

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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May 2, 2008

## Temple Emanu-El appoints Rabbi Joel Seltzer

Rabbi Seltzer will begin on July 1

By MARYLYN GRAFF  
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PROVIDENCE — Nathan B. Beraha, president of the board of directors and its rabbinic search committee have announced that the committee has unanimously recommended the appointment of Rabbi Joel Seltzer as the temple's second rabbi. Rabbi Seltzer has also received the unanimous endorsement of the officers. His appointment was presented to the board of trustees for formal ratification on April 28.

The committee received a number of applications and conducted a series of interviews to narrow the choices. They interviewed in depth and took into account any comments and concerns of the members, who expressed many positive opinions about Rabbi Seltzer. Upon deliberating, the committee concluded that Rabbi Seltzer was its number one choice,

See RABBI, Page 14

## 'Hot, flat and crowded'

Tom Friedman previews upcoming book at Brown on Earth Day

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — As *New York Times* columnist Tom Friedman began to speak at Brown University April 22

"I spent 10 years in Beirut and Jerusalem — who would have thought I would be blindsided in Providence?"

Tom Friedman

in celebration of Earth Day, two students rushed the stage in Salomon 101 and threw paper pie plates at him filled with whipped green goo.

He turned and ducked, but the back of his head, clothes and one hand were streaked.

The 500-strong audi-

See FRIEDMAN, Page 8



Photo by Mary Korr

**NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST Tom Friedman came to Brown University on Earth Day to talk about environmental changes — and was hit with pies filled with green goo in an attack by "greenwash guerrillas."**

## Are Syria, Israel edging closer to deal?

Assad, Olmert go public about 'readiness' for talks

By LESLIE SUSSER  
JTA Staff Writer

JERUSALEM (JTA) — After several false starts over the past few years, Israel and Syria finally seem serious about peace negotiations.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

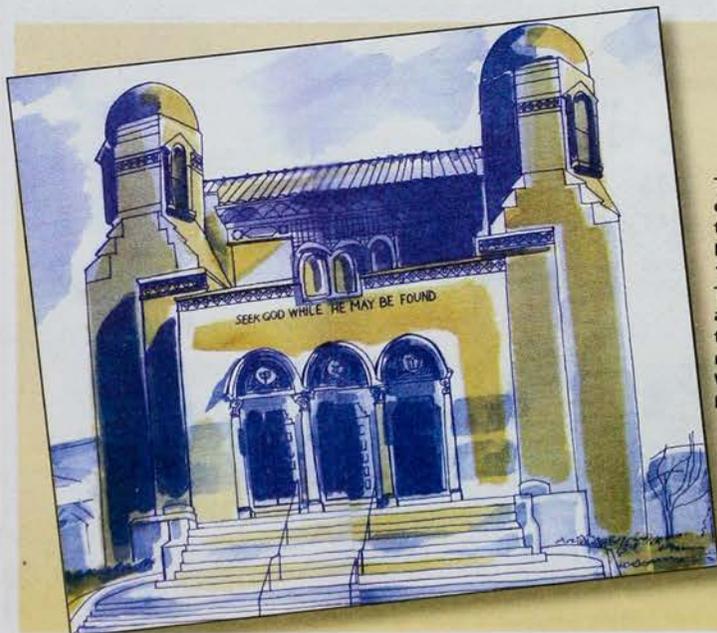
What's changed?

Both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Syrian President Bashar Assad have gone public about their readiness for talks. An active and determined mediator, Turkey, has been accepted by both sides. And in a recent interview with the Qatar-based newspaper *al-Watan*, Assad said Olmert told him via the Turks that he is ready to return the Golan Heights to Syria as part of a peace deal — a claim Olmert did not deny.

But the main difference is the impending change of administration in Washington.

Israel and Syria are preparing for a new U.S. president who may be ready to invest in an Israel-Syria

See PEACE, Page 3



THE FRONT cover of the invitation to Temple Beth El's June 1 celebration. The inscription above the temple's doors reads: "Seek God While He May Be Found."

## At Beth El, the past is always present, the future is problematic

June 1 celebration to mark the temple's 80th anniversary

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

FALL RIVER — It has been 80 years since the cornerstone of the 'new' Temple Beth El was laid into place on Oct. 28, 1928, by Philip Dondis and his two young children, Annette and David Nathan, at the corner of High and Locust streets.

The former temple, which then served more than 200 families, had been destroyed in a "conflagration" Feb. 2, 1928, that had begun in the Pocasset Mills, burning down eight

blocks in the city's center. A choir of young women, who had been practicing when the fire began, carried the temple's sacred scrolls to a safe haven blocks away.

The new building, called "one of the finest houses of worship in Fall River" by *The Fall River Herald News*, was built with brick and limestone trimming in a Romanesque architectural style, and was completed in 1929. Rabbi Morton Goldberg, in his dedication address, said: "History has proved that Judaism can grow and still live and remain Judaism. It is not a closed and finished product. It has that

See BETH EL, Page 12

## Saving a life – the ultimate tikkun olam

### Local student teacher becomes bone marrow donor

By NANCY KIRSCH

Special to *The Voice & Herald*

*"Whoever saves a life, it is as if you have saved the entire world."*

AT THE TENDER age of 25, Abby Berkelhammer may have fulfilled this Talmudic obligation by donating bone marrow to a 54-year-old man suffering from a leukemia-related condition.

Berkelhammer, a native of Providence and a 2005 graduate of Bowdoin College, will receive her Master of Arts in Teaching from Brown University this spring. She hopes to begin her teaching career in an elementary school in New York City.

The daughter of Robert and Mitzi Berkelhammer, she recently shared her experiences as a bone marrow donor.

"About six years ago, when Eileen Black was ill, I knew a lot of people who signed up to be bone marrow donors. I couldn't

attend the drive, but I went to my doctor to have the blood work done that way," Berkelhammer explained.

"We sent the information in and then I didn't hear anything until December of last year. I received a letter informing me that I was being considered as a donor, but I needed to have more tests done to make sure I didn't have any infectious diseases. Six weeks later, I heard that I was a match."

Berkelhammer said she wasn't particularly close to Black or others in the community who needed a donation, but "I really wanted to be called to help. It was important to me."

Between December 2007 and March 2008, Berkelhammer watched an instructional video that described the donor experience from start to finish, talked and e-mailed extensively with a bone marrow donor coordinator, signed consent



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

ABBY BERKELHAMMER with the thank-you note she received from the patient.

forms, suffered through many more blood draws, and had a full physical, an EKG and a chest X-

ray. After passing these tests with flying colors, she went to Massachusetts General Hospital for the procedure.

"I didn't consider not doing it," said Berkelhammer. "The Bone Marrow Center makes everything so pleasant. The Center pays for your transportation, your meals and everything. They don't want people to feel burdened by the experience."

Reflecting on how someone who is ill and needs surgery must feel, Berkelhammer said: "I was nervous before I went in, but I didn't have that element of need. I was healthy, and so it was easier for me, I think."

The surgery, which occurred on March 25, kept Berkelhammer out of work for just a few days.

As a student teacher, Berkelhammer incorporated the bone marrow donor procedure into a mini-science lesson

for her students at William D'Abate Elementary School in Providence. She explained the purpose and functions of bone marrow to her third- and fifth-graders before the surgery.

"They asked great questions," she said. "And, they were really supportive and attentive to me when I came back to school. They also asked a lot of questions about how the bone marrow recipient was doing."

Although confidentiality regulations preclude donors and recipients from learning one another's names – at least during the first year after the donation – they can communicate through notes or letters.

Berkelhammer wrote a note of support and encouragement to her recipient and, some weeks after the surgery, she received a reply from her recipient that was heartwarming and inspirational. In part, it acknowledged that her gift gave him "a second chance at life."

Berkelhammer decided to share her story because it might inspire someone else to do something similar.

"Maybe my story will make people aware of the need. It was a challenging experience, but I didn't think about not proceeding. I know that there would be a time in people's lives where having this kind of surgery isn't realistic," she said. "I know, though, that people help one another in different ways."

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

### National Bone Marrow Donor Information

ONLY 30 percent of patients who need marrow or red blood cell transplant find a matched donor in their family. The other 70 percent may search for an unrelated donor through the NMDP.

- More than 10,000 Americans each year get life-threatening diseases that may be cured only with a bone marrow

transplant from an unrelated donor.

- Depending on their situation, recipients need either a bone marrow donation or peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation. Berkelhammer's donation, like all bone marrow donations, required general anesthesia, surgery and a hospital stay. The PBSC donation is a non-surgical procedure done in an outpatient clinic setting, and involves several injections

of a drug to increase the number of blood-forming cells in the donor's bloodstream. In another procedure, the donor's blood-forming cells are removed for donation to the recipient.

- Other than lost income for time away from work, all medical costs and travel expenses are paid for by the NMDP or the patient's medical insurance. Donors never pay to donate and are never paid to donate.

- No matter which donation is required – bone marrow or PBSC – the entire process takes some 40 to 46 hours during a four-to-eight week period.

- Want to get involved? Need help? Contact the NMDP at 800-627-7692 or visit the website at [www.marow.org](http://www.marow.org).

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### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES For Greater Rhode Island

May 2	7:26
May 9	7:33
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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:



"I spent 10 years in Beirut and Jerusalem – who would have thought I would be blindsided in Providence?"

**Tom Friedman**

SEE Page 1

### IN THIS ISSUE:



Profiles of outgoing Federation President Herb Stern and incoming President-elect Doris Feinberg

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### COMING NEXT ISSUE:

Baby Boomer/Seniors issue: playing golf as a couple at a hostel in Florida

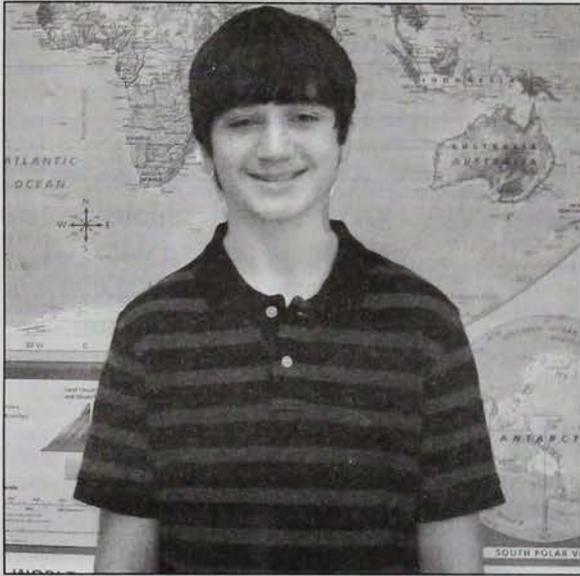
## Jewish Community Day School student wins state National Geographic geography bee

PROVIDENCE – Seventh-grader Daniel Katz will compete in the national spelling bee in Washington, D.C., sponsored by National Geographic.

Katz won the honor to represent Rhode Island at this year's competition on April 4 at Rhode Island College.

Katz's teacher, Lisa Bergman, said, "This student truly deserves this honor, he has been passionate about the study of geography and has shared his passion with his classmates for years now, he's a lot like having a live Atlas in the classroom!"

Up to 100 fourth-to eighth-graders in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. territories and Department of Defense Dependents Schools qualified for the state bees. Each state winner will receive \$100, a National Geographic globe and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the national finals on May 20-21 and the chance to be crowned National Geographic Bee champion. The contest will be televised on the



DANIEL KATZ, a seventh-grader at the Jewish Community Day School, won the state National Geographic geography bee.

National Geographic channel. First prize in the national competition is a \$25,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National

Geographic Society. Second- and third-place finishers will receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships.

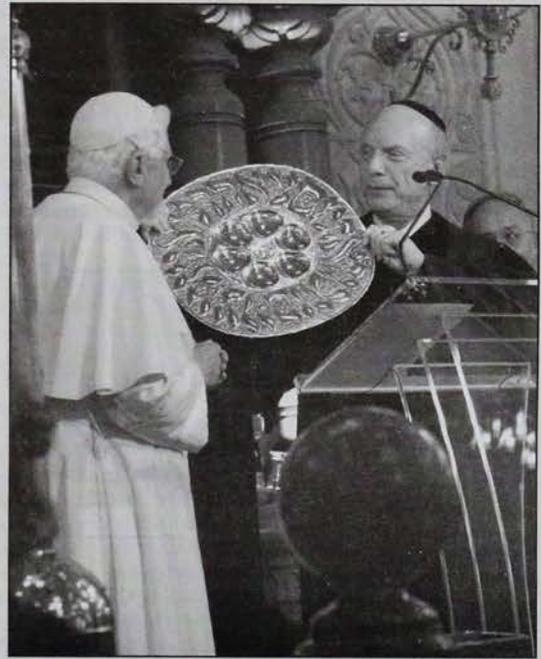


Photo by JTA

POPE BENEDICT XVI made a historic visit to Park East Synagogue in New York, marking the first time a Pope has visited a Synagogue in the United States and only the third time any Pope has ever visited a Jewish house of worship. Rabbi Arthur Schneier, right, the spiritual leader of Park East Synagogue, presented the Pope with a seder plate.

## PEACE: Is a summit with Israel, Syria in the works?

From Page 1

peace deal, primarily to detach Syria from an alliance with Iran.

The Turkish mediation effort is moving into high gear. In a lightning visit to Damascus over the weekend, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a detailed meeting with Assad focusing mainly on the question of negotiations with Israel. A Turkish envoy is expected in Jerusalem soon to brief Olmert on that exchange, and set up a follow-up meeting in Turkey between Israeli and Syrian officials.

If all goes well, the next step would be an Olmert-Assad summit.

Assad has been sounding a dis-

tinctly upbeat note. He recently told former U.S. President Jimmy Carter that 85 percent of the issues between Syria and Israel already have been resolved.

However, Assad apparently does not believe real progress will be possible as long as President Bush is in the White House. In a range of recent interviews with the Arab media, Syrian officials have said that Assad plans to use the next few months to foster conditions for progress for the next U.S. administration.

Clearly, the Syrians are hoping that whoever is elected president will follow the Baker-Hamilton study group's advice of 2006 to promote Israeli-Syria peace – a

step Bush has refused to take. Israeli players and analysts agree that Washington holds the key. The only way Syria can be induced to sever its close military, diplomatic and economic ties with Iran is if it receives a better offer from the West – an offer, they say, only the United States can make.

"We could reach an Israel-Syria bilateral deal relatively quickly," Alon Liel, the chairman of the Israeli-Syria peace lobby and a retired Israeli diplomat, told JTA. "The problem is getting Syria to agree on major regional issues like Iran, Lebanon and the Palestinians. And here we need the U.S."

The Bush White House, however, seems more intent on exposing Syrian duplicity than in helping Assad – a leader it does not trust – to make peace with Israel.

The latest Olmert-Assad peace overtures coincided with U.S. congressional hearings on an alleged clandestine Syrian nuclear facility destroyed by an Israeli airstrike last September. Some analysts suggested that the timing of the hearings might have been geared deliberately to torpedo peace efforts.

Photographs shown at the hearings of the Syrian site bombed by Israel and a North Korean nuclear facility displayed an

uncanny resemblance. U.S. intelligence suggested that the Syrian reactor was close to becoming operational and would have been able to produce enough plutonium over a year or two for several nuclear bombs.

Israeli officials have been ambivalent about the hearings. Although the evidence seems to show that Israel was justified in bombing the Syrian facility, Israeli defense officials were concerned on two counts: that humiliating Syria so publicly could spark new tension between Damascus and Jerusalem, and that going public with photographs taken close to the nuclear site – could put Israeli intelligence sources at risk.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR Profiles in cowardice — and courage

BY RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

**I**F THE ART OF POLITICS is the study of who gets what, when and how, the members of the Rhode Island House have proven themselves to be the ultimate practitioners of protecting the haves. In a recent vote on a supplemental budget, some \$26 million already committed to affordable housing was 'lifted' from RI Housing. From an economic development standpoint, this makes little or no sense, because affordable places to live in Rhode Island are one of the primary drivers of economic stability — attracting new businesses and new jobs. All this does is to increase the velocity of our downward economic spiral.

Further, cuts voted in health services for poor children and families may show up in the supplemental budget as a decrease in spending, but it will certainly lead to dramatic increases in health-care costs for everyone in the next year — in insurance premium costs, in emergency care costs, in the decrease in wellness throughout the state. Unlike state legislators, the spread of illness and disease does not discriminate. Will you remember to thank these legislators when the next flu season strikes with greater severity, thanks in part to these cuts in health services?

All of these budget cuts have been done to "avoid" new taxes. Why? Instead of cutting health services to poor families, why not increase cigarette taxes by \$2 a pack to cover such costs? Why protect cigarette manufacturers and smokers?

Instead of "robbing the bank" holding the money committed for affordable housing, why not create an additional one percent fee on any contractor doing more than \$250,000 worth of business with the state? Isn't it reasonable to expect that contractors who benefit from doing business with the state can be a source of additional income for the state during these hard times?

Instead of cutting state aid to cities and towns, why doesn't the Legislature enact a more progressive way to fund education in the state, instead of forcing municipalities to rely on property taxes? Or, for that matter, enable towns and municipalities to create a 1.5 percent education fund tax on any homes purchased in their community for more than \$400,000?

The bottom line always seems to be achieved by cutting from the bottom, rather than the top. Who has the courage to stand up and say: We need to increase revenues.

One such community leader is Rabbi Alan Flam, president of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis. Thank you, Rabbi Flam, for being such a forceful advocate on our behalf. But, more than just applauding his courage, let's stand side-by-side with him.

**I**F YOU HAVE NOT yet read the May issue of *The Atlantic*, I suggest you do so. The cover alone will explain why; it features a six-pointed Star of David in red, black and green, the colors of the Palestinian flag.

The title of the lead essay is "Is Israel Finished?" and its author is Jeffrey Goldberg. Whether or not you agree with his conclusions, the writer knows his material and is worth your attention. Goldberg is an American Jew who has made Israel his home. He writes clearly and intelligently but he never really answers the question his title asks.



Yehuda Lev

Goldberg points out that Ehud Olmert, Israel's prime minister, faces a number of difficulties when it comes to negotiating a peace with the Palestinians. He has an approval rating in Israel even lower than that of President Bush in this country. He has a reputation as a lawyer with a sharp eye, a wheeler-dealer and a turncoat, this last because, before he became prime minister, he was an ardent promoter of the settlement movement and scion of a leading right-wing political family. To add to his list of contradictions, his wife is an active member of Peace Now, as are two of his children.

That aside, Olmert's most serious problem in dealing with issues of peace is the 200,000 settlers now living on the West Bank (400,000 if you include those in the Jerusalem area) who, together with their supporters within Israel proper, have an effective veto power over any move to oust them. The same is true

## A MAJORITY OF ONE

# Israel@60: The golden years still elusive

on the other side Hamas, the more radical of the Palestinian entities and the rulers of Gaza, has the power to veto any agreement with Israel signed by Fatah (West Bank) or Hezbollah (Lebanon) by simply refusing to go

## "Olmert's most serious problem in dealing with issues of peace is the 200,000 settlers now living on the West Bank."

along with it, continuing the shelling of Sderot and extending its range further.

The existential threats to Israel are: a mass invasion by its Arab neighbors, a worldwide economic and cultural boycott, an increasing conflict with Iran or a failure of the Israeli social and educational systems leading to the departure of its educated youth who see no future for themselves. Olmert himself, in arguing recently for a partial withdrawal of West Bank settlements, said that most American Jews, the backbone of Israel's support in this country, might turn away if it became evident that the state lost its democratic system of government either to a theocracy or by exiling its Palestinian residents.

A Palestinian's view of Israel's future is offered by Yehya Mousa, a Hamas legislator in Gaza, published in the April 3 issue of *Bitter Lemons*, an online magazine of the Middle East Roundtable. "Israel will cease to exist because it cannot depend on itself for the necessary steadfastness as a state but must depend

on others. Should there be any dramatic change in the international order, Israel will no longer have this support... The current crop of Israeli leaders is simply not as qualified as the old leaders who knew how to run the country. Today's Israeli leaders are running the country into the ground. There are tens of factors indicating that Israel is nearing its end."

Are matters really that serious on Israel's 60th birthday? Perhaps they are, but with important mitigating circumstances. For one, its enemies are in disarray, with little support other than verbal for the Palestinian refugees. There is no love lost between Sunnis and Shi'ites, Arabs and Iranians, Kurds and everyone else. Islam, while inspirational to many Muslims, carries with it the heavy baggage of patriarchy and rigidity and deep suspicions, in the Christian world, of its motives and ideology. For another, it will almost certainly retain the short-term support of the United States, whomever is elected president in November. Also, we can only hope that the next generation of Israeli leadership will rise to the level of its founders in integrity, political wisdom and the ability to act as though there is a future beyond the next election.

Finally, Israelis will have to make two decisions. The first is to invite Hamas to the negotiating table. Hamas is in Gaza to stay and only a war will drive them out, a guerilla war, which it appears, is unwinnable. And second, what kind of a state do Israelis want, a democracy, a theocracy or an all-Jewish state? The three do not intermesh.

See you at the 70th.

Yehuda Lev can be reached at [yehuda1@cox.net](mailto:yehuda1@cox.net).

## Letters to the Editor Threats facing our finite planet

**I**READ Sam Andorsky's Response from a self-proclaimed 'tree hugger' in the April 18th issue of *The Voice & Herald*, an answer to my own letter of several weeks ago and I profoundly thank him for his thoughtful response and write to say to him that I know it is a tough issue. No one talks about it. Notice no candidate has a position on it or is ever asked about it. Do you think that no one but you and I see the connection between global shortages and increased demand/population?

That cannot be — it is too hard an issue but it is the big issue.

Your response, however, is that 'we' are different, 'we' are better, 'we' are the ones the world needs.

'We', doctor, lack humility.

I am glad you are thinking of population limits. You must. The earth is finite. That is a painful prospect. But do not think of it as you write: that Jews need pay no mind because

of '... the impact the Holocaust had on Jewish population numbers... as well as the... demographic trends of our people's numbers diminishing... making up a fraction of one percent of the world population....' Our planet succumbing to overpopulation is not a Jewish issue or a Christian or a Muslim one or one where there are smart, more deserv-

ing beings (the Jews you say) for whom it does not apply. There is no such thing. Nor is there recompense as you plead for allowance to make up for lives lost in the Holocaust. That was yesterday. This is today and tomorrow is the future for the global community of mankind everywhere. The holy books I know put each and all on equal footing. Alas, the scientific com-

munity puts us in equal peril.

Thank you for writing. Please keep thinking but set aside your parochial instincts and look down upon our Earth as though from another galaxy and see then what our children and theirs need to do.

Debbie Spivak  
Providence

## 100 years young, and an avid reader

**I** must tell you that I enjoy *The Jewish Voice & Herald* very much. I read every article and don't miss a single page of the paper's news.

I have always been an ardent reader of the newspaper and continued subscribing to it when I moved to Quincy from Warwick after the death of

my husband, Jack Kagan. It seemed the best thing to do, as I wanted to be near my daughter in Quincy and my son in Milton and their families.

I am 100 years young and will be 101 June 21. Until I was 99 years old I kept my car and drove around and did all my errands. I'm still

full of energy, thank God. I hope you will continue to write the wonderful articles. I look forward to receiving *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.

Thank you for publishing a very great newspaper.

Evelyn J. Kagan  
Quincy, Mass.

## Submission Guidelines

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

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

## A peaceable Israel: which piece must go?

*Carter: Dupe for Hamas?*

THE QUESTIONS of the day are two. Here's the first: Who would like to see a viable peace in the Middle East with Arabs and Jews living harmoniously in nations side-by-side? Raise your hands. Let's see, there's one, two, 10, 1,000, 100 million, 200 hundred million.



**Josh Stein**

Now the second question: How many think this will occur in your lifetime? One, two, three, 10, 15, 16...17.....that's it? I grant, this is not the most scientific of polls, but is there any evidence at all that Arab leaders really want peace with Israel? Hamas leaders? Hezbollah leaders? Syrian leaders? Has peace been possible since 1948? Yes. Has peace been achieved? No.

(Well, "yes" if one counts Jordan and Egypt but "no" once those governments are toppled by Islamic fundamentalists.)

So, Happy Birthday Israel. Keep your Uzis close at hand.

In recent days former President Carter has visited leaders of Hamas and declared that they seek peace. This was immediately contradicted by leaders of Hamas.

Love or loathe him, Carter is not stupid. So if he said "yes" and they said "no," it's obvious that Hamas set him up for a fall. They betrayed their own advocate. Can we expect them to honor their (former) foe?

Last week there was complaint from Palestinians about President Bush's up-coming trip to Israel to celebrate its 60th birthday. He's already met with Mahmoud Abbas, president of... (well, I'm not sure what. "The Palestinian Authority" is his official title, but he seems to have only a little authority over Palestinians in the West Bank and none at all in Gaza). Bush said after the meetings that he "remained confident that

talks could produce parameters for a Palestinian state." (OK, another poll: Raise your hands if you know what that means? Seeing none, we'll proceed.) The president of the United States went on to say, "I assured the president that a Palestinian state's a high priority for me

for "seeking a true, genuine and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The two presidents are scheduled to meet again in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt, not in Ramallah, the temporary capital of Greater Palestine (until all of Jerusalem can be liberated). My guess is that this is less an overt insult to the Palestinians than an imperative imposed by the Secret Service. "It's a slap in the face," said Dianna Butt, a former negotiator for Abbas. Bush is "saying to the Palestinians 'You

have no history, and your past does not matter.' He's not visiting a refugee camp, he's not meeting survivors of the forced expulsion." Mustafa Barghouti, a former Palestinian information minister chimed in: "The lack of sensitivity to this matter is very prominent. Forty-eight was, of course, the date when Israel was created but it's also a very sad date for Palestinians who were dispossessed from their lands. It's a very deep scar in Palestinian life."

Does anybody out there see any hope for peace in any of

this? Deep scars of the political and emotional kind do not heal. They get infected when palliative measures are not sought, when those who bear the scars prefer to let them fester to prove a point rather than take steps to heal the wounds. Those refugee camps are still in place because Israel wants them? Bush should go to Israel to honor its 60th birthday and also commiserate with the Palestinians? This makes sense to someone?

How many times could there have been peace in the Middle East? Let me count the ways. After 1948, after 1956, after 1967, after 1973, after Oslo, after Madrid, after Camp David, during the Clinton initiative. Is there anything now, other than a one-state solution, that would return all of Palestine (from the River to the Sea) to the Palestinians that can bring about peace? A peace devoutly to be wished by anti-Zionists everywhere.

Happy Birthday, Israel. Keep your Uzis at the ready.

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

### How many times could there have been peace in the Middle East? Let me count the ways.

and my administration: a viable state, a state that doesn't look like Swiss cheese, a state that provides hope. I'm confident we can achieve the definition of a state." Achieve the definition of a state? Can a man whose goals are so nebulous be expected to accomplish anything? Does he even have the vaguest idea of what he hopes to accomplish? And was it necessary to insult the Helvetians in the bargain? Abbas (who, as a former top aide of Yassar Arafat must be used to double-talk) responded graciously, praising Mr. Bush

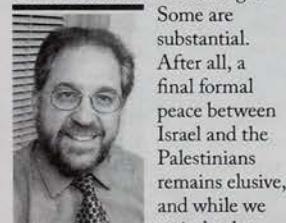
NOW BATTING

## Israel in the Ivory Tower

*Middle East studies and anti-Semitism*

THE 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel is upon us: a time to celebrate. We are blessed to live at a time of an independent Jewish state in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Even as celebrations abound, we hear discordant rumblings.



**Alan Zuckerman**

Some are substantial. After all, a final formal peace between Israel and the Palestinians remains elusive, and while we wait deaths and injuries continue. The specter of Iran with nuclear weapons is another real worry. Jimmy Carter's recent trip to the Middle East reminds us that an American administration that would follow his lead would become indifferent to Israel's survival.

And then there is the world of the Ivory Tower. Academia does not praise Israel, and so many Jews worry. Indeed, many Jews fear that most of those in academia vary between opposing

Israeli policies to wishing Israel did not exist. Jews worry that anti-Israel sentiments will affect their children and grandchildren: Will they (too) then turn against the Jewish state? They worry too about the corrosive effect of these views on American public support for Israel.

These concerns draw on an array of incidents that have appeared in just the last year. A recent article in *The New Yorker* depicts a puzzling controversy at Columbia University. The event centers on the decision to grant tenure to a professor, the daughter of a Palestinian father, whose most significant research views archeology in Israel as little more than Zionist propaganda. Assuming the correctness of that decision, the author ridicules the Jews who rose in opposition. This story brings to mind two similar cases involving Middle East Studies at Columbia that happened a year earlier. Expecting American universities to be sites where reason prevails, many Jews wonder about the relationship between Middle East Studies and anti-Zionism, and they wonder too about Jewish organizations monitoring faculty. What's going on here? Looking beyond Columbia,

the picture continues to darken. Recall Mearshheimer and Walt's well publicized book on the relationship between supporters of Israel and U. S. policy on the Middle East. The effort by the British union of university professors to boycott Israeli academics

### "Last week Norman Finkelstein, notorious for his hatred of Israel and the Jewish community's efforts to memorialize the Holocaust, spoke to a large audience."

reminds us that the worries are not unique to the United States.

Even Brown, my own Ivory Tower, has its share of bad news: Last week Norman Finkelstein, notorious for his hatred of Israel and the Jewish community's efforts to memorialize the Holocaust, spoke to a large audience. A year ago, the Watson Institute hosted a conference on academic freedom in the field of Middle East Studies, in which participants virulently attacked Israel and its supporters. Adding insult to injury, one of the organizers of the conference followed the meeting by publishing an attack on Rabbi Serena Eisenberg, the

then-Hillel director, in print.

What is going on here? Is there reason to worry? Let me take you inside the Ivory Tower to give you a better sense of these matters.

Consider the field of Middle East Studies - at Columbia, Brown, and just about everywhere. In my judgment it is the worst field in academia, combining shoddy scholarship and professors who openly deflect their political views on their students. The author of *The New Yorker*

article ignores how bad, how politicized, and how anti-Israel is the field. The dominant view is more or less that of Hamas without Islam. If you are confused by this contradiction, you should be. That they are not tells you even more about them.

The good news here is that these people speak only to each other, reinforcing their own views, but hardly influencing any one outside their circle.

More good news: The reviews of Mearshheimer and Walt's book agree on how bad it is. Indeed, those who oppose Israeli policies fret that the book has set back debate for years to come.

Do you want proof? Consider that the presidential campaign displays uniform agreement on support for Israel - no matter the differences among the candidates.

Here's the good news at Brown: we don't have a Middle East department; we don't have a Middle East Studies program, center, or an institute. We have a concentration, and so we have hardly any faculty and students in this sorry field.

If you still want good news, remember that the British boycott failed and that thousands of academics around the world signed a petition opposing it, and hundreds of presidents of American universities signed letters of opposition, including Brown's Ruth Simmons.

Obviously, all is not rosy. Finkelstein and his supporters are out there. But American universities are diverse, resilient institutions where supporters of Israel have a strong presence.

Is there reason to worry? No. Is there reason to be vigilant? Yes. Is there reason to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary? Absolutely. So let's do that.

*Alan Zuckerman can be reached at alan\_zuckerman@brown.edu.*

## VIEWPOINT

## Embraced by the power of the number '10'

*How a minyan became a sense of place where I belonged*

By HOWARD TINBERG  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**W**HAT IS the significance of the number 10? Can the universe, as some assert, be defined in powers of 10? Is there some deep, numerological meaning to the number? That I can't say. What I can do is tell a story that confirms my belief in the power of that number.

I was 11 years old in November of 1964 when my father died of pancreatic cancer. Our family officially began a year of mourning. In Jewish tradition, certain prayers – including the prayer for mourn-

ing – cannot be recited unless 10 adults – over the age of 13 – are present.

For certain Orthodox communities the number may be restricted to 10 males; for others, men and women are counted as part of what

is called a *minyan*. The

saying goes that anywhere in the world a Jew who has lost a partner, a parent, a sibling or a child, ought to be able to enter any synagogue or temple and receive the opportunity to say *kaddish*, the traditional mourning prayers.

That year began with the ritual of sitting *shiva* – seven days of intense mourning, during which a *minyan* met in our home and *kaddish* was

recited there. When the week was up, and for 11 months, my brothers and I became part of a daily *minyan* at our local synagogue.

Only 11, I did not count as part of the 10 but I felt the special power of being part

doubt helped to warm us all on those chilling mornings.

Each member of the 10 had a kind of signature personality and a nickname my brothers and I assigned. There was the tall and handsome gentleman whom we all called “the missile man,” who, we were told, worked in the aerospace field. There was “the egg man,” a jovial elderly man who sold eggs

on a truck every day. And there was a mysterious old gentleman, a “professional mourner,” Mr. Norman, who really hadn't lost anyone at all but was being paid to say *kaddish* for others. I recall how passionately he read a particular prayer, the *Sh'ma*, striking

his chest for emphasis.

When the 11 months of mourning lifted, I recall feeling a mixture of relief (I was, after all, a child who would rather have been at the playground most afternoons) and sadness that I would no longer be part of this group of 10. Perhaps, I felt some jealousy as well – near the end of our year, a new boy came, a boy as young as I had been, who had just lost his father. It was his turn now, to be embraced by the power of 10.

*Howard Tinberg is a professor of English at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass. In 2004, he was named national Community College Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He serves on the Editorial Board of The Voice & Herald. This essay was first read as part of the programming for “This I Believe” on public radio, WNRI. He can be reached at htinberg@cox.net*

**“It was not easy waking up in the darkness of those wintry mornings but the dark seemed dispelled by the light of the sanctuary and by the beaming smiles of the regular *minyan* makers.”**

of a wonderfully supportive and nurturing community. It was not easy waking up in the darkness of those wintry mornings but the dark seemed dispelled by the light of the sanctuary and by the beaming smiles of the regular *minyan* makers. A bit of schnapps at the end of each morning service no

## BETWEEN WORK AND HOME

## Why would a school conference on diversity be scheduled on Passover?

*Next year in Jerusalem takes on new significance*

**A**S WE HIT the ball back and forth across the court, my tennis partner and I discussed our plans for Passover. As we talked about recipes and guest lists



Barbara Fields

and family traditions, she mentioned that her daughter wasn't going to be home this year for the first seder. A high school student at a local private school, her daughter had asked

permission to skip this year's family seder so she could attend a special weekend seminar.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered the conference was being sponsored by AISNE – the Association of Independent Schools of New England – the same association my children's school, Jewish Community Day School (JCDS), had worked hard to join a decade ago when I was

on the board of directors.

AISNE is the membership organization for all high-quality private schools in the region – including secular as well as parochial schools. I could understand my friend's daughter's desire to attend a conference and skip the annual holiday. But I wondered: what type of conference would be held on the same weekend as this popular Jewish holiday.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the conference was a workshop for “high school students of color.” What about Jewish students of color? Granted there aren't very many (yet!) but the numbers are growing. And, why would AISNE hold a conference on a weekend that would make it challenging if not impossible for Jewish students to attend? Had someone not read the calendar? Was AISNE unaware that Jews come in all colors? How could that be?

When I got home that day, I went to the AISNE web site. The conference, it said, would focus on offering students of color a chance to explore identity, build community

and develop leadership. All important work to be done, no doubt.

But I kept thinking about my children who are just in elementary school – and I kept

**“Passover is the night for reckless dreams; for visions about what a human being can be, what society can be, what people can be, what history may become.”**

wondering how they would feel 10 years from now. I grew increasingly concerned when I read further and found that white students were welcome to attend the conference – but only if they could “demonstrate a clear interest and commitment to social justice issues.”

Now my passing interest was rapidly converted to heightened agitation. My son is a biological child and white. My daughter was adopted from China. Together we are a Chinese-American-Jewish family.

For the last six years, we have attended an annual weekend retreat at a Jewish camp

in northwestern Connecticut. Sponsored by the Jewish Multiracial Network, the retreat brings together about 150 adults and children for a chance to explore and celebrate our diversity. The Shabbaton experience includes workshops for adults and programming for kids as well as relaxed time so that multiracial adults, teens and children can come together for mutual support and learning and to build a broader, more inclusive Jewish community.

We have made some wonderful friendships at these retreats – friendships that I hope will last a lifetime for my children and myself, as we travel this path together. We have brought many of the lessons we learn each year back into our local Jewish community. Yet, I also know that each of my children will chart their separate journey.

The AISNE conference materials left me wondering: do they believe that my Chinese-born daughter has some innate connection to social justice that her brother doesn't have? I assume that, as teenagers, each will explore, discover and shape their own identity. Theirs is a world I can

only imagine. Already, they have a view of the world and of the Jewish community that shatters almost every concept I knew at their age.

I'm chagrined that AISNE chose to schedule the retreat during Passover. I know that there are many teens who could not attend that retreat and who might have offered something to the discussions.

And, I know that the Jewish students of color who could not be there lost out on making deeper and more meaningful connections with other students of color.

So, as we celebrated Passover this year, the words which end the seder, “next year in Jerusalem,” took on yet another meaning for me. As David Hartman writes, “Passover is the night for reckless dreams; for visions about what a human being can be, what society can be, what people can be, what history may become.” As I look across the table and try to envision my children's future, “Next year in Jerusalem” is my bridge to the future.

*Barbara Fields can be reached at bfields@cox.net*

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**FRIEDMAN:** We need a smart power grid providing energy for smart homes, smart cars.

From Page 1

ence, which included Brown President Ruth Simmons, was as shocked as he was and jumped to their feet. The assailants then threw leaflets and dashed out a side door, with one man and a security guard in pursuit. They caught the young woman, who was identified as a Brown student. The university later issued a statement condemning the attack.

Later that night, the incident was posted on YouTube, courtesy of the perpetrators, the "greenwash guerrillas," whose leaflets stated the action was done "because of his [Friedman's] sickeningly cheery applause for free market capitalism's conquest of the planet," among other accusations.

Clearly these views were not those of the audience - Friedman was welcomed back with a standing ovation.

"I spent 10 years in Beirut and Jerusalem - who would have thought I would be blindsided

in Providence?" Friedman quipped when he returned to the stage after cleaning up.

Friedman was invited to Brown by the Environmental Change Initiative.

He spoke about the themes in his upcoming book, *Hot, Flat and Crowded*. Chapter One is titled: "Where Birds Don't Fly." It comes from a remark made to him in Istanbul, two years after Sept. 11. He went looking for the American consul, only to find the office had been relocated to 12 miles outside of the city.

Driven there, he was stunned to find the consulate housed in a fortress-like maximum security prison. The consul general



TOM FRIEDMAN is interviewed by Chaz Firestone for the *Brown Daily Herald*. Photo by Mary Korr

explained that after the British consulate was blown up and its consul killed, information was obtained from one of the apprehended terrorists. "He told his interrogators the group wanted to blow up the American consulate, but 'it is so secure they don't even allow birds to fly there.'"

Friedman extended the metaphor to America and the

environment. "We're becoming a country where birds don't fly. Our biggest energy problem is the political brown-out of our government," he said.

"It's important to have leadership at the top. I'd like the next vice president to be the Prime Minister of Energy, and have the authority to pull all the parts together.

"My strategy is to rev up my own country, and that's the challenge for the next president. The

appetite for renewing America is boundless, but we have to realize it's not going to be free."

He said the role of society is to push out the frontiers of science and nanotechnology; to fund research and development, and then have the open market commercialize this new "green" technology. It would be

the opposite of the Manhattan Project, where a group of scientists acted in unison and isolation to develop the atomic bomb.

Friedman identified five key trends in the 21st century that are shaping the world: energy supply and demand, climate change, petro dictatorships ('Fill 'er up' dictators), biodiversity loss and energy poverty. There is a chapter on each in the book.

The worldwide population growth will exponentially exacerbate energy needs. Friedman noted that when he was born, the population stood at 2.7 billion; by 2053, according to a U.N. projection, it will jump to 9.2 billion people.

"We will need more than two planets to satisfy the current American lifestyles. It's great to drive a Prius and change a light bulb," he says, but this is nothing compared to the carbon footprints of the U.S., China and Indonesia, the latter due to rampant illegal deforestation. "The

See FRIEDMAN, page 28

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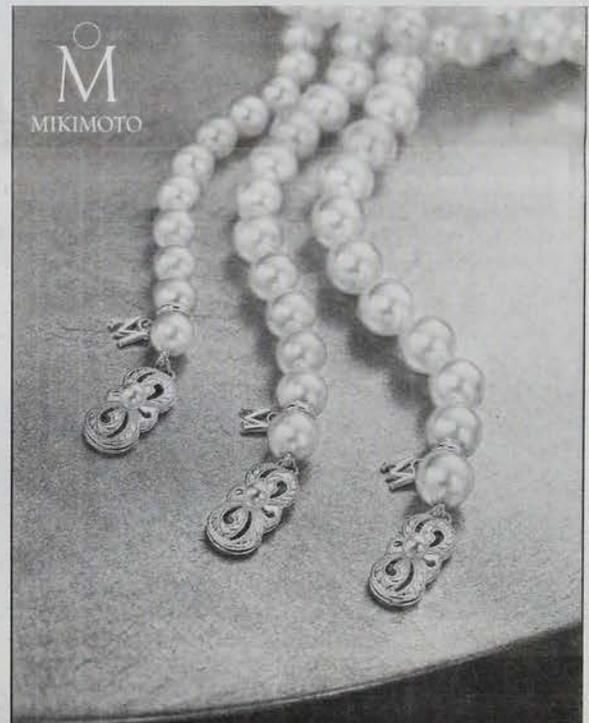
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## Growing up Tom Friedman

*A Jewish Garrison Keillor background in Minnesota*

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

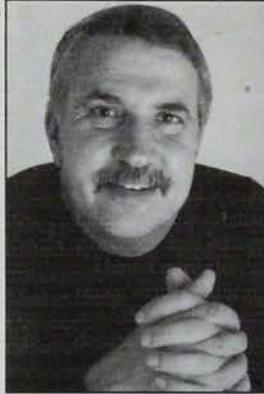
FANS OF TOM Friedman will be happy to hear he's back on the beat at *The New York Times* May 1.

"I've been hibernating, finishing my next book," Friedman says last Tuesday in an interview before he spoke at an Earth Day celebration at Brown.

The book, *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution*, will come out in August.

He works out of *The Times* bureau in Washington D.C., or

at the Bethesda, Md., home he shares with his wife, Ann, and where they raised their two daughters, Orly and Natalie. Both girls, he says, were born at Hadassah Hospital in Israel, when Friedman was stationed there. One is a graduate of Yale, the other is a student at Williams College in Massachusetts. Both have accompanied their father on his treks around the



**"In the summer, I went to Herzl Zionist camps and I spent three summers in high school living on a kibbutz in Israel."**

world to get the story. Friedman talks about his solid middle-class boyhood in St. Louis Park, a small town outside of Minneapolis. Born

in 1953 to Harold and Margaret Friedman, he has two older sisters.

Their home was bought through the GI bill. (His mother was a Navy ensign in World War II.) The family belonged to a Conservative synagogue.

It was an era when winters were winters and February never had a warm day, Friedman recalls. He and his friends would play broomball on the ice, sweeping a soccer ball instead of a puck. (He traded the broom for golf clubs a long time ago.)

"In the summer, I went to Herzl Zionist camps and I spent

three summers in high school living on a kibbutz," he says.

A high school journalism teacher taught him the fundamentals of his profession — the only journalism course the thrice-awarded Pulitzer Prize winner has ever taken. Her name was Hattie Steinberg, and he pays homage to her in one of his columns: "...And boy, she pounded the fundamentals of journalism into her students — not simply how to write a lead or accurately transcribe a quote, but, more important, how to comport yourself in a professional way and to always do quality work. To this day, when I forget to wear a tie on an assignment, I think of Hattie scolding me."

See COLUMNIST, Page 28

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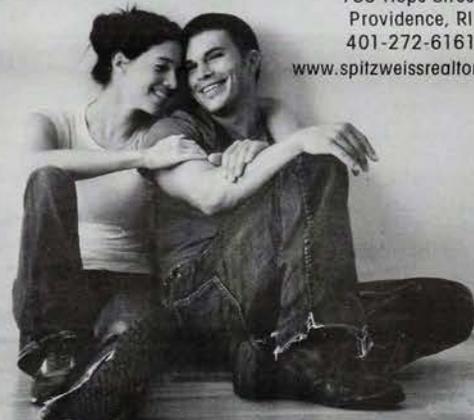
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## Stern bids farewell to JFRI presidency

By MARY KORR  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – Herbert Stern's tenure as president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) comes to an end on May 12, at the organization's 63rd annual meeting. Stern has often joked that his wife, Diana, started the countdown about two years ago.

The top job at JFRI is demanding, requiring commitment, time and tact. During his three years as president, Stern has guided the organization through a period of significant change, which included the hiring of Stephen Silberfarb as executive vice president and CEO in the fall of 2006.

His time in office has seen the birth of the Jewish Community Day School, and a realignment of JFRI, designed to revitalize the community around Jewish philanthropy.

At the time, he described the new structure as a "seismic change in the way we do business." As part of the realignment, JFRI has expanded its professional staff with "strategic planners and thinkers," said Stern. At the same time, the JFRI board has been streamlined to effectuate rapid responses to community needs.

"Herb has been one of the most dedicated and energetic voices the Federation has ever had," said Hershey Rosen, a former JFRI president who worked closely with Stern when he served as interim executive vice president. "Herb's done a great job and the community

appreciates it."

President-elect Doris Feinberg described the hallmarks of Stern's tenure. "Herb has been a trailblazer for change. He respects the tradition of our community culture. Yet, he decisively promoted a new world view for our Jewish community. He has an infinite Jewish spirit, soul and heart."

"Herb Stern has ushered this organization through a period of remarkable and very positive change, and it's been my honor to work with him, and to call him my friend," said Silberfarb.

His parents would be *kvelling*. Born with energy and enthusiasm, Stern's determination and sense of justice were inculcated as a boy by them. His father was an attorney who kept dinners lively with debate on the importance of *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam* and Jewish leadership. His mother, a social worker who once took on the archbishop of Boston for



Photo by Mary Korr  
JFRI PRESIDENT HERB STERN listens to a humorous farewell given by president-elect Doris Feinberg at a reception he gave Tuesday night.

his stance on unwed mothers, set high expectations for him. If he didn't get all As on his report card, she would say, 'Herbie, you're slipping.'

On Tuesday night, Stern pounded the gavel for the last

many people there are in the community and on the staff who care and labor in the trenches and do it over and over again, just to get it right."

Stern is proud of the fact that the president designate, Doris Feinberg, is the first woman to serve in that capacity and suggests it is long overdue. "She is an incredible person at the right time," he said.

### On leadership

In an earlier interview, when asked what advice he had for his successor, Stern

**"Herb has been one of the most dedicated and energetic voices the Federation has ever had."**

Hershey Rosen

time at a board of director's meeting and thanked its members. "I will always remember



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# Doris Feinberg: commitment to community, a love of fundraising

*New president-elect wants to be defined by community impact*

By RICHARD ASINOF  
rasinof@jfri.org

NEWPORT – For Doris Feinberg, the president-elect of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, her Jewish identity was very much shaped by her experiences in Bayonne, N.J., where her home away from home was the local Jewish Community Center.

“It was my entry to Jewish community life,” she said in a recent interview at her home in Newport. “It was a safety net for me.”

Feinberg, who would go on to serve as president of the state-wide JCC teen council in New Jersey, says her commitment to give back to the Jewish community is very much a result of the positive foundation created by her experiences “growing up” at the Jewish Community Center.

Indeed, she met her husband, Alan, at Jewish Community Center, when he, returning back to Bayonne during the summer after college, responded to her request to join in as the fourth in a game of bridge. To this day, they are avid bridge partners, playing on a regular basis.

In college, Feinberg studied to become a nurse, graduating from the Rutgers College of Nursing in Newark, N.J., in 1970, and then receiving a master’s degree at Rutgers



in 1975 in psychiatric mental health nursing.

When she and her husband moved to Rhode Island, she worked as a partner in a family therapy practice in East Greenwich, and also taught at the University of Rhode Island.

the director of annual giving at Rhode Island Hospital.

Over the next decade, her accomplishments and responsibilities grew, as she helped lead the fundraising effort to create Hasbro Children’s Hospital and ultimately, became president of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation. In 2004, she established her own fundraising consulting business, The Prospero Group LLC, in Newport.

Feinberg talked about her strong commitment to Israel. “I have a deep connection to Israel,” she said. “Both Israel and I turn 60 years old this year.” In 2007, she was a participant on a national UJC mission to Ethiopia and Israel, which she said had a profound impact on her life.

As the first woman president

**“I have a deep connection to Israel. I feel as if I grew up with Israel my entire life.”**

**Doris Feinberg**

When her twin children were born in 1980, she decided to stay at home with them. Then, when she re-entered the workplace in 1992, she combined her nursing background with her natural affinity for fundraising (learned through her volunteerism in the Jewish Federation world) and secured a position as



DORIS FEINBERG was one of the leaders of a national UJC mission to Ethiopia and Israel in 2007. In the photos above, the president-elect interacts with the children she met, including jumping rope.

of JFRI, Feinberg said: “While I am quite proud of this milestone, I hope I will be defined by community accomplishments irrespective of gender.”

Moving forward, Feinberg said she wants to create “a more collaborative approach” to programs and services in the Jewish community. “We need to be smarter about the way we use our donor dollars. We must be more efficient and more transparent. Most important, we must ensure access and quality” she said.

One of the biggest chal-

lenges, she continued, is the need to engage with younger adult members of the Jewish community. “How do we make our Jewish communal world more relevant to young adults? Most young adults, like my own children, have strong social consciences. We want to capture their spirit so that they continue the chain of Jewish volunteerism. No one else will take care of our Jewish needs other than our own people,” she said.



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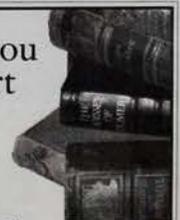
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## BETH EL: A Jewish community's tenacious struggle to survive

From Page 1

rare gift of adapting itself to a new life and new light."

On Sunday, June 1, beginning at 10:30 a.m., the Conservative congregation will host a cornerstone re-enactment and a Torah heritage ceremony as part of a day of celebration marking its 80th anniversary.

The celebration, however, will be tinged with sadness — the average age of congregants at Beth El today is over 70 years, according to Rosanne Litchman, chair of the June 1 event. The once vibrant synagogue, which in the 1950s had more than 600 children in its weekly Hebrew school classes, now rents out much of the space in its buildings.

For M. Charles Bakst, the political columnist at *The Providence Journal*, whose father was once president of the congregation and whose mother was very involved with the Sisterhood, the memories of his time spent at Beth-El are evocative of a place where "my life and my career would be shaped."

"I remember on Yom Kippur, the light at sunset would stream through the stained glass windows," he recalled in a recent interview with *The Voice & Herald*.

For Bakst, there are wistful memories of playing basketball in the auditorium, devouring

rolls, herring and hard-boiled eggs at the men's club breakfasts — and then dashing out when the speaker would begin, and hanging out in the teenage-age lounge with record hops and Saturday night Bar Mitzvah parties.

The decline of the Jewish community in Fall River, Bakst said, is a familiar refrain today heard in many of New England's mill cities. "If you had an economic revival, Jewish families would come back to Fall River," he predicted.

Bakst's mother was a Horvitz, one of the founding families of Temple Beth-El in 1924. One of Bakst's cousins, Stewart Horvitz, is helping to lead a revitalization effort in Fall River, with his leadership of the Narrows Center for the Arts, a 280-seat facility that hosts performing and visual



Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El

ANNETTE AND DAVID NATHAN DONDIS laying the cornerstone in October 1928. Numerous rabbis and dignitaries attended the ceremony, including Gov. Frank G. Allen of Massachusetts.

artists, musicians, writers and performers.

### TENACITY IN FALL RIVER

The history of the congregation, which has been recorded in a DVD for the 80th celebration,

is very much a story of a Jewish community's tenacity to survive — and its aspirations.

In the 1930s, the congregation fell on hard times during the Depression, unable to meet its payments, and the rabbi left to join another congregation. Yet, one of its first cantors, Marcus Gerlich, was a famous opera singer, a refugee from Frankfurt, Germany.

As the nation recovered, so did Fall River, and the congregation grew again, with the influx of Jewish families from New York City when new textile mills opened in the 1940s.

The 1950s were the golden years for the congregation, as young families boomed and the temple's crowded classrooms led to the construction of a new

auditorium. In recent years, Jewish families moved away from Fall River, the number of congregants has dwindled.

Local poet Ada Jill Schneier in honor of Beth-El's 80th anniversary, wrote a new poem which captures the memories of the congregation's brighter past.

*At Temple Beth El the past is always present. Myriad jeweled segments of stained glass in our sanctuary refract memories of beloved friends.*

*As the Holy Ark discloses velvet-clad torahs, our hearts recall young b'nai mitzvah, clad in new clothes, chanting the Haftorah.*

*Two majestic menorahs stand watch over us like parents, of blessed memory, when we say Kaddish.*

*The past is always present at Temple Beth-El.*

*May God bear our voices echo in gratitude for all that we are, for all who come before us, and for all who are yet to come.*

*Amen.*

*For more information on the 80th celebration, please call Temple Beth El at (508) 674-3529*

## Experience Israel! At the Warwick Mall



**What:** Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday with games and activities up and down the map! On our Israel map, you can walk, jump, skip or swim from Israel's southern desert region to its mountainous north.

**When:** Wednesday, May 21st

**Where:** Warwick Mall

**Time:** 5:00pm - 8:00pm

**Info:** Wendy Joering

401.331.0956, ext. 178; wjoering@bjeri.org  
Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island



Experience Israel! is part of the Rhode Island Jewish Community's Israel @ 60 Celebrations; a program of JFRI in partnership with local synagogues, schools and agencies. Visit [www.JFRI.org](http://www.JFRI.org) for complete calendar.

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## Calling all babies, toddlers, mommies, daddies and grandparents!

ALL ARE INVITED to join the last Babies, Kids and Kibbitzing (BKK) Playgroup before the summer on Friday, May 9, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, as we

celebrate Israel@60. We'll play on the giant inflatable Israel map, sing and dance with the local young Israeli emissaries Anna and Hadas,

bring in Shabbat together, but most of all have fun. We hope you'll bring your little ones and join in this very special playgroup as we celebrate

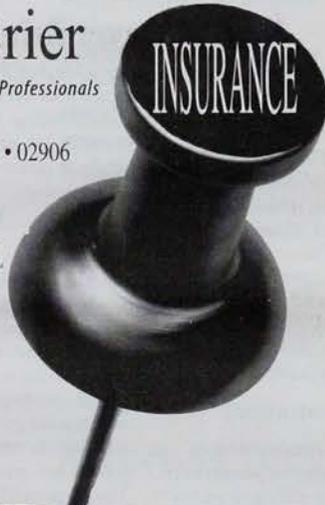
Israel's birthday. Left: Kids doing crafts at recent BKK gathering. Center: Randi Beranbaum and her daughter. Right: Alison Walter and her

daughter, Ivy. Contact Amy Rovin to learn more, 421-4111, ext. 169 or arovin@JFRI.org.

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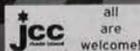
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- Built **security roads** along the Lebanese and Gaza borders to protect Israeli citizens
- Restored **hundreds of heritage sites** associated with Israel's rebirth
- Engaged American Jewish youth through **transformative educational experiences** and travel to Israel
- Helped Sderot residents with vital security and recreational outlets, and continues to assist this community

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## RABBI: Emanu-El names second rabbi

From Page 1

a sentiment echoed by the rabbi himself, who was being actively recruited by other congregations.

Rabbi Seltzer will formally assume his rabbinic duties on July 1, although he has already returned to Providence for several meetings so that he can begin preparing for his responsibilities here.

Rabbi Seltzer will be ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) this May, when he will also receive a master's degree for a concentration in Rabbinics.

He has been chosen by his classmates to speak on their behalf at the seminary's graduation ceremonies. He attended the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, the seminary's affiliate in Jerusalem, from 2005 to 2006.

He is also a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Florida State University where he majored in history with a minor in religion. During his studies, Rabbi Seltzer has had pulpit, pedagogic and pastoral experience that makes him keenly qualified to serve at

Temple Emanu-El.

He is married to Eliana Seltzer, an experienced Judaic studies teacher in her own right.

The committee found in its new rabbi a young man full of brilliant ideas, boundless energy and deep love for Jewish traditions and the Jewish people. It reports that his appeal cuts across all generational ranks and that he will be an effective partner to Rabbi Franklin, Cantor Mayer, Cantor Hamilton and the rest of the senior staff.

The temple board has expressed the hope that the congregation will join them in welcoming Joel and Eliana Seltzer to the temple family

The board expressed its thanks to the search committee, consisting of: Samuel J. Shamoan, chair; Jess Regelson, vice president; Naomi Stein, Mark Feinstein, Barbara Feldstein, Corky Freedman, Joan Graff, Dee Dee Witman, Janet Goldman, Judy Westrick, Nicie Weiner, Elisa Silverstein Heath, Jordana Jaffee. Ex-officio: Rabbi Wayne Franklin, Cantor Brian Mayer, and Gershon Levine.

## Jewish News Briefs

### Penn. Jewish voters

**HARRISBURG, PA.:** Pennsylvania's Jews, who number about 2.5 percent of the population, provided 8 percent of the voters in Pennsylvania's Democratic primary. Revised figures, released last week, showed that Senator Clinton received 62 percent of these and Senator Obama, 38 percent. The adjusted total raised Clinton's overall numbers by five points and lowered Obama's by a similar amount. Most of the changes came in the heavily Jewish suburbs of Philadelphia. (JTA)

### Golan sentiments

**JERUSALEM:** A poll conducted by an Israeli newspaper finds that almost half of the Israeli public is willing to return all or some of the Golan Heights to Syrian control as part of a peace arrangement with Damascus. Of these, 32 percent would return all of the area, 17 percent only parts of it. Fifty one percent

favor keeping it all, even at the cost of peace with Syria. In addition, 74 percent of Israelis believe that Syrian President Bashar Assad is not serious about seeking peace while 26 percent believe he is. (*Yedioth Acharonot*)

### Fuel forays

**GAZA:** Strange doings in Gaza, this past month. First Hamas complained that Israel was reducing the amount of fuel it releases for welfare agencies, the power station and other essentials. Then Israel struck a deal with the welfare agencies and shipped a large quantity of fuel into Gaza. At which point gunmen belonging to Hamas attacked the trucks, took the fuel to Hamas centers and used it for their own purposes. The European Union, which provides much of the money for the welfare agencies, issued a strong protest to Hamas and that's where matters stand as we go to press. (JERUSALEM POST)

Compiled by Yehuda Lev

## Congratulations!

The Jewish Voice & Herald and writer Nancy Kirsch were chosen as 2008 winners in the Metcalf Diversity in Media Awards, citing Kirsch's article, "Faith: divider or united?" in the

May 25, 2007, edition of *The Voice & Herald*. The award will be presented at an awards breakfast on May 15 at the Providence Marriott Hotel.

## Voice & Herald Classifieds

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# Jewish Community Calendar

## FRIDAY

### May 2

#### Yom HaShoah

Reflections on Darfur, Scott Warren, director of STAND

**WHERE:** Cong. Agudas Achim, 901 No. Main St., Attleboro

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. (preceded by family service, 5:45 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m.)

**MORE INFO:** (508) 222-2243

#### Simchat shabbat

Service for young families, dinner and interactive kid-friendly service

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 5:45 p.m.

**COST \$10 PER FAMILY**

**MORE INFO:**

#### Scholar-in-residence

Rabbi Dennis Ross will speak on stem-cell research

**WHERE:** Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Call 245-6536

## SATURDAY

### May 3

#### Scholar-in-residence

Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Dennis Ross, discussing Martin Buber

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

**MORE INFO:** Call 245-6536

## SUNDAY

### May 4

#### Mitzvah Day

Doing good deeds throughout Rhode Island

**WHERE:** Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

#### Mitzvah Morning

Fourth annual community service day

**WHERE:** Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 No. Main St., Attleboro

**WHEN:** 8 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** (508) 222-2243; www.agudasachim.org

#### Community Blintz Brunch

**WHERE:** Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown

**WHEN:** Seatings at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

**COST:** Adults \$8,

**MORE INFO:** call 885-6073 or e-mail hscheff@cox.net

The first annual **Blue & White Ball**

Too Little      Just right... in blue and white      Too Much

GESHERCITY RI will be holding the first annual Blue & White Ball on Saturday, May 10, from 8:30 p.m. to midnight at The Gallery at 17 Peck Downtown in Providence. For more information, contact Jacob at [jbrier@jccri.org](mailto:jbrier@jccri.org), or call 861-8800, ext. 124

#### Sisterhood book group

"People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800, or e-mail [Stephanie@toratyisrael.org](mailto:Stephanie@toratyisrael.org)

#### "Encounter Point"

Award-winning documentary on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 3 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Call 751-8665, or e-mail [judithkaye@aol.com](mailto:judithkaye@aol.com)

## MONDAY

### May 5

#### Leisure Club

**First session:** Evercare - Medicare C&D, with Michael Ruggieri

**Second session:** History of Rhode Island, with Glenn Laxton

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. - noon

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

## TUESDAY

### May 6

#### Boker Tov, KiTantan

Songs, stories, snacks and playtime for children not yet in preschool.

**WHERE:** Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

#### Exploring Islam

Historian Linda Funsch will speak on Middle East

**WHERE:** Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Call 245-6536

#### Memorial service

For Israel's fallen soldiers

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800, or e-mail [Stephanie@toratyisrael.org](mailto:Stephanie@toratyisrael.org)

#### Alice Hoffman

Novelist will sign her latest book, The Third Angel

**WHERE:** Jardiniere in East Greenwich (noon - 2 p.m.); Books on the Square on Angell Street in Providence (7 p.m.)

## WEDNESDAY

### May 7

#### NCJW annual meeting

Patti Cohen-Hecht will speak about Israel's 60th

**WHERE:** The Providence Marriott, 1 Orms St., Providence

**WHEN:** Noon

**COST:** \$35 per person

**MORE INFO:** Reservations required; call 247-0547.

#### Senior Guild

Storyteller Carol Martino

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 1 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

## THURSDAY

### May 8

#### Leisure Club

**First session:** Healthy eating, with Cindy Horowitz, dietician

**Second session:** Jewish customs, Rabbi George Astrachan, rabbi emeritus, Temple Sinai.

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

Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. - noon

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

#### Hug Nihamah:

Bereavement group with Dr. Judith Lubliner and Rabbi Amy Levin.

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** Call 785-1800

## SATURDAY

### May 10

#### Lindenbaum Award Dinner

Anita Steiman to be honored as person of the year

**WHERE:** Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 331-6070

#### Blue & White Ball

Gesher City RI celebrates *Israel @ 60*. Music by Dan Mills, desserts, complimentary beer and Israeli wines

**WHERE:** The Gallery at 17 Peck in downtown Providence

**WHEN:** 8:30 p.m. to midnight

**COST:** \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door.

**MORE INFO:** [jbrier@jccri.org](mailto:jbrier@jccri.org) or call 861-8800, ext. 124

## SUNDAY

### May 11

#### Blood drive

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

## MONDAY

### May 12

#### JFRI Annual Meeting

Installation of JFRI and Women's Alliance officers, board members; presentation of leadership awards.

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 421-4111, ext. 165

#### Leisure Club

Biographies of famous Jewish women and men

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. - noon

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

## TUESDAY

### May 13

#### Lunch & Learn

With Rabbi Amy Levin of Temple Torat Yisrael

**WHERE:** The Grille on Main 50 Main St., East Greenwich

**MORE INFO:** 785-1800

## THURSDAY

### May 15

#### Leisure Club

**First session:** The power of prayer, Rabbi Mark Jagoliner

**Second session:** Return to India, Sam Shamoan

**WHERE:** Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. - noon

**MORE INFO:** 331-1616

#### BJE 57th Annual Meeting

**WHERE:** JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**MORE INFO:** 421-4111, ext. 176

## FRIDAY

### May 16

#### Shabbat family service & Italian dinner

**WHERE:** Temple Torat Yisrael 330 Park Ave., Cranston.

**WHEN:** 6 p.m.

**COST:** \$18 per adult, kids 10 & under free. RSVP by Monday, May 12

## SUNDAY

### May 18

#### Program of Temple Emanu-El; Brown Univ. Klezmer band

**WHERE:** EPOCH, 1 Butler Ave, Providence (Near Eastside Marketplace)

**WHEN:** 2 p.m.

## Cape Verdean-Jewish seder: A link to the past

*Found: another chapter in Jewish history*

BY PEDRO BEN'OLIEL CHANTRE  
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

**T**HE THIRD ANNUAL Cape Verdean-Jewish Passover seder, which took place at St. Patrick's Church in Roxbury, Mass., April 16, is quickly becoming a traditional event. This year 140 people attended from throughout New England. The seder celebrated not only the traditional Passover liberation from Egypt but the relatively unknown history of the Jews in the Cape Verde Islands. It was organized at the initiative of Joel Schwartz who, as program manager with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, works with Cape Verdeans.

While most Cape Verdeans are Catholic, due to more than 500 years of Portuguese colonial rule, many have Jewish ancestry. Some of their descendants eventually immigrated to this country. I am the great, great grandson of Isaac Benoliel, a fur trader who immigrated to Cape Verde from Morocco.

The room in the Boston church was full and the participants had the opportunity – in English, Hebrew and Creole



**THE HEADSTONE** of Abraham Benros, an ancestor of Jacinto Benros.

(the dialect of Cape Verde Islands) – to share their families' stories. There was an exchange of knowledge and memories among the different generations. For the third consecutive time, Gardéria Benros, a well-known Cape Verdean of Jewish descent, attended with her daughter.

Also attending the seder was Gershom Barros, a prominent member of the Orthodox community in Providence, a descendant from a Cape-Verdean and a Narragansett American-Indian; married to a Russian Jew, he brought his daughter, Haruva, who enjoyed conversing and learning from others.

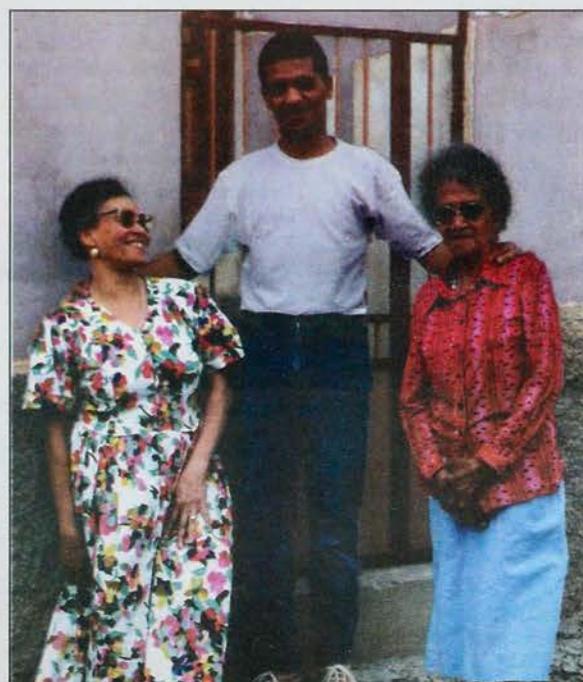
The 10 Cape Verde islands, which became the independent Republic of Cape Verde, in 1975, are located about 300 miles off the coast of Senegal, West Africa. Originally settled by the Portuguese in the mid 1400s, it became a refuge for



**ENJOYING THE SEDER** were, from left, Carol Castiel of Washington D.C., and Rhode Islanders Pedro Ben'Oliel, Gershom Barros and his daughter, Haruva.

some of the Jews fleeing the Inquisition. Many were forced to convert to Christianity and became known as *conversos*.

There was a much later wave of Jewish immigration around the middle of the 19th century from Morocco and Gibraltar. This group, mainly single men, engaged in commerce, trading, shipping and administration. They immigrated for economic opportunity and eventually assimilated into the Portuguese-African population; over time



**PEDRO BEN'OLIEL CHANTRE** with his mother and grandmother in 1994. I took it then when I first began documenting the presence of Jews and the Jewish cemeteries.

much of their offspring lost Jewish customs and rituals and became Catholic. However, they kept their memories of Jewish backgrounds, along with many Jewish surnames. There is even a town named *Sinagoga*, although there is no vestige of a building.

Carol S. Castiel, currently director of public affairs programming for the Voice of America, came from Washington D.C. to attend the seder and publicize and raise funds for a Jewish heritage project. She first learned about the Jews of Cape Verde through her previous job in the 1980s as coordinator for a scholarship program for Portuguese-speaking Africa. Many

of her students bore Jewish surnames and told her about the existence of several small Jewish cemeteries throughout the archipelago.

In the early 1990s, she visited Cape Verde; her visit coincided with a resurgence of interest in Jewish roots on the part of its descendants, who were pressing for restoration of the dilapidated cemeteries.

For more information, visit [www.jewsofcapeverde.blogspot.com](http://www.jewsofcapeverde.blogspot.com).

*Carol Castiel and Marylyn Graff contributed to this report.*

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# The Council of Wise Women

## Chapter 1 "First Born"

By MARK BINDER

Special To The Voice & Herald

**H**ER EYES were beautiful. They were brown and inquisitive. Open already and looking at the new world.

Her mother, Sarah Cohen, was exhausted. Childbirth hadn't been as difficult as her mother had warned, but it had been labor. Long and painful, but with this delightful girl at the end nestled warm in her arms.

"Not again!" the midwife said. Her words sounded worried.

Sarah looked up from the babe. "Is everything all right?"

"Perfectly," said Mrs. Chaipul.

She patted Sarah's hand. "I didn't mean to startle you.

Where is your husband?"

"He said he was going to Smyrna to buy some cloth. He should be back at any time."

Mrs. Chaipul shook her head and clucked her tongue.

What was it about the men of Chelm?

Perhaps it was everywhere. Men always seemed to know and have appointments in other parts of the world when their wives were giving birth.

"Do you mind holding her?" Mrs. Chaipul said.

Sarah smiled. "Not at all."

"Because we're not done."

Again Sarah felt nervous.

"What do you mean?"

"Twins," Mrs. Chaipul said.

"A double blessing. It's all right. I have plenty of experience. Just follow my directions and begin pushing again."

Twins? Sarah's mind began to spin. She was ready for one child. She was ready for a daughter. But another? Two mouths to feed? She remembered what

happened to Rebecca Schlemiel after her boys were born. The fighting the arguing, the confusion... The exhaustion. It was crazy. It was impossible. No. It was a dream. Perhaps she was asleep even now.

Then she looked at the girl in her arms. The baby's brown eyes were staring at her with hope and love and curiosity.

It would be a shame to wake up from the dream and leave behind a soul like this.

She felt something moving. "When would you like me to push?" Sarah asked.

"Now would be nice!"

**T**HE door to the Cohen house slammed open as Benjamin Cohen ran inside.

"Shut the door!" Mrs. Chaipul shouted. "It's still winter time and the cold won't do anyone any good."

The panting tailor shut the door behind him. "Are they all right?"

Mrs. Chaipul nodded. "Everyone is fine."

Benjamin gave the midwife a grin and a hug. He reached for the knob to the bedroom door, and then he stopped.

"How many fingers and toes?" Mrs. Chaipul calculated for a moment and then answered, "A hundred."

"A hundred!" Benjamin smiled. Then he paused.

"What?"

Mrs. Chaipul nodded. "I assume you have all of yours, and Sarah has all of hers."

"Yes," Benjamin said. "Yes."

The old woman shrugged and sipped her tea. "I have all of mine."

Benjamin's face knitted into a frown. "That's 20 extra."

See BINDER, Page 30

This excerpt from Mark Binder's new work, *The Council of Wise Women*, will be updated every week on *The Voice & Herald* web site, [JVHRI.org](http://JVHRI.org). The next chapter, "Cry Me a River," will appear online on Friday, May 9.

## A chance for redemption in love, life

Alice Hoffman will be in Rhode Island May 6 to promote her latest novel

"The story is what we carry with us, at the deepest level. Storytelling began with grandmothers telling the smallest children those tales that have been with us since the beginning of time. Fairytales and folktales are meant to give us a blueprint for how to be human."

— Alice Hoffman, from "On being a woman, a writer and a citizen of the world"

By RICHARD ASINOF  
[rasinof@jfri.org](mailto:rasinof@jfri.org)

**I**N ALICE Hoffman's novels, many of her women characters make 'bad choices' – about love, about men, about family relationships – and then have the opportunity to overcome those choices.

In *The Third Angel*, Hoffman weaves a story that "charts the lives of three women in love with the wrong men," as the book jacket reads. A fourth character "spends four decades search-



Photo by Deborah Feingold

ALICE HOFFMAN will be at Jardiniere in East Greenwich (noon – 2 p.m.) and at Books on the Square in Providence (7 p.m.)

ing for the angel on earth who will renew her faith."

"Why do people make bad choices? It's part of being human," Hoffman explains

in a recent telephone interview. "It's the way you learn; you become more conscious." And, the chance

for redemption, she continues, always belongs to the characters.

"As a writer, I have faith that the characters will show me

An excerpt of *The Third Angel* appears on *The Voice & Herald* web site, [JVHRI.org](http://JVHRI.org), as well as on Page 30.

the way," she says.

As a child, Hoffman says,

See HOFFMAN, Page 30

### Readings in Rhode Island

Sunday, May 4  
Poetry Reading  
Barrington Books,  
Barrington, 2 p.m.

Monday, May 5,  
Hadassah Book Club,  
Books on the Square,  
Providence, 7 p.m.  
Reading Eat, Pray, Love by  
Elizabeth Gilbert

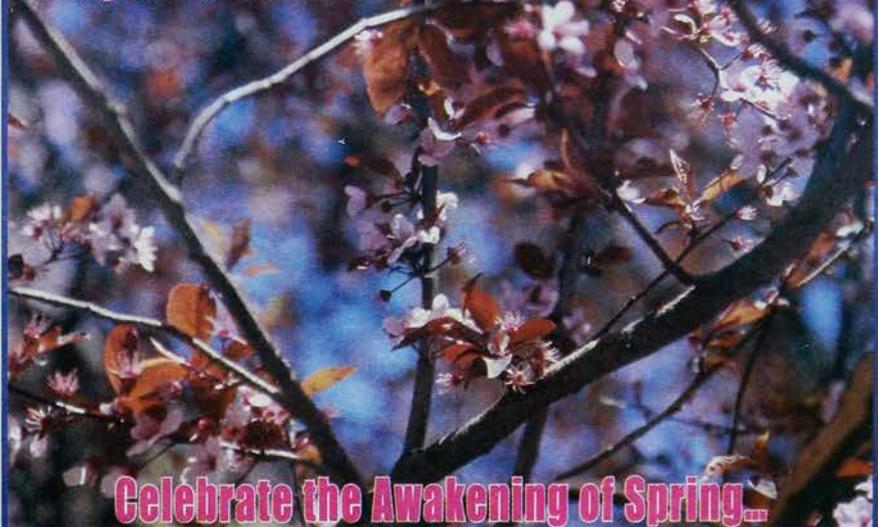
Tuesday, May 6  
Alice Hoffman, author of  
*The Third Angel*  
Jardiniere, East Greenwich,  
12-2 p.m.  
Books on The Square,  
Providence, 7 pm

Tuesday, May 13  
Ann Hood, *Comfort: A  
Journey Through Grief*  
Books on the Square,  
Providence, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14  
Joseph Olshan, *The  
Conversion*  
The Red Fez  
1222 Washington St.,  
Boston, 7 p.m.

Monday, May 19  
Whole Health Book Club  
Books on the Square, 7 pm  
In Defense of Food by  
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## From temple to temple, Rhode Islanders will walk the land of Israel

*Israel@60 celebration  
June 1 will feature  
a virtual journey  
through Israel*

By MARTY COOPER  
mcooper@jfri.org

ON JUNE 1, Rhode Island will be transformed into a virtual Land of Israel, as the Jewish community of Rhode Island celebrates Israel@60.

The morning will begin with a Walk the Land event, beginning

at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston and ending at the Temple of Music in Roger Williams Park.

The one-mile walk will be led by Rhode Island community and civic leaders, who will guide participants on a virtual journey through Israel, visiting many of Israel's biblical and historic attractions

Temple Torat Yisrael, the registration center and starting point of the walking tour, will



become the city of Rosh HaNikra, "head of grottos" or cavernous tunnels. Located on the Israel and Lebanon border, this Israeli city is known for its magnificent white chalk cliffs which offer a panoramic view of Haifa Bay, the hills of Galilee and the Mediter-

anean Sea.

As the walking tour journeys south, they will see beautiful murals depicting 15 cities, towns and areas of Israel, including: Haifa, Netanya, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv. The walk will

conclude at Israel's southernmost city, Eliat, a tourist resort and port at the northern tip of the Red Sea and the Negev Desert.

At Roger Williams Park's Temple of Music, participants will join in with the celebration of Israel@60 with music and entertainment.

The national anthems of Israel and the United States performed by Rhode Island Cantors and the Warwick Symphony Orchestra, followed by Providence Mayor David Cicilline, the Honorary Chairperson for the Rhode Island Celebrates Israel@60.

Festivities will include a *shuk*, an Israeli marketplace, with

several booths operated by local Jewish agencies, organizations and synagogues. Each booth will have an Israeli theme. Vendors will be serving food and selling a variety of Judaica items, including arts and crafts. An archeological dig and a 45-foot obstacle course for the children will be featured at the festival.

Both the "Walk the Land" event and the Israel@60 June 1 festival are part of a yearlong series of activities to celebrate Israel's 60 anniversary, with

the goal of providing a forum for educational and learning activities as well as entertainment and solidarity and support for Israel.

The first 500 people to register for the "Walk the Land" will get a

"Walk the Land" t-shirt, a water bottle and a sling backpack. Registration, which is free, can be done online at [www.jfri.org](http://www.jfri.org), or at the registration table at Temple Torat Yisrael beginning at 10 a.m. the day of the walk. The walk starts promptly at 11 a.m.

**"As the walking tour journeys south, they will see beautiful murals depicting 15 cities, towns and areas of Israel, including: Haifa, Netanya, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv."**

## Celebrate Israel's 60th with the *Emunotes*



Israel Independence Day performance by the Emunotes, from our sister city Afula, Israel!

*Followed by Israeli dancing and refreshments.*

**Wednesday**

**May 7**

**7:30 p.m.**

Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island  
401 Elmgrove Ave.  
Providence, RI



For more information, contact: Sue Suls 401.861.8800 or [ssuls@jccri.org](mailto:ssuls@jccri.org)

The Emunotes Concert is part of the Rhode Island Jewish Community's Israel @ 60 Celebrations; a program of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island in partnership with local synagogues, schools and agencies. Visit [www.JFRI.org](http://www.JFRI.org) for a complete calendar list of programs and events.



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**Sunday, May 11th**

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Strawberry Cheesecake  
Carrot Cake Cheesecake

## Plant a victory garden — 2008 style

By MARYLYN GRAFF  
mgraft@jvri.org

**W**ITH GASOLINE prices going through the roof, this may be the summer to stay home and have some fun with gardening. (It will save on the cost of veggies, too.) Go organic in true 21<sup>st</sup> century style. When you eat veggies that you've grown yourself, you will know that you are eating (and tasting) the real thing with no nasty chemicals. Besides, gardening is a great exercise and a real calorie-burner.

### START YOUR GARDEN

First, note that the average last frost here is late May, so you have some time to get started.

If you're an inexperienced gardener, don't get carried away the first year and start digging up a big chunk of your yard. Start small. It's amazing how much a bed measuring maybe 8 by 12 feet can produce. Of course, you have to have good soil. Select a spot that gets at least six hours of sun each day, then, to make it easier and not have to depend on your sandy, stony or clayey soil, go to your lumberyard and get some 12-inch rough cut boards (don't use treated lumber; the chemicals will leach into the soil) and stakes to make a raised bed.

Put down plastic to keep weeds from coming up, (there is a special variety that doesn't

leach chemicals). Fill it with organic loam or topsoil that has been screened and sterilized; mix about three parts soil to one part organic peat or ready-made compost, being sure that it hasn't been treated with chemicals. Your own compost would be great but we'll save that for next year, when you've had time to make some. Dampen well and allow a couple of days to settle.

If you're starting out and have no tools, you'll need a spading fork, a shovel, a rake, hoe or cultivator, hand cultivator and a couple of trowels of different widths. You don't need to go crazy but do buy good quality or you will end up breaking tools and having to replace them, costing more in the long run.

### WHAT TO PLANT?

My favorite, tomatoes, regular and/or cherry. Nothing tastes as good as a just-picked tomato, still warm from the sun, with no dressing or just a drop of good olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Three or four plants, about 18 inches apart will give you a good crop. A couple of hills of zucchini would supply a small principality. Just remember that today's nice six inch zucchini is tomorrow's baseball bat, so don't wait too long to pick them. Bell peppers are rewarding to grow. Carrots are a great crop and easy, and various lettuces and baby spinach

can be picked fresh every day for your salad, as can bok choy and other young and delicate cabbages. Flavor the salad with your onions and garlic, including their green tops. A simple trellis will enable you to grow cucumbers, peas and beans in little space. You'll have to watch out for Peter Rabbit, though. Covering the growing crops with plain netting will help.

Don't forget to save a choice spot in the sun for herbs. Basil, oregano, flat-leaf parsley, and rosemary will flavor your cook-outs all summer and can be potted up and placed in a sunny window for the winter.

Check your local garden center for organic supplies: mulch, soil, seed, and starter plants. There are numerous catalogs, such as Gardener's Supply and others and a wealth of information on the internet, maybe more than you ever wanted to know.

It wouldn't hurt to pick up a couple of gardening magazines and maybe a book, especially those that feature organic methods. You will discover that you can get rid of bad bugs by buying and releasing good ones, such as ladybugs and milky spore, using plain soap and water or garlic and hot pepper sprays and others which will not harm the environment or fill your family's bodies

See VICTORY, Page 20

## YOUR VICTORY GARDEN *counts more than ever!*



Source: U.S. Government Printing Office

THIS POSTER OF A WORLD WAR II victory garden was designed by an artist named Morley for a publication of the Agriculture Department, War Food Administration.

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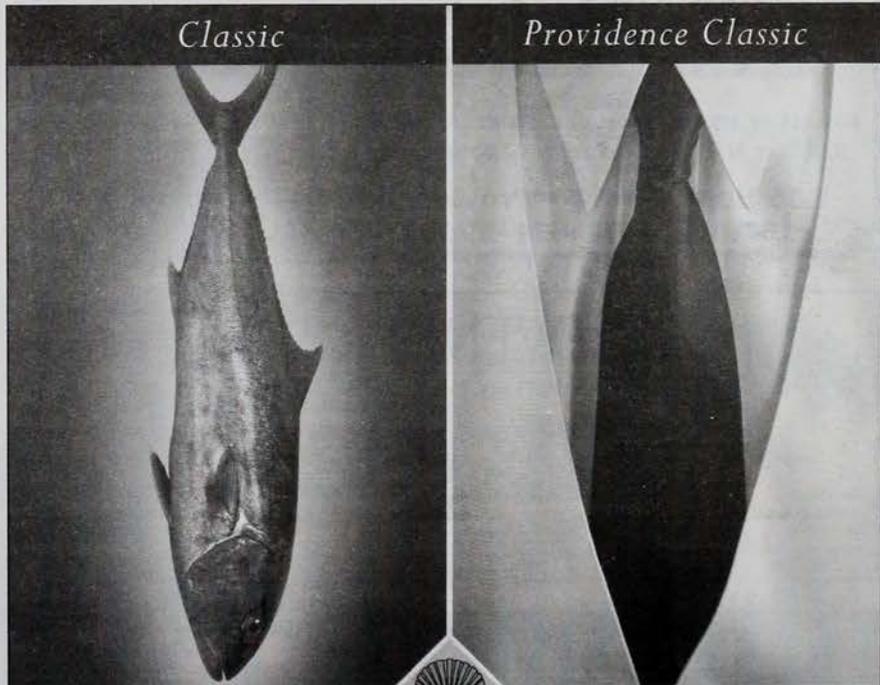
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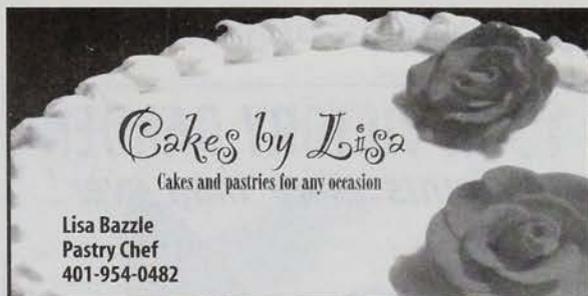
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This photograph was taken of a victory garden in North Hampton, Mass., during World War I.

**VICTORY: What's old is new**

From Page 19

with chemicals. You can attack weeds organically as well. You can pay the kids to pull weeds, or set up weeding contests. This gets them outside in the fresh air and sunshine and away from the TV and computer games. Besides, growing the veggies will make them want to eat them.

You've done something for the environment and your family as well!

**RECIPES:**

**STUFFED ZUCCHINI ON THE GRILL**

Your zucchini has ripened faster than you can give it away. The neighbors are growing their own and the people at work won't take any more. So get cooking!

- 4 zucchini, 6-7 inches each
- 2 or 3 medium onions, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped and crushed
- 2 cups cooked bulgur, brown rice or whole wheat couscous

1/2 cup packed basil, thyme, flat-leaf parsley and any other fresh herbs that you have growing. (Be sparing with rosemary, if using, it's pretty pungent.)

2 Tblsps. extra virgin olive oil  
Salt and pepper to taste

Cut zucchini in half the long way. With a grapefruit or other pointed spoon, scrape out seeds and enough flesh to make a hollow for stuffing. Chop flesh and reserve.

Sauté onions in oil over medium heat until soft, adding reserved zucchini, chopped, and garlic for last minute. Put cooked grain in a bowl. Stir in onions, reserved zucchini and, for the last minute or so, garlic. Chop herbs and mix in. Season with salt and pepper. Stuff filling into zucchini and drizzle with a little more olive oil.

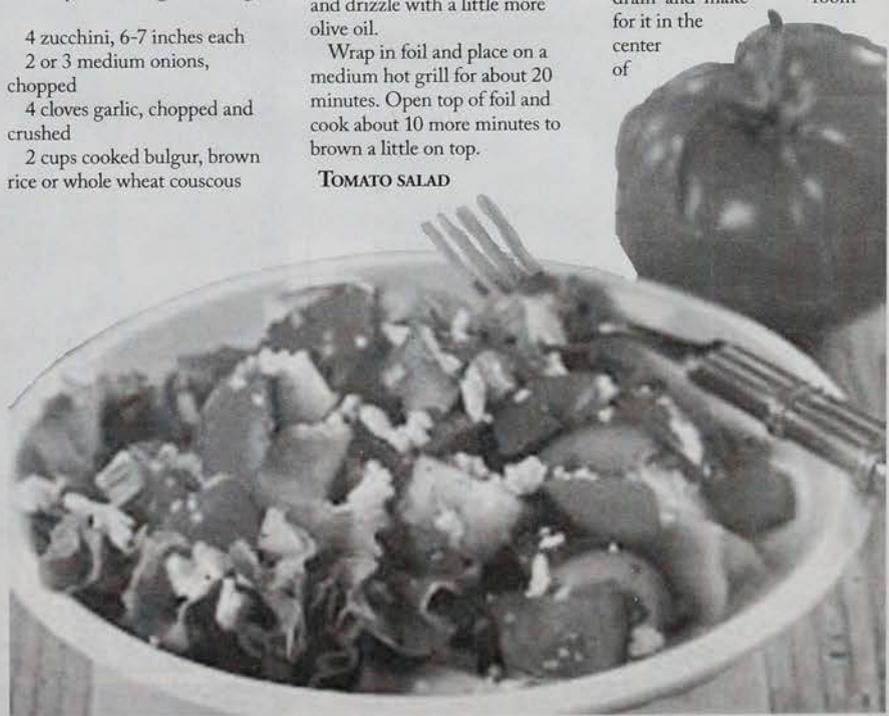
Wrap in foil and place on a medium hot grill for about 20 minutes. Open top of foil and cook about 10 more minutes to brown a little on top.

**TOMATO SALAD**

It couldn't be simpler. Arrange some fresh greens of your choice on a platter. Slice one medium tomato per person and arrange over greens. Slice a cucumber or two very thin and arrange over tomatoes, plus some Vidalia or other sweet onion rings. Sprinkle with shredded basil and, drizzle some extra-virgin olive oil and, very lightly, aged balsamic vinegar. For a dairy meal add some feta or other goat cheese on top.

Hints: if you have some yellow or orange tomatoes, mix them in with the red to make an even prettier platter.

To make this into a hot-day "I don't feel like cooking" main dish, open a can or two of tuna, preferably Italian olive oil-packed, drain and make room for it in the center of



## Lecturer, editor to speak on 'Islamic Mystique: Fact and Fiction'

BARRINGTON – Middle Eastern historian Linda Funsch will explore Islam from a historical perspective, including its scientific and intellectual legacy, the role of women, the rise of Islamism in the modern age, and its relations with other faiths and cultures in a talk at Temple Habonim on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m.

She will examine protracted periods of coexistence, tolerance, and cooperation between Jews, Christians, and Muslims throughout the Islamic domain, as a way of offering hope for peace among three great Abrahamic faiths.

Funsch has degrees in Near Eastern Languages and Literature and Arabic. She has served as editor of *The Arab World* magazine, directed several Middle East field projects for the Ford Foundation from Beirut, Lebanon and New York, and was U. S. director of The American Research Center in Egypt, a consortium of



LINDA FUNSCH will speak at Temple Habonim on May 6.

major universities and museums.

Currently, Funsch teaches Middle Eastern culture, Islamic history, and current affairs at Hood College. She lectures extensively on these topics and is passionate about education, dialogue, and promoting peace.

Temple Habonim is located at 165 New Meadow Road. The talk is free and open to the public.

## NCJW to focus on Israel programs at annual meeting

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) will be celebrating Israel's 60th birthday at its 102nd annual meeting and luncheon, which will be held on Wednesday, May 7, at noon at The Providence Marriott.

The guest speaker will be Patti Cohen-Hecht, honorary board member, who will speak on "Israel at 60: The NCJW Connection."

Among the programs that will be highlighted at the meeting are the NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University and Yad B'Yad.

The Women and Gender Studies Program is the first bachelor's degree-granting program of its kind in the Middle East.

Yad B'Yad: NCJW's Initiative to Nurture Knowledge, is a grant program supporting grassroots organizations serving at-risk children and their families in Israel. Launched in 1998, the program has funded hundreds of grants.

The meeting is open to the public but advance registration is required. For registration information, call Anne Teifeld at 247-0547.

## Agudas Achim holding 'Mitzvah Morning' Sun.

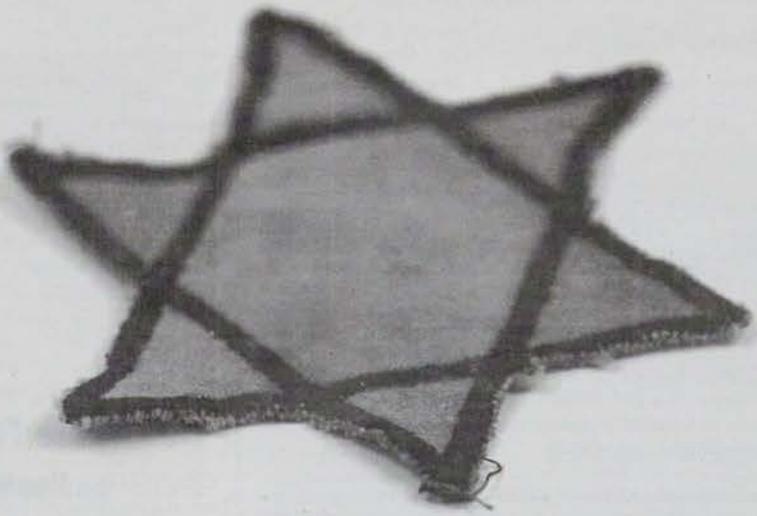
ATTLEBORO – On Sunday, May 4, Congregation Agudas Achim will hold its fourth annual Mitzvah Morning, a community service day. Participants will help combat hunger, paint, clean, organize, knit, stock shelves, make gifts for children facing cancer treatment, garden, build, and come together for a celebration lunch.

The morning starts at 8 a.m. with registration and breakfast. Participants may register the day of the event, attend a short *Haavdalab* service, and then meet project captains and proceed to the project location.

Projects this year include knitting for the Look Good, Feel Better project, cleaning, stocking food pantry shelves, gardening at the synagogue, preparing a soup kitchen, cleaning the grounds of Capron Park, painting rooms at the Attleboro Literacy Center, participating in a Habitat for Humanity project, and a teen charity car wash. The Jewish cemetery grounds will also be open for cleanup.

All are welcome. Fill out a registration form, which is available on the Agudas Achim website at: [http://www.agudasma.org/mitzvah\\_morning](http://www.agudasma.org/mitzvah_morning).

Remember...



## Yom HaShoah

Friday, May 2

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## Midrasha to graduate 24

*Rabbi Kaunfer  
to be honored at  
ceremony*

CRANSTON – Twenty-four students will receive degrees from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island on Sunday, May 18th at 7 p.m. at Temple Sinai in Cranston. In addition to the graduates, the school will award an honorary degree to Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer in honor of his years of service to the high school.

For information about graduation, contact Elizabeth Ochs at 331-0956, ext. 184 or at [eochs@bjeri.org](mailto:eochs@bjeri.org).

The graduates of the class of 5768 include:

**JEAN ALPER**  
of Foster  
**JOE CEREP**  
of Cranston  
**JACOB DWARES**  
of Cranston  
**GABRIEL FINE**  
of North Scituate  
**SARAH GOLICER**  
of Providence  
**EVIN GOODMAN**  
of East Providence

**AARON GUTTIN**  
of Cranston  
**MAAYAN HAREL**  
of Barrington  
**EVIN JARLOW**  
of Providence  
**JACOB KATZ**  
of Providence  
**GABRIELLE LABOVE**  
of Narragansett  
**LAURA LANDAU**  
of Providence  
**ARIEL LICHAA**  
of Portsmouth  
**MICHAELA MILLER**  
of Providence  
**DANIEL OLSON**  
of Cranston  
**SAMUEL PELOQUIN**  
of Narragansett  
**MARY ROTHEMICH**  
of Providence  
**ADAM SALK**  
of East Greenwich  
**DANIEL SHANA**  
of Barrington  
**BENJAMIN SIP**  
of Cranston  
**ARIELLE SPELLUN**  
of Warwick  
**SARAH STEELE**  
of North Kingstown  
**PAMELA WINKLER**  
of Cranston  
**ALISA ZAYAS**  
of Providence

## BJE plans annual meeting May 15

PROVIDENCE – On Thursday, May 15, the Bureau of Jewish Education will hold its 57th annual meeting at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave. The meeting will be chaired by Janet Goldman.

Among events of that evening will be installation of new officers and board, and recognition of Israel travelers.

The proposed slate for the coming year is: President, Sharon Gaines; vice presidents, Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow, James Pious, Miriam Esther Weiner; treasurer, Guy Bermeil; associate treasurer, Lisa Davis; secretary, Arlene

Rogol and associate secretary, Randi Beranbaum.

Board members with terms expiring in 2009: Barbara Barry, Wayne Estes, Amy Dressler, Sara Halper, Hope Hirsch, Ivy Marwil, Barbara Mer, Dianne Newman, Sue Suls and Susan Smoller. Board members with terms expiring in 2010: Ethan Adler, Rivka Eskovitz, Marcie Ingber, Linda Silverman Levine, Nadav Minkin, Mark Ravera, Michael Schaffer, Rabbi Raphael Schochet, Mynde Siperstein, Penney Stein.

Board members with terms expiring in 2011: Janet Goldman,

Craig Gordon, Katherine Haspel, Rabbi Amy Levin, Jane Levenson, Maybeth Lichaa, Rochelle Rosen, Lisa Sack, Rabbi Peter Stein, Bradley Walter.

Chair of the nominating committee was Arlene Rogol. Committee members included Guy Bermeil, Gloria Feibish, Linn Freedman, Robert Landau, Barbara Mer, James Pious, Mark Ross, Susan Smoller, Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow, and Miriam Esther Weiner.

For additional information, contact Wendy Joering at 331-0956, ext. 179, or [www.bjeri.org](http://www.bjeri.org).

## Touro Fraternal to hold installation May 21

CRANSTON – Touro Fraternal Association will install its new officers and members of its board of directors on Wednesday, May 21, at its headquarters (45 Rolfe Square).

Two of the seven men to be installed as members of the board and two of the lodge officers will be serving their first terms.

Jed Brandes, current member of the board of directors and outgoing Friendship Lodge president, will preside over the ceremonies as installing officer and Lester Nathan, a retiring board member, will administer the oaths of office as master of ceremonies.

Touro Fraternal was founded in 1918 and today has more than

600 members throughout Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The officers of the two Touro lodges serve one-year terms.

Officers of the Association's Harmony Lodge are Steven White, president; Adam Halpern, vice president, and Adam Smith, secretary, all incumbents. The Lodge treasurer is Manojeh Norparvah, a first-term officer.

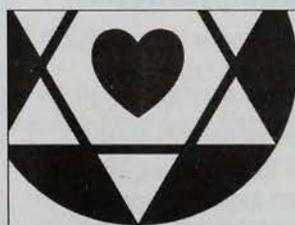
Succeeding Brandes as Friendship Lodge president will be Jeffrey Horowitz, vice president, for the past two years. Ried Redlich, former Lodge secretary, moves up to vice president and Steven Waldman, returns as treasurer. Louis Beckenstein joins the line

of Lodge officers as secretary.

Re-elected to three-year terms on the Association's Board were incumbents Milton Bronstein, Jeffrey Davis, Rodney Locke, Alan Lury and Michael Smith. Barry Rotenberg was elected to his first term on the Board and newcomer Howard Wasser was selected to fill the two remaining years of an unexpired term.

The 6:30 p.m. meeting, is open to Touro members only. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Touro at 785-0066.

The Association's board of directors will elect its officers at its annual organizational meeting June 11.



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#### Installation of Officers:

Susan Leach DeBlasio *President*

Susan Bazar *First Vice President*

Jack Nassau *Second Vice President*

Martin Dittelman *Treasurer*

Jeffrey Padwa *Assistant Treasurer*

Gary Siperstein *Secretary*

Presentation of the Maurice Glicksman Leadership Award

Reception RSVP by May 10 to: Irene at 351-4750

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## Seder led by Jewish Eldercare of R.I.

MICHELE KEIR, activity programmer for Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), leads a seder for the participants of Comprehensive Adult Day Center, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island. JERI led 25 model seders in the community. Residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities all had the opportunity to enjoy the traditions of Passover. For further information on JERI, contact Susan Adler at [sadler-jeri@jsari.org](mailto:sadler-jeri@jsari.org) or 621-5374.



## Shmoozers travel to Jewish Theater

By ELLY LEYMAN

*Special to the Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE — On Sunday, March 9, a JCCRI group of 40 Yiddish Shmooz members boarded a bus to see a live performance of "Brave Old World, Songs of the Lodz Ghetto," at the Jewish Theater of New England in Newton, Mass.

The internationally acclaimed klezmer musicians gave an outstanding performance on piano, violin, guitar, bass, clarinet, and saxophone. The heart-rending music was accompanied by a cinematographic screen, which showed a visual history of the Lodz ghetto and pre-war Europe.

The Shmooz group returned to enjoy a dairy supper in the social hall.

The group is facilitated by Mildred Handel and a steering committee. Shmoozers are



THE JCC YIDDISH SHMOOZ group was off to see a Klezmer performance in Newton recently.

a lively group of ages 60-plus seniors who come together to learn, laugh, and shmooz, while enjoying the Yiddish cultural programs. Yiddish or *mame-loshen* is dear to all Shmoozers, and they especially enjoy the Yiddish stories told by Mara Sokolsky, librarian at Temple Emanu-El.

Currently there are over 50 Shmooz members. New members are welcome. Meetings take place at JCC every second Friday morning, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

If you are interested in being a guest at a meeting, contact staff coordinator, Elly Leyman at 861-8800, ext. 107.

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AS WE GROW OLDER

Have you read anything good lately?

*The joy of books is rewarding and a distraction from pain, sorrow and boredom*

By TEMA GOUSE  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**B**ACK PAIN and exhaustion are the most frequent complaints of senior citizens. Next on the list is boredom. If your back hurts and you are tired, you lack the initiative to exert yourself to be stimulated. Boredom encourages you to dwell on your misery. I am not a medical authority (though I sometimes sound like one), so can only refer you to your primary physician for relief of pain and lack of stamina, but experience has taught me about boredom.

There are many forms of boredom, usually determined by the personality of the individual

Going to the movies twice a week can be satisfying. Others attend every listed lecture, even if the subject never held any interest for them before. The TV-addicted have TV on dawn to bedtime. Sitting on the Barco-Lounger all day develops new body pains.

Some older people develop new interests after the earlier demands (jobs, kids, elderly parents, etc.) are over. But there are physical and fiscal limits to how far you can pursue new hobbies.

Travel is a wonderful option if body and pocketbook can support it. Cards and games, playing golf and volunteer work are wonderful outlets, but stamina, being pain-free, and finding them rewarding is essential.

What I recommend is not new or exciting, but is rewarding. I am, of course referring to what has been my lifetime addiction. Reading. Everybody reads. Some only read the daily newspaper. Others have subscriptions to every magazine and read the articles therein (selectively).

But what I have in mind is reading what you like. Read

biography. Read murder mysteries. The library has stacks of current event literature. (More about libraries later). If you are turned on by love-romance novels, read them; Danielle Steele has a new one every few months.

If you enjoy trashy novels and magazines, read them. The joy of reading is in satisfying your own tastes. Another plus is that

done no reading were when I was comatose with a serious illness. On regaining consciousness, resuming reading restored dormant parts. I am never bored when reading. I love good novels. I discard the book that I have to struggle to find interesting.

I have favorite biographers whose writing skills matter more than their subjects. In my dotage, I have taken to (selectively) reading books about political affairs and politicians who agree with my political positions. (I am too old to read justifications for outrageous actions that are changing my world.)

And now the LIBRARY. All my life I have spent more time at the library than

going shopping. If you are envisioning my house loaded down with bookcases of favorites, you could not be more wrong. I have a shelf for cookbooks. (There used to be more in my baking days.) There are a few Jewish interest books. My husband has space for his favorite science and math books. And there is space for hand-me down books.

But back to the library. I believe that one should only

buy books that you are certain you will want to read more than once. I believe that you should be very generous to libraries. Not to your college library (they have enough endowments), but the public libraries struggle with funding. Your donations fund book purchasing. You can read and renew those purchases and recommend them to others. And even more important, they will be available to strangers.

So, the next time you are restless (aka bored) head for your library. You will be awed by what is available for learning, amusement, and absorption. Remember, if you do not like something you started, do not finish it. But if it appeals to you, you will experience varied pleasures – and sometimes, just plain fun!

I have no trouble starting a book and then abandoning it. Life is too short to waste on things that are not to your taste and there are so many rewarding alternatives. One of the important reasons I regret my eventual demise is that I will have missed out on so many good books.

*Tema Gouse has joined the 21st century and can now be reached by email at nbgtpg@cox.net.*

**"I can honestly say that the only days in which I have done no reading were when I was comatose with a serious illness."**

you can read for 10 minutes or 10 hours. You fulfill your tastes and are distracted from pain, sorrow and other woes of aging. It is your decision. If you like your selection, continue. If you are tired or uncomfortable (or bored), stop.

I was seven years old the first time I entered a library. I was in awe of the volumes available. I started the joy of reading and I can honestly say that the only days in which I have



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## May 14, 1948: Recalling the birth of a nation

The following is the second part of recollections or writings from members of the Rhode Island Jewish community, present and past, on first hearing about the birth of the State of Israel.

By GERALDINE FOSTER  
Special to The Jewish Voice & Herald

MELVIN ZURIER

IN MAY 1948, I was a sophomore at Harvard College, deeply involved in preparing for final examinations. These were and probably still are the key to the grades that ultimately qualify one toward the goal of going to law school.

At the time, I kept a journal (not a diary) with usually weekly entries of what was going on in my life. It was dubbed my "Collective Dribble" by a roommate. Here is an extract from the entry of May 16, 1948: "There have been a number of interesting developments this week. Internationally, the spotlight is on Palestine where the nation of 'Israel' declared its formal independence on Friday (May 14) after the last Britisher finally left. Immediately the Arabs declared war and have already

begun their invasion and air attacks. The outlook is pretty dark – and although the phrase is trite – it's true. Almost simultaneously, President Truman announced recognition of the new state."

What was I doing on May 14, 1948? After almost 60 years, my memory is not specific. I probably learned from newspapers or the radio (TV was then in its infancy and not as pervasive as now) of Israel's independence. I do not recall taking part in any special celebration if there was one. But I have no doubt that I felt pride and great concern – as shown in this extract.

The concern was reaffirmed in succeeding extracts in the "Dribble" shortly afterward: "May 23 – Internation-



ally, in Palestine, the Jews having taken a terrific pasting in Jerusalem all week, have somehow managed to effect a cease-firing agreement with the Arabs beginning tomorrow.

May 30 – In Palestine, the truce didn't come off and the fighting is now as strong as ever."

Looking back, I can appreciate the true meaning of the word "sophomore" which is derived from the Greek, meaning "wise fool." I can only say that while

my identification with Israel developed much more strongly over time, even then as a wise fool, the creation of the state did constitute a landmark worthy of note in my life.

MOLLIE SKLUT

AS I sit here in my 97th year recalling the events

of 1948, I am both astonished at how much I remember and perplexed about the details I have forgotten.

It was in the time of my life when my involvement in the Jewish community in Rhode Island was completely devoted to the mission and values of Pioneer Women (now Na'amat). I had both leadership positions and grassroots tasks such as walking the beaches of Nar-

ragansett selling various fundraising tickets to support our projects in Israel. In 1948, with the declaration of the State of Israel by David Ben Gurion, the adrenaline rushed and we were all invigorated and inspired to work even harder in support of our homeland.

How did I personally feel? I felt like a winner. It was a moment of empowerment for me. Jews were now secure and free to return to their homeland. On a very personal note, all of my family's Holocaust survivors now had the opportunity to make *aliyah*.

When Golda Meir came to Rhode Island in behalf of Israel Bonds, I was part of the community leadership on the podium. As the sale of bonds began, up went the hand of my 11-year-old daughter Beverly, pledging to buy a \$50 bond. She had to be the first child in Rhode Island to purchase a bond.

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

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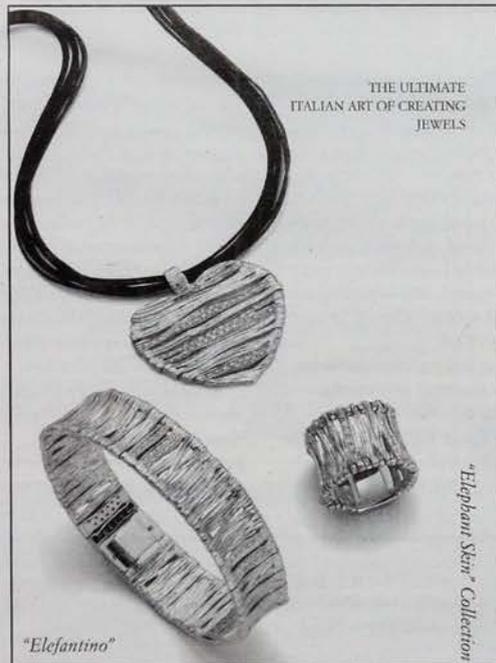
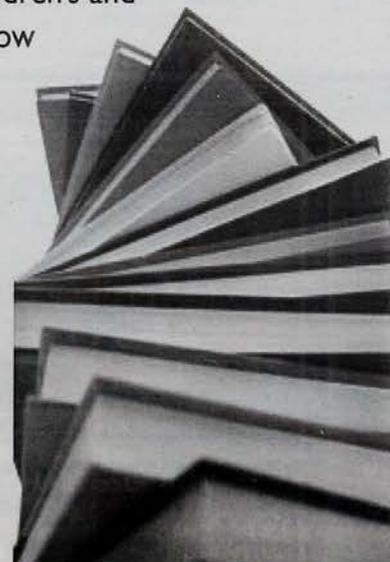
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## D'var Torah

PARASHAT KEDOSHIM  
LEVITICUS 19:1 — 20:27

### Planting for the future

*Torah and Midrash on  
using and preserving  
our natural resources*

By RABBI ISMAR SCHORSCH  
*Special to The Voice & Herald*

IT IS NOT for nothing that the Book of Proverbs speaks of wisdom and the rabbis said the Torah is a Tree of Life for those who cling to it. There is no better symbol for continuity and renewal in all of nature.

Similarly, when the Psalmist looks for a metaphor for pure piety, he compares the person devoted to the teachings of God to "a tree planted beside streams of water, that yields its fruit in season, whose foliage never fades, and whatever it produces thrives."

Planting trees is among the topics taken up by our incredibly rich *parasha* this week. We are instructed: "When you enter the land and plant any tree for food "three years it shall be forbidden for you, not to be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit shall be set aside for jubilation before the Lord; and only in the fifth year may you use its fruit — that its yield to you may be increased: I am the Lord your God."

I still remember planting grapevines in a kibbutz in the Lower Galilee, some years back. As we carefully placed each shoot in the soil and watered it, we spoke about this prohibition. The Talmud limits the regulation to trees and vines grown in the land of Israel. What ripens in the fourth year is treated as a thanksgiving offering of first fruits to God.

What interests me, however, for the moment is what the *midrash* did with this passage. In the Torah the stress is on the forbidden fruit. In the *midrash*, the focus shifts to the obliga-

tion to plant trees. Indeed, there is no specific commandment in the Torah to cover the land with trees ala the Jewish National Fund. But that is the lesson which the *midrash* extracts from the sequence of events mentioned in the Torah: God has cared for us lovingly in the wilderness. Once we enter the land, however, we are on our own. Each one must take a hoe and plant. Our period of incubation is at an end. To cross the Jordan is to take on responsibility. Hence the Torah is understood to say: "When you enter the land you must plant trees for food."

*Midrash* turns legislation into narrative. Not only does the conquest of Canaan require of us to work the land, it also imposes on us the obligations to steward it responsibly. We are expected to preserve its life-sustaining resources undepleted for our children. We found the land covered with trees planted by others when we entered it, says the *midrash*, and that is how we are supposed to hand it on.

The *midrash* reiterates: Let no one ever cease from planting. Fields filled with trees greeted us at birth, and we should add to their number even in old age.

So in the midst of a *parashat* that teaches us how to relate to family, fellow humans (both native and foreign) and God, the *midrash* adds yet a fourth dimension: our treatment of the habitat in which we live. The *midrash* resonates with an environmental ethic, which sends a gentle reminder to think of our children as we go about assaulting and subordinating the natural world for our own immediate and exclusive gratification.

*Rabbi Ismar Schorsch is the chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Reprinted with permission of the Jewish Theological Seminary.*

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**Nathan Altman, 92**

CRANSTON — Nathan A. Altman, 92, died April 19. He was the husband of the late Gladys (Berger) Altman. Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Jenny (Salk) Altman, he had lived in Cranston for 57 years.

He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran. He was the owner of Nat Altman & Sons Wholesale Auto Parts & Chemicals, Cranston, retiring more than 20 years ago.

Mr. Altman was a member of the Jewish War Veterans, Cranston Senior Center and the Silvertones. He was a former member of the Knights of Pythias. He was an avid bowler and Red Sox fan.

He leaves two sons, Jay Altman of Narragansett and Sanford Altman of Providence; a brother, Leonard Altman of Providence; a sister, Rose Levine of Cranston; two grandchildren, Richard and Amy; and four great-grandchildren, Grace, Hudson, Griffin and Marlo. He was the companion of Anna DiCarlo. He was the brother of the late Morris Altman.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to Tockwotton Home, 75 East St., Providence, RI 02903.

**Corinne Lamchick, 82**

COMMACK, N.Y. — Corinne Lamchick, 82, of Commack, N.Y., died April 18 at El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, Cal. She was the wife of the late Mortimer Lamchick. Born in Milford, Mass., she was a daughter of the late David and Miriam (Rosenthal) Weinstein. She worked for Metropolitan Life for 20 years.

Mrs. Lamchick was a former member and board member of Temple Torat Yisrael and former president of its Sisterhood. She was a former president of the Temple Emanu-El Garden Club.

She leaves three daughters, Seri Doyle of Commack, N.Y.,

Gail Lamchick of Los Altos, Cal., and Ann Feeney of Palo Alto, Cal.; she was the sister of the late Selig and Arthur Weinstein.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Glamour Gals Foundation, P.O. Box 1284, Commack, N.Y., 11725 or glamourgals.org.

**Martha Lazaroff, 83**

COVENTRY — Martha Lazaroff, 83, died April 18. She was the wife of the late Louis Lazaroff. Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Philip and Bessie (Belmont) Hoffman, she had lived in Coventry since 2003, previously living in Warwick for a year, Cranston since 1960 and Albany, N.Y., before that.

Mrs. Lazaroff was the first civilian hired by the Cranston Police Dept. and was secretary for the chief of police in Cranston for more than 25 years, retiring in 1993.

She leaves a son, Allen Lazaroff of Oakland, Cal.; two daughters, Beverly Conrad of Woodinville, Wash., and Rayna Lazaroff of Corte Madera, Cal.; a brother, Harold Hoffman of Albany, N.Y.; a sister, Beatrice Schaffer of Providence; and two grandchildren, Rachel and Michael Conrad. She was the sister of the late Alfred Hoffman.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman Ave., Providence, R.I., 02906.

**Millard A. Levy**

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Millard A. Levy died on April 10.

**Leatrice (Libby) Stein, 74**

CRANSTON — Leatrice (Libby) Stein, 74, formerly of Barrington, died April 18, surrounded by her family. She was the wife of Irwin Stein.

She leaves a son, Bruce; a daughter, Abby; two grandsons, Eric and Harry; two granddaughters, Julie and Sidney; and great-grandson Marcus.

Contributions may be made to the Tomorrow Fund.

**Sophie Tebrow, 93**

WEST WARWICK — Sophie Tebrow, 93, died April 18. She was the wife of the late Jacob Tebrow. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Golda (Glazoff) Goodman. She was a school lunch worker

in the Providence school system.

Mrs. Tebrow was a member of the former Congregation Sons of Abraham and Shaare Zedek Synagogue.

She leaves a son, Gerald Tebrow and his wife, Joan, of West Warwick; two brothers, David Goodman of Coconut Creek, Fla., and

Hyman Goodman of Providence; and one grandchild, Tracey. She was the sister of the late Maurice and Louis Goodman, Clara Spader and Ida Mendelstein.

Contributions may be made to Temple Am David Kitchen Fund, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, R.I., 02888.

**FRIEDMAN: Clean energy next to global industry**

From Page 8

global economy is like a monster truck that has lost its key."

When Friedman moderated a discussion recently on climate change, he told Al Gore, "You know Mr. Vice President, you need to write an op-ed apologizing to the world, stating 'I completely underestimated climate change.'"

Friedman said what needs to be done is staggering in scale.

The book examines solutions as well. Friedman said, "I believe we

are entering a world where everyone is going to have to pay the 'fully-burdened' cost of their own energy."

Clean power is going to be the next great global industry, and the United States should take the lead to establish a systematic, smart power grid providing energy into a smart home and smart cars.

"You need an effective green movement with an engaged citizenry, which is why it isn't going to happen in China first," he says.

An intrepid reporter with

many stories, he told of going to a clean car conference in China. "The grizzled China car guys said to me, 'America has had its turn to grow by dirty fossil fuels, now it's our turn.' I told them, take 8 or 10 years, or longer. By that time we will have cleaned their clocks with green technology they will have to buy from us because it's cheaper."

"What we need," he concludes, "is a green bubble."

**COLUMNIST: High school journalism teacher taught him the fundamentals**

From Page 9

Friedman is a graduate of Brandeis, where he majored in Mediterranean studies, and studied Hebrew and Arabic. He described the university as "a community that was Jewish, modern and secular, and made me feel at home." He spent his sophomore year abroad, studying at Hebrew University.

After he graduated from Brandeis in 1975, he attended Oxford, where he earned a master's degree in modern Middle Eastern studies. At that time he met his future wife, Ann Bucksbaum; they married in a London synagogue in 1978.

Friedman began his professional career in the London bureau of United Press International and was sent to Beirut a

year later, where he stayed until 1981.

He was then hired by *The Times* as a reporter, and returned to Beirut at the start of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

**"The world needs modern-day Noahs to save it."**

Tom Friedman

Friedman's coverage won him the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting.

He was assigned to Jerusalem from 1984 to 1988, and received a second Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Intifada. His book, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, describes his experiences in the

Middle East.

In June, Friedman will return to Israel to receive an honorary degree from Technion, a leading science and technology institute. "Of all the honorary degrees I've received, this one makes me the proudest," he says.

Friedman, wearing his signature casual black slacks and turtleneck, is very willing to stop and talk to a Brown student reporter, who asks him how Judaism informs his work.

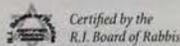
When Friedman answered he works outside of the religious community, Chaz Firestone responded, "But what you do in your work is all about *tikkun olam* (repair of the world)."

Friedman smiled, and later in his talk said: the world needs modern-day Noahs to save it.

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## People

### Watch Hill native's new film debuts

**NEW FILM** by Paris Film-maker and Watch Hill native **Vanessa Parise's** most recent work, *Jack and Jill vs the World*, opened in Los Angeles theaters April 4th and in Providence on April 11th. It is directed, co-written, and produced by Vanessa Parise and stars Freddy Prinze Jr., Taryn Manning, Kelly Rowan, Peter Stebbings, Hannah Lochner, Robin Dunne, Robert Forster, and Charles Martin Smith. The central character has cystic fibrosis and the opening event at Providence



Vanessa Parise

Place Mall was a benefit for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Parise graduated magna cum laude in biology from Harvard. With her heart in acting from the age of five, she decided to turn down Harvard Medical School to pursue a career in acting. She auditioned for and was accepted to the prestigious Circle in the Square Theatre School in Manhattan and never looked back. Acting as well as writing and directing have brought Parise out of her head and into her heart, a transition she has fully embraced, said her mother, Lois Silverman Parise.

### Kirsch joins Marriage Equality

**NANCY KIRSCH**, a Providence resident, has joined **MERI** (Marriage Equality RI), a coalition formed to seek recognition of equal marriage for same-sex couples in Rhode Island, as its first director of development. She will be responsible for raising funds and increasing positive awareness for the organization, which has recognition among a coalition of businesses, nonprofits and civic leaders.

### Arts scholarship

**AARON KAPLAN**, 13, of Providence has been awarded an arts scholarship from the Providence Performing Arts Center. This award allows children ages 11-14 years to attend an arts-related summer camp. Aaron attends the Jewish Community Day School of R.I. and likes to write poetry. An awards ceremony was held April 28.

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### Women's Center honors Gottlieb

**Amy Gottlieb, M.D.**, of Providence, director of primary care curricula and consultation at Women & Infants' Women's Primary Care Center and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology (clinical) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was recently honored at the Women's Center of R.I.'s sixth annual Women of Excellence Awards luncheon.

Upon receiving the award, Dr. Gottlieb commented, "My work in medical education and intimate partner violence reflects the

efforts of many, especially mentors who have generously supported my endeavors and provided me with invaluable guidance. I'd also like to extend my deep gratitude to my patients, many of whom are survivors of past or ongoing abuse. It is their stories which motivate me to do the work that I do."



Amy Gottlieb, M.D.

### Corey joins Eliot Rose

**ELIOT ROSE** Asset Management, LLC, announced the addition of **Christopher F. Corey** as vice president and portfolio manager. With more than 10 years of financial sector experience, he will be responsible for identifying and analyzing new investment opportunities and managing existing portfolio investments.

Prior to joining Eliot Rose, Mr. Corey was a vice president at J.H. Whitney & Company, a \$5 billion private equity and invest-

ment management firm based in Connecticut where he originated, executed, and managed private equity investments. Mr. Corey also served as an associate at Lehman Brothers where he was responsible for handling acquisition financing and corporate restructuring transactions for financial sponsor clients. He was a senior accountant at Arthur Andersen in the Transaction Advisory Services Group.

A current resident of North Attleboro, Mr. Corey earned a bachelor of arts degree in accounting, cum laude, from Assumption College in 1998 and a master's degree in business administration from Columbia Business School in 2004. He is a certified public accountant.



Christopher F. Corey

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## The Heron's Wife – 1999

An excerpt from  
The Third Angel  
by Alice Hoffman

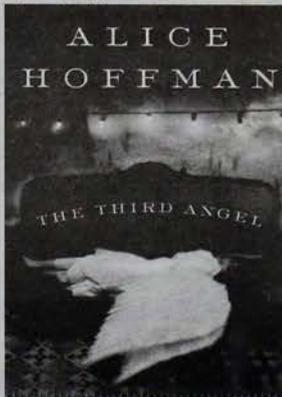
MADLINE HELLER knew she was reckless. She had flown to London from New York two days ahead of schedule and was now checked into her room at the Lion Park Hotel in Knightsbridge. The air was still and filled with dust motes; the windows hadn't been opened in months. Everything smelled like cedar and lavender. Maddy felt hot and exhausted from her travels but she didn't bother to turn on the air conditioner. She was madly, horribly, ridiculously in love with the wrong man and it made her want to lie there on the bed, immobilized.

Madeline wasn't stupid; she was an attorney in New York. She was thirty-four years old and had graduated from Oberlin and NYU Law School, a tall woman with long black hair. Many people thought she was beautiful and smart, but none of those people mattered. They didn't know her. They had no idea she was a traitor to her own flesh and

*Excerpted from The Third Angel by Alice Hoffman Copyright © 2008 by Alice Hoffman. Excerpted by permission of Shaye Areheart Books, a division of Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this excerpt may be reproduced or reprinted without permission in writing from the publisher.*

blood. They would never have guessed she would throw her life away so easily, without thinking twice.

There was good love and there was bad love. There was the kind that helped raise a person above her failings and there was the desperate sort that struck when someone least wanted or expected it. That was what had happened to Maddy this past spring when she'd come to



London to help plan her sister's wedding. Allie hadn't even asked for her help; it was their mother, Lucy, who'd told Maddy she should go to London and assist with the preparations; she was the maid of honor after all. And then when she got there, Allie had already taken care of everything, just as she always did.

Allie was older by thirteen

months. She was the good sister, the perfect sister, the one who had everything. She was a writer who had published an extremely popular children's book. When she walked down the street people often recognized her, and she was always willing to sign scraps of paper for someone's child or present a fan with one of the bookplates she carried in her purse. Once a year she came back to the States to give readings for what had become a perennially popular event where children dressed up in bird costumes. There were nine- and ten-year-old cardinals and ducks and crows all waiting on line to have their copy of *The Heron's*

To continue reading the rest of the excerpt from *The Third Angel*, go to [JVHRI.org](http://JVHRI.org)

*Wife* signed. Maddy sometimes accompanied her sister on tour.

She couldn't believe all the fuss over a silly children's story, one Allie had pinched from a tale their mother used to tell. Technically, the story belonged to Maddy as much as it did to her sister, not that she'd felt the need to write a book or change it inside out to suit herself.

The story was one Lucy Heller would tell down by the marsh where the girls had grown up. Lucy's own mother, the girls' grandmother, had waded barefoot into a pond in Central Park to talk to a huge blue heron.

## HOFFMAN: Stories are a blueprint for how to be human

From Page 17

she was an "obsessive reader," not unlike the character of Lucy Green in *The Third Angel*, who reads and rereads *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Teen-age girls of her generation, Hoffman continues, "were very affected by her longing, her life cut short, her loss of identity. When we were growing up, there were no other women's voices to read. It drew us to the diary."

Her own voice as a writer, explains Hoffman, "is very hard to describe. It's a very subconscious voice. You have to allow it go where it wants, to be open, to feel it."

In her keynote address at the PEN Hemingway Awards, held in Boston on March 30, Hoffman honored two writers who served very much as her mentors, Tillie Olsen and Grace Paley. "These two great writers taught me not just the importance of a personal voice in the work and craft of writing, but also the importance of adding one's personal voice to the communal voice of humanity, as a writer who is part of the larger web of the world," she said.

In *The Third Angel*, a ghost plays a prominent role in the story. When asked whether or not she believed in ghosts, Hoffman responds: "I want to believe, I want to see ghosts. I want to believe that there is some kind

of continuation, that the past is always with us."

The genesis of the novel came from an actual event, an argument that occurred outside the hotel room where she was staying in London. "Every night I heard the same fight out in the hallway; it was ghostly," she explains.

For Hoffman, being Jewish is an integral part of who she is as a person and a writer, but not in an explicit manner. "I feel like I'm writing about being Jewish all the time," she says, talking about the sense of continuity in writing between grandmother, mother and daughter.

"Women's relationships are so important. It's a gift of Jewish life, where women are very important, keeping the history, the mythology," she says.

*Hoffman will make two appearances on Tuesday, May 6, in Rhode Island: at Jardimiere, located at 176 Main St. in East Greenwich, from noon – 2 p.m., and at Books on the Square on Angell Street in Providence at 7 p.m. A percentage from books sold will the Alice Hoffman Breast Cancer Center at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Mass.*

*Hoffman's visit to Rhode Island were arranged by Robin Kall, host of "Reading with Robin" on 920 WHJJ. For more information, visit reading-*

## BINDER:

### What is it about the men of Chelm?

From Page 17

"It is."

"I don't understand." Benjamin was imagining what a hand was like with five extra fingers. A foot with five extra toes would need a specially made shoe. Were the fingers and toes on the same arms and legs or were there extra arms and legs? "I thought you said that everyone was all right!"

The exhausted midwife spooned more sugar into her tea. "They are. If you made it your business to be here on time, instead of gallivanting around you would understand and I wouldn't have to explain everything to you."

Benjamin put his hands on his hips. Mrs. Chaipul was a rather important woman in Chelm, but she was still just a woman. Yes she ran the only kosher restaurant. Yes she was the closest thing the village had to a doctor, veterinarian and midwife. Yes, she and the rabbi seemed to be engaged in negotiations for marriage. But still. This was no way to treat him in his own house on the afternoon

of the birth of his first child.

"Tell me woman," he demanded, "what is going on?"

Mrs. Chaipul peered at Benjamin. She shook her spoon at him.

"You need to learn more manners. And you owe me an extra chicken."

Such insults and insolence, Benjamin could barely restrain himself. Enough talking with this foolish woman.

He opened the door and marched into his bedroom.

The sudden noise and draft startled Sarah, who was dozing. She looked up, "Benjamin?"

"It's me," he said. The room was dark. "Ow!" He banged his knee against a chair that shouldn't be there. "Ow ow ow!"

"Are you all right?"

Sarah asked.

"I'm fine." He rubbed his leg. "How are you?"

"I'm tired. I'm exhausted.

But I'm fine."

"And the child?" he asked. He hated asking. He was afraid to ask. What was the point of hiring a midwife if she couldn't give

See TWINS, Page 32

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**England**

RHONDA WEISS (left) and her daughter, Melissa Weiss in England. They were on a mother-daughter vacation in April in London where Melissa is a "study-abroad" student for the semester.

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**Ochos Rios, and Cayman Islands**

STEVEN, ZACHARY AND ADRIENNE KIRSCHNER of Pawtucket and Zachary Gold of North Kingstown enjoyed their trip to Ochos Rios and the Cayman Islands (when they were not reading the JV&H they brought along).

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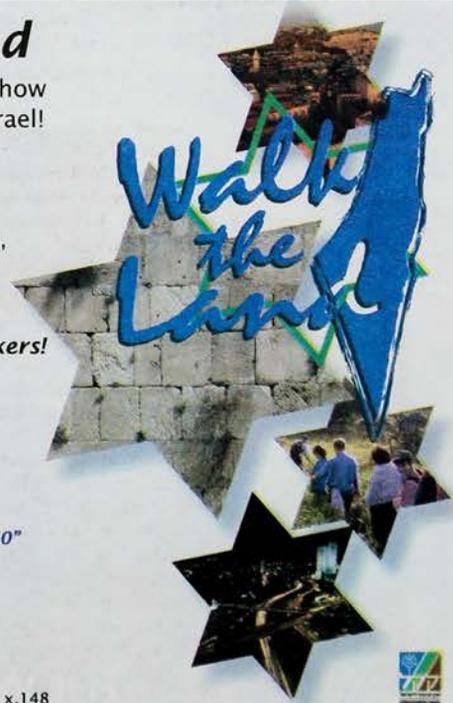
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## TWINS: A boy and a girl, both important

From Page 30

you a simple answer to a simple question?  
 "They're fine," Sarah said.  
 He was closer now, and he could see the smile on her face. She looked pale, but so wonderful.  
 "They?" he said.  
 A nod. "A boy and a girl."  
 "Really?" he said in amazement.



Mark Binder

Sarah stared at her husband.  
 "You think I'd make something like this up? You think I'd lie at a time like this? You think that you wouldn't figure it out in a moment or two?"  
 "No," he said. Why was everyone picking on him? "I'm just surprised."  
 "Me too," Sarah said. "So are they."  
 "Who was born first?"  
 Sarah glanced to her left. "She was."  
 Benjamin frowned. "Really? Let's tell everyone that he was."  
 "Why?"  
 "Because being first born is important to a boy."  
 "I don't understand."  
 Benjamin nodded. "You're not a boy."  
 Benjamin was the third son in a family of seven children. He knew how much his brothers had lorded that difference over him. "We'll tell everyone that he was born first. It's important. It's crucial."  
 "It's not such a big deal."  
 Benjamin frowned. "Have you

ever been held upside down by your ankles over a cesspool?"  
 "No!" Sarah said. "Are you threatening me?"  
 "Not at all!" Benjamin answered quickly. "I have been. By my older brothers."  
 "They were so cruel!"  
 "They were bigger and older," Benjamin explained. "It's the way of the world."  
 "She's only older by a few minutes," Sarah said.  
 "Minutes matter." Benjamin was firm about it. "So, we'll tell them that he was born first. We'll tell Mrs. Chaipul. She'll have to agree."  
 "All right," Sarah answered weakly.  
 "May I pick him up?"  
 "Yes, of course." She felt the weight lift from her right side.  
 "He's handsome."  
 The exhausted mother smiled.  
 "Yes, he is."  
 "I have a son!" Benjamin Cohen said proudly.  
 "And a daughter," Sarah Cohen added.  
 "Yes, yes, of course." Benjamin reached out a finger and touched his daughter's cheek. "A daughter as well. But a son! Think of that. A son!"  
 Sarah Cohen loved her husband but for a moment she felt her heart breaking and she hated him.  
 "Give him back to me," she demanded.  
 "Why?"  
 "He's hungry. We're tired. We need some rest. Go to work."  
 Benjamin surrendered the boy. He didn't notice the curt tone of his wife's voice. A son was something to be proud of.  
 He turned and "Ow!" Who put that chair there!  
 When she heard the door close, Sarah Cohen hugged her children tightly, but gently.  
 "You are both mine," she whispered. "You are both important."  
**Next Episode: Cry Me a River**

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- Prize may be taxable to the extent required by law
- Submissions are only complete if they contain the following sentence: "By submitting this essay, I agree to be bound by the rules and terms of participation in the Hadassah Life Membership Contest" (such sentence will be exclusive of the 60 word limit)

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