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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Putting the joy back into Judaism

Bronfman promotes ideas for Jewish renaissance in a 'live' appearance in Providence

By JULIA McCANN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

“Intermarriage is not the enemy of Judaism in North America,” declared Edgar M. Bronfman, Jewish philanthropist, chair of the Board of Governors of Hillel, and former CEO of Seagram Company, making a “live” appearance in Providence on Monday evening, Sept. 22. The greatest problem, he continued, is “ignorance and apathy, the ‘I don’t know and I don’t care’ attitude.”

Bronfman was interviewed one-on-one by Charlie Rose for 90 minutes, as part of the “Live at the 92nd Street Y” program that was simulcast from New York City’s venerable cultural institution.

See BRONFMAN, Page 8



SELMA AND MILTON STANZLER said the Bronfman talk was thoroughly “stimulating and enlightening.”



THE “LIVE FROM THE 92ND ST. Y” had intergenerational appeal. Arlene and Mel Landesberg, from Tiverton, drove with their nephew, Mitch Cohen, of Cranston, to hear Edgar Bronfman.

Photos by Julia McCann



Tzipi Livni

Experts weigh in on Israeli politics

Editor’s Note: To provide our readers with a broader perspective into the current Israeli political situation, we spoke with some local and national experts. Here are excerpts from the interviews.

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

Shai Feldman, director of the Crown Center of Middle East Studies at Brandeis University

Can Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni succeed in forming a new coalition in the next few weeks?

“It’s more than 50-50 that she will, but it’s not a slam dunk. Right now, *Likud* would do well if there are early elections. And, if Barak doesn’t go with Livni, it will go to early elections. My own feeling is that 55 percent she’ll succeed, 45 percent she’ll fail.”

Is this a critical time for Israel?

“Israel is always at a critical juncture. It has always faced one drama after another its entire history.”

Is there a change in the perception of the region?

“There is recognition that Israel is a potential member of any solution. There is the common threat of terrorism, specifically Islamic terrorism. Egypt is concerned about Gaza. Jordan is concerned about the West Bank. Arab *Sunni* governments are concerned about Lebanon.”

“There is greater recognition that you can only deal with these issues on a regional basis. Also, that the Palestinians cannot deal with their own problems on their own. And, also, a greater sense, among Arab countries, that there is no choice for Arab states but to take greater responsibility. The Arab world

See LIVNI, Page 10

Olmert: Israel must withdraw

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israel will have to leave the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem, and compensate Palestinians for settlement blocs in a peace deal, Ehud Olmert said.

“In the end of the day, we will have to withdraw from the most decisive areas of the territories. In exchange for the same territories left in our hands, we will have to give compensation in the form of territories within the State of Israel,” Israel’s prime minister said in an interview published on Sept. 29 in *Yediot Achronot*.

It is the first time Olmert has been so specific about what he believes peace with the Palestinians will look like. *Yediot* pointed out that Olmert did not go so far in his statements when he was firmly in office.

Olmert said that peace with Syria will require leaving the Golan Heights.



Ehud Olmert

In an interview Sunday with the Israeli website, *Wallat*, opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said he would allow building in existing West Bank settlements to accommodate natural growth. He spoke proudly of the construction of Jerusalem neighborhoods he oversaw during his tenure as prime minister.

He said he would not join a coalition government under Livni and called for new elections.



Photo by Ezra Stieglitz

Preserving – or Exploiting – Jewish Memories In Poland?

IN KAZIMIERZ, there are souvenir shops where one can purchase wooden figures of Hasidic Jews. Ezra Stieglitz shares his thoughts about returning to Poland. See Page 14

New, flexible scheduling, ethics curriculum at JCCRI's Early Childhood Center

Regular swim program part of regular activities

By CHRISTINE PARKER
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Some big changes are taking place for the 2008-2009 school year at the Early Childhood Center of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Under the direction of its new director, Robin Meyerowitz, the program is continuing its tradition of excellence with a focus on Reggio-inspired hands-on training for children.

"The process of learning for children [should] become a part of who [they] are and can serve them for the rest of their lives," Meyerowitz said.

Among the changes made by Early Childhood Center, which serves children ages three and up, is a more convenient, flexible option for parents, allowing them to choose either one or five days, half-days, and early arrival or extended day options.

In addition, the Center's program is unique in that it

offers both an award-winning Jewish ethics curriculum as well as a Red Cross-certified swimming program.

"There are currently a limited number of spaces still available for children three months to 5 years."

According to Meyerowitz, there are currently a limited number of spaces still available for children three months to 5 years. The Early Childhood

Center has two campuses; one in Providence and a satellite campus at Temple Habonim in Barrington. Children of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome at both locations.

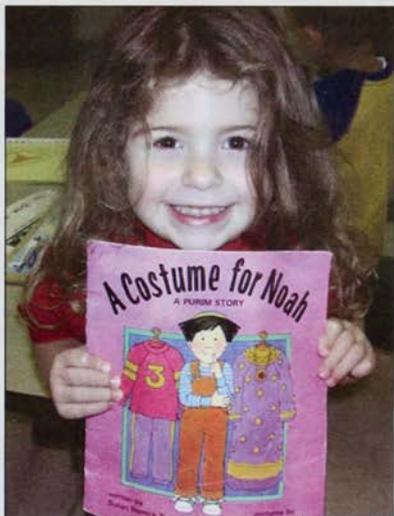
The Center is licensed by the R.I. Department of Education and features a nurturing, child-centered and community-based environment that exceeds national NAEYC standards, according to Meyerowitz.

The JCCRI is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

For more information, call Robin Meyerowitz at the JCCRI at 861-8800, ext. 205.



PRESCHOOLERS at the Early Childhood Center enjoy a nourishing snack as their teacher engages them in mealtime conversation.



LEARNING ABOUT JEWISH ETHICS is important part of the JCCRI's approach to early childhood development

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We're the same because we're both Jewish, perhaps my grandfather turned right and yours turned left. *Hineni* says I'm proud to be part of that chain of Jews who, for thousands of years, have been responsible for each other."

Doris Feinberg
Jewish Federation of R.I. President



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Antiques
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COMING IN OUR OCTOBER 31 ISSUE
ELECTION GUIDE 2008



Presented by Temple Emanuel EJ in partnership with the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of R.I.

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Leonard Nimoy

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The Civil Rights Act was signed on September 9, 1964. The VMA is proud to have Leonard Nimoy as our guest narrator.

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Yale AIDS program director warns of virulent TB 'super-bug'

TB, in decline for 60 years, resurges worldwide

By MARY KORR
V&H senior contributing writer

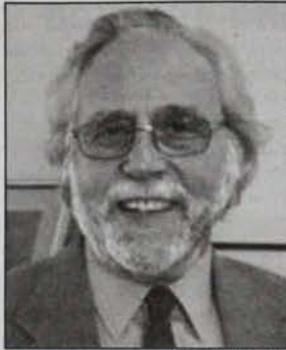


Photo by Mary Korr

Dr. Gerald H. Friedland

PROVIDENCE – Dr. Gerald H. Friedland, director of the AIDS program at Yale-New Haven Hospital, took listeners last week on a nightmarish medical journey to a remote village in rural South Africa where an epidemic of tuberculosis rages. "It is a beautiful area where a terrible thing is unfolding," he said.

As the keynote speaker at the 12th annual Paul J. Galkin Lecture Series on Sept. 22, sponsored by Brown University/The Miriam Hospital, Dr. Friedland told the chilling story of a growing global threat known by its acronym: XDR TB – extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis.

In 2005, while working in a district hospital in Tugela Ferry, South Africa, Dr. Friedland determined that a highly drug-resistant strain of TB was the major cause of death among HIV patients; 52 of 53 people with XDR TB died within weeks of being tested for the strain.

Since then, through education, community-based programs, and the implementation of standard infection control measures, the mortality rate has declined in Tugela Ferry – but not enough, according to Dr. Friedland.

And, while 75 percent of the transmission in hospital settings can be reduced by wearing masks, eight health care workers in the Tugela Ferry district hospital have died.

When asked how he protects himself while in the TB wards, he said simply, "I shave my beard and I wear a mask." He acknowledged the occupational hazards health care workers face.

Dr. Friedland went on to say ethical and social dilemmas have emerged from quarantining XDR TB patients. In one "high-security" hospital, 49 patients with XDR TB cut through barbed wire fencing to spend "what they knew would be their last Christmas at home."

TB PATIENT FLIES TO EUROPE, DESPITE WARNING

At the lecture, Dr. Friedland presented a case widely reported in the media in May 2007. Atlanta attorney Andrew



Photo courtesy Church of Scotland Hospital

MEMBERS OF THE TB AWARENESS TEAM travel to villages to educate people about TB and the need to diagnose symptoms.

Speaker was diagnosed with MDR TB (multi drug-resistant tuberculosis, a less virulent but still communicable strain). Despite being advised by doctors not to travel, he flew to Greece to get married.

Dr. Friedland showed a chart of the numerous flights Speaker took, from Atlanta to Paris to Athens to Mykonos. Each leg represented a potential risk to fellow travelers – especially those with suppressed immune systems.

The situation worsened when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identified Speaker's strain as XDR TB. (This would later prove to be false.)

"For the first time in 44 years, the federal government issued a quarantine order for TB," Dr. Friedland said.

Italian health officials were immediately notified that Speaker was in Rome on his honeymoon. They told him to arrange for a private jet home (Cost: \$100,000).

Speaker, however, flew with his wife on commercial airlines, from Rome to Prague to Mon-

tréal, where he then rented a car. He was intercepted in New York, tracked down by his cell phone number, and taken to the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. Part of his lung was removed and he was placed on a two-year multi-drug regimen.

Speaker later apologized on national television for his actions, stating he did not understand the risks of transmission at the time. Ironically, his father-in-law was an epidemiologist studying TB.

FLIGHT RISKS

Dr. Friedland then cited studies showing that the greatest risk of infection during air travel occurs on flights lasting eight or more hours. Later, he said that if a person is coughing near you on a plane, change your seat; if none is available, ask the cougher to cover his mouth.

Dr. Stanley Aronson, founding dean of Brown's medical school, was in attendance. "I found the lecture a sobering revelation of a mammoth public health problem the magnitude of which few Americans could possibly under-

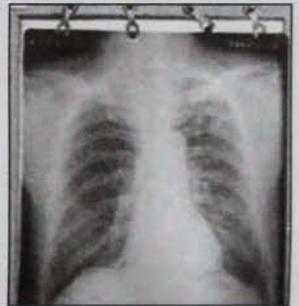


Photo courtesy World Health Organization

The lungs of an MDR TB patient.

stand," he observed. "HIV infection alone is now, if not curable, firmly arrested. It is TB which is changing from a formerly curable contagion to an infection caused by mutational modifications of the TB bacillus, making it increasingly resistant to the customary anti-TB antibiotics."

The World Health Organization is developing strategies to address the growing threat of XDR TB and MDR TB. "The greatest danger lies in the cases that are undiagnosed and unseen. We have only seen the tip of the iceberg," Dr. Friedland said.

Mary Korr can be reached at mkorr@verizon.net.

TB statistics

- According to the World Health Organization, one-third of the world's population - two billion people - are thought to have been infected with the TB bacillus
- Each year there are more than 8 million new TB cases

- TB has now appeared in 46 countries; the highest number of new cases are in the former Soviet Union. In New York City, there are up to 40,000 cases of TB (in the HIV/AIDS population) and 65,000 in the United States as a whole.

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Truthiness

BY RICHARD ASINOF
rasingof@jfri.org

THE BUSH administration's narrative on the state of the U.S. economy reads much like a bad script for an even worse reality TV series, one that avoids truth and responsibility – and common sense.

Less than two weeks ago, Bush was busy repeating his mantra that our nation's economy was fundamentally sound.

Now, we are told that the country faces a gargantuan crisis requiring an unprecedented \$700 billion bailout. (This bailout plan, however, had apparently been drafted months ago, according to a Bush aide.) Congress is being told to act immediately, or face dire consequences.

In Congress, the Bush administration's proposal was greeted with a healthy dose of skepticism. Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut said that the Treasury proposal was "stunning and unprecedented in its scope and lack of detail." Dodd said: "After reading this proposal, I can only conclude that is not only our economy at risk ... but our Constitution, as well."

Dodd, along with his House counterpart, Rep. Barney Frank, are hard at work redrafting the proposed bailout plan, thankfully.

Rhode Island's Sen. Jack Reed spoke forcefully about the need to require companies to reimburse the taxpayers for their help in bailing out the financial system. "The custom on Wall Street is, if you assume the risk, you get paid to do that," Reed told Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke during Senate hearings.

Let's be clear: Our nation's economic crisis did not happen out of the blue; it was very much entirely foreseeable and preventable. The market did not self-regulate itself, despite the *shibboleths* chanted by the Bush administration and its cheerleaders for deregulation. Warnings and alarms have been going off for months, even years. Why didn't our leaders respond sooner?

To some degree, the problem rests with the way we now talk – and don't listen – to each other. We seem to have lost an understanding of what is responsible, honest, civil dialogue. Too often, cues for how to conduct our public dialogue are taken from bombastic radio and cable news talk show hosts who sow the whirlwind. Demagoguery reigns, and character assassination by viral e-mail is as common as our morning cup of coffee.

This year, as we celebrate renewal and atone for our shortcomings, let us all endeavor to find common ground in our conversations and dialogue, both personal and political. Treat those with whom we disagree with the same respect we would grant them as a guest at our Shabbat dinner table. All change begins on the inside.

To resolve the nation's fiscal crisis, it will require honest dialogue, not posturing.

The overwhelming majority of Jews are both pro-choice and pro-life

IT SEEMS TO ME that one of the most troubling consequences – intended or unintended – of Sen. John McCain's choosing Sarah Palin as his running mate is that this decision has once again brought to the boiling point our nation's always simmering cultural wars.



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

During the closing weeks of this presidential election campaign, we ought to be focusing upon how to address our economic crisis at home and the deteriorating situation abroad, especially in the Middle East.

Instead, we have found ourselves diverting at least some of our attention to a wide range of secondary, though admittedly sensitive, cultural issues. At the center of our resurgent cultural debate stands, of course, the issue of abortion. As Exhibit A, let me point to Dr. Michelle A. Cretella's piece in *The Providence Journal* on Sept. 21 headlined: "Palin power and the feminist elites."

Dr. Cretella writes: "So why this character assassination [of Gov. Palin] from the feminist elites? In a word: abortion. It is not Gov. Palin's membership in the National Rifle Association, her "drill, baby, drill" stance, or anything else that riles them. No. Gov. Palin refuses to embrace the feminist establishment's golden cow [Does Cretella mean to say "sacred cow" or "golden calf"?] – abortion on demand."

I bring up Dr. Cretella's column not to debate her position nor to debate Sarah Palin's position. Rather, since the question of abortion is everywhere and all the time this election season,

IT SEEMS TO ME

We Jews and abortion

let me reflect upon how we Jews might approach the perplexing questions raised by the indisputable fact of abortion.

I would suggest that while there is a considerable spectrum of opinion within the American Jewish community regarding abortion, the overwhelming majority of us are *both* pro-choice *and* pro-life.

Yes, most of us believe in the right of a woman to choose abortion under certain circumstances; and, yes, at the same time we promote an ethic that is life-affirming, life-enriching, life-preserving. In those unambiguous words of *Deuteronomy* 30.19, "*u'vacharta ha'chayim, choose life!*"

Unfortunately, there are certain tragic cases where *chayim*, life, might

debate as to precisely what constitutes a true threat to the mother's life.

2) While the fetus is viewed as a potential person, the fetus does not (until "crowning") have the same legal status as a person. That is to say, from the Jewish perspective, "legal life" does not begin at conception. Obviously, both of these Jewish principles conflict with those religious views which state that the life of the unborn fetus takes precedence over the life of the mother and/or that human life should be legally protected at conception.

Despite Jewish law's accepting, even requiring, abortion under certain circumstances, our tradition does recognize the sanctity of all life; from the Jewish perspective, then, situations which warrant abortions are inherently tragic. Moreover, because every individual case is both unique and complicated, those individuals who are seeking the guidance of Jewish law regarding a possible abortion should consult an appropriate rabbinic authority.

In view of the fact that our nation's major religious traditions offer differing and even contradictory perspectives regarding abortion, I deem it a shame that the issue of abortion is once again subjected to the distorting and disfiguring light of a political campaign.

I look forward to the day when all American women – including Sarah Palin – will be secure in their knowledge that our laws guarantee their right to choose – to choose abortion or *not* to choose abortion.

On that day, the discussion of abortion will continue in places that suit the complexity and intimacy of the issue: in the home, the doctor's office, the church, the mosque, the synagogue, but most definitely not on the partisan political stump.

Rabbi James Rosenberg can be reached at rabbimeritus@templeharonim.org

"I look forward to the day when all American women – including Sarah Palin – will be secure in their knowledge that our laws guarantee their right to choose – to choose abortion or not to choose abortion."

mean, might even require, abortion.

We read in our *Mishnah*, the very heart of our Talmudic corpus:

"If a woman is in hard travail, the child must be cut up while it is in the womb and brought out limb by limb, since the life of the mother has priority over the life of the child; but if the greater part of it has already emerged (i.e., the baby has "crowned"), it may not be touched, since one life does not supersede the other." (*Obolot* 7.6)

From these austere words, rabbinic authorities have derived two clear principles:

1) If the life of the mother is threatened by the pregnancy, Jewish law requires that the mother's life takes precedence. Of course, there is often a

NOW BATTING

Certainty amidst uncertainty: economic and political crises and the High Holidays

Prayer offers powerful sustenance as we struggle to make sense of the world's crises

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS are here. *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, the Ten Days of Repentance, offer a source of certainty amidst a world of uncertainty.

We live in frightening times. As I write, the Congress and the administration are working to restructure a large chunk of the American economy. Last week following the failure of investment houses and the world's largest insurance company, economic disaster reared its ugly head. Unable to assess risk, bank

officials, striving to keep their institutions afloat, cut back on loans, not only to consumers, but to other banks. Fearing an economic stall that would be followed



Alan Zuckerman

by the worst collapse since the Depression of the 1930s, the reluctant Secretary of the Treasury and Chair of the Federal Reserve constructed a plan that would reduce risk, erase fear and restore confidence.

We can almost hear FDR on the radio saying, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Strong criticism has greeted the Treasury's plan. Two criticisms, in particular, stand out: It rewards the fat cats of Wall Street who brought on the crisis, and

it is opaque, giving one man, Secretary Paulson, unlimited power. Even though the Treasury has emphasized the need for speedy approval, the plan demands correction. Congress now works to add, eliminate and alter, but an ineffective Congress is infamous for its inability to make coherent policy. As you blame Congress for fiddling while Rome burns, you should also wonder why the economic wizards of the Treasury and Federal Reserve produced a plan that is so politically inept that it demands correction. Does anyone know what they are doing? Our confusion exacerbates our fear.

Even worse, we are alarmed because we understand that the plan and politicking affect each of our pocketbooks. The economic crisis influences the ability to

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

'Ordinary folk' should not be held liable for the \$700 billion bill

Columnist engages in annual repentance of sins, but wonders whether it matters

GOLLY GEE willikers, *haverim*, the investment bankers who have received such tax largesse from the Bush administration, who have mis-directed our economy from one that's productive into one service-based, now need us little folk to bail them out. If we don't, we are threatened with depression on a world-wide scale. Seven hundred bil-

lion dollars and Congress can't ask who is to get how much? This is supposed to save their hides after they've flayed ours. And the money is somehow going to trickle down to those of us who had nothing to do with the melt-down but are its victims. What a country!

* The Red Sox have the second

highest payroll in Major League Baseball; no wonder they ended up second in the A.L. East. Ah, but the odd thing is that the team that wound up in first has the lowest payroll in the Majors. I root for the Red Sox with more fervor than for anything else secular, but as long as the team made the playoffs, I'm not unhappy that the Rays finished first. It's a tale out of a child's morality story. If the Old Town Team doesn't make it to the top, I'm rooting for them – and there are two Rhode Islanders on the team. (Jews? I'm thinking not, but maybe...)

* Seven hundred billion dollars? For openers?

* How come when we have a leader whose poll numbers are lower than his shoe size, which gets us embroiled in a war-of-choice that is a no-winner, and wracked with scandal, we can't just get rid of him the way Israel disposed of Olmert. Oh, I remember, our founding fathers, the same bewigged, knicker-wearing elitists who allowed slavery to continue, who created

equal senators for each state (California with its population in excess of 36.5 million, and Wyoming—with its population of hardly anyone, each gets two) prevented that. They were a tad afraid of democracy, you see.

* Remember the halcyon days (pre-George W. Bush) when we wondered how best to use the 1 trillion or so that

"Britain had Churchill to rally the people...the nation had Roosevelt to inspire it. In those days, there was greatness. Who do we get? Bush? Why are we being punished with such blatant mediocrity?"

was a surplus in the Treasury?

* In its time of crises, Britain had Churchill to rally the people. In my parents' time of economic disaster, the nation had Roosevelt to inspire it. In those days, there was greatness. Who do we get? Bush? What did we do that was so wrong? Why are we being punished with such blatant mediocrity?

* Oh, and then there was Bush's plan to privatize Social Security by allowing us to invest our portion of it in the stock market? Wow, what a guy!

* It's *Yom Kippur* time again. If the postal service is on the ball, you will receive this on the *Sabbath of Repentance*. We are told that on *Rosh Hashanah* God inscribes the names of those to be saved and that on *Yom Kippur* the book is sealed. We are enjoined to ask for forgiveness of sins. Every year I make a deal with God. I pretend that I'll really, really, really try to be a better person, and He pretends to believe me. At least that's the way it's been for the past several decades and if it's OK with Him to continue the charade, it's OK by me, too.

* Not that I don't think government intervention is necessary. Hey, if Republicans want to transform market driven Wall Street into a People's Republic, I'll just sit back and enjoy the spectacle. It's that we've been rushed into things before by these guys. We must invade Iraq to get to the weap-

ons of mass destruction! We must pass the Patriot Act! We must invest \$700 billion! The sky is falling, the sky is falling! (Oh? Democrats want to put a cap on CEO's salaries? Why, that's just class warfare!) The villain here? It's not George W. Bush; he's merely the current marionette. The problem goes back to the handlers of Ronnie Reagan. Government isn't the solution, government is the problem. We have to untie the fetters that bind capitalism! We must deregulate. Well, folks, how's that working out, exactly?

* Each year on *Yom Kippur* I pray in my own fashion for two things—life and health for family, friends and myself, and for belief in prayer. So far, He has granted the former and spared me the latter, and if I'm lucky, He'll spare me again.

* The purpose of these columns during the year has been to stimulate thought and to provoke discussion. If I've offended, I apologize; it was never my intention, though it may have been my result. Please forgive. I'll make my amends to Him on Thursday.

Josh Stein can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu



Josh Stein

BETWEEN WORK AND HOME

My son's three major loves – baseball, Judaism and politics

This year, a new lesson to learn about political calculation

SLOWLY, I accept the fact: summer is over and fall has arrived. Each year, as the nights become cooler and the skies turn royal blue, I feel a bit of longing for the hot summer days. But this year, I am following the lead of my nine year old son, Daniel, as he eagerly anticipates his three major loves – baseball, Judaism, and politics.

As we head into October, the baseball season is heating up. The Red Sox are looking good as some of our

ailing players have returned to the team. The Sox are headed for post-season play and Daniel remains confident – in the way that only nine year olds can – that his team is bound for glory. It's hard not to catch his infectious "I believe" spirit.

Our family watches each game with hope and expectation. In between the games and school, we prepare for the Jewish holidays by going apple picking and inviting family and friends to our home.

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchas Torah inspire lots of great discussion at home about renewal, and righting our wrongs, and thanks for another chance to set things right with others and with ourselves.

As we dip the apples in the honey, we are grateful to be celebrating again while we take time to think about how we might improve ourselves, treat our siblings better and commit to giving our time and our money to support our broader community. Aren't these some of the essential messages of the holiday liturgy?

This year, the season also brings an important election. Daniel has been following the political season with the same curiosity and intensity he follows baseball players' box scores.

Early on, Daniel came out strong for Obama. Caught up in the enthusiasm of Obama's campaign, Daniel figured it was a

historic election regardless of who won – the first African American president? The first woman president? The oldest president and the first one born outside the United States? It all seemed so much like guessing the odds on whether the Red Sox would beat the Yankees or the Rays.

We spent much of our summer vacation watching the Olympics and speculating who Obama

In this season of renewal, I'm feeling hopeful.

and McCain might choose as their respective running mates. Daniel followed the names we threw about as well as he followed John Lester's pitches. And, like a thoughtful student of *Torah*, he asked a myriad of questions – where the potential candidates were from, what they had done, what they stood for, and why they might/might not be a good selection.

It was all a lot of fun until the name of Sarah Palin shot across our TV screen. Who? What had she done? What was her track record? For me, it all

became so hard to explain.

So, it was with some astonishment that I struggled to explain to Daniel exactly who Sen. John McCain had chosen for his vice presidential running mate. All spring and summer, I had told Daniel that I had respect and admiration for each of the candidates and his service to this country.

As I watched Palin's masterful acceptance speech, I recognized that it was the performance of a life time. A home run. She delivered it with *kavanah* and the skill of an ace pitcher facing the league's best hitters.

And yet, despite her impressive delivery, the substance was chilling. How could I explain to my son that nearly everything Palin said stood in direct opposition to everything I believe in?

How could I explain to him how a governor who served 'the people' could stand up and ridicule an entire profession – community organizing – one that my son has seen me dedicate my career to?

Didn't Palin know that community organizing was what got women the vote? Started the civil rights movement? And helped to

secure the eight hour workday?

Slowly, Daniel and I began to discuss my concerns with the issues Palin supports – teaching creationism in schools, drilling the Arctic, restricting a women's right to control her health and body, opposing gun control, refuting global warming.

Daniel, in his young wisdom, told me that while he thought Palin was an OK candidate with some experience, he was still supporting Obama.

Very easily, he seemed to grasp that I'm not against Palin because she is a woman. It's that I believe she is simply the wrong person with the wrong stand on the issues. No presidential team is perfect – that is for sure. But taking the lessons of the season to heart, I am grateful to see my son seems to grasp that I'm supporting a team that preaches respect for women, greater tolerance towards those with different ideas, more diplomacy in world affairs and respect for the earth.

In this season of renewal, I'm feeling hopeful.

Barbara Fields can be reached at bfields@cox.net



Barbara Fields

A night to celebrate

ON SEPT. 17, more than 1,500 people gathered at Providence's Waterplace Park to celebrate a special WaterFire honoring the Jewish community of Rhode Island and Israel@60. Teams of community volunteers held torches as the wooden fires were lit in the park's basin, and the special music for the evening included several versions of *Hatikvah*. "It was such a beautiful evening," said Jay Strauss of Cranston, a member of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Board of Directors. "It brought tears to my eyes — and it wasn't just the smoke swirling about. I feel so proud to be a member of our Jewish community," he said. "I was overwhelmed with pride to have such a wonderful public Jewish event in downtown Providence that was so successful."



PRAYER: It is always meaningful, but never more so than in challenging and turbulent times

From Page 4

sustain our businesses, to buy and retain homes and to have secure retirements. How will the turmoil, we worry, reach each of us?

And don't look to the presidential candidates for help. McCain, in command of issues regarding foreign policy and military affairs, is lost at sea on these matters. Obama does little more than reiterate that he is not George W. Bush. Out of their intellectual depths, the candidates continue to attack each other, making the presidential campaign a tragicomic diversion. The heat and noise of political wars deepen and widen our confusion and fear.

And now, turn to the world outside the borders of the United States. Are we really on the verge of a nuclear armed Iran? Will Israel attack Iran in order to prevent this possibility? Will the war break out, as many expect, in just a few months — after the presidential election and before the inauguration of the next president? If Israel does not act, will Iran unleash its new weapons on Israel? Will any nation help Israel alleviate the threat? Will Russia, which now sells Iran the means to produce nuclear weapons, form a political alliance with Israel's enemy? Does Russia's recent invasion of Georgia signal a return to a belligerent, aggressive Kremlin? Will the countries of Europe, dependent as they are on Russian and Iranian natural gas and oil and tied by commercial relations to both countries, turn a blind eye? The fog of widespread and profound confusion and

fear takes us beyond the economic crisis to the edge of war.

Born into the certainty of economic riches and political dominance of the post-war world, Americans stand confused. With good reason, we fear that established understandings are failing us. And, what's true for most Americans is certainly true for America's Jews, so many of whom have benefitted from and contributed to the threatened prosperity and the artificial certainty.

There is an odd parallel between these intellectual uncertainties and the doubts that accompany our prayers. Consider that the Days of Awe are upon us, a period when most of us pray more than we do during the rest of the year. In the synagogue service for the High Holidays, we link our desired future events to *teshuva* (repentance), *tefillah* (prayer), and *tzedakah* (charitable deeds), even as, children of the modern world, we harbor doubts about the value of our prayers. Indeed, most of us put more faith in the wisdom of the economists and bankers, political scientists and political leaders than that of the prayer book. The current economic and political crises should cause us to reconsider this stance.

In this season of High Holidays, there are two certainties. The first is that it is the moment for prayer. We can be sure about this, because our forebears told us so, and our rabbis and friends and family members continue to do so. It is the wisdom of

the Jewish people, and so Jews go to the synagogue to pray during the High Holidays.

The second certainty is that

We can almost hear FDR on the radio saying, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

prayer matters. How can we be sure of that claim? Again, there is a simple answer: the Torah tells us so. God, in the understanding of Our Rabbis of the Talmud (*Hazal*), taught us how to pray for repentance and forgiveness. Again and again in the *Slichot* services that

precede *Yom Kippur* and that begin and end that awesome day, we follow God's teachings.

Consider the prayer that elucidates God's characteristics and stands at the heart of these special prayers: "*Hashem* [the ineffable name] passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed: *Hashem* God, Compassionate and Gracious, Slow to Anger, and Abundant in Kindness and Truth; Preserver of Kindness for thousands of generations, Forgiver of Iniquity, Willful Sin, and Error, and Who Cleanses... (Exodus, 34: 6-7)."

Hazal tell us that God stood before the people like a cantor,

teaching them the words for this prayer for repentance. With God as the source of the instruction, the message is certain. *Hashem* has given us the right to repent and the words with which to begin that process, and has assured us of the efficacy of these prayers. Our forebears and *Hazal* maintain that this is certain knowledge.

Do you doubt the certainty of this prayer, but not the certainty of economic and political knowledge? May our prayers help us cope with our confusion and fear.

My wife Roberta joins me in wishing you all *l'shana tova tikatevu v'tikbatemu* — may you be inscribed and sealed for a good new year.

Letter to the Editor

A just and true peace requires well-informed and vigorous advocates

I want to thank *The Jewish Voice & Herald* for publishing the Orange Gallery article in the August 22, 2008 edition of the paper. This poignant interview with former refugee of Gush Katif was contributed by my daughter, Chaya Mandelkorn, nee Vicki Schwartz, a free-lance writer living in Naveh Daniel, Northern Judea, Israel. It underscores the need for a well-informed community to vigorously advocate for a just and true peace.

In 2005, about 8,000 good people of Gush Katif were uprooted from their beautiful

farms and homes to accommodate Olmert government's cruel unilateral withdrawal in order to appease implacable radical Islam. This farming community exported millions of dollars of precious produce employing both Gazans and Israelis — so vital to both economies. These farms were built with blood, sweat, and tears while enduring constant rocket and suicide attacks aimed at population centers, nurseries, schools, hospitals and homes. The more the Neville Chamberlains of the world attempt to placate, the more the beast lusts for blood.

The current tenuous ceasefire is used by the radical *Hamas* to enlarge its huge stockpiles of smuggled deadly weapons and whose loud and clear agenda disavows a two-state solution and obsesses with the total destruction of Israel.

The late Rabbi Meir Kahane was right: Transference of the hate-filled populace and death sentences for the hell-bent *Hamas/Hezbollah* leadership with blood on its hands!

Anne Schwartz
Providence, R.I.

What does *Hineni* mean to me?

Jewish community was there for me when I needed them most

By DORIS FEINBERG
Special to The Voice & Herald

WHEN I hear the word *Hineni* – here I am – I think about all those who depend on us and I realize that there, but for the grace of God, go I. To be blessed with health and family and to be able to give, whereas I could just as easily have been born

in a hut in Ethiopia like the one I stood in two years ago.

Hineni says to me, here I am, but here you are, too. We're the same because we're both Jewish, though perhaps my grandfather turned right and yours turned left. *Hineni* says I'm proud to be part of that chain of Jews who, for thousands of years, have been responsible for each other.

But I've also been on the other side.

As a child, the Jewish Community Center in my little town of Bayonne, N.J., was my lifeline during a difficult time for my family. I will never forget what the Jewish community did for me when I needed them most.

Now I want to convert my gratitude into action, to make sure we are there for another vulnerable child.

When I look at the faces in our Federation video, I know they are my family. And, in

that Ethiopian hut, I began to appreciate what an amazing family it is. Who else would have found and rescued these long-lost cousins?

As president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, I know that together there's nothing we can't accomplish – for another lonely kid like me, for an isolated elder, for all of our people, here in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world.

Doris Feinberg is the president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Hineni
הנני
Here I am.



Photo courtesy of JFRI

JFRI's Women's Alliance kicks-off 2009 Campaign with Home Sweet Home event

Left to right, Bea Ross, Women's Alliance president; Lori Klinghoffer, UJC national women's philanthropy chair, Bonnie Stenberg Jennis, Women's Alliance's vice president of campaign; and Mindy Wachtenheim, Women's Alliance vice president of endowment and the event's hostess, celebrate at the kick-off event of JFRI's WA campaign

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island 2009 Annual Community Campaign

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BRONFMAN: Ignorance and apathy, not intermarriage, is Judaism's greatest problem

From Page 1

About 50 community members gathered in the social room of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island to listen – and interact – with Bronfman. Audience members e-mailed questions from Providence to New York so that Bronfman was asked the questions in real time. The live broadcast was the third in a continuing series of programs that are being underwritten by the Starr-Tobak Endowment Fund. So far the live broadcasts have featured Gloria Steinem, New York Times Columnist Thomas Friedman and former President Bill Clinton; upcoming speakers include Nobel Prize Winner Elie Wiesel and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson.

Bronfman, who wore an eye-catching bright pink shirt with a psychedelic-patterned tie in purple and lime green, was publicizing his new book, *Hope, Not Fear: a Path to Jewish Renaissance*, co-written with Beth Zasloff. (Indeed, one of the questions from the audience was: "Where did you get that amazing tie?")

The book explores how openness and joy can reinvigorate Judaism in North America. (To read an excerpt from the book, see "Open and Welcoming," Page 9.)

Jerry Snell and his mother, Miriam, said that they had chosen to attend the event as a way to be engaged and to partici-

pate in the ongoing conversation of Judaism. "I love to socialize, and having the same Jewish background gives us something to talk about," said Miriam Snell.

Also attending were Milton Stanzler, a retired lawyer, and his wife, Selma. They had been to the previous events, and he said they found it to be "very stimulating and enlightening about the issues [facing our Jewish community]."

According to Selma, Bronfman talked about "the reality of intermarriage." Her husband, Milton, spoke about the strong future of Judaism. "I think there is a future. I have a granddaughter who has been studying for the past few months in Israel. When I think of her and of schools that promote programs like this, I know there's a future."

In his interview, Rose first questioned Bronfman on the pending Wall Street bailout, then American and Israeli politics, then the relationship between America and Israel. The two also spoke about Bronfman's new book, and his motivation for writing it.

In the book, Bronfman writes: "Intermarriage is often blamed for the decline in Judaism and in the Jewish population in North

America. But the problem is not that Jews are falling in love with non-Jews but that they aren't falling in love with Judaism."

Bronfman said that the Jewish community needed to be more of a "welcoming community" of intermarriage, and to demonstrate the joys of Judaism, rather than seeing the non-Jewish partner in any intermarriage as an outcast. He told the story of a non-observant nephew who married a non-Jew, and how his wife converted to Judaism, and they now have a Jewish life together.

offers a joyful culture.

He welcomes youth to ask questions, and "try it" (experiencing Judaism). He has been responsible for funding a web site, www.myjewishlearning.com, to connect young Jews to Judaism through an interactive medium.

COMMUNITY RESONANCE

Some in the audience observed that Bronfman's approach paralleled many of the new initiatives of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

"Bronfman's interview mirrored the new Jewish Federation attitude," said Roberta Schneider of Rumford. "Stephen Silberfarb [the executive vice president and CEO of JFRI] relates to

"The problem is not that Jews are falling in love with non-Jews but that they aren't falling in love with Judaism."

Edgar M. Bronfman

Bronfman joked: "Jews today are more respected in America because non-Jews are marrying us."

Bronfman's thoughts on intermarriage clearly resonated with the audience, most of whom were still discussing the topic as they left the event.

Bronfman spoke not to the younger generation, but about them. In his work with Hillel and in his new book, he encourages adults to teach children not that "grandma will roll over in her grave if you don't sanctify the Sabbath," but rather that Judaism

the need to involve more young people. He often asks: "How do we keep it interesting?"

According to Minna Ellison, director of planning initiatives at JFRI, many of the new initiatives being undertaken by the Federation seek to increase involvement and participation of young Jewish families in the region. The Mother's Circle, for instance, seeks to create a support system for Jewish education for intermarried couples. The Network seeks to engage with young Jewish adults between the ages of 25 and 45. PJ Library seeks to

involve young children in reading events at temples, bookstores, and libraries. "We are actively engaging with the younger members of the Jewish community and creating new opportunities for involvement, with a welcoming and open attitude, one that is very much in sync with Edgar Bronfman's ideas," Ellison said.

Bronfman also shared with the audience an anecdote about the first time he experienced the Talmud. He said he was with writer Israel Singer on a plane back from Israel, and he asked Singer what he was reading.

It was the Talmud, and Singer warned that the daily readings take seven years to finish and Bronfman probably wouldn't be interested, but Bronfman insisted that he was on a plane with nothing else to do.

When Singer relented and told Bronfman about the law that if an ox kills three people, they have to kill the ox, Bronfman initially wrote the sacred text off as archaic. But upon further thought, Bronfman identified the tale as the human need to seek justice. Thus, he explained, began his more intellectual attachment to Judaism.

Throughout the evening, Bronfman's interview was characterized by thoughtfulness and humor.

For more information about the next "Live from the 92nd Street Y" program, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

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Questions? Contact Nicole Katzman, PJ Library Director, at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island: nkatzman@bjeri.org or 401.331.0956 x180.

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How do we create a Jewish community that is open and welcoming?

Fear of intermarriage should not replace fear of anti-Semitism

BY EDGAR BRONFMAN AND BETH ZASLOFF
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

THE TASK OF BUILDING a significant Jewish future requires a newly hopeful attitude. Fear of assimilation and intermarriage should not replace fear of anti-Semitism. Some describe the declining numbers of Jews in North America as a "silent Holocaust" and call for more restrictive walls around Jewish identity and community.

This is the wrong way to address the unintended consequence of our forebears' great success in this society.

Does North American Jewry want to go back to the ghetto or forward into the 21st century with open arms and open hearts? We must open ourselves up to new ideas and new faces and be

welcoming to all who choose to participate. Openness may not be the easiest way, but it is our only way.

It is also a strong force within our tradition. Long before the Torah commanded us to love the stranger, our forebears Abraham and Sarah practiced that dictum. In Genesis, chapter 18, we are told that after Abraham's self-inflicted circumcision "[t]he Lord appeared to him by the terebinths of Mamre; he was sitting at the entrance of the tent as the day grew hot." Strikingly, Abraham then seems to leave God's presence to greet three strangers.

Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground, he said: "My lords, if it please you, do not go on past your servant. Let a little water be brought; bathe your feet and recline under the tree. And let me fetch you a morsel of bread that you may refresh yourselves; then go on — seeing that you have come your servant's way. ... Welcoming guests is so important to Abraham that he even interrupts God to greet them. The strangers, Abraham soon learns, are angels who foretell Sarah's pregnancy, as well as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, but he does not know this when he invites them in to bathe

their feet and take refreshment.

I am fascinated with the close relationship our sages found between welcoming the stranger and honoring God. Rabbi Yehuda, in the name of the Rav, learns from the Genesis text that "[w]elcoming guests is greater than receiving the Divine Presence."

Indeed, the *Talmud* describes Abraham and Sarah as exemplars of hospitality. One *midrash* teaches that Abraham's tent was open on all four sides so that he could welcome travelers approaching from all directions. Another tells us: "All the years that Sarah was alive...the doors of the tent were wide open."

The meaning is clear. You can bathe yourself in the spirit of God, but more important is to honor your fellow human beings. One of the reasons I love being a Jew

But I do know that if we are to create a vital Judaism for our time, we must do more than persevere and protect what we have.

Like Judaism at its Biblical beginnings, the Judaism of the future should be open and hospitable, not closed and fearful. We need to cultivate the hopeful attitude that if we embrace it, our religion is strong enough to sustain the new ideas and new faces of the 21st century.

Let us remember Abraham and Sarah's tent as we confront the high rates of intermarriage in North America. It is terribly important that Abraham doesn't even ask the three strangers who they are or where they are going. He simply accepts them.

We should take the same approach to intermarried Jews and their families, whether or not

the non-Jewish members should choose to convert. In an open society, people from diverse backgrounds will fall in love.

The key question is whether or

not intermarried couples will raise their children as Jews. If we speak about intermarriage as a disaster for the Jewish people, we send a message to intermarried families that is mixed at best.

How can you welcome people in while, at the same time, telling them that their loving relationship is in part responsible for the destruction of the Jewish people?

No one should be made to feel our welcome is conditional or begrudging. The many non-Jews who marry Jews must not be regarded as a threat to Jewish

HOPE, NOT FEAR



EDGAR M. BRONFMAN

AND BETH ZASLOFF

THE TASK FOR NORTH AMERICAN JEWRY, says Edgar M. Bronfman, in his new book, *Hope, Not Fear*, co-written with Beth Zasloff, is to "build, not fight."

survival but as honored guests in a house of joy, learning and pride

I spoke about intermarriage with Rabbi David Ellenson whose attitude toward the issue resonated with me. ... Ellenson underscored the prevalence of intermarriage in Jewish life today. He pointed out that with about half of Jews marrying non-Jews, it means that, without taking conversion into account, two-thirds of our families will be intermarried. ... That is what Jewish life in the United States and Canada looks like today, and we have to accept it.

"I'm definitely opposed to this

notion of constantly complaining and carping about what is already a reality," Ellenson told me. "It's a little like the Talmudic debate: Is it good that we were born? It's an interesting debate philosophically, but rather irrelevant once you're here."

Intermarriage is often blamed for the decline in Judaism and in the Jewish population in North America. The problem is not that Jews are falling in love with non-Jews but they aren't falling in love with Judaism.

"One of the reasons I love being a Jew is that we value moral action over religious belief. How we treat the stranger is one of the greatest measures of that value."

is that we value moral action over religious belief. How we treat the stranger is one of the greatest measures of that value. Our behavior toward newcomers to Judaism should reflect the spirit of welcome in the Jewish tradition. As we foster a renaissance in Jewish life today, we must ask what kind of Jewish community we want to create. I cannot say exactly what all Jews should learn or how they should practice their Judaism — the pathway to Jewish knowledge and pride is not the same for everyone, and different people will experience it in their different ways.

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Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from Chapter Two, "Abraham and Sarah's Tent: Rethinking Intermarriage," from Edgar Bronfman's and Beth Zasloff's new book, *Hope, Not Fear: A Path to Jewish Renaissance*.

It is reprinted with permission of the publisher, St. Martin's Press.



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LIVNI: Can she form a new coalition government?

From Page 1

has to offer Israel something."

"But no one should have any illusion that this can come without a price tag."

Some have predicted that Israel will strike Iran's nuclear facilities between Nov. 4 and Jan. 20, 2009? Do you believe that's likely?

"Israel is not going to strike any facilities in Iran without getting a green light from Washington. This is an American field of operation; you can't fly aircraft through the region without it being with the Americans. The answer to the question is in Washington."

Are there opportunities for any peace initiatives?

"There are opportunities all over the place, but each comes with a price tag. With Syria, but there is no deal without withdrawing from the Golan. With the Palestinians, you have to understand the limitations with the Palestinian Authority. There's a potential deal with the West Bank, but no deal with the Palestinians at large."

"There are opportunities; they need to be explored. It doesn't mean that success is assured. You could write a new book every week."

How will a new U.S. president change U.S. policy in the Middle East?

"It depends on how involved the next U.S. president chooses to be. He can see that reaching a settlement in the Middle East is strongly in the U.S. national interest, and be deeply involved, a roll-up-your-sleeves approach, in the fashion of Kissinger [under Nixon], Carter, James Baker [under the George H.W. Bush

presidency] and Clinton. Or, he may choose to take a more passive approach, which has been the experience of the last eight years under President Bush."

"Nothing will come without a price tag. Failure will involve political costs, and success is not assured. Will the new president be a risk taker or be risk averse?"

Jeffrey Goldberg is the national correspondent with The Atlantic Monthly, based in Washington, D.C. The author of Prisoners, he was the keynote speaker in December, 2007 at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's campaign event.

Will Livni succeed in put-

"What's a bigger fear – a nuclear armed Iran or a war with Iran that doesn't have nuclear warheads?"

Alan Zuckerman

ting together a new coalition government?

Livni sounds reasonably good for the short-term, but it's Israeli politics, so only God knows. She is the most plausible short-term candidate."

"There are a lot of people who don't want Bibi [Netanyahu] to become prime minister."

Is an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities imminent between Election Day and inauguration?

"It's possible. Depends very much on who becomes president. Israelis won't feel as much urgency if McCain is president. If Obama becomes president, the Israelis might feel like we really need to do something while President Bush is still sitting

there [in the Oval Office]."

"It would be very hard for Israel to do something like this without American approval. Any Israeli attack on Iran would be seen as an American attack on Muslims."

"I think what the Israelis are doing is creating spin directed at Iran itself, sort of saying, 'we can get you, we know we can get you...' as a way to prevent the need for such a strike, to get the West and Europe to stand up for stronger sanctions."

Is there any hope for a settlement with the Palestinians?

"I want to have hope, but I don't have much hope."

"I have no reason to doubt that President Obama will be a strong, stalwart supporter of Israel – from what he's said and what he's told me personally."

Professor Norman Zuckerman teaches American public policy at the University of Rhode Island. He is the co-author [with his wife, Naomi Flink Zuckerman] of several books, including *Desperate Crossings: Seeking Refuge in America*, published in 1997 by M.E. Sharpe; and *The Coming Crisis in Israel – Private Faith and Public Policy*, published in 1973 by the MIT Press.

In the wake of Prime Minister Olmert's resignation, will Livni be able to form a new coalition and avoid early elections?

"It will be a pretty close contest with Livni. But what concerns me is, if there is an election, Bibi [Netanyahu] will probably win. If that happens, whatever Israel's overtures to a peace agreement, primarily with the Palestinians, will come to a halt.

What are the prospects for

See Facing Page

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COMMENTATORS: Weigh in on Israeli politics

From Previous Page

a new peace initiative?

"Peace won't come during the Bush administration."

"The whole region is pretty much in turmoil. The battle between Hamas and the PLO will not go away, regardless of who's in power, even though the current Israeli government is trying to buttress Mahmoud Abbas."

"There have to be [elections] – the political scandals are too big. Livni has impeccable old-line credentials."

"I would go for Livni. I think Kadima is the most realistic party. As long as the [ultra-religious] Shas Party is rolling around in the political process, you can't expect too much political progress."

Will there be an air strike against Iran?

"I don't think so; I hope there is no war with Iran. There is a lot of posturing on both sides."

Alan Zuckerman, The Jewish Voice & Herald columnist

What's the current situation?

"Olmert is still interim prime minister until a new coalition is formed."

"Livni has been asked to form a new cabinet, as the leader of the party with the greatest number of seats."

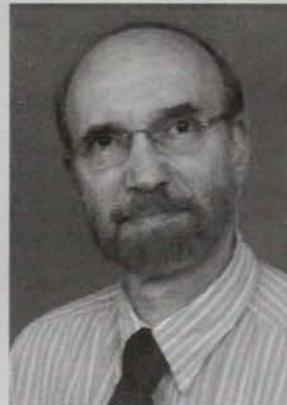
"She has several weeks to get agreement. If she can't, then she goes back to President Shimon Peres and one of three things will happen. First, he could say: 'Try again.' Or he could ask another person to



Alan Zuckerman



Jeffrey Goldberg



Sam Lehman-Wilzig

try to form a new government. Or they can go to elections."

When and what will happen?

"Nothing will happen until after Sukkot, at a minimum. So many people are on vacation or traveling, the process slows down."

"Politicians don't like to go to elections. First, because they may lose. So, that may push people to agree that she should become prime minister. [From that point of view], it's better to be in the Knesset than to have to run for an election where they could lose."

What is the likelihood of an Israeli strike against Iran between U.S. elections and the inauguration?

"There is no desire to go to war in Israel, but there's a fear of a nuclear-armed Iran. What's a bigger fear – a nuclear armed Iran or a war with Iran that doesn't have nuclear warheads?"

"Clearly, the first is more scary. But, war can't happen before our U.S. presidential elections, as they won't want to give a new president a war in the first weeks of a new administration."

What do Israelis think of Livni?

"Israel is a complex place, so it depends on whom you ask. The typical secular Jews, living in a city who vote Likud or Labor, have a positive sense about her. They have no reason to be negative; there's no history of sleaze. She was in the Mossad; that gives her a sense of being perceived as tough."

"She's been firm about making peace with West Bank settlements."

Professor Sam Lehman-Wilzig, a Schusterman Visiting Scholar with Brown University's Program in Judaic Studies for the

2008-2009 academic year

For those who might need some additional background, can you explain something about Kadima?

"The Kadima Party was established by Ariel Sharon – with people from Likud and Labor parties. Kadima means 'going forward.' Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was the point person, especially on Gaza pullout, and he gained support to form a new coalition after Sharon's stroke."

What caused the current political situation?

"By being unprepared, Olmert made a big mistake in summer of 2006 with second Lebanese war. He didn't win the war but won the battle in the field."

The Israeli Army Chief of Staff resigned, Defense Minister Perez resigned, and only Olmert survived."

"Now, corruption investiga-

tions are too strong [for Olmert to have stayed on]. Livni served as the foreign minister and the deputy prime minister, and she has the very difficult task to form a new government."

What do the other Israeli political parties want?

Likud wants new elections to be held. Labor (and Ehud Barak) ask: 'Does it pay to go for elections now or wait for two years?' I think that Barak and Labor will stay put with Kadima."

"Shas – the ultra orthodox Sephardic party in government – receives high levels of monetary allowances for children. For Shas, that is their critical issue. Livni is not going to restore those payments to what they were [before Netanyahu cut them]. Yet, without Shas, it will be difficult to form a new coalition."

What are Livni's chances for success?

Livni, a lawyer, is very reserved in public and very rational, he said. "She has a strong political lineage from her father and has been in the Knesset for nine years."

"If there is no Iran activity, it's too much of a toss-up with too many unknowns. If you look [just] at the numbers, though, neither side will have the numbers, so it will be hard to form a government. There's a possibility of people calling for national unity government."

See Oct. 17 issue to learn more about the Schusterman Visiting Scholar program.



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Loans and grants from Touro Fraternal Assn.

CRANSTON- Alan Lury, chairman of Touro Fraternal Association's student financial aid committee, announced that they awarded three college students grants; another 21 students received interest-free student loans.

Justin Freeman, son of Ronald Freeman of West Warwick; Shaina Lamchick, daughter of Andrew Lamchick, of West Warwick; and Kenneth Levin, son of Robert Levin of Waterford, Conn., each received \$3,000.

Freeman is a senior in URI's international engineering program and is a candidate for degrees in both mechanical engineering and German.

Lamchick will be a junior at George Washington University, majoring in women's studies and political science. She has interned in the office of Sen. Jack Reed and at a homeless shelter in Virginia.

Levin is a graduate student at the Tulane University School of Medicine. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and has held research fellowships at the National Institutes of Health.



Photo courtesy of Chabad in Rhode Island

SHOFAR FACTORY TEACHES TRADITION AND METHODS

ERIC MECHANIC helps Rabbi Yossi Laufer drill the hole in his shofar at the Chabad Shofar Factory on Sept. 21. Chabad in Rhode Island held ten factory events at schools, elderly housing and the JCC.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

For Greater Rhode Island

Oct. 3 6:03

Oct. 10 5:52

Oct. 17 5:41

For holy day candle lighting times refer to Sept. 19 issue, page 19, Rosh Hashanah section.

Yiddish Shmoozing

On Friday, Oct. 10, the Yiddish *Shmooz* folks will meet at the JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to talk about *Yiddishkeit* and the sweet *Mame Loshen*, with a special *Sukkot*.

The *Shmoozers* welcome new members; for more information, call Elly at the JCC at 861-8800 ext. 107.

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Thursday, October 30, 8:15pm
"How Should Jews Vote?"
Featuring Ed Koch, William Kristol
and Rabbi Michael Lerner

Coming soon:

Tuesday, November 25, 8:15pm
"Why Faith Matters,"
Featuring Rabbi David Wolpe
and Jonathan Safran Foer

Thursday, December 18
Henry Paulson

The series is free and open to the community.

The JCCRI is able to offer these programs free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Starr-Tobak Fund of the JFRI Endowment Funds in memory of Charles I. Post, father of Joyce Starr and Bill Tobak.

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JCC all are welcome!

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www.jvhri.org

Jewish Community Calendar

FRIDAY

October 3

Lunch and Learn

Meet Ziv and Zohar, this year's Israeli youth emissaries to Rhode Island with the Israel Desk, at the Bureau of Jewish Education.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: 12 noon

COST: \$3/seniors; \$6/all others

MORE INFO: 861-8800

SUNDAY

October 5

Sukkah Building Lessons

Learn how to build your own *sukkah*, sponsored by the JCCRI, BJERI, and Providence Community Kollel. Judaic Traditions will be selling *lulavim* and *etrogim*.

WHERE: Lounge, JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MORE INFO: 861-8800, ext. 108

The Gift of Life - New Inroads in Breast Cancer Screening

Join Hadassah and National Council of Jewish Women to hear a panel of speakers presenting the most current information about one's risk for breast and ovarian cancers.

WHERE: Providence Marriott Hotel, 1 Orms Street, Providence

WHEN: 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 463-6363

MONDAY

October 6

Exploring Jewish Identity in the 20th century

Stuart Freiman will lead the discussion and use stamps, letters and documents as points of reference. Sponsored by the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island and the JCCRI. Limited to 25 people

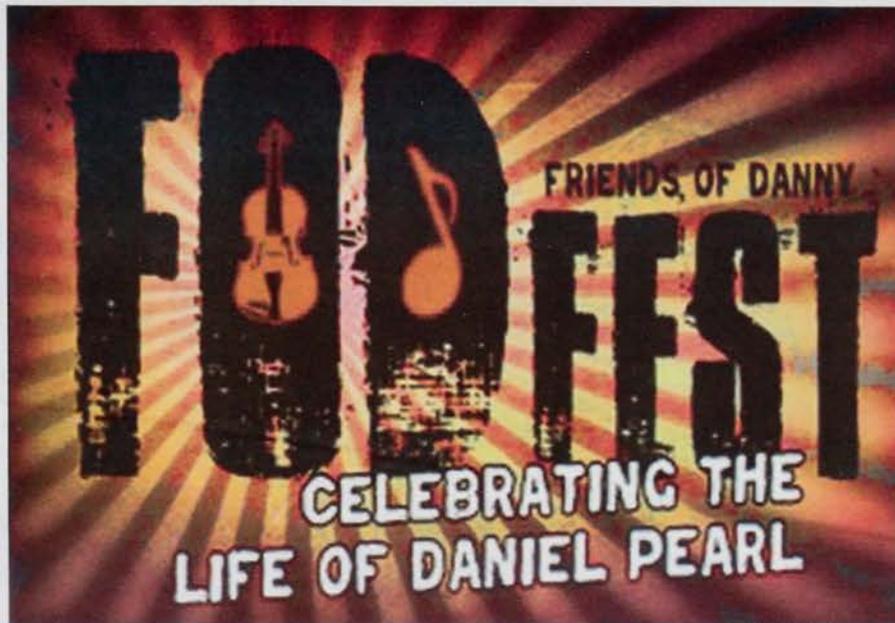


Photo courtesy of The Friends of Danny Fest

THE FRIENDS OF DANNY FEST will be coming to Fall River on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. featuring many musicians who played with Daniel Pearl, *The Wall Street Journal* reporter who was beheaded in Pakistan by terrorists. The festival celebrates his life and his love of music. The performance will be at Narrows Centers for the Arts, 18 Anawan St., Fall River, Mass.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.

MORE INFO: 861-8800, ext. 108

WHERE: Narrows Center for the Arts, 16 Anawan St., Fall River, Mass.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

MORE INFO: 508-324-1926, or www.ncfta.org

FRIDAY

October 10

Lunch & Learn

A Woman named Golda: The Life & Times of Golda Meir.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: Noon

COST: \$3/seniors; \$6/all others

MORE INFO: 861-8800, ext. 107

Tot Shabbat

An engaging, fun and age appropriate Shabbat morning services including singing, dancing, prayers and story telling. Ages up to 7 years with a parent. Concludes with Kiddush with the congregation.

WHERE: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: 463-7944

SATURDAY

October 11

Friends of Danny Fest, featuring SONIA of Disappearfear
Musicians performing to celebrate the life of Daniel Pearl.

SUNDAY

October 12

Centennial Celebration
Celebrate with Congregation Sharah Zedek as they reflect on

100 years of history. Klezmer music, refreshments, photos and symbolic artifacts from the past.

WHERE: Congregation Sharah Zedek, 6 Union St., Westerly

WHEN: 4 p.m.

MORE INFO: 315-2067

Sukkot Workshop

Learn how to build a *sukkah*, sponsored by JCC, Providence Community Kollel and BJERI. Children's arts and crafts activities, and workshops on the meanings and use of the *lulav* and *etrog*.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

MORE INFO: 861-8800, x108

MONDAY

October 13

Great Day of Service

Sponsored by the interfaith organization, Beyond Our Walls, the day will provide an opportunity for people to come together to assist agencies and organizations in need of community service through work projects.

WHERE: Barrington High School, 220 Lincoln Ave., Barrington, and Beneficent Congregational Church, 300 Weybosset St., Providence

WHEN: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MORE INFO: www.greatdayof-service.com

Sukkot Family Celebration

K'TanTan & Young Families decorate the *sukkah*. Service in the

See CALENDAR, Page 26



Photo courtesy of JCC

THE HOOPS SEASON begins again at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, with basketball leagues for kids ages 6-15. League play will begin Nov. 11 and go through March 9, 2009, with PeeWee (ages 6-8), Jr. (ages 9-11) and NBA, WNBA (ages 12-15). The cost is \$120 for members, \$150 for non-members. Call 861-8800 for more information.

FREE DESSERT

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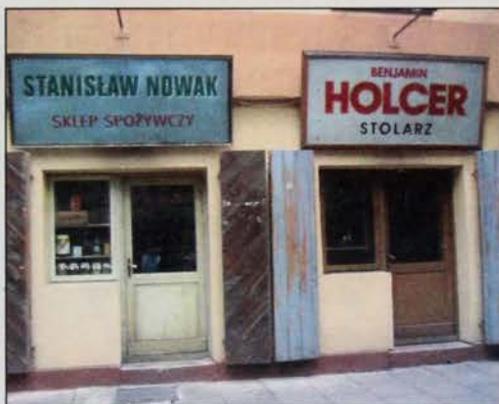
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THE TOWN FEATURED JEWISH-STYLE RESTAURANTS such as the Ariel with menu items in Polish, Hebrew and English such as "carp fish Jewish style," "tcholent" and "Passover cheese"



THE STREETS OF KAZIMIERZ were a surreal place to visit, with mock storefronts such as "Aron Weinberg - Leather Goods & Stanislaw Nowak - Grocery" and souvenir shops where you can purchase wooden figures of Hasidic Jews.



SPECIAL VEHICLES transport tourists through the streets of Kazimierz with commentary provided via prerecorded audio.

Photos courtesy of Ezra Stieglitz

FIRST PERSON Friends asked: Why visit Poland? It's one big graveyard

Ruminations on a Jewish family's trip to Poland

By EZRA STIEGLITZ
Special to The Voice & Herald

A FEW MONTHS ago, my wife Varda and I decided to visit Poland with our sons, Eric and Daniel. When I mentioned this to friends, they would grimace and ask, "Why would you want to visit Poland? It is one big graveyard."

I must admit that I had mixed feelings about traveling to Poland again. I had been to Poland three

times in the past as an educator on the March of the Living (a Holocaust and State of Israel education program).

While many of the Poles I met on these trips were gracious and hospitable, I did observe signs of anti-Semitism, such as anti-Semitic graffiti on walls, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries and groups of skin-heads.

So - why bother returning to a country where so much pain

and suffering was inflicted on the Jewish people? I wondered: would my feelings about Poland be any different this time?

"While I found the commercialization of Jewish memory in Krakow to be distasteful, it is refreshing to know that there are people like Michal Lorenc who have a genuine interest in and passion for preserving the memory of Jews murdered by the Nazis."

The main reason for this trip was to attend a special remembrance day program that was

held in Rymanow, the birthplace of my late mother-in-law, Sara (Bucher) Segal.

Rymanow is a small town (*shtetl*) in south-eastern Poland. The two days of activities were meant to commemorate the liquidation of the Rymanow ghetto by the Germans on Aug. 13, 1942.

Former inhabitants of Rymanow as well as their Israeli, American, and European families, were invited

to attend. I even had the honor of meeting and interacting with the one survivor who attended, Mendel Chulev from Wisconsin.

This program was the brain-child of Michal Lorenc, a Polish gentile, who had roots in Rymanow and now lives in Katowice, Poland.

Michal learned from his father that there had been a Jewish community in Rymanow. According to Michal, "After 10 years of reading, searching the stories, after 10 years of pain and grief, after 10 years of feeling guilty, I decided: That's enough. I have to do something about it. So we did."

See FAMILY TRIP, Page 26

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FIRST PERSON

Visiting Rymanow – my mother's hometown

An encounter with the past, celebrating the future

By VARDA STIEGLITZ
Special to The Voice & Herald

The invitation arrived about six months ago. The "Rymanow Encounter Society" planned to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Rymanow ghetto liquidation in Rymanow, Poland.

Rymanow is the birthplace of my mother, grandparents and great-grandparents; before World War II it was a picturesque *shtetl* in a corner of southeast Poland. Did I want to attend the encounter?

When I first read the announcement, a wave of nostalgia hit me along with a barrage of memories, some happy and some sad.

I remembered my mother's lovely stories of her hometown: the memories of her youth, her wonderful family, parents, sisters, grandmother, and even her horse, about which she told tall tales to my children.

This was the place where she joined the Zionist movement as a young girl and where she learned fluent Hebrew.

This was also the town from which one of her sisters and many

friends journeyed illegally to then-Palestine and founded the many *kibbutzim* that protected Israel in its War of Independence.

Unlike her three sisters who left Rymanow for Belgium and Palestine, my mother chose to remain in her *shtetl* with her parents because she did not want them to remain alone. This devotion to her parents caused her to endure the horrors of the Holocaust, where subsequently she lost her parents, grandmother and countless other members of the family.

Sometime, in the late 1950s, when I was a little girl, my parents took my little brother and me on vacation to a resort not far from Rymanow. My father suggested to my mother that she go back to her hometown to visit and see what remained of her parents' house.

My mother agreed, and we traveled to her birthplace. When we arrived at the location of her former home, there was nothing remaining.

The house had apparently been destroyed by the Nazis, and all we saw was an empty field with a well. A lady from across the street recognized my mother and came out to greet us.

However, the greeting was



ERIC AND DANIEL STIEGLITZ on the march from Rymanow to the railway station in Wrobluk.

Photo courtesy of Daniel Stieglitz

not very friendly. She asked my mother, "Sara, did you come to dig up the treasures that were buried under your house?" My

as if she was about to faint.

She immediately turned to my father and said, "We must leave right now." All this was not lost on me as a child, as my mother's fear totally consumed me and I also became afraid. I think that I internalized her anxiety so much that I feel it to this day.

"Some terrible atrocities occurred on this soil, but with a new generation and a new political system we must always be forward looking and optimistic."

mother, who was traumatized by her experiences during the Holocaust, was easily frightened. She felt that even after the war, people in her hometown still did not like Jews. I could see her face blanch and she looked

OVERWHELMING ANXIETY

When the invitation arrived to go to Rymanow, that same sensation of anxiety overwhelmed me. Was I brave enough to return? To face all these demons that I lived with all my life? I consulted

with my husband and children; as a family, we decided that we should accept the invitation.

The "Rymanow Encounter Society" is headed by a young Polish man by the name of Michal Lorenc. Michal has worked tirelessly for years to bring back the remaining Jewish survivors of Rymanow along with their children and grandchildren to their town for encounters whose main purpose is to share their common history.

Rymanow, the town, has historical significance to Jews. It was the hometown of the Great *Hasidic Rebbe, Menachem Mendel, the Tzaddik* of Rymanow.

Rav Menachem Mendel is buried at the cemetery in Rymanow, and has an "Obel" (mausoleum) there, as does his successor, *Rav Tzvi Hersb*. To this day, many *Hasidim* make pilgrimages to Rymanow to visit both of these graves.

Since there no longer is a Jewish population left in Rymanow, Michal Lorenc and his brother Adam take care of the cemetery on a regular basis, and preserve the old gravestones there which date back hundreds of years.

We arrived for the encounter on Aug. 11, and were pleasantly surprised to meet other descendants of Rymanow inhabitants from Israel, the United States,

See POLAND, Page 26

TEMPLE SINAI BROTHERHOOD POLITICAL BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, October 19th 9:00 A.M. to 11:15 AM

Speaking Schedule

9:20 AM to 9:50 AM

Mark Zaccaria (R) - District 2

9:50 AM to 10:10 AM

Rep. Robert Watson (R) for McCain Campaign

10:10 AM to 10:30 AM

Congressman James Langevin (D) - District 2

10:30 AM to 10:50 AM

Senator Jack Reed (D)

10:50 AM to 11:15 AM

Obama for President representative

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A life-long passion for antiques is a thriving destination of choice for collectors

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

Antiques may be a good investment, but only buy what you love

IN THE ANTIQUE world, 25 years is a blink of an eye. And, a mere quarter century after their first date — one spent antiquing — Scott and Rae Davis fulfilled their lifelong obsession when they opened



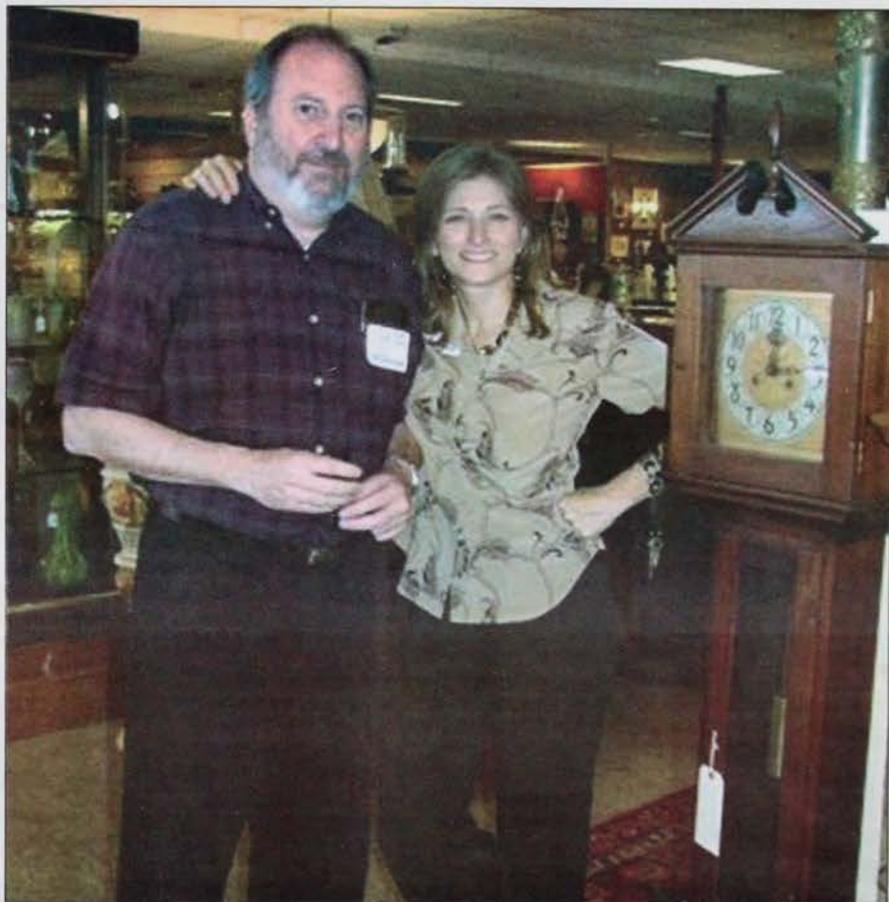
AFRICAN ART in the form of sculptures and masks are shown and sold in the store's art gallery space. This show will continue for several weeks.

their Rhode Island Antiques Mall in Pawtucket on October 27, 2007. "It's been a lifelong obsession for us. Since we've been together, we've spent nearly every weekend going to antique stores or auctions. It's definitely a sickness," said Scott, laughing.

Their sickness, clearly, is contagious — as a half dozen or so people were waiting to enter the store before it opened on a clear and sunny Saturday morning in late August. Personally, I had my heart set on the beach, but folks with the "antiquing sickness" had other ideas.

The Antique Mall sells antiques and collectibles from some 200 dealers, professional and amateur alike, from New England, upstate New York, New Jersey, Texas, Florida and even the Czech Republic. Asked why dealers' geographic diversity is so important, Scott said, "Our dealers from around the country and in Europe send us different kinds of antiques, antiques you won't find anywhere else locally. The cabinets that a North Dakota craftsman made a century or two ago are still in North Dakota today."

The husband and wife team have clearly made the store a family affair. During my time there, Rae warmly welcomed the customers, most of whom were regulars. They, in turn, chatted with Rae or Scott about their latest find or their perpetual search for that elusive something. Neither of their children — Spencer, a freshman at Emory University, nor Erika, a sophomore at The Wheeler School — enjoys the antiquing and collecting, but there's still hope for the future, Rae said. Scott, who works full-time during the week elsewhere, spends weekends at the Antiques



Photos by Nancy Kirsch

TIME IS NOT THE ENEMY for antique-lovers and store owners, Scott and Rae Davis, with a grand-mother clock, one of many items available for purchase.

Mall where he handles finances, advertising and marketing; Rae, who's there most days, oversees operational and staff issues.

"We're not a *glatt* kosher antique store," Rae said, laughing, as the store closes only for Thanksgiving and Christmas. "Our staff, some of whom are not Jewish, continue to work here through all the Jewish holidays."

The store's "no kick-out policy" enhances the warm and welcoming family environment; customers who come in five minutes before closing time are welcome to stay, browse and shop to their hearts' content. "We take our time with our customers," said Rae, whom employees affectionately call "The Queen Bee."

"Art work, vintage jewelry,

Tiffany lamps, coins, rugs and furniture are all big sellers," said Scott. "People can buy jewelry, for example, that has some intrinsic value, enjoy wearing it for a while and then sell it for scrap."

Although described as a high-end antiques store, it offers items for the rock-bottom price

See ANTIQUES, Facing Page

Even our youngest citizens know the concepts of "Reduce, reuse and recycle." Whether environmental issues or aesthetics drive your interest in antiques and collectibles, you can be confident that we'll have more information for you in the next several issues. *The Voice & Herald* will feature a story or two about antiques through its January 9, 2009 issue.

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A long and winding road – from London to Israel and now Rhode Island

Customer demand leads to a new career as a furniture maker

By Nancy Kirsch
nkirsch@jfri.org

DAVID ELLISON has built several careers for himself, first as an antiques dealer in London, then a volunteer in Israel during and after the Six Day War (it was in Israel where he met, fell in love with and married Minna), a business manager with Teknor Apex and now a custom furniture maker.

"In selling to the antique trade in London, I learned to restore antique furniture," said Ellison, with a rich and resonant Scottish brogue to his voice. "That's where I learned the woodworking side of the business."

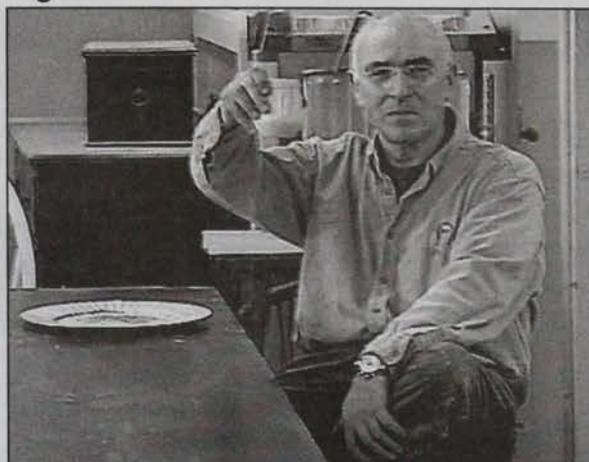
Other than his few years in Israel, he's always been involved in the antiques business, even during his 26-year career with Teknor Apex, he explained. Traveling to Israel frequently is important to him, as it allows him to visit members of his family who moved there after he did and also to satisfy his love and support for the country.

Sometimes, the best laid plans change, as they did for Ellison. His plan to restore and sell antiques after taking an optional early retirement from Teknor Apex in January, 2007 went by the boards when he started to build custom tables. He's parlayed his knowledge of antique

style tables and different methods of building tables - knowledge built during those long-gone days as an antiques dealer in London - into a thriving custom furniture business.

"This business has taken off in a way I never imagined," he said. "Since I've started with the custom tables, I haven't managed to restore a single piece of antique furniture. I still have a warehouse full of wonderful things."

Although not necessarily antiques, the salvage boards and



Photos courtesy of David Ellison

COFFEE CUP IN HAND, David Ellison offers a toast to his customers and his business, The Lorimer Workshop.

craft the furniture, use a process that gives the wood a flat, matte finish. "It enhances the surface of the natural wood and provides all the benefits of being very hard and moisture-proof," said Ellison.

Some of the furniture is sleek and contemporary looking, such as a 66 x 12 slat bench that sells for \$575; other pieces, such as a seven foot long pine board farm table or an eight foot long tavern table, look antique, but are not. For apartment dwellers or others with less spacious rooms, Ellison also makes smaller tables and benches; as a custom builder, he is prepared to meet the customer's furniture needs. The New England style antique trestle table is one of his company's best sellers, he said.

Ellison rents studio space in

Pawtucket from his old employer, Teknor Apex. "The people there were wonderful and it's great to continue the social contact with them," he explained.

Whether it's building something new to look old or actually restoring something old, Ellison gets excited about bringing a piece of furniture to life. "It may

sound corny, but it's a great feeling to revive an old piece of wood into strong, natural and organically designed furniture."

As busy as he is making furniture and shipping it all over the country, just what will happen to

that warehouse full of antiques Ellison first talked about? "Little by little, customers are starting to come to my studio to see what I make, and I show them some of the antiques there," he said. "They are sometimes interested in buying some antiques to accompany the furniture."

Happily engaged with career #4, Ellison is thrilled with this newest adventure. At age 59, at a time when others may be winding down, thinking about retirement or, perhaps, launching a second career, he's having the time of his life making and then selling furniture on both eBay and through his website which also includes some of the antique items from the warehouse.

For more information, email lorimerantiques@gmail.com or call 401-529-3565. The workshop/studio is in Pawtucket. On the web at www.lorimerantiques.com.

"It's a great feeling to revive an old piece of furniture or an abandoned piece of wood into strong, natural and organically designed furniture."

rough cut five season lumber - mostly Northern pine trees - are Ellison's sources for tables, desks, benches and other beautiful furniture. Five season lumber refers, he said, to trees that have been cut and on the ground for at least five seasons. He and a part-time assistant, who helps him



This New England farm trestle style table is one of Ellison's most popular tables; a six foot table costs about \$1,000

ANTIQUES: Hunters can find prizes of all kinds and all sizes at an antiques mall

From Page 16

of \$1.00 and top-dollar items will sell for \$25,000 or more. There is no typical price range, so there's something for everyone in every budget category. "Certain period pieces of antique furniture can be very expensive," Scott said, "but most of the furniture we sell costs much less than new furniture from bargain outlets." Unlike furniture from the bargain retailers, antique furniture retains its value or even appreciates, he added.

Customers and dealers alike come from beyond the geographic range of *The Voice & Herald's* readership. Located immediately off Route 95 in Pawtucket, the store is easily accessible to anyone driving through New England on Route 95. Interior designers, antique dealers, movie and stage set designers, as well as homeowners eager to add something new - or old - to their collections, are the most frequent shoppers. And, we always see a huge influx

of vintage holiday pieces - people love to collect them, Scott said.

"We're not like other antique malls, which are typically like flea markets," said Scott. "We're bigger and we offer higher quality products. Our dealers must follow our rules about what they can sell." Don't shop there if you're searching for recently made bric-a-brac, Beanie Babies, other second-hand children's toys or Tupperware, as they're among the items that can't be displayed or sold.

After a loved one dies, surviving family members often ask Scott or Rae to sell the person's jewelry, furniture, etc. "We offer a great source of comfort, by making sure that the items will be placed in new homes where the new owners will love and care for them for another generation," said Rae. "Although an individual has died, his or her things - and the stories behind them - can live on for centuries. Each of these items comes with its own history,

its own life story."

What's desirable, Rae said, can change pretty quickly; television, movies, fads and magazines all create a buzz around certain kinds of antiques or collectibles. "We follow the trends of what people want; with so many dealers, we can react to the market's changing demands. People today are crazy about Danish modern furniture, and we have that available," she said. "What's 'hot' changes from year to year and even month to month, and we're ready to meet those changes."

Author's Disclaimer: Although I went only to do the story, I fell in love with a beautiful antique table that I bought from one of the Antique Mall's dealers.

Rhode Island Antiques Mall:
www.RIAntiquesMall.com,
345 Fountain Street, Pawtucket, R.I., 401.475.3400.
It's open seven days a week; hours vary.

Antiques mall offers gallery spaces

The Antiques Mall also includes two specialized gallery spaces, each of which hosts changing exhibits. The spacious galleries have professional gallery lighting and room for presentations, should a guest artist or curator speak before an audience.

An African Art and Artifacts exhibit, currently occupying one room, will have an official opening at a time not yet determined. "It's very difficult to determine what's antique and what's not among African work," Scott said. "Reproductions are rampant. They're making things today the same way they made them 200 years ago, so it's very difficult to tell

what's new or what's old."

We only buy from knowledgeable dealers whom we trust, so we know we're getting authentic antique products, he said. Some people simply want to buy something because they like how it looks, not whether it's an antique, and that can be fine, Scott said, but if you want the antique, you have to be really careful and buy only from reliable sources. Prices on these artifacts range from \$100 to \$1,000 or more.

An upcoming show in the other gallery will include a rare and impressive collection of works by Czech Cubists, many of whom were Jewish, Scott said.

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Sukkot recipes are healthy, tempting comfort foods

By NANCY KIRSCH
 nkirsch@jfri.org

IN THE MIDST of the Days of Awe, the days grow shorter, the air grows crisper and colder, and our thoughts turn to *Sukkot*. My thoughts, in particular, turn to the comfort foods that can be made from the delicious – and healthy – fruits and vegetables now in season. Here are a few recipes to tempt your palate; one, in particular, offers the ideal solution for “what to do with the *etrog* once *Sukkot* is over?”

FROM *THE FOODS OF ISRAEL*
 TODAY BY JOAN NATHAN

**AMIRA'S TRIPLE-CITRUS
 MARMALADE**



Ingredients:

6 cups unpeeled, thinly sliced mixed citrus fruit like *etrog*, lemon, orange, pomelo, and grapefruit, seeds removed.

Method:

1. Put the fruit in a saucepan and add the sugar. Bring to a boil, and then simmer slowly, uncovered, for about 45 minutes until the marmalade thickens, stirring constantly so that you do not caramelize the sugar.

2. Pour into jars, cover, and refrigerate.

Makes about six cups of marmalade.

In the cookbook, Nathan notes that this bright-colored chunky winter jam is delicious slathered on bread with butter.

Ever wonder how the green *etrogim* shipped from Israel a full month before *Sukkot* to the United States, Canada and Europe turn yellow? Packers add an apple to each shipment which releases a chemical that turns the *etrogim* yellow.



CURRIED PUMPKIN SOUP

FROM TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S
*A TASTE OF TRADITION: A
 COLLECTION OF CULINARY AND
 FINE ARTS*

Ingredients:

1/2 pound of mushrooms, sliced
 1/2 cup chopped onions
 2 tablespoons margarine
 2 tablespoons flour
 1 tablespoon curry powder (or more to add taste)
 3 cups chicken stock
 1 (16 ounce) can pumpkin puree
 2 tablespoons honey
 Pinch of nutmeg
 1 cup non-dairy creamer

Method:

1. In saucepan, cook mushrooms and onions in margarine for three minutes until onions are soft.
 2. Add flour and curry powder. Cook five minutes.
 3. Remove pan from heat. Add chicken stock. Whisk. Stir in pumpkin, honey, nutmeg, salt and pepper for taste.
 4. Simmer soup for 15 minutes. Add non-dairy creamer. Re-heat soup. Do not boil.

(Cookbook credits Ivy Marwil with recipe.)
 Serves 6

POTATO KNISHES

FROM TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S
*A TASTE OF TRADITION: A
 COLLECTION OF CULINARY AND
 FINE ARTS*

Ingredients for Dough:

2-1/2 cups flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 cup vegetable oil
 2 eggs, slightly beaten
 1/2 cup water, approximately

Ingredients for Potato Filling:

2 cups mashed potatoes
 4 medium onions

1/4 pound margarine (or butter)
 Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

1. Mix together ingredients for filling and set aside.
 2. Sift the flour and baking powder together into a bowl.
 3. Add the eggs, oil and water to the flour to form dough.
 4. Knead the dough on a floured surface until smooth.
 5. Roll out half of the dough into a large rectangle on the floured surface.
 6. Cover the dough rectangle with 1/2 of your filling mixture. Roll up the dough and filling in a jellyroll fashion and cut the roll into 2 inch slices.
 7. Place each slice on its side on a greased cookie sheet. Brush with an egg wash.
 8. Bake at 375 degrees for approximately 20-25 minutes until golden brown.

(Cookbook credits Ceil Katz with recipe.)
 Makes 12 knishes



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MEDICAL ARTS Whither shall I wander?

Address changes by Jews have rarely been made by choice

A LEGEND, we are taught, is an unverifiable story, a tale part natural and part supernatural, handed down through the many generations.

A folk story matures into a legend, then, only after it has been orally transmitted, and embellished, over decades or centuries.

And, in time, even casual gossip, if persistently told, may mature into a legend.

Beyond the archival libraries, beyond the academic centers, beyond the learned anthologies of legends, there still remains the earthy telling of legends to credulous children. Indeed, legends are much like the *bubbeimisers*, tales that we had half-heard more than once as little children in our grandmothers' productive kitchens.

Like all other ethnic populations, Jews have had their legends; but in contrast to the noble mythology of Camelot amongst

the Saxons, the vast Viking warrior legends of the Nordics or the Teutonic *Nibelung* fables, the Jewish legends are a mixed bag of quaint myths.

Admittedly, a few are heroic, such as the Maccabean tales, but many more are bitter stories that have barely survived since there is little in them that is heroic or uplifting. Indeed, some of these legends have been cursed because their perpetuation through the ages has brought only additional misery to Judaism.

Jews have changed their addresses repeatedly over the last three millennia, but only rarely by choice. Repeated expulsions from Judea, Spain, England, Russia and a score of other nations have prompted many Jews to reflect sadly upon the unenviable reality that in their wandering plight, only few could ever visit the graves of their immediate ancestors. So, the image of the Wandering Jew is not an alien perception.

One of the oldest of these cruel legends is the apocryphal tale of a Jerusalem-dwelling Jew named *Abasuerus*. He is said to have been a shoemaker [although other sources state that he was a lowly doorkeeper at the palace of the Roman dictator, Pontius Pilate, or perhaps even Joseph of

Arimathea.]

The tale seems to have originated in the year 1228 when an Armenian archbishop visited St. Albans Abbey in England. He declared to the local monks that he had met personally with an ancient pilgrim named Cartaphilus, still alive after more than 12 centuries, who had watched Jesus toiling on the Via Dolorosa

"Repeated expulsions from Judea, Spain, England, Russia and a score of other nations have prompted many Jews to reflect sadly upon the unenviable reality that in their wandering plight, only few could ever visit the graves of their immediate ancestors."

on his way to Golgotha.

Jesus, according to the Archbishop's story, had stopped to rest and Cartaphilus is said to have mocked him: "Why dost thou loiter?"

And Jesus replied: "Abide until I return."

And thus this reviling Jew had then been condemned to wander ceaselessly, in loneliness and pain, until Judgment Day when Jesus will have returned

to gather the righteous of the world.

The Wandering Jew, a doomed sinner according to this tale, was to suffer the pains of aging but never to die, never to achieve permanent rest. Fragments of the legend may be found in the Bible [Matthew 16:28, and in the Gospel of John [21: 20 - 23.]

The story of *Abasuerus* [sometimes written as *Abasver*], or Joseph of Arimathea or Cartaphilus resonated well with the European image of the urban enclaves of Jews: They wandered [voluntarily as itinerant merchants; or involuntarily, when the many pogroms forced them]; they seemed to be immortal since, despite the many killings of Jews, yet did they seem to survive; they were alien, somehow *different*; and clearly, by their heretical beliefs they were deserving of ceaseless penalty and eternal damnation.

The story of the Wandering Jew has persisted, taking various forms and textures.

In certain districts of south-eastern Europe, it is not the Jew but the Gypsy who is condemned to eternal wandering.

In Holland, there is the persisting tale of the Flying Dutchman [as in Wagner's opera, *Der*

Fliegende Hollander.]

The story has surfaced in countless novels and in virtually every European language as with Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

In some variants of the legend, the love of a woman allows the wanderer finally to die in peace. Rarely, though, do these authors ever question the appropriateness of the extraordinary sentence of eternal punishment for an act of transient cruelty, nor the vindictive nature of that judgment.

Some people take their legends as unimpeachable scripture, regarding them with reverence; and accepting, without debate, their moral lessons.

Then there are fables and parables equally born in the darkness of human imagination. But in contrast to the narrative nature of legends, parables tend to be more instructive, purporting to lead us to the more righteous paths of life.

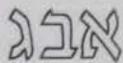
The myth of the Wandering Jew may therefore be considered both a legend and a fable teaching generations of non-Jewish children, during the Medieval Era and beyond, that the unsparing destiny of the Jews is eternal punishment.

Stanley Aronson M.D. can be reached at smamd@cox.net



Stanley Aronson M.D.

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REAL ESTATE INSIGHT

Tips on how to get financing despite the current credit crunch

Clean up information on your credit report

WITH FALLING home prices, low interest rates and an incredible inventory of properties to choose from, you'd think buying a home these days would be easy - that is, until you try to get the financing.



Sally Lapidès

Lenders have tightened their requirements, giving even the most credit-worthy borrower a hard time when it comes to qualifying for a new mortgage or refinancing an existing one.

Understanding the intricacies of the mortgage market is hard enough in normal times. But when prices are declining, these difficulties are compounded.

As with all things, knowledge is power, so to better understand what the mortgage people are going to want to see, I sat down with Steve Tetzner from HomeStar Mortgage; he is my go-to guru for mortgage and finance questions.

Here are his answers to some of the financing questions that have come up recently:

Q: What is the best way to get financing when the market is tight like this?

A: Obtaining financing is not an issue for those who have good credit and can verify their income. FHA 3 percent down and RI Housing 100 percent financing is still available to those who have less than perfect credit or lower incomes.

Q: What steps can you take to improve your credit?

A: Clean up any derogatory information on your report; i.e., collection accounts and past due accounts. Make sure the creditor reports the information correctly to the bureaus. Maintain credit cards. Never close cards but always try to pay the balance in full each month. Having a lot of open credit with low balances will give the highest scores. The better the debt to available credit

Q: Are people having trouble with appraisals; how has that changed?

A: Appraisal can be an issue. If you bought a home three years ago and put 20 percent down, you may not have that 20 percent equity position now. It could affect your ability to refinance.

Q: How do you negotiate getting the best mortgage?

A: Be a good consumer and shop three companies. Ask about rate and fees. Some loans may look attractive but be sure of what you may be paying in points or fees for that rate.

Q: Should people still be looking at Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs)?

A: Yes, some ARMs are good options. I would look at delayed ARMs, such as a 5/1, 7/1 or 10/1 ARM. The first number represents the number of years the interest rates are fixed before they adjust. Choose the ARM to your situation. Many people don't stay in a house for 10 years, so why not take advantage of a lower rate?

Q: What about points?

A: I would almost never pay points on a loan. Points are up front interest in exchange for a savings some time in the future. Banks would always love to have your interest up front. Most people think it takes about four to five years

to recoup points on a 30-year mortgage. The actual number is more than eight years and the savings are worth less in the future because the dollar is worth less. It is an example of inflation.

In this climate, sensible people could easily talk themselves out of buying. But history proves that over the long-term, home ownership is a smart way

to invest your money. In any market, it is certainly wiser to own than to pay rent to a landlord. Homeowners become savers. Each time you make a mortgage payment, you're saving money because each payment reduces your loan balance and builds equity.

Sally Lapidès can be reached at slapidès@residentialproperties.com.

"Ask about rate and fees. Some loans may look attractive but be sure of what you may be paying in points or fees for that rate."

ratio, the higher the credit score.

Q: When is it a good time to refinance? Is now a good time?

A: Refinancing is a case-by-case answer. Whenever you can lower your rate and recoup the costs within about 18 months it may make sense. If you have an Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM), and you think you will be staying in the home longer than the fixed term of your loan, it may make sense to look at some longer term options now.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism urges congressional action on environmental concerns

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In response to Congress' decision to let the moratorium on new offshore oil drilling permits expire, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, urged Congress to act. In part, he said: "We are deeply disappointed by Congress's failure to enact energy policy that addresses current environmental and economic needs with an eye to the future. We will soon see the expiration of the nearly 30-year moratorium on new drilling permits in much of the environmentally sensitive Outer Continental Shelf."

"Drilling does nothing to move our nation forward on

the path to clean energy, but rather reinforces the fallacious notion that we can solve our energy crisis with the tired mantra of 'more oil.' Congress's inaction on this issue once again illustrates the need for a comprehensive and progressive national energy strategy."

"Our Jewish tradition commands us to protect God's creation. The biblical concept of *Bal Tashbit* (do not destroy) and our mandate to 'till and tend' our natural world (Genesis 2:15) emphasize the need to act as stewards of our environment, promoting clean energy to ensure a safer and more beautiful world for ourselves and our children."

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Parshat Vayelech are read
together this Shabbat.

"YOU STAND this day all of you before the Lord your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, with all the men of Israel. Your little ones, your wives, and your stranger who is in your camp, from the hewer of your wood to the drawer of your water. That you should enter into covenant with the Lord your God, and into his oath, which the Lord your God makes with you this day. That he may establish you today for a people to himself, and that he may be to you a God, as he has said to you, and as he has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And not with you alone will I make this covenant and this oath. But with him who stands here with us this day before the Lord our God, and also with him who is not here with us this day." (Deut. 29:9-14)

Thus, Moses addressed the people on the banks of the River Jordan. The context and time of the talk is obviously of great importance as is evidenced by the amount of times the term "this day" is used.

We learn that Moses gathered them in front of God on the day of his death, in order to have them enter the covenant. (*Rasbi*) Moses, who had been the leader from the very beginning of the Exodus, was now to leave his charges, on the threshold of the Promised Land. This day was, therefore, a day of epic significance, for it would mark the day when the reins of leadership would be passed on to Joshua.

Rasbi, when noting the significance of the day, adds that with Moses gone, a new covenant will need to be established. This second point is not immediately clear. Why would the demise of Moses, tragic as it may be, require a new covenant?

Leaders come and go, why would it be necessary to reestablish a covenant at this juncture? *Rasbi* comments on this first verse, explaining it according to the *Aggadah*:

"Because Israel was leaving from one leader to the next leader, from Moses to Joshua, therefore he made them as a monument in order to inspire them." (*Rasbi* 29:12)

Rasbi adds another explanation for the term "today": "As this day is here, and is cloudy and light, so too, will (the day)

enlighten you (now), and in the future it will enlighten you ..." (*Rasbi* 29:12)

This comment of *Rasbi* is somewhat obscure, but, from what we can gather so far, on this day: Moses dies, Joshua takes over, some type of monument is established and it is

"The light which emanated from Joshua was surely bright, but it did not shine like the light of Moses."

bright, yet cloudy.

Let us consider the reaction that the people must have had to the death of Moses. It was Moses who had given them hope, it was Moses who led the valiant march out of Egypt, and it was Moses who taught them Torah.

Losing a leader and teacher like Moses was certainly traumatic. This day, despite the coronation of Joshua was not a happy day. "The king is dead, long live the king" is at best a bittersweet cry. Perhaps this is what *Rasbi* is referring to when he speaks of the light and clouds.

Perhaps also, the light and relative light refer to Moses and Joshua, respectively. Elsewhere, *Rasbi* uses the metaphor of light,

when referring to Moses and Joshua.

The context is when Moses is told of his impending death, and he responds a replacement must be found. God then directs:

"Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is spirit, and lay your hand upon him. And set him before Eliezer the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And you shall put some of your honor upon him, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may be obedient." (Numbers 27:17-19)

We, of course, recall the light which permeated the countenance of Moses when he came down from Sinai with the tablets the second time. Moses was instructed to give a part of this glory to Joshua, as a symbol of the leadership which he would soon assume.

Rasbi continues: "Of your honor but not all of your honor, we find it taught that the face of Moses was like the sun while the face of Joshua was like the moon." (*Rasbi Bamidbar* 27:20) *Rasbi's* comments about the sun and the moon are a paraphrase from the Talmud. The passage reads as follows: The elders of that generation said: "The

countenance of Moses was like that of the sun; the countenance of Joshua was like that of the moon. Alas, for such shame! Alas for such reproach!" (Shavuos 39a)

Here, the fact that Joshua was compared to the moon is not seen as something great, rather it is a lament of the people of that generation who had been privileged to see the glory, the sun, of Moses. The light which emanated from Joshua was surely bright, but it did not shine like the light of Moses.

For those people an era had ended, the generation of Moses had come to an end. The death of any great leader creates a vacuum. Moses, the greatest leader and prophet whom the Jewish people ever had, was the defining factor of his generation - a *dor daayah*, a "generation of knowledge." (See Zohar Shmot 62b.) Now the people have become the flock of Joshua, a great leader in his own right, the closest student of Moses, but nonetheless less than Moses.

This caused the people to lament the ascension of Joshua to leadership - he was great but he was not Moses. What they may or may not have realized was that the death of Moses marked the end of this glorious

See D'VAR, Page 25

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“Lea’s Letters” brings a new Torah to Emanu-El

Programs celebrate, honor the memory of Lea Eliash, long-time Hebrew teacher

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@jfri.org

AS THE HIGH HOLIDAYS are fast upon us, it’s a fitting time for Temple Emanu-El to honor the legacy of its beloved teacher, Lea Eliash, by commissioning a new Torah in her honor. Jamie Shear of Jerusalem, the Torah scribe, will come to Emanu-El on October 12; other events are planned throughout the year.

Lea Eliash taught Torah and its sacred language to students, young and old, for more than half a century in our community. “She was beautiful; she was noble; and she infused scripture

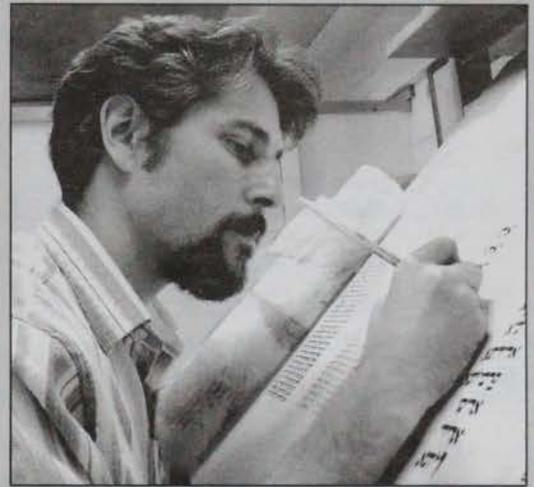
with her elegance and love,” said Dee Dee Witman, a member of the synagogue’s executive committee and chair of “Lea’s Letters,” the year-long celebration. “Our first program of ‘Lea’s Letters’ is to encourage students of all ages to inscribe their own letters, their own names, as a gesture of fervor and craftsmanship under the guidance of our *sofer* (Torah writer or scribe.)” No virtual experience this, it is actual contact with the Torah traditions.

The Torah travels with its readers wherever they go, like a portable tree, like a living history, Witman added. “You add to it with your interpretation and even with your initials. Clear penmanship



Photos Courtesy of Temple Emanu-El

LEA ELIASH, of blessed memory, was the inspiration for the new Torah



TORAH SCRIBE JAMIE SHEAR hard at work on Temple Emanu-El’s new Torah.

and precise proof-reading are the spiritual gifts of a wandering tribe ever in quest of the good things of human life.”

Members of Emanu-El invite others to join them from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on

Sunday, October 12, as they learn from the scribe. “Many of us have never had the thrill to witness the creation of a Torah, so this is a true blessing,” said Witman. “May it be sweet in the mouths of

our community as it brings us together for learning and honoring a precious friend and trusted teacher.”

For more information, call 401-331-1616.

7th Annual Kidstuff Sale

WHEN: Sunday, November 2 and Monday, November 3

WHERE: Jewish Community Center

TIME: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$5 presale entry from 8-9 a.m. on Sunday morning.

50% OFF: 2-4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon and all day Monday! It’s going to be huge!!!

ITEMS INCLUDE: toys, clothes, books, furniture, maternity clothes and baby gear.

THE JCCRI IS NOW accepting donations for the Kidstuff Sale on November 2 and 3. Donations may include gently used children’s items, such as toys, books,

games, furniture and more. Donations will be accepted for the Kidstuff sale the week of October 27. To donate that week, please bring items to the JCCRI Social Hall during regular business hours. Tax receipts will be available. All proceeds benefit JCCRI.

We will also have a truck available on Thursday, October 30 by appointment for pickup of large items. Call by October 15 to set up a time for pickup. We reserve the right to deny any items we deem unusable.

For more information, to donate goods or arrange pick-up time, call Shirley at 401-861-8800 ext. 130.

Gift of Live program offers inroads on breast cancer screening

VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – The National Council of Jewish Women/Rhode Island Section and the Rhode Island chapter of Hadassah are co-sponsoring “The Gift of Life: New Inroads in Breast Cancer Screening.” The October 5 event at 2:00 p.m. at the Providence Marriott Hotel on Orms Street, in Providence, will feature a panel discussion with Dr. Robert Legare and Jennifer Scalia Wilbur, both with Women & Infants’ Hospital Cancer Risk Assessment and Prevention Program, and Maxine Richman, a breast cancer survivor. The program is free and open to the public.



One in eight women is at risk for breast cancer. Mutations of certain breast cancer genes are passed down in families and are known to increase risks for developing breast and/or ovarian cancer. Screening and early detection can save lives.

For additional information, call: 401-463-6363.

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Centennial celebration at Congregation Sharah Zedek

WESTERLY - Congregation Sharah Zedek, one of New England’s oldest active synagogues, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, October 12, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at 6 Union Street, in Westerly. The congregation serves as the center of Jewish cultural and spiritual activity for Jewish families throughout the Westerly, R.I. and Pawcatuck, Conn. area.

Mathew Lewis, president of Congregation Sharah Zedek, will lead the day’s events, Jerome Fischer, executive director

of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, Cantor Jane Myers and the Solomon Schechter children’s choir will lead a commemorative service.

Music, song, dance and food will all be part of the day’s festivities. A new *sukkah* and the synagogue’s *chupah* will be on display, as will holiday artifacts and historical family photographs.

For more information, contact Mathew Lewis at 401-596-9951 or mlewis@lewislaw.com

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Photo courtesy of JERI

ROSH HASHANAH GIFT PACKERS, left to right, Bernice Weiner, chair of the Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI) Oversight Committee; Marcia Gilstein, co-president of the Jewish Seniors Agency Women's Association; Susan Adler, Director of JERI; Seena Dittelman, volunteer; Sylvia Brown, co-president of the Jewish Seniors Agency Women's Association; and volunteer Anita Stein pack up sweet honey cake and applesauce.

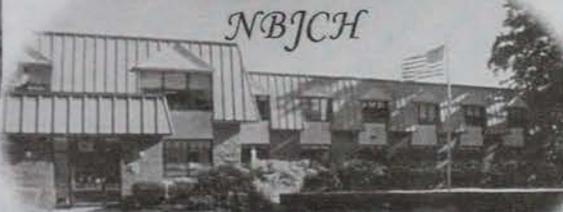
JERI and Women's Association deliver sweet treats for Rosh Hashanah

VOLUNTEERS from the Jewish Seniors Agency Women's Association, with JERI, deliver Jewish holi-

day gifts four times a year to elderly citizens who are home-bound or in nursing homes. For *Rosh Hashanah*, they

brought sweet honey cakes and applesauce to brighten and sweeten the holiday for seniors.

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Israel Interactive – a new teaching tool

By VOICE & HERALD STAFF
 voiceherald@jfri.org

ISRAEL INTERACTIVE is an interactive, web-based tool for educators in Rhode Island to teach about Israel, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Itai Tannenbaum, the creator of *Israel Interactive*, recently came from Israel to Providence to demonstrate the program, which is also being unveiled in Boston, Cleveland and Miami.

Tannenbaum, a former Israeli tour guide who also served in the U.S. as a *shaliach* (emissary), wanted to create educational information about Israel

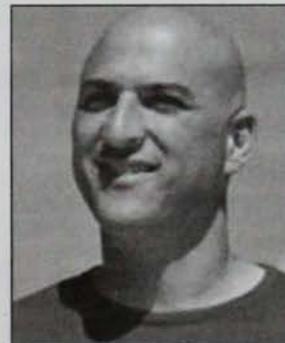


Photo courtesy of Itai Tannenbaum

Israel Interactive founder
Itai Tannenbaum

that was rich in both context and sophistication. Click

on a site or a person in the program and several dilemmas for discussion and debate pop up, providing invaluable teaching opportunities.

The Bureau of Jewish Education/RI will work with educators here and in the other communities to identify best practices for using *Israel Interactive*, designed for students in middle school and beyond, as well as adult learners. Plans exist for an early childhood component. More information is available at *Israel Interactive's* website, www.israelinteractive.com.

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New England Academy of Torah



Photo courtesy of New England Academy of Torah

New England Academy of Torah students from around the world studied and soaked up Newport's beauty and nature's sunshine outside the Marble House Mansion

Students hear from former political advisor about elections, politics and the media

VOICE & HERALD STAFF
voiceherald@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE - Dr. David Luchins, chairman of the political science department at Touro College, and formerly a senior advisor to the late Senator Daniel Moynihan, recently encouraged more than 100 Providence Hebrew Day School students to become engaged in the political process and knowledgeable about the issues affecting the American Jewish community.

"It is selfish of us to only ask which candidate is good for the Jews," said Luchins. "We must instead look at what is good for the total community and nation."

Addressing concerns about both campaigns and clearly declining to endorse either



Photo Courtesy of Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman

STUDENTS ARE ENGAGED as they listen to Dr. David Luchins speak about the changing political climate of the 2008 presidential elections

candidate, Luchin urged the audience to be educated enough to ask thoughtful

questions and avoid becoming engulfed by media hype.

D'VAR TORAH

From Page 22

generation - a generation which had witnessed the plagues, the parting of the sea, the encounter with God at Sinai and countless other events.

The new generation led by Joshua, the one who would soon cross the Jordan, had undergone a subtle change with philosophical and legal implications.

There is a principle in Jewish law that all Jews are responsible for one another. This is not simply an expression of mutual concern and care, but includes such things as blessings as well.

The implication is clear; the spiritual state of one Jew is interdependent with the spiritual state of the second Jew.

This spiritual reciprocity began as the Jews crossed the Jordan. It is part of the defini-

tion of the new generation who will capture and live in the Land of Israel. It is an expression of common destinies of a people. It is a characteristic of Joshua's generation.

Now, as the Jews take leave of Moses, a new chapter will begin, one which includes the implementation of a new ideal. According to the *Or Hachaim Hakadosh*, this idea of mutual responsibility, also explains the words at the conclusion of the covenant:

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this Torah." (Deut. 29:28)

The *Or HaChaim Hakadosh* notes that mutual responsibility clearly includes that which is

known - in the open. The secret acts, on the other hand, are of God's concern.

During the time of the forefathers, individuals reflected the totality of Jewish life - the generation of Abraham was Abraham. Spiritual giants who were individuals were able to approach God as individuals.

Moses represents the entire nation, but once he dies, the entire nation becomes responsible for one another spiritually.

It is true that the nation is still made up of many individuals, who will need to coalesce in order to form a cohesive whole, but one of the last lessons which Moses teaches is that ultimately we are one people, gathered together.

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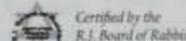
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RYMANOW: A Jewish community not forgotten

From Page 14

Even though Michal could not undo the past, he wanted to make people aware that this community did exist and should not be forgotten.

Michal took it upon himself (with the help of his brother Adam and others) to organize this gathering of relatives and friends of Rymanow Jews. It was heartening to see so many citizens from Rymanow participate in the activities as well. I highly commend Michal for taking this proactive approach to keeping the memory of the Jews of Rymanow alive.

This turned out to be a remarkable and memorable event. My wife Varda (See Tribute, Page 15) shares her own thoughts about this tribute.

VISITING KRAKOW

After the tribute, then we were off to Krakow to spend a Shabbat in Kazimierz, the former Jewish quarter of the city. Most of the city's 65,000 Jews lived in Kazimierz prior to the outbreak of World War II. The vast majority were deported and killed in Nazi extermination camps.

Today, the Jewish population is very small, numbering just under 200. While under Communist rule, the Kazimierz district was largely forgotten and neglected. This changed in the early 1990s after the release of Steven Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List*. This movie generated great interest in Krakow's Jewish past.

A major effort was undertaken to revive this section of the city that was a slum. Today, Kazimierz is a major tourist

attraction for all the right and wrong reasons. I am sure that it is worthwhile and educational for tourists and locals alike to visit Jewish landmarks such as the Remuh Synagogue and Remuh Cemetery.

However, what really turned me off is the Disneyland atmosphere of the area. I sarcastically refer to this part of Kazimierz as "Jewland."

It is a surreal place to visit. For example, there are Jewish style restaurants such as the Ariel with menu items in Polish, Hebrew, and English such as "carp fish Jewish style," "tcholent," and "Passover cheese" (not kosher, of course).

There are nightclubs that have musicians who play Klezmer music, and mock storefronts such as "Aron Weinberg - Leather

Goods & Stanislaw Nowak - Grocery." There are souvenir shops where you can purchase wooden figures of *Hasidic* Jews.

I even saw a display of caricatures of Jews holding a coin in one hand and a money bag in the other hand. I found this to be especially offensive. Special vehicles transport tourists through the streets of Kazimierz with commentary provided via prerecorded audio.

I realize that the redevelopment of Kazimierz has put new life into a historical section of the city that was abandoned during the years of Communist rule.

However, is this revitalization of the Kazimierz district meant to preserve the monuments of Jewish cultural heritage that existed before World War II, or is it meant to exploit the memory of

the Jews that inhabited this section of Krakow? Unfortunately, I think that it is more of the latter than the former.

So, in the end, did my feelings about visiting Poland change as a result of this most recent trip? My answer is - to some degree. While I found the commercialization of Jewish memory in Krakow to be distasteful and exploitive, it is refreshing to know that there are people like Michal Lorenc who have a genuine interest in and passion for preserving the memory of Jews murdered by the Nazis. His selfless commitment to honoring those who perished is greatly appreciated.

Ezra Stieglitz can be reached at EStieglitz@ric.edu.

POLAND: With a new generation, we must always be forward looking and optimistic

From Page 15

Switzerland and Germany.

Most were children and grandchildren of the original inhabitants, but one was an 85-year-old survivor of the Holocaust. He became our guest of honor and guide. We clustered around him asking him a million questions, and remarkably, he remembered all our parents and grandparents, their places of business and homes, and all the family connections. After all, it was a *shtetl* and everyone knew each other. I also met a person whose grandmother shared the same maiden name as my grandmother - clearly, we were cousins, long separated by the events of the Holocaust.

You see, we children of Holocaust survivors did not grow up

with extended families. Most of us had very few relatives; therefore, in a way, this group became our extended family. We had so many kindred memories in common. Our parents had told us many of the same stories and had the same friends. We even found common relatives in the old photographs that we brought along to share.

We toured our *shtetl*, visiting the town center, the street where my grandparents lived, and the school that my mother attended, which amazingly still stands and is still used as a school. Over a period of two days, we read memoirs and diaries written by Jews from Rymanow who did not survive and viewed photographic exhibits of old Rymanow. We also toured the cemetery and

the reconstructed synagogue.

One of the most important events was the ceremony to commemorate the liquidation of the Rymanow ghetto and the forced march of the Jews to the railway station in the nearby town of Wrobluk.

The memorial ceremony took place in the town square - called a "Rynek" in Polish. We stood and watched along with many of the Polish citizens of the town and many invited guests.

The speakers included Israeli and American consular officials along with Polish government officials. The ceremony was conducted in Polish, English and Hebrew. Afterwards, we all started the march to the railway station. Many people were carrying Israeli flags. It was an

incredible sight to see so many people marching through the Polish countryside in a show of Jewish strength rather than weakness commemorating those who went to their deaths 66 years ago, this time, with a promise that this would never happen again! I am proud to say that my two sons carried flags.

OVERCOMING FEAR

Did I overcome my hesitation or fear of visiting Poland?

Yes. Rymanow is a beautiful little town, and it was very gratifying for me to see the lovely surroundings in which my mother spent her youth.

It was also wonderful to meet people such as Michal and Adam Lorenc who put so much effort into making this

event a success and who continue to work to make sure that the contributions of the Jewish population to the culture of their country are not forgotten.

Poland is a different country politically and economically now, and that difference is also reflected in its younger generation. The people who we met in Poland were friendly and welcoming. This is not to say that we will forgive and forget. Some terrible atrocities occurred on this soil, but with a new generation and a new political system we must always be forward looking and optimistic, since only in this manner can we hope for a better world for our children.

Community Calendar

From Page 13

Herman L. Bennett Chapel. Bring your own family picnic dinner on the patio.

WHEN: 5:15 p.m.

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

MORE INFO: 331-6070

SUNDAY

October 19

Political Breakfast

Sponsored by Temple Sinai Brotherhood. Listen to candidates for U.S. Senate, House District 2, and representatives from the presidential campaign. Currently scheduled to speak are Sen. Jack Reed at 9:15 am and U.S. James Langevin at 10:15 am.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen

Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 9 a.m.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

The Power of Good Film

Documentary film about Nicholas Winton, known as "Britain's Schindler." In 1939, he saved the lives of 669 children, most of them Jewish, from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Guest speaker will be Hanna Slome, a "Winton

Child." Sponsored by Temple Am David, The Holocaust Education Center & The Gelman Education Foundation.

WHERE: Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick

WHEN: 10 a.m. Breakfast Program

MORE INFO: 463-7944

Family Sukkot Celebration

Enjoy a family Sukkot celebration

with a scavenger hunt, decorating, story-time and a pizza, fruit and veggies dinner.

WHERE: Temple Etz Chaim, 900 Washington St., Franklin, Mass.

WHEN: 4:00 p.m.

MORE INFO: RSVP: earlychildhood@temple-etzchaim.org or call 508-528-5337.

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Wedding



Dan and Cindy Kaplan

Dan and Cindy Kaplan of Barington announce the marriage of their daughter, **Hyla Kaplan**, to **David Rosenberg**, son of **Carole** and the late **Norman Rosenberg** of Monroe, N.J.

The bride, received her B.A. from Emory University and her J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law, and practices immigration law.

The groom, who received his B.A. from Washington University and his M.S.W. from the University of Pennsylvania, is the director of the Center for Social Responsibility at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and now live in Philadelphia.

Engagement

Ruth Phillips of Warwick announces the engagement of her grandson, **Gary M. Phillips**, son of **Gary J.** and **Sharon Phillips** of Kenmore, N.Y., to **Carrie Wilkins**, daughter of **Daniel and Margaret Wilkins** of Buffalo, N.Y.

Mr. Phillips graduated cum laude from Binghamton University and Ms. Wilkins graduated cum laude from Syracuse University. They will graduate from the University of Buffalo Law School in May, 2009 and plan to practice law in New York City.

A September, 2009 wedding is planned.



Carrie Wilkins and Gary M. Phillips



50th Wedding Anniversary

Lois and Sam Torman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their children at their summer home in Narragansett. They were married on June 8, 1958 at the Shaare Zedeck synagogue in Providence.

Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Cotton of East Greenwich announce the engagement of their daughter, **Rochelle Lily Cotton**, to **Randall Scott Rosenthal**.

Ms. Cotton holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the School of Management at Boston University. She is employed as the Associate Manager of Global Trade Marketing with Rockport, a division of the Adidas Group, in Canton, Mass.

Mr. Rosenthal, the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rosenthal**, of Albany, N.Y., is a graduate of State University of New York at Oswego where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is employed as an Assistant Manager at Bank of America in Boston.

A summer 2009 wedding is planned.



Rochelle Cotton and Randall Rosenthal

Stand with us.
Declare **Hineni** - Here I am.



Answer the call.

Super Sunday
November 16th

Join us for Super Sunday
on November 16th.

Count me in! I look forward to joining my community for Super Sunday, the annual phonathon, on November 16th at the JCC from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

- I will help make solicitation phone calls OR
 I prefer to make thank-you calls

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please complete and return form to:
Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906
Attn: Jackie Salett
Email: jsalett@JFRI.org
For more information, call 401-421-4111 x 172

Hineni
הנני
Here I am.

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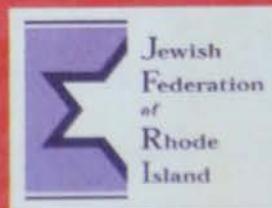
הנני *Hineni*



The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island feeds those who are hungry. Through Meals on Wheels and a kosher meal site, we serve over 200 seniors in our community.

No gift is more impactful and strategic than a gift to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's 2009 Annual Community Campaign!

Here I am.



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