contact Tucker at tucker.lieberman@gmail.com or (401) 437-6512.

David Stern's website is [www.thinking-heart.com](http://www.thinking-heart.com).

The Rhode Island Center for Jewish Healing's website is [www.rijewishhealing.org](http://www.rijewishhealing.org).

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AS WE GROW OLDER

# Searching for a candidate – vintage '08

BY TEMA GOUSE

Special to The Voice & Herald

I HAVE BEEN VOTING in presidential elections since 1944. By 1944 I was already slightly ambivalent about FDR. In 1948 I wanted to vote for Harry Truman but was not allowed to.

1948 was the year that I moved to Rhode Island and when registering to vote I was asked to pay the poll tax. You remember; poll taxes were developed to deny minorities the right to vote. Other than being a Jewish female,

I had never regarded myself as a member of a minority group. (Poll taxes were discontinued in the early '50s.)

After ranting for about 15

minutes to an innocent clerk about how outrageous it was that Roger Williams' state still had a poll tax, I refused to be party to such stupidity. And I did not get to vote for Harry. He won without my vote.

You have probably guessed that I have liberal, Democratic leanings. I apologize to my conservative readers and friends. That said it would be redundant to describe my voting record from 1952 to 2004. Even when the guy I voted for won, I usually was not happy with him. And as for the guys who won whom I did not vote for, well, the less said the better.

The campaign for the 2008 election has been going on for three and a half years. Despite being of an age where I am pre-occupied with health or lack of it, being exposed to such political machinations makes me forget

my aching back and other body parts for hours at a time. Initially, it was a relief to read news other than that disastrous war in Iraq.

After all, we should be more interested in who will be in the White House when George leaves. We worry about the future (or lack of it) of Social Security and Medicare for ourselves and for Boomer children.

**"Not to despair: there is an unannounced dark horse."**

Both political parties have very interesting candidates. The Republicans have familiar names and unfamiliar names. (Admit it; how many of you are familiar with Huckabee?) Democratic candidates have been so overtly aggressive in their battle to win the primary that overkill has resulted. To add insult to injury,

the newspapers print how much money each candidate has raised to spend on the primary election. Primary winners may have to tap the U.S. Treasury to finance their eventual battle.

The media exacerbate the problem. They report the statistics of each day's polling. Numbers vary daily, with no elaboration on who was polled.

And then there are the debates. The nice guys turn nasty. The bad guys attack. And then, because of the television time they consume I often miss segments of "Law and Order," which is what I rely on to put me to sleep.

We seniors must be experiencing a lack of other interests. Almost every social occasion we attend usually includes the query of whom you plan to vote for. That used to be socially incorrect. The electorate is made up of Hillary-lovers and Hillary-haters. And many feel the country is not ready for a female leader. Some say that Barack is too inexperienced. Some say that we are not ready for a president of color. Both comments are useful disguises for biases. Edwards is described as a Nice Person; which is not a form of flattery.

And now the other side. Rudy

was mayor of New York City on 9/11 and did what any mayor would do. He wavers on matters of abortion and sexual orientation and has accepted the endorsement of one of the country's leading evangelistic conservatives.

McCain looks very tired and cannot seem to express policy. Romney is described as a "flip-flopper" by his opponents. I never could relate to Fred Thompson on "Law and Order" and would probably have the same problem if he were the president. (Which still leaves us Huckabee, whoever he is.)

Not to despair; there is an unannounced dark horse. I here-announce my candidacy to become President in 2008. Think about it. I talk as much as politicians do. I am so unbiased that I think it is possible for a woman or a person of color to lead this country. I make the best brownies and flourless chocolate cake. And what's more, I am Jewish, an attribute my opponents would not dare attack. It is too late for me to enter the Iowa caucus but when you go to vote in the primaries, remember there is a space for write-in candidates.

It's scary, isn't it?

Tema Gouse is a regular contributor to The Jewish Voice & Herald.



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Photo by A. N. Zelnicker courtesy of RIJHA

This photo of the Providence Hebrew Sheltering Society Ladies Auxiliary was taken circa 1942. In the front row, from left, are Mrs. Louis Fishbein, Rabbi and Mrs. Morris Silk, unidentified. In back row, from left, are Mrs. Getzel Zaidman, unidentified, Mrs. Morris Fishbein, Mrs. Morris Licht, unidentified. If readers know the names of the unidentified, please e-mail us at [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org).

## Shelter from the storm

*Providence Hebrew Sheltering Society has deep roots in R.I.*

By GERALDINE S. FOSTER  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

A HEADLINE in *The Providence Journal* of Nov. 29, 1937, proclaimed "Hebrew Society Burns Mortgage." It continued: "Mayor Dunne (James E. Dunne, Mayor of Providence) praises work of Free Sheltering Group."

In the article, Mayor Dunne is quoted as lauding the work of the Providence Hebrew Sheltering Society in caring for the homeless and transient. He also pointed out that this work relieved the city treasury of a burden.

Throughout the ages, the rabbis and teachers of Israel have stressed the importance of providing shelter for the needy wayfarer, even to setting up rules regarding their care and the hospitality that must be accorded them. Indeed, the Hebrew word "orchim" means guest as well as wayfarer.

In the *shtetl*, it was the duty of the *shammass* of the synagogue to find meals and a bed for the indigent transients; they would be assigned to various homes for the duration of their stay. Since this was not practical for the larger cities, special houses were maintained by the community and supported by contributions.

Before the large-scale arrival of immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Montefiore Lodge Ladies Hebrew Beneficial Society, mostly women of German origin, provided such assistance

through their charity committee. It generally meant providing fare to the next town.

However, the newcomers were used to a different model. According to one account, a shel-

### MEMORIES PAST

from the Archive of  
R.I. Jewish Historical Association

tering house existed on Chalkstone Avenue in the North End as early as 1895. No further information is available regarding this endeavor. The latter may have had a connection to the Providence Hebrew Sheltering Association, granted a charter in 1915.

Seventeen years later another group with a similar name received a charter and rented a

They were entitled to a day and a night of lodging plus three meals. A longer stay required special circumstances. The same guest could return in a month, but this was not strictly enforced. The rules of the house included no card playing and no smoking on *Shabbat*. Admission was forbidden to anyone engaged in a gainful occupation. This excluded the army of itinerant collectors for *Yeshivot* and charities who went from city to city soliciting funds for their agency.

Just two years later the Sheltering Society was able to retire its mortgage with great celebration. Samuel Brown chaired the banquet committee; Mrs. Evelyn Granoff served as secretary in charge of the arrangements for the banquet held on Nov. 28,

1937, at Weinstein's Banquet Hall on Weybosset Street. The mortgage note and deed, which were burned at the climax of the evening, were brought into the

hall by Mrs. Granoff's twin sons. Entertainment was provided by Miss Shaulson, the Wolf twins, Sumner and Allen, and their sister Eunice.

In its later years, the home offered temporary shelter for families arriving from the ravages of Europe. The Providence Hebrew Sheltering Society home finally closed its doors in 1970. The property was sold to the neighboring Armenian Church.

The few indigent transients who come this way now receive aid from the agencies and synagogues in our community.

*Geraldine Foster is a past president of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.*

**"Sometimes the contributions were in pennies, but each penny counted."**

house on Douglas Avenue. This time the project proved more successful. In May of 1935 the public was invited to a ceremony to the dedication of a newly renovated and remodeled house at 86 Jefferson St. purchased by the Providence Hebrew Sheltering Society. It was, according to an article in *The Jewish Herald* of May 11, a significant milestone in the 45-year campaign to aid those who arrived in Providence homeless and in need. Sometimes the contributions were in pennies, but each penny counted.

Guests at the Jefferson Street house had to register only their names in a bound leather ledger. No questions were asked about their previous addresses or family.

Jeffrey B. Pine, PC

Attorneys at Law



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**Check out the Jewish Community Calendar, Pg. 13**

**The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD**  
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**Martin B. Cohen, 83**

PROVIDENCE — Martin B. Cohen, 83, died Dec. 27. He was the husband of Molly (Kahn) Cohen. They were married for 59 years. Born in Boston, a son of the late Abraham and Natalie (Hoffman) Cohen, he had lived in Warwick before moving to Epoch.

Mr. Cohen was a Postal Service employee for 25 years, and then became a postal worker for Brown University for 10 years, retiring in the late 1980s.

He was a World War II Army veteran serving in the European Theater.

He was a member of Temple Am David.

He also belonged to the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Kenneth Cohen and his wife Linda of Amherst, Mass.; a daughter, Jacqueline Fish and her husband Robert, of Providence; a sister, Edwyna Samdperil of Boynton Beach, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Dara and Leah.

Contributions may be made to Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, RI 02888.

**Alice Flint, 90**

PROVIDENCE — Alice Flint, 90, died Dec. 27. She was the wife of the late Alexander Flint. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Sarah (Jankowitz) Teacher, she had lived in Cranston for 40 years before moving to the Tockwotton Home six years ago.

She leaves a daughter, Suzanne Payne and her husband Saul of North Easton, Mass.; three grandchildren, Sara, Sandy and Barry; and five great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Hadley Flint, sister of the late

Jack, Morris and Max Teacher and Goldie Hiller; and grandmother of the late Scott Flint.

Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass. Contributions may be made to the Tockwotton Home.

**Evelyn Gersten, 82**

NARRAGANSETT — Evelyn Gersten died Jan. 1, on her 82nd birthday. She was the wife of Dr. Seymour Gersten. They were married for 60 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Harry and Jennie (Belford) Zakoff, she had lived in Westerly for 30 years before moving to Narragansett 10 years ago.

Mrs. Gersten was a member of ORT and B'nai Brith Women's Association.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Jill Kennedy of Cranston and Mindy Isaacs and her husband Michael of East Greenwich; three sisters, Edith Perlow of Lincoln, Estelle Hodosh of Providence and Marcia Golden of Narragansett; and four grandchildren, Keri and Tom Drake, Kimberly Peevler and Tara Sousa.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 275 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Karel G. Gertsacov**

NARRAGANSETT — Karel G. Gertsacov died Dec. 26. She was the wife of the late Alan Gertsacov. Born in Boston, she was a daughter of the late Bernard and Sara (Lande) Greenblatt.

Mrs. Gertsacov was an art teacher in the Cranston public school system for more than 30 years. "Mrs. G" inspired thousands of her students to view the arts as their own creative process.

A graduate of RISD, she loved

**Community leader Raymond Epstein dies**

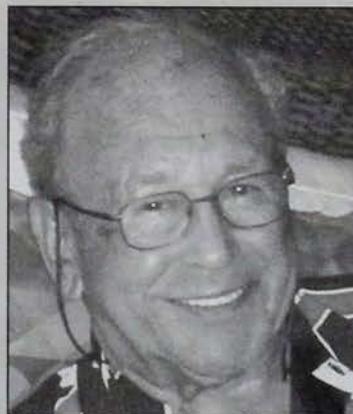
By JACOB BERKMAN  
JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK (JTA) — Raymond Epstein, a former leader of several Jewish organizations, died Saturday. He was 89.

Epstein, who was born and raised in Chicago, played a top leadership role in the city's local Jewish federation. Nationally, he served on the boards of the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs; he also served as the president of the Council of Jewish Federations, one of three organizations that merged to create the United Jewish Communities, and the vice president of JTA.

Epstein was the chairman of the board of A. Epstein and Sons Ltd., a behemoth international engineering and architectural firm that his father Abraham started in 1921.

The conglomerate has offices all over the world, including in Israel, where it



Raymond Epstein

built among other projects, the Government Center in Haifa and City Hall in Ashkelon. It counts among its clients Israel's Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Housing, the Israel Land Authority and the City of Tel Aviv.

Epstein was known as a mentor for young Jewish leaders, according to Richard Wexler, a community leader in Chicago and the chairman of United Israel Appeal of the United Jewish Communities. The two first met in the early 1970s.

"He was a great, great man and leader, a wonderful mentor to me

and to many young leaders around the country. He was very free with his time, he had a unique love of life, family and Israel that combined together with his business. He was always a person filled with ideas, joy and tremendous energy," Wexler said.

Epstein was a close friend of Teddy Kollek, the former mayor of Jerusalem who is credited with revitalizing the city. Epstein would visit Israel frequently for his business and charitable affairs and would often be seen carting around Jerusalem with

his wife, Betty, and Kollek in the mayor's electric cart, according to Wexler.

He was buried January 2, 2008, exactly a year after Kollek died.

Epstein is survived by his wife Betty, children Gail Kovler, David Epstein, Norman Epstein and Harriet Bertsche; grandchildren Molly, Ben, Elizabeth, Jacob, Addie, Max, Sam, Alex and Rachel, and brother Sidney Epstein.

to travel — to amble and discover new places that sometimes go unnoticed.

She leaves four sons, Adam Gertsacov of Providence, Seth Gertsacov of New York City, Marc Gertsacov of Cranston and Daniel Gertsacov of New York City, and their families; a brother, Alan Green of Boston; and two grandchildren, Anna and Jackson. She was the sister of the late Ruth Bressman.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the "Gertsacov Arts in Academics Grants Fund", c/o The Rhode Island Foundation, 1 Union Station, Providence, RI 02903.

**Norman Robinson, 80**

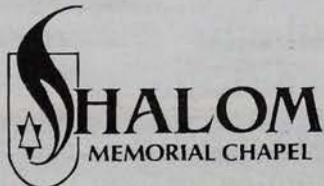
PROVIDENCE — Norman Robinson, 80, died Dec. 29. He was the husband of Natalie (Rabinovitz) Robinson. The son

of the late Julius G. and Sophie M. Robinson, he was a lifelong Rhode Island resident and graduate of Hope High School and Brown University.

He received numerous awards and honors during his 59-year career in life insurance and estate planning. He was a chartered life underwriter and held office in several professional associations.

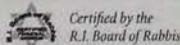
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OBITUARIES

From previous page

**Norman Robinson**

Mr. Robinson was active in Jewish community affairs, serving as a board member and president of the Jewish Community Center.

Besides his wife he leaves two daughters, Leslie Robinson and Debora Kolwey, sons-in-law, Stephen Kass and Neil Kolwey; three granddaughters, Julia Robinson-Kass, Hannah Robinson-Kass and Frederica Kolwey; a sister, Dorothy Golner; a nephew, Geoffrey Golner and a niece, Marcia Golner.

**Lawrence Scheer, 75**

WARWICK — Lawrence Scheer, 75, died Dec. 24. He was the husband of Joan (Levy) Scheer. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a

son of the late Albert and Frieda (Silberman) Scheer, he had lived in Cranston, Los Angeles, and Puerto Vallarta before returning to Rhode Island in 2000.

Mr. Scheer was the owner/operator of the former Eastern Beef Co. of Providence.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Scot Scheer of East Greenwich; and Robin Scheer of Warwick; a sister, Arline Wetreich of Brookline, Mass.; and two grandchildren; Brittany and Samantha.

Burial was in Veterans Cemetery, Exeter.

Contributions may be made to Steere House, 100 Borden St., Providence, RI, 02903.

**BJE Zelniker focus: inclusivity, intermarriage**

BY THE BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION

*bjedi.org*

PROVIDENCE — "Opening Abraham and Sarah's Tent: Forging an Inclusive Jewish Community" is the theme of the annual Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference. Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky, executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, will be the keynote presenter on Sunday morning, Feb. 3, at Temple Sinai in Cranston. The program is sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Olitzky's keynote will be entitled, "Optimism for the Jewish future: creating a

welcoming environment for all in our schools and classrooms." Several breakout sessions will follow the keynote address, with presenters from greater Rhode Island, Boston, and elsewhere.

Dr. Olitzky will present a workshop on "Children of intermarriage in our classrooms." His premise is that half of the children in our classrooms are coming from interfaith families. His second workshop will be "Programming for Education Beyond the Classroom," which will deal with public space Judaism, demonstrating cutting edge methods for meeting children and adults where they are: outside of the walls of our Jewish institutions.

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman and Kimberly Bodemer, both of Congregation Agudas Achim, will present "Shabbat for All: Creating an Inclusive Learning Community on Shabbat." Rabbi Peter Stein of Temple Sinai will present several texts from Torah, Talmud, and Midrash that discuss the importance of welcoming and caring for those who are different than us.

Stephanie Bernstein, an educational consultant from Boston, will present "A Multi-Sensory Approach for Teaching Hebrew."

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EXODUS 10:1 — 13:16

Personal freedom, nationalism, and the role of God in our lives

*By teaching our children about the Exodus, we gain a more profound understanding*

*The following article is reprinted with permission from the UJA-Federation of New York.*

BY ALIZA KLINE  
Special To The Voice & Herald

**T**HIS IS THE STUFF that stories and major motion pictures are made of. *Parashat Bo* captures the Exodus, the Jews' brave escape from the bonds of slavery into an unknown world of freedom. The process by which Moses and Aaron lead the people of Israel out of Egypt is dramatic, gory, and troubling—but also inspiring. The act of reading and re-reading this story forces one to contemplate such serious issues as personal freedom, nationalism, and the role of God in our lives.

"And that you may tell in the ears of your child, and of your child's child what things I have wrought in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them; that you may know I am the Lord." (Exodus 10:2)

In the Passover Haggadah, we learn: "Whoever dwells more

on the story of the Exodus from Egypt is praiseworthy." Rabbi Y.Y. Tronk of Kutno teaches that the very act of dwelling on the narrative improves a person. The same applies to the above verse, "that you may tell in the ears of your child, and of your child's child...that you may know that I am the Lord." By telling your children, you will appreciate better that "I am the Lord."

Perhaps this is one reason that we read this portion in the month of Shevat, not in Nissan

when we celebrate Passover. By reading and dwelling on the Exodus story both now and

during the *mitzvah* (commandment) of eating matzah.

We know how the story ends, that it will take 40 years before the people of Israel will fully embrace their freedom and break loose from the emotional and intellectual shackles of slavery. In reading the

Exodus narrative, we can ask why it contains such extremes. Why did God wait for 210 years to free the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt? Why did it take ten horrific plagues for God to convince

Pharaoh to free the slaves? Why were the Hebrews so resistant to Moses' leadership? Finally, why did it take 40 hard years of wandering in the wilderness before our ancestors arrived at our homeland? Many books are filled with answers to these questions.

The process of reading the story, and the many *midrashim* and commentaries on it, of asking questions, and finding or creating answers, makes us a better people. Sometimes, by educating our children, we gain a deeper understanding of the narrative.

To the commandment that one should tell the story "in the ears of your child...that you may know that I am the Lord," Rabbi Zvi Hirsch adds that it would seem more logical if the order were reversed: first one should know, and thereafter tell his or her child. But the reason for the Torah's order is that sometimes, by teaching one's children the Torah's story and ways, one attains a more profound understanding her or himself. Indeed, Rabbi Hirsch adds, parents often gain much knowledge because of the commandment, "you may tell in the ears of your child."

*Aliza Kline, a program executive of UJA-Federation's Commission on Jewish Identity and Renewal, works with grant recipients serving Russian-speaking emigres.*

**"By reading and dwelling on the Exodus story both now and during the Passover seder, we're encouraged to explore the story at least twice, from different perspectives."**

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## Weddings

David Ethan Rosenberg, son of Rabbi James and Sandra Rosenberg of Providence, and Gabriella Lea Soble, daughter of Warren and Frieda Soble of Stoughton, Mass., were married on Aug. 5 at Temple Habonim in Barrington. The ceremony was performed by the bridegroom's father.

The bride graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A. She is employed as director of student activities at the Harvard University Hillel.

The bridegroom received his bachelor of arts degree at Tufts University and a master's in education at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass. He is a teacher at the Roshi School in Newton, Mass. and assistant director of RISE camp at the Moses Brown School in Providence.

The couple honeymooned in Alaska and is residing in Natick, Mass.



David Ethan Rosenberg  
Gabriella Lea Soble

Jared Fogel, son of Herbert and Judith Fogel of Narragansett and Kelly Reid, daughter of Stephen and Christine Reid of Cranston, were married on Sept. 29 in Newport. The Honorable Marvin Homonoff officiated.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Endicott College and is employed at International Packaging. The bride also received a degree from Endicott College and is employed with the Fall River public schools.

The bridegroom's grandparents are Hyman Jacobson of Warwick, the late Beverly Jacobson, Joseph Fogel and Lillian Fogel-Strauss.

The bride's grandparents are Roy and Irene Prentiss of Boynton Beach, Fla., Robert Reid and the late Esther Reid.



Jared Fogel and Kelly Reid

## Birth



Benjamin Zev Kornstein

Benjamin Zev Kornstein was born in Manhattan on October 20 weighing 8 lbs., 12 oz. He is the son of Dr. Howard Kornstein and Natalia Gourari and joins big brother Sammy and big sister Orly at home in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Grandparents are Arnold and Esta Kornstein of Providence and Yuriy Gurariy and Yelena Volovik of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Benjy is the great-grandson of the late William (Zev) and Leda Strong of Providence and the late Samuel and Hattie Kornstein of North Smithfield.

## Engagements

Dan and Cindy Kaplan of Barrington, announce the engagement of their daughter, Hyla, to David Rosenberg, son of Carole Rosenberg and the late Norman Rosenberg of Monroe Township, N.J.

Ms. Kaplan is a 1993 graduate of the Lincoln School in Providence, a 1997 graduate of Emory University and a 2001 graduate of the College of Law of American University, Washington D.C. She is an immigration attorney in Philadelphia.

Mr. Rosenberg is a 1991 graduate of East Brunswick High School in New Jersey and a 1995 graduate of Washington University, St. Louis.



David Rosenberg and Hyla Kaplan

He received a master's degree in social work, a joint graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and Gratz College. He is the director of the Center for Social Respon-

sibility of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

A June, 2008 wedding is planned.



Jenna Mate and Mathias Dill

Judi and Sy Dill of Providence, announce the engagement of their son, Mathias, 36, to Jenna Mate, 30, both presently of Santa Monica, Calif. Mathias, a graduate of the University of Rochester, is in sales and marketing of software programs to the California school system. Jenna, a graduate of Syracuse University, is a professional songwriter and singer. She is the daughter of Paula and Jonathan Mate of Oradell, N.J. Mathias is the brother of Pamela Ardizzone of Pawtucket and Joshua Dill of Passaic, N.J.

## We Are Read Everywhere

(Where in the warm world will we go next?)

## We have now been to:

Japan, the Caribbean, Croatia, Tuscany, Bonaire, Istanbul (more than once!), Luxor, Egypt, Paris, Prague, Italy, Quebec, Alaska, Hawaii, The Grand Canyon, Warsaw, Budapest, Vienna, Peru, Buenos Aires, Disney World, Iceland, Turkey, Brazil, Jerusalem, Jordan, the Great Wall of China, Florida, California, Tanzania, Germany, Israel, and on a

riverboat cruise in Europe.

The newspaper invites readers to take along a copy of *The Jewish Voice & Herald* on their next trip and send us a photo.

Photos can be emailed to [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org), with "We Are Read Everywhere" in the subject line. Or, send to JV&H at 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI, 02906.



## IN JAPAN

ADAM GOLDSTEIN displays his JV&H at a Shinto shrine in Okinawa, Japan, where he spent the summer as an exchange student, sponsored by Youth for Understanding. Adam, 17, is the son of Helene and Brian Goldstein of Wakefield. He is the grandson of Lillian Lewis of Warwick, and Barbara Goldstein of Los Angeles.



## CARIBBEAN CRUISING

BERNARD AND GRETA LABUSH, now of Del Ray Beach, Fla., have been cruising the Caribbean and making the JV&H known on Aruba and Bonaire.



# Jewish Community Calendar

## CALENDAR:

From Page 13

you always wanted to know? Questions may be submitted in advance or posted during services

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai 30 Hagen Ave., Providence  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** Upcoming dates are Fri., Feb. 29, April 18, and May 23. 942-8350

## SATURDAY

January 26

**Temple Am David Tot Shabbat**  
 Age appropriate Shabbat morning service. Children up to 7 years with a parent or caregiver celebrate with singing, dancing, prayers and story-telling.

**WHERE:** Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick  
**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 463-7944  
[www.templeam david.org](http://www.templeam david.org)

## SUNDAY

January 27

**Sinai family education program**  
 Jewish Values in Secular Books, for fifth-graders and their families.

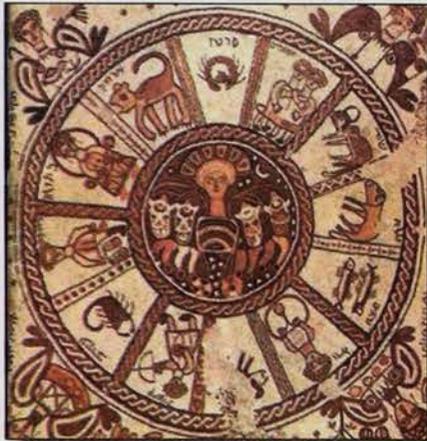
**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

**Sinai Sisterhood museum trip**  
 Sisterhood will be visiting the Kenneth J. Lane exhibit at the RISD museum.

**WHERE:** Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Meet at temple's front entrance to carpool.  
**WHEN:** 11:50 a.m.  
**MORE INFO:** 942-8350

**Sinai Brotherhood intergenerational bowling afternoon**

Bowling, pizza, soda, chips.  
**WHERE:** Kingstown Bowl, Post Rd., North Kingstown.  
**WHEN:** 2 p.m.  
**MORE INFO:** RSVP Curt by Jan. 13, [gdead21@aol.com](mailto:gdead21@aol.com)



Source: [www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com)

**KABBALAH OF ISRAEL**, a six-week course, offers participants an opportunity to discover and uncover where Israel is the heart of a Jew, and where the Jewishness is within the heart of Israel. Offered in three locations, beginning Tuesday, Jan. 15. Call Chabad at (401) 884-7888 for more information.

## WRESTLING: To talk about God

From Page 6

fills the chanting. Or at least that's what we can hope for. I want your Bar Mitzvah to be real for you. Of course, it's good to feel yourself becoming a full-fledged, adult member of our tribe. That's good in itself. But there's more to it. You're taking on the *mitzvot* – the commandments. And what's the first commandment?"

A shrug. He shakes his head.

"Not a problem. Let's look it up. Where do we look?"

"Where Moses goes up on Mt. Sinai. In Exodus?"

We look it up. "Here: I am *Adonoi* your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.' See what I mean?"

Very first thing: 'I am your God.' And then: 'You shall have no other gods before me.' That means, like Bar Mitzvah parties, Cadillacs, flat screen TV's, cruises to the Bahamas."

"Dad! Come on."

I remind him: "So God is what matters. Like consider your Bar Mitzvah. I've told you – you don't really need to chant a *Haftarah* passage to become a Bar Mitzvah. You just need to come up for your first *Aliyah*. You come up to the Torah and say a blessing: 'Blessed is *Adonoi* Who is to be blessed.' Like a lot of prayers, it's circular, because nobody knows how to speak about God. But I pray that when you wrap yourself in your first *tallit* and say the blessing and chant, God will begin to be there for you."

"I kind of get it," my son says.

"You do?"

"Well, like see those clouds up there?" He looks out the kitchen

window. He points to the clouds. I'm sure he just wants to please me. Well, that's better than if he just wanted to displease me. "You can see there's clouds – boring – or you can change your looking and notice that the clouds have golden edges, see? The way the sun makes the clouds glow at the edges."

"So we know the sun's there making them glow."

"Right. But unless you notice the edges, it's just clouds. So maybe that's like God."

"Nice! Or like one of those 3-D pictures. At first they look flat, but when you learn to soften your focus, suddenly they become three dimensional. It depends on our witnessing."

A beginning. We keep talking. We keep wrestling.

Continue your connection to the Jewish community through a wide variety of innovative and engaging opportunities. **MIDRASHA** is the perfect place for you.

## 5768 Spring Semester

Beginning January 13th at Temple Emanu-El and January 23rd at Temple Am David



Community

קהילה



Repairing the World

תיקון עולם



Text Study

תלמוד תורה

Our community-wide high school is coordinated by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island in partnership with area synagogues. All Jewish teens in grades 8-12, regardless of affiliation or synagogue membership are invited to participate.

For more information or to register for classes, contact:  
 Shira Garber Strosberg  
 Director of Community Education  
 Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island  
 401.331.0956, ext. 181; [sgarber@bjeri.org](mailto:sgarber@bjeri.org)

harry elkin **MIDRASHA** community high school  
 מדרשה bureau of Jewish education of Rhode Island