



Photo courtesy of Linda Kaplan and Neal Steingold

Sarah Steingold in her natural element: the pool

Young teen swims through life

In the pool, or in the ocean, this 12-year-old loves to compete

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Sarah Steingold swims. So what's the story about that, you might wonder? Everyone swims, right? Maybe so, but not like Steingold, age 12, who has been swimming competitively since she was five years old and has a table's

See POOL, Page 11

A great miracle happened here!



Photo courtesy of BJE

ABOVE RIGHT, EDEN, 5, AND JONAH, 3, Samara, from Cranston, won the PJ Library "Guess the Number of Dreidels." The wood menorah was their prize.

ABOVE LEFT, THE EVENING OF JEWISH RENAISSANCE drew a packed house at the JCCRI on Dec. 13. From left, Rony Yedidia, Deputy Consul General of the Consul General of Israel to New England, Sharon Gaines, BJE/RI President, and Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

BOTTOM RIGHT, THE ENTRIES in the JCCRI's Menorah Building Contest were imaginative and creative. The winner was announced at the Dec. 18 Fantastic Family Dinner. See photos, Page 3



Photo courtesy of PJ Library



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

Madoff scandal rocks Jewish philanthropy

Scam made off with \$50 billion

By JACOB BERKMAN
JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK (JTA) — The securities fraud of Bernard Madoff has rocked the Jewish nonprofit world — and the worst may be yet to come.

Madoff, the founder of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, was arrested Dec.

11 after admitting to his board that a hedge

fund he ran was essentially a \$50 billion Ponzi scheme.

At least two foundations have been forced to close because they had invested their funds with Madoff. The Robert I. Lappin Foundation in Salem, Mass., announced Dec. 12 that it would shut down after losing \$8 million — all of its money. And the Chais Family Foundation, which gives out some \$12.5 million each year to Jewish causes in Israel, the former Soviet Union and

Eastern Europe, announced its closing Dec. 14.

At least one nonprofit is calling out for help in the wake of Madoff's collapse. The Gift of Life Foundation, a Jewish bone marrow registry that relied heavily on Madoff as a benefactor, announced on its website on Dec. 15 that it would immediately need to raise \$1.8 million to make up for recent losses. Sources close to

Yeshiva University, where Madoff served as treasurer of the board of trustees and board chairman of the university's Sy Syms School of Business until he resigned last week, said the school has lost at least \$100 million; officials there declined to offer any specifics.

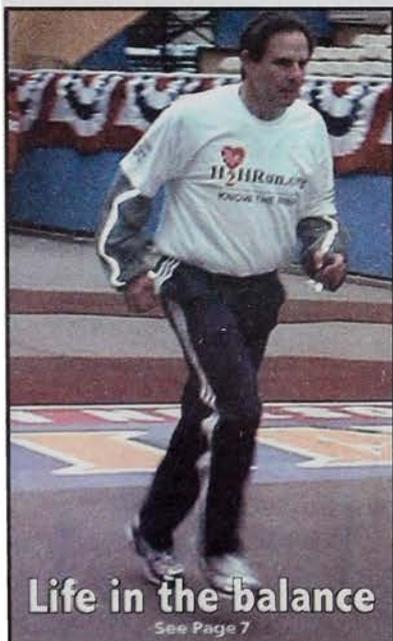
Just as the reverberations of the subprime mortgage collapse are still seen as contributing to the nation's wider eco-



The New York Post's front page on Dec. 16, 2008.

nomie meltdown, philanthropic insiders say the fallout from Madoff's scheme could be even greater. The insiders note that Madoff and others heavily invest-

See PONZI, Page 10



Life in the balance

See Page 7

Photo courtesy of heart2heart.org

DR. TOM GRABOYS runs in the 2006 Boston Marathon. He is the author of a new book recounting his struggle with Parkinson's.

JFRI: 'NO FUNDS INVOLVED'
See Page 10



FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS converse in Hebrew with 98-year-old educator, Esther Elkin

Esther Elkin and the dog who knew Hebrew

Educator, 98, visits JCDS class

By RABBI ALVAN KAUFER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

DID YOU EVER hear about a dog that understands Hebrew? Fourth-grade students at the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) had read just such a story written by Esther Elkin. Elkin, author of *Hake-*

lev Hamevin Ivrit and a master Hebrew teacher for decades, recently visited the class. Her presentation and the discussion were conducted entirely in Hebrew. Students had the chance to ask her questions in Hebrew about the book: Is it a real story? Do you have a dog? How old were you when you wrote the book? Who is Daniel in the book? With her charm and Hebrew-teaching savvy, she replied to all question in Hebrew, including

the question about her age. With the help of the fingers she held up, they guessed her age: 98! Then, with her wonderful optimism, she asked: "U-veod shnatayim kammab?" (in another two years, how old?) Of course, there was a rousing choral reply: "meab" (100)! At the end, students handed Elkin a card they made for her and thanked her in Hebrew for writing such a wonderful book.

Photo courtesy of JCDS



Photos courtesy of PHDS

A LITTLE BRIGHT MUSIC

Top: From right, Sholom Krinsky, Jacob Klein, Yitzchak Jakubowicz and Tuvya Maier, members of the Providence Hebrew Day School band, play a medley of tunes at the PJ Library celebration Dec. 10 at Barnes & Noble in Warwick. Bottom: Yitzchak Jakubowicz, left, and Jacob Klein perform on trumpet.



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Between the limbo of illness and the anger and despair it often spawns, there is a better place - a life beyond illness still to be lived."

Dr. Thomas B. Graboys
See Page 7

IN THIS ISSUE:

JEWISH CAMPING
VOICE & HERALD SPECIAL SECTION
Pages 14-20

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

THE MOTHER'S CIRCLE
FIRST SHABBAT DINNER

Local author revisits painful history

Adam Braver blends fact with fiction in *Nov. 22, 1963*

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

SHORTLY BEFORE the 45th anniversary of JFK's Nov. 22, 1963, assassination, *The Voice & Herald* sat down with Adam Braver, author of *Nov. 22, 1963*, a novel depicting what happens to some of the individuals who witnessed the assassination. As he was an infant then, he has no first-hand memories of the day's tragedy.

Voice & Herald: You've written a book about the Kennedy assassination, yet you call it a novel? What was the motivation for this, your fourth book?

Braver: The enigma of the emotion-filled flight from Dallas back to Washington, D.C., after JFK's assassination, interested me. I know so much about the situation, but not much about the private, quiet moments. That flight represented the last private moment before it was going to become public and owned by the world.

With this book, I saw it from beginning to end – there wasn't that momentum of discovery along the way. This time, I knew what I was after. You know how the story ends; the mystery is in what happens along the way.

I had high-school teachers who were in Dallas in 1963 at the Trade Mart to see JFK come through on the motorcade. You had to wring the stories from them – even years later, they still felt very emotional about it. That emotion – so many years after the fact – stayed with me. Conspiracy stories don't interest me.

Voice & Herald: There are so many books and related materi-



Adam Braver

als published about the Kennedy family and certainly about the assassination. Other than fictionalizing some portions of the book, what did you do, in your research and writing, to make this book different?

"I was interested in the idea of how mythology and history were created out of this melting pot of people's memories."

Adam Braver

Braver: Except for perhaps a maid or butler in the White House, I didn't create any fictional characters, though I took some liberties with imagined conversations.

The only people I spoke to directly were Bobby Hargis, who was a (Dallas Police) patrolman and Aubrey (Al) Rike, who drove the ambulance carrying JFK's body.

It was shockingly easy to find them through the Internet. I don't think I was the first person to contact either of them.

Most of the people I wanted to talk to had already died,

though nearly everyone but Jackie Kennedy had left extensive oral interviews. So, I relied a lot on those materials, though I had to work with a scalpel: much of that information was shaped for posterity, and I wanted to know the back story – the parts that weren't preserved.

The Voice & Herald: I found the provocative phone conversations between LBJ and Jackie disturbing at best. Were those conversations imagined or elaborated upon?

Braver: No, those were the actual conversations, the real words. I was interested in the idea of how mythology and history were created out of this melting pot of people's memories. It's fascinating – people emphasize different details at different times in their retelling of the story.

The Voice & Herald: What do you hear from people about the book on your book tours? What do people tell you?

Braver: Especially with a book like this one, I've met so many people with stories to tell, and perspectives to share. My mother had told me how everyone had gathered around the television and that she'd said, "I hope Oswald's not Jewish."

In North Carolina, I talked with an older man who'd been in his 20s when JFK was killed. He said to me: "Our world was so full of hope and promise. When Kennedy was killed, it took away hope. This election is the first time I've gotten the hope back; it feels like the sun is shining again after 45 years."

Comparisons between JFK and Obama are impossible to avoid, yet that's what I fear most – that President-elect Obama might be assassinated.

Voice & Herald: What's next for you? Are you work-

See AUTHOR, Page 27



Photo courtesy of JCC

BY A LANDSLIDE

THE WINNER of the Menorah Building Contest was Michael Gerber and his family, who fashioned a menorah to look like ice-cream cones. Below are some other examples of the creative entries.



Photos by Nancy Kirsch

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INSIDE

Section	Page
Community	2-3, 7, 11, 24-26
Opinion	4-6
Federation	8-9
Calendar	13, 27
Camping	14-20
Medical Arts	12
Obituaries	28
We Are Read	30
Simchas	31
Food	21
Business	23

FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR History, not kitsch

BY RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

RABBI Baruch Goldstein's memoir, *For Decades I Was Silent: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey Back to Faith*, is not light reading. It tells his story of survival in the community of Mława in East Prussia and then Auschwitz, coming to America, becoming a rabbi, getting married, raising a family, and then, some 30 years after the Shoah, finding a voice to talk about what happened to him and his family of origin.

It is brutally honest about his experiences in Poland and Germany; it is descriptive of his time in America finding himself, and at the end, Goldstein offers his personal view of Jewish faith after the Holocaust.

After reading the book, I found myself going back to my bookshelves to find *My Traitor's Heart*, by Rian Malan, a South African exile who fled his country in 1977, rather than serve in the South African military, and who then returned to become a crime reporter, covering the violence between blacks and whites in the waning days of apartheid.

Malan was a traitor to his family's patriarchs, who created apartheid and who, for three centuries, helped to define the Afrikaner culture. His story – and his honesty in telling it – is reflective of Goldstein's attempts to wrestle with his own silence.

What Malan presents is as equally honest and difficult to read at times as Goldstein's story – murderous rages and violence from both sides. Malan concludes his tale with the aftermath of a white man's murder, where the Zulus, some of whom were complicit in his murder, performed a ceremony honoring him as one of their own ancestors, a story to be told and retold by the tribe.

For both Goldstein and Malan, it is important to tell their story honestly and accurately.

As I write this, the full-court press for Tom Cruise's new movie, celebrating a German general who tried to kill Hitler, is front and center in the news media. Black-and-white photographs of Cruise, in the Nazi propaganda style reminiscent of Leni Riefenstahl, grace ads on *The New York Times* web site. What's wrong with this picture?

There is something obscene about turning the Cruise character into a modern-day hero of World War II. His desire to kill Hitler had nothing to do with Hitler's murderous policies toward Jews; it had to do with saving what

See MEMOIR, Page 6

Young man with disability demonstrates grace, strength

ONE SUNDAY evening a few weeks ago, I found myself watching a Hallmark Hall of Fame made-for-TV movie called *Head of the Class*. Based upon a true story, the



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

movie explores how Brad Cohen comes to terms with his Tourette Syndrome, a little understood neurological disease in which the afflicted person is burdened by physical tics. But it is the uncontrollable and unpredictable eruption of animal-like sounds – often closely resem-

bling a dog's barking or howling – that makes life so difficult for the Tourette patient.

The plot of *Head of the Class* is predictable: a young man overcomes great obstacles – the continuous ridicule, the fear, the ignorance, the malignant eagerness of both peers and adult authority figures to blame the victim.

Nevertheless, by the end of the movie, Brad Cohen stands at the "head of the class." Not only does he get a job as a second-grade teacher, despite rejection after rejection by school principals who are both hard-hearted and short-sighted, but also he winds up being honored as rookie teacher of the year in the state of Georgia. And, for good measure, Brad Cohen wins his "girl," whom he actually does marry in real life.

Normally I cannot stay tuned to such feel-good entertainment for more than 15 minutes. I do not take kindly to such obvious efforts to manipulate my feelings. I want a film that makes at least some modest attempt to acknowledge the painful complexities that all of us must face on our journey from cradle to grave.

Most of us learn fairly early on that the vast majority of our life stories

do not have Hollywood happy endings. What we wind up experiencing in shows like *Head of the Class* is, as in the vast majority of Hallmark greeting cards, not the genuine emotions of pathos with a P but the artificial, manufactured emotions of bathos with a B.

So, why did I stay glued to *Head of the Class* all the way through the feel-good happy ending? Because this movie brought me back to my one and only encounter with a person who was in fact living with Tourette Syndrome.

In August 1996, I served as a faculty member at an institute for Reform Jewish teenagers at the Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, Mass. More than 100 high-school students from all around New England, eastern New York State, and even Montreal had come together for an intensive five days of study, worship, and social activities. What has made this thrice-yearly institute so extraordinary is that the students themselves are always respon-

out warning, Michael would find himself barking or howling like a dog. Such barking and howling was extremely loud and lasted for several seconds at each occurrence.

Hearing these sounds for the first time was certainly unsettling. But a listener could, if he or she so chose, simply leave the room. However, for Michael, who remains the involuntary source of this barking and howling, there was and there is no exit; he can never escape the sound of his own voice, a voice distorted by the verbal tics of Tourette.

During his stay at Eisner, Michael took a proactive approach toward helping others understand his medical condition. Just before our first meal, he stood up in front of a dining hall full of teenagers and faculty members and spoke with great dignity and simplicity: "I want to explain what you are all going to experience. I have Tourette Syndrome. Among my symptoms are verbal tics. I can't control them. Most usually I bark and howl. Sometimes I will blurt out comments which will be totally out of context. Sometimes what I will say will strike you as very funny, and you will laugh."

Before that dinner had ended, Michael's barking and howling filled the dining room two or three times. But because Michael had had the courage to prepare us, because he had had the courage simply to be there among us, we all felt bound in solidarity with him.

And from time to time during our worship services, Michael's barking and howling would accompany the melody of our prayers. Whenever this would happen, we all seemed to pray with a bit more fervor, for we sensed that God was listening just a bit more intently.

By now Michael is almost as old as Brad Cohen. I wonder how Michael is faring. I can only hope that in his own way, fortified by his courage and his wisdom, Michael, too, is standing at the head of the class.

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg can be reached at rabbiermitus@templehabonim.org.

IT SEEMS TO ME Profile in young courage

"From time to time, Michael's barking and howling would accompany the melody of our prayers. Whenever this would happen, we sensed that God was listening just a bit more intently."

sible for all of the programming.

It was during this August institute that I had the pleasure of meeting an intelligent, articulate, and well-mannered high school junior whom I shall call Michael. He attended one of my classes, and I was impressed by the quality of his questions.

One afternoon during a brief break in the program, as I was sitting under a tree strumming on my banjo, Michael came over to *schmooze*. After some preliminary small talk, we moved our conversation in a more serious direction; we began to discuss how Michael was handling his Tourette Syndrome.

What impressed me most about Michael was his understated courage. Despite the fact that he was taking several pills a day to manage his symptoms, he nevertheless could not control his verbal tics.

What this meant was that, with-

Letter to the Editor Searching for a better understanding

IAM WRITING in response to "Young teen discovers Holocaust lessons resonate today" (*The Voice & Herald*, Dec. 12). The writer, an intelligent 12-year-old girl, is meeting with a Holocaust survivor to educate herself more thoroughly. This is admirable. However, she goes on to express feelings toward society that I found troubling.

She describes her mother's anger and

offense when her class is asked to make Christmas wreaths. The mother calls the teacher to express this, and the teachers, we are told, "did not understand it at all." Later in the article, the writer states: "My neighbors do not like us because of our religion."

What struck me was the absence of any mention of communicating or working with others to bring about better understanding of our religion

and culture. It is not helpful for young people to "feel special for being Jewish" when it is based on negative feelings.

Many of my family have perished in the Holocaust, but attitudes that build walls between cultures and religions will never result in positive change.

Bridgit Mulholland
Wakefield

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

Fanatics, Madoff: the worst of the Jewish community

Jewish individuals betraying others within their community causes concern, alarm

WE, as a people, are as noble as the greatest *tzadik*, as low as the worst of our villains. (I remember my mother always breathing a sigh of relief when she knew for sure that a criminal was not, in fact, Jewish.)

Between *gonifs* like Bernard Madoff and anti-Israel pro-Messianic religious fanatics in Hebron, are we losing the legitimacy of our claim that we hold the moral high ground?

Madoff's Ponzi scheme cost Yeshiva University \$110 million, Hadassah \$90 million, the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, D.C. more than \$10 million, the Jewish Funds for Justice \$3.9 million, and *The Forward*

(that other Jewish newspaper) a mere \$355,000. If you've been doing your arithmetic you'll see I've accounted for less than 10 percent of the \$50 billion he's reputed to have embezzled (or vaporized as far as anyone can tell). When I read in *The New York Times* last week of a rich man, one of Madoff's Judas goats who brought him clients, and then followed Max Bialystock's guiding principle until Bernie's scheme bankrupted even him, I didn't cry. *Schadenfreude* is one of my minor sins. But cheating Hadassah? Yeshiva University?

If all that weren't bad enough, he's also handed a loaded shotgun to those who already despise us and want to see us dead. Here's a sample from a blog with the innocuous sounding name, "The Truth will set you free": "Madoff was elected chairman of the board of (Yeshiva University's) Syms School of Business in 2000... Does the 'Jewish tradition' taught at Yeshiva University support giant 'Ponzi' schemes like the one run by their chairman? Is this the kind of business they teach the students at Syms? Cheat the 'goyim,' i.e. non-Jews, and steal their money?"

That is exactly what the Talmud teaches, make no mistake about it. It is the main reason that Jews have been despised and expelled from so many nations throughout history. Anyone familiar with the teachings of the Talmud, i.e. 'Jewish tradition,' will know that such anti-Christian schemes are at the

slip the dogs of anti-Semitism; if this is the first step toward welcoming back the Middle Ages, to accusations of us using Christian blood to make our *matzah*, you can look to Bernie for inspiring it. Fascists of all stripes who would destroy the Jews are out there. Read further for another example.

"Between gonifs like Bernard Madoff and anti-Israel pro-Messianic religious fanatics in Hebron, are we losing the legitimacy of our claim that we hold the moral high ground?"

heart of such an 'education.' This is why so many of the financial criminals involved in the current Zionist-produced 'credit crisis' are Jewish Zionists who have been indoctrinated in such 'Jewish traditions.' The Zionist criminals involved in 9-11 and the cover-up of the truth are all tied to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, which is a similar Zionist institution."

Thanks, Bernie, for letting

Have you read Josephus' *The Jewish War*, his history of the struggle between Jews and Romans that reached its crescendo with the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. and the suicides at Masada two years later? According to him, the slaughter of Jews in Jerusalem was by the Jewish zealots who objected to those Jews who would live amicably (if warily) with the Romans.

Earlier this month, the Israeli Supreme Court ordered a disputed property in Hebron vacated until it could decide ownership. The army moved in, expelled the 200 or so zealots in occupation and then the fanatics went on a rampage - against Arabs. Their policy is called "Price Tag." If the government wants to be conciliatory to Arabs, the price is these pogroms (not my term, nor

the term of the Arab press, but one used by the Prime Minister of Israel). The hooligans shot Arab civilians, set fire to their homes, destroyed their crops and terrorized them. The Prime Minister's terminology sounds about right. He might also have called it an intifada.

Further to fan the flames of backlash, Baruch Marzel and Itamar Ben-Gvir, two of the Ayatollahs who urge the young on their destructive rampage and then attempt to justify it, threatened to march with their troops bearing 100 Israeli flags through the Arab city of Umm al-Fahm near Haifa. Their group? It has the evocative name of "The Jewish National Front," a name that immediately brings to mind fascists in France, Britain and the United States who call themselves the National Front and want to impose racist policies on their reluctant homelands.

Were not the fascists of Europe enough for the world? Have we learned nothing? Lord, what fools these mortals be.

Joshua B. Stein, is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. He can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.



Josh Stein

NOT ALONE

Rejecting groupthink leads to better governance

Vigorous debate, dissenting views lead to stronger, healthier organizations

PRESIDENT-ELECT Barack Obama made a striking, insightful comment at the news conference where he announced the members of his foreign

policy/national security team: "One of the dangers in a White House, based on my reading of history, is that you get wrapped up in groupthink and everybody agrees with everything

and there's no discussion and there are no dissenting views."

What was so insightful about this comment? What does it tell us about how Obama is likely to run his administration? And

what can we learn from it? First of all, what is groupthink? The term has been used by sociologists, social psychologists, and journalists since the middle of the 20th century, and served as the title of a 1972 book by Irving Janis. More recently, James Surowiecki, a writer for *The New Yorker*, addressed similar ideas in his 2005 book *The Wisdom of Crowds*, where he demonstrated that diverse and open groups often produce smarter decisions or better results than could be achieved by the smartest individual in the group.

In any event, groupthink describes the tendency of some groups to cultivate like-minded opinions and keep dissenting views out. The process can involve both the selection of like-minded members, but also the softening and self-censorship of individual views and differences, in the attempt of group members to fit in. But make no mistake, this groupthink is not the same as mob thinking, and it is not

rooted in ignorance. Rather, it can unfold in the most sophisticated and powerful places, including the White House.

Indeed, this has been a frequent criticism of the Bush/Cheney administration, especially in the build-up to the war in Iraq. Bush and Cheney appear to have systematically excluded

"Barack Obama is a leader who is quite willing to be told what he might not want to hear. He is confident enough to be challenged with a diversity of opinions."

and marginalized dissenting views from critical policy discussions, even within the administration. They did not listen to informed perspectives questioning both the bases for engaging in war and the expected ease of the follow-up to war.

In brief, President Bush and Vice President Cheney at least appeared to favor loyalty

over candor and even truth.

Surowiecki and others have discussed the tragic 1986 Challenger disaster as a possible result of groupthink. They point to evidence that the concerns and doubts of some employees at NASA were marginalized by powerful pressures to produce desired results. Many workers, in all sorts of professions, learn early not to tell the boss what the boss does not want to hear. And even if told, many individuals will still not hear what is said.

President-elect Obama's statement clearly indicates his awareness of the dangers of groupthink and the corresponding value of a diversity of opinions. As he stated at the news conference, he welcomed "a vigorous debate inside the White House." This stands in marked contrast to the avoidance of such debate in the Bush/Cheney White House.

And this explains the seemingly odd team Obama assembled and presented. Many people were at first puzzled by his choices. Why bring on

Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State, after the two of them clashed on foreign policy and national security issues during the campaign? Was she right for this position, and would she be willing and able to carry out the policy decisions of the president? And after Obama's long-standing opposition to the war, why keep on a key Bush appointee, Robert Gates, as Secretary of Defense? And would he be willing and able to bow to the policy of a new commander in chief, one of a very different mindset from the current one?

What emerges is that Barack Obama is a leader who is quite willing to be told what he might not want to hear. He is confident enough to be challenged with a diversity of opinions. And he is pragmatic enough to call upon people who he believes can get the job done, even if they do not completely agree with him. So it is no surprise that he been reading *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning histo-



Alan Krinsky

MY VOICE

GeshherCity – a home for Jews between the ages of 21 and 35

Being active and having fun

By ROBERT C. CUTLER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE – For some of us, being a part of the Jewish community is second nature. It's the same as saying you're part of your own family. For others, the Jewish community is as much a stranger to them as someone walking by them on the street. And for the rest of us, the Jewish community is something that comes in and out of our lives.

We are a part of it when we are younger, studying for our *bar/bat mitzvah*. But after that we become strangers to it. Then maybe we are invited to a youth group or Hillel event. Maybe we become involved, maybe we don't. But high school and college eventually come to an end, and we are back to being strangers until we have our own children and start this cycle all over again. Does this sound familiar? This is exactly how it went for me.

Growing up, I went to Sunday school and then on to Hebrew

school to study for my *bar mitzvah*. After my *bar mitzvah*, I became a stranger until I found BBYO. BBYO is a Jewish youth group that is completely youth-led. I made many Jewish friends and experienced some amazing times with them.

The most amazing of those times is when I think I discovered what being Jewish truly meant.

I went on the March of the Living my junior year of high school with BBYO. There I discovered not only what it meant to be Jewish but I also discovered that there was a yearning inside me to be a part of that community.

After high school, I went on to college and worked several jobs. All the while I was lacking any kind of Jewish meaning in my life. Sure, I had Jewish friends, but I still didn't feel part of the Jewish community.

Then I got a call three years ago asking if I had any interest in being an adviser for my former BBYO chapter. I jumped

at the chance, and that became a job when I accepted the position of program associate in Rhode Island one year ago.

But even with all the work I was doing with the teens, I still yearned for more. Then

ter for BBYO alumni.

I especially enjoyed the diversity in the activities we were doing and the people I was meeting. I enjoyed going to a game night with four of us just as much as going to a *havurah*

with 12. What was also fun was creating different programming every month for my own cluster.

I realized right away that GeshherCity was not only member-driven

but also member-shaped. I finally found the Jewish community that I was looking for. And not only was I a part of it, but I was also taking part in growing and shaping it. So, when I heard about the position of GeshherCity coordinator opening up, it was a no-brainer that I would apply.

Since starting here in mid-August, I am excited to say that we have grown from eight clusters to 14. Some of these clusters are Board Games, Shabbatluck, Mah Jongg, Happy

Hour, Havurah and Wine Tasting. We have three more clusters starting soon. They are Temple Hopping (we go to a different temple for Shabbat services each month), Spinning, and Stitch & B*tch.

We have an extremely passionate and active membership that enjoys a diverse group of activities. That membership includes people who are single, married, with children, without children, Reform, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, and Conservative.

Definitely, it's a far cry from my first thoughts of this being strictly a singles group. They all have in common that they are Jewish and between the ages of 21 and 35.

See you at the next event!

Come check out the web site at www.GeshherCity.org. You can contact me at 861-8800, ext. 124, or at rcutler@jccri.org or find both the GeshherCity RI account and group on Facebook.

Robert C. Cutler is the GeshherCity RI Coordinator.

"We have an extremely passionate and active membership – people who are single, married, with children, without children, Reform, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, and Conservative."

I got a call from Jacob Brier last year telling me about this new group called GeshherCity RI. My first thought when I first heard about GeshherCity was that it was only a place for Jewish singles. I was completely wrong. GeshherCity is a home for everyone that meets two easy requirements. First, that you are Jewish, and second, that you are between the ages of 21 and 35.

I became very active right away. I started going to the majority of events and even started my own cluster

FIRST PERSON PLURAL

Don't give up the Golan for peace

Why it's important for Israel to keep the Golan Heights

By VLADIMIR PYATOV
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

"WILL Israel have to give up the Golan Heights? Absolutely." So said former Middle East envoy

Dennis Ross during a visit to Temple Beth-El in May 2008. I have high regards for Ambassador Ross, but I do not agree with him, and this is why.

The strategically located Golan Heights rise steeply from the Sea of Galilee (some 600 feet below sea level) to the Mount Avital plateau (about 4,000 feet). The region, occupied by Israel in 1967, is bordered by three states: Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

From the Golan Heights you

can see all the way across Israel to the Mediterranean Sea. Until its capture by Israel during the Six-Day War of 1967, Syrian guns located on the Golan Heights regularly bombarded *kibbutz* homes in Israel.

The run-off from the Golan Heights and surrounding mountains come together to form the Jordan River, provider of most of Israel's fresh water.

The land is this area is extremely fertile. New Jewish frontier settlements have flourished, attracting more than 13,000 Jews to the Golan. The area is known as a leading name in Israel's quality wine.

American philosopher Eric Hoffer wrote 40 years ago in *The Los Angeles Times* after the

Six-Day War: "Other nations when victorious on the battlefield dictate peace terms. But when Israel is victorious it must sue for peace. Everyone expected the Jews to be the only real Christians in the world."

In my opinion, Israel should dictate peace terms to Syria. Aggression must be punished.

Now, some like Ambassador Ross say that Israel should give up the Golan Heights, for two reasons: to achieve a peace, and to separate Syria from Iran.

Ambassador Ross calls the Golan the "quietest border in Israel." What will change after signing a peace treaty with Syria? Will Syria stop supplying Hezbollah with weapons? After the latest Israeli-Hez-

bollah-Lebanese war, there was a U.N. resolution to stop supplying Hezbollah weapons. Has Syria obeyed the order? No, Hezbollah has since been armed by Syria with even more deadly weapons.

Syria lost all its wars with Israel, despite fighting with its stronger ally, Egypt. Syria will not attack Israel alone, especially fighting against the Golan Heights if it's in Israeli hands. Remember the recent Israeli air raid land destruction of the suspected Syrian nuclear reactor. Syria promised to retaliate. Did she? Syria is afraid of Israel.

Israel could have destroyed Hezbollah – and had an

See GOLAN, Page 27

MEMOIR:

A survivor breaks his own silence

From Page 4

was left of the Reich, as I understand the history.

In our world dominated by the Internet, and its less-than-72-hour retention span, such myth-making *kitsch*, as writer Milan Kundera defined it, is very dangerous.

A third book I turned to and have begun to re-read is *Cambodia: A Book for People who Find Television Too Slow*, by Brian Fawcett. In it, Fawcett argues that the *kitsch* created by the modern media is similar to the void created by the Khmer Rouge in Cam-

bodia: the annihilation of memory and imagination. His collections of stories – ironic and humorous, such as Marshall McLuhan encountering Paul on the road to Damascus – are illuminated with a constant running subtext about what happened in Cambodia between 1969 and 1979.

As we celebrate the miracle of Hanukkah, at the very boundaries of darkness and light, the importance of telling and retelling our story, accurately and honestly, is ever present. Thanks to Rabbi Baruch Goldstein for his illuminating story.

GROUPTHINK: It's common in Bush administration

From Page 5

rian Doris Kearns Goodwin. President Lincoln's Cabinet included individuals with whom he disagreed rather strongly.

This approach gives real meaning to the notion of deliberation. Being deliberate is a theme that Obama mentioned during his campaign when he was criticized for being too cool and indecisive. He explained that he was decisive, but deliberate in his decision-making process,

that he did not favor snap judgments. It is possible to avoid groupthink by surrounding oneself with different perspectives.

This encourages deliberation, criticism, evaluation, creativity, and allows for more informed decisions where one is aware of the motivations underlying and the possible consequences resulting from one's decisions.

All of us can learn from this, as we make decisions in our lives, our families, and in our

institutions. Many of us sit on boards or committees, and so perhaps we can use the example the new president will set to improve the decision-making processes of the organizations to which we belong, whether as employees or volunteers.

Alan Krinsky, a Providence resident, works in healthcare quality improvement and is a freelance writer. He can be reached at adkrinsky@netzera.net.

A light in the darkness

Doctor tells his story of a life beyond illness still to be lived

By MARY KORR
Senior Contributing Writer

FALL RIVER native and renowned Boston cardiologist Dr. Thomas B. Graboys may have put down his stethoscope, but he continues in his role of healer in his first book, *Life in the Balance*, published this year.

In agonizing detail, he describes the effects of Parkinson's disease and an accompanying dementia called Lewy body disease that forced him to stop practicing cardiology in 2005.

It took courage and tenacity to write the book (with the help of freelance

journalist Peter Zheutlin during a two-year period) and it takes courage to read it. But, in the end, it offers hope.

"Parkinson's and Lewy body disease have taken much of the density, richness and texture from my life, and moved that which was once within my grasp to a place beyond my control. However, between the limbo of illness and the anger and despair it often

spawns, there is a better place – a life beyond illness still to be lived," he writes.

As Dr. Graboys once gave each of his patients a handwritten plan for health, he does so here, and provides readers with Parkinson's a set of suggestions – a literal living will. For Dr. Graboys, this means maintaining his athleticism by taking a spinning class, doing yoga, playing the drums in a band and going out for his morning coffee. And, he wrote this book and plans to write another.

DENIAL, THEN DIAGNOSIS

Dr. Graboys notes in the book a maxim among physicians – a doctor who has himself for a patient is a fool. He denied his symptoms for

many years, ascribing his near-crippling fatigue, change in gait, memory lapses, stumbling and fumbling as a result of the overwhelming stress and grief he felt after

his first wife's lingering battle with cancer and her subsequent death in 1998, after 35 years of marriage and two daughters.

Yet, paradoxically, he wrote in his personal journal about his alarming Parkinson's-like symptoms he was having. Denial is a potent force, he says.

But ultimately, and several years after his marriage to second wife, Vicki, and alarms raised by his colleagues and friends ("Vicki never knew the old Tom"), he was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2004.

Parkinson's disease occurs

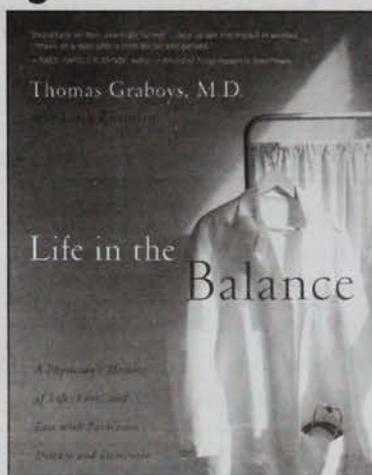


Photo courtesy of Sterling Publishing

when certain nerve cells in a part of the brain die or become impaired. Normally, these cells produce a vital chemical known as dopamine, which allows smooth, coordinated function of the body's muscles and movement. When approximately 80 percent of the dopamine-producing cells are damaged, the symptoms of Parkinson's disease appear.

Dr. Graboys' physical symptoms include a paralysis of mind and body upon waking, double vision, disorientation, and drops

in blood pressure that bring him close to fainting.

"My interactions with people are marked by a slowness of thought (called bradykinesia) that is as embarrassing as it is frustrating," he writes. "It's having the words in my head, but being unable to move them from the part of the brain where thoughts are formed to the part that controls speech. The neural pathways are disorganized, like some fantastically complex highway system with overpasses and intersections, exit ramps and onramps, all leading nowhere."

Dr. Graboys also has an associated degenerative disorder, which not all Parkinson's patients have, called Lewy body disease; Lewy bodies are abnormal protein deposits throughout the brain. It impairs cognitive thinking and can trigger hallucinations and violent REM patterns during sleep.

He writes, "In my case, Parkinson's is a 24-hour-a-day affair, because the associated Lewy body disease brings forth vivid nightmares and violent sleep on a weekly basis, night-

mares so realistic that I am likely to act them out. I have dreamed of being attacked and, in an effort to fight back, have inadvertently struck my wife, Vicki."

In 2007, he was put on a combination therapy of Namenda and Aricept, drugs prescribed for dementia and Alzheimer's and this has improved his cognition, speech and mood.

He was feeling well on Sunday when we spoke, but "it's unpredictable," he says. He has good days and bad days and everything in between.

Writing the book consumed him for two and a half years, meeting with his co-author almost daily.

"I wanted the reader to feel like he is sitting in the room with me and chatting," he said.

Life in the Balance is a conversation worth having with Dr. Graboys. Although he says the old Tom is gone forever, the new Tom continues to practice the art of the healer, in word and spirit.

For more information on the book, and to read an excerpt, visit www.tomgraboys.com.

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

"However, between the limbo of illness and the anger and despair it often spawns, there is a better place – a life beyond illness still to be lived."

Life in the Balance: A Physician's Memoir of Life, Love, and Loss with Parkinson's Disease and Dementia

By Thomas B. Graboys, M.D. with Peter Zheutlin
Union Square Press, 210 pages, 2008

Growing up in 'Fall River'

By MARY KORR
Senior Contributing Writer

DR. THOMAS B. Graboys, 64, was born at St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River, the son of the late Lewis and Rebecca Graboys. In a telephone interview Sunday, he spoke of "Fall River," as he calls his hometown.

He said as a boy the "nitty-gritty" city was beginning to see the effects of the

post-war housing boom, with areas that were once barren sprouting suburban developments. He grew up in the area of Fall River known as "the highlands." He recalls his father, an attorney turned businessman, worked in the war effort by supplying dry goods for export overseas, and describes him as a pragmatic individual who taught his children the

value of dollars and cents. His mother was a nurse during the war and was very involved in Jewish organizations throughout her lifetime, including the Hebrew Ladies Helping Hand Society, the Hebrew Home for the Aged, the Society for the Blind and Temple Beth-El, where he became *bar mitzva*.

See HOMETOWN, Page 27

Striar JCC to close its doors

By PENNY SCHWARTZ
Special to The Voice & Herald

STOUGHTON – After 20 years in operation, the Striar Jewish Community Center in Stoughton, Mass., is closing. The Dec. 1 announcement cites population shifts away from towns south of Boston such as Sharon, Stoughton, and Randolph. The Jewish population served by the Striar JCC, with 9,500 members, is more dispersed, according to the letter sent to JCC members and posted on the group's web site.

The building, which includes swimming pools, a health club and an early learning center, is being sold to the Old Colony YMCA based in Brockton, Mass., that will continue to operate and offer recreational and after-school and summer programs, as of March 1, 2009.

The announcement praised Old Colony as a strong organization with historic ties to the Jewish community and one that shares its values. The JCC's preschool will continue without interruption through June 2009 and will move to a new location, according to the announcement.

The closing is a result of a two-year investigation identifying the trends of where Jews were living and moving, says Mark Sokoll, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Jewish Community Centers, which includes the Striar JCC.

While acknowledging that there is vibrant, thriving Jewish communal life in Sharon, Stoughton and Randolph, Sokoll tells *The Voice & Herald* that many young Jewish families are moving to more affordable towns away from what has been the traditional hub of Jewish life.

He cites as an example the success

of the PJ Library, a Jewish literacy program that brings Jewish books right into the homes of Jewish families. There are between 600 and 800 families in 31 communities south of Boston, Sokoll said, including towns such as Abington, Bridgewater, Foxborough, and Norwell.

"It was clear that it is not possible to serve all those communities through one central facility," Sokoll says. Instead, JCC of Greater Boston will broaden its outreach through partnerships with synagogues and other Jewish institutions, a strategy that is already a success in other suburbs west of Boston, Sokoll explains.

While Sokoll acknowledges that there is a lot of competition in the health club business, the core of this decision is looking to the future, serving a diverse and dispersing population.

The announcement came as a surprise to many of Striar's members, who have posted angry blog responses to published reports on Boston.com.

Jewish girls' magazine wins \$100,000

SHARON (JTA) – A magazine published by and for Jewish girls won a \$100,000 prize.

The \$100,000 grand prize in the Wells Fargo Bank "Someday Dreams" contest was awarded to Yaidah founder and publisher, 17-year-old Leah Larson, and her mother, Evelyn Krieger, of Sharon, Mass., at a Dec. 10 ceremony at the Wells Fargo History Museum in San Francisco.

Yaidah, a 48-page, glossy magazine with fiction, artwork, recipes, and mitzvah projects all written, edited, and designed

by teenage girls, received more than 28,000 votes in the final online phase of the contest.

Krieger entered the contest as a way to help her daughter expand the magazine. In August, her 250-word essay was selected as one of five finalists from 10,000 entries and a video was made and posted on the Wells Fargo Bank web site. Leah was too young by one year to enter the contest herself.

"It's great to be flying into California, making big plans for employment and expansion, and having a stagecoach pull up at my door," Larson writes in an email. "But at the same time, I'm just the same old regular Leah, working hard at Yaidah like I always did, a regular high school girl," she writes in an e-mail, ending the sentence with a smiley-faced wink symbol.

Regional News Roundup

The need is more, not less, for services provided by Jewish agencies

Jewish community members need our help – and we need your support

TROUBLING NEWS about the current economic conditions seems to be inescapable these days. Every time we turn on the radio, pick up a newspaper or go online we hear more stories of the economic turmoil that is rolling through our community, our country and the world. More seem to be out of work



Doris Feinberg

each day, the number of homeless families is on the rise and it seems that the need for basic services has never been greater. Those of us who are able to offer help want to do all we can: But where should we start? And how can we be sure our dollars will be used for the greatest possible impact?

A friend and I were chatting recently about the current climate. She has for many years been a faithful and generous supporter of the Jewish community, but she told me that this year she is thinking about directing some of her giving to the Food Bank instead, because it seemed to her that they needed her money more than the Jewish agencies Federation supports.

That prompted me to wonder whether our community realizes how many families – many for the first time – are turning to our Federation-supported

“The community campaign is the most efficient and direct way for us to raise the funds that provide immediate help for those who are cold, hungry or otherwise insecure.”

agencies for help with life's necessities.

A divorced father, with joint custody of his two children, recently applied to Jewish Family Service (JFS) for help with his rent, until he can find affordable housing. Ill with

multiple sclerosis, he has applied for SSI but must pass through a waiting period before approval. He is seeking affordable housing, but risks losing his current home while waiting for state services.

The winter weather this year is bitterly cold, and a disabled single mother of two teenage girls is having trouble paying for her utilities. She receives food stamps and other state aid, but is now asking JFS for help with her heating bill.

There is more need now, not less, for the services our Jewish community agencies provide. The community campaign is the most efficient and direct way for us to raise the funds that provide immediate help for those who are cold,

hungry or otherwise insecure. Supporting the community campaign is not a luxury, nor is it only for when times are easier than they are now. The community campaign supports Federation-sponsored agencies. Those agencies play a unique role in understanding the Jewish community's needs, whatever they are, and knowing how to respond to them. Our fellow community members need our help – and we need your support.

For more information about the annual campaign, contact Bradley Laye, chief philanthropy officer at JFRI, at 421-4111, ext. 173, or e-mail blaye@jfri.org.

If you need assistance, contact Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island or AgeWell at 223-2335, or 866-524-3935.

Embracing – and being embraced by – community

A family's commitment to Jewish values

BY JORDANA JAFFEE
Special to The Voice & Herald

ABOUT A YEAR ago, I heard my two-year-old daughter spontaneously recite

the blessing over the Shabbat candles in Hebrew. More impressive was that she did it, as if on cue, in front of her Saba, who was visiting from New York.

Upon witnessing the passing of this sacred tradition to his youngest grandchild, my father threw me a contented glance. It was the satisfied look of someone who

was watching the flowers bloom, from a seed he planted years ago.

“A Jewish education does not happen in any one place.”

I would like to have been able to take credit for this beautiful moment. The truth is, she

learned it from listening to a video that I often put on to distract her when I needed a quiet moment.

My father's family fled Germany shortly before the war. He grew up in Israel. He fought in the War of Independence.

He did not need to cultivate a sense of connection to his Jewish identity or be taught to value it – he lived it.

I grew up in New York City, a Jewish wonderland, where it was easy to take certain things for granted. There were plenty of communities to choose from, holiday activities, charities and philanthropies. It was easy to be a little complacent. After all, there were so many others to pick up my slack.

About five years ago, my husband, Dan, and I moved to Providence, on the brink of starting our family. At that time, I had some idea of what I wanted in a community, though I had not fully considered the role I might play in shaping it. There is certain clarity in coming to a new place with the intent to plant roots. This is the sowing time for us, that one day we may enjoy the same satisfying glance at our own grandchild.

A Jewish education does not happen in any one place. It is acquired at school, at home, in the playground, at synagogue, and elsewhere. It is experienced with friends, family, and sometimes, strangers.

I want my daughters to understand that being Jewish is not just about reciting a blessing on the holidays. It is about striving

Hineni
הנני
Here I am.

to live righteously. It is about accepting our responsibility for the world around us, starting in our own community. It is about caring for those in need. And, it is about proudly rejoicing in the heritage of our ancestry.

This past year, Dan and I took on the role of co-chairs of the Network, the young leadership division of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI). Young families are essential to bringing fresh energy and breathing life into the soul of the community. The Network strives to create programming for young families, nurture leadership, and encourage the next generation of philanthropists. The Network is our way of sharing our enthusiasm for this community and for the work done by JFRI.

When we moved here five years ago, we did not know many people. The Providence community embraced us with warmth and welcome. I answer now, a few years later, with a resounding “Hineni.”

Jordana Jaffee is the co-chair of the Young Leadership Network of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (The Network).



This Hanukkah season...

**Share the light.
Share the warmth.**

Make your gift to the 2009 Annual Community Campaign to help us make miracles here at home, in Israel and around the world.

Donate online: www.JFRI.org
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401.421.4111 x165
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Providence, RI 02906



www.JFRI.org

How to teach 'Jewishly' focus of educators' conference

Joel Grishaver will be keynote speaker

BY LAWRENCE M. KATZ
lkatz@bjeri.org

IN PUBLIC education, there is a tension between teaching the basic "3 Rs" and teaching students to become good citizens. Public school administrators wonder if there really is time to teach environmental ethics, body ethics, music and financial

literacy and still meet the math and English standards that federal law mandates.

Jewish schools face a similar dilemma. We also want to teach body ethics, music and environmental ethics, while at the same time ensuring that our students master Hebrew and synagogue skills.

Jewish schools used to emphasize Hebrew and text study, not Jewish identity and the person-to-person ethics that used to be learned in the home and on the

streets. The latter topics are now the ultimate priorities in Jewish schools.

One strategy for finding the time for all of this is to "teach Jewishly," to let Jewish values influence how we teach.

Joel Lurie Grishaver, a prolific author and great innovator in Jewish education, will focus on this strategy as the keynote presenter at the 2009 Joseph & Leba Zelniker Conference of the Bureau of Jewish Education. Grishaver will model his

techniques at this educators' conference, to be held at Temple Habonim in Barrington on Sunday, Feb. 1.

Grishaver is a Jewish writer, teacher, cartoonist, storyteller.

In his book, *Teaching Jewishly*, Grishaver looks at Jewish sources as a foundation. He examines how to create a classroom based on respect and dignity, one that facilitates growth, esteem, and community, and that makes the process of Jewish education an expression of the Jewish message.

At the Zelniker Conference, teachers will study various chapters of the book, under Grishaver's guidance. They will hold the conversations in the hope that school cultures may be transformed.

The Zelniker Conference begins at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1. To register, teachers can contact Diane Cerep at 331, 0956, ext. 182, or at dcerep@bjeri.org.

Planting trees in Israel as a young girl

Thoughts on celebrating Tu b'Shevat

BY HADAS SOMMERS
hsommers@bjeri.org

WHEN I LOOK back on my childhood, growing up in the mountains of Israel, Tu b'Shevat was one of my favorite holidays. Everyone in my town went out to the forest with a strong feeling: "That's it, we are going to make this desert bloom, we are going to plant as many trees as we can."

The songs we sang had a patriotic message, that we were "the soldiers" who gladly held the shovels and marched to plant trees.

I still remember the intense feeling in my heart and body: "I am Hadas, 8 years old, making a big difference in my country."

My parents felt that planting trees was great, but was not enough to celebrate Tu b'Shevat.

The night before, my sisters and I made goody bags filled with dried fruit from *shivat haminim*, the seven species, and attached a short note to give to our real soldiers who were protecting us.

When I think about Tu b'Shevat today, I know that my childhood experiences influenced and shaped me. But now, as an adult, an educator and a mother in the Diaspora, I wonder, what does Tu b'Shevat mean for me now? How can I pass these great feelings on to my children in a way that will fill their hearts with joy and a sense that they, even as little children, can make a significant difference? What can I do to ensure that these feelings will stay with them forever?

So many other questions come to mind when I think about this coming holiday. For example, how is the Jewish calendar determined? What is the influence of the galaxy on Jewish holidays and laws in the ancient world and today? What do our traditional Jewish texts tell us about environ-

mental science, ecological awareness, and human responsibility?

For me, Tu b'Shevat is about finding the connecting thread between the holiday and what will happen this year, early on the morning of April 8, 2009, the 14th of Nisan 5769.

We will all wake up to a new day. For some, it will be another ordinary morning of Erev Pesach – the first night of Passover. We will be busy preparing for the great night to come. And, some of us will wake up that morning thinking of the opportunity that comes only once every 28 years: the festival of Birkat HaChamah, the Blessing of the Sun.

What is Birkat HaChamah, the Blessing of the Sun? What do we celebrate? What happened 28 years ago? How did people celebrate it then and when was the first celebration? What does

it mean to me as a Jew who lives in the world of 2009 with global warming? What can I do to make a difference in the world?

These are just some questions on my mind. On Jan. 12, at a Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE) workshop, we will attempt to answer these questions.

Whether you teach in a day school, supplemental school, or informally at home, you will definitely find something old, something new, something borrowed and something green.

I will present the Tu b'Shevat workshop on Jan. 12 from 7-9 p.m. at the BJE/RI Creativity Center. To register, contact Diane Cerep 331-0956, ext. 182, or dcerep@bjeri.org. Dinner will be provided for those who pre-register.

Young Leadership

RACHEL MERSKY WODA
rwoda@jfri.org

MEMBERS OF JFRI'S Young Leadership Network enjoyed a fun evening of connecting and learning at the recent Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance. At a pre-reception, they welcomed the evening's keynote speaker, Rony Yedidia, deputy consul general to Israel for New England and David Yashar, a member of the Yashar family whose generosity funds the Evening of Jewish Renaissance.

The Network is looking forward to future programs and events that they will co-sponsor with Shalom Rhode Island, PJ Library, the JCCRI, Mother's Circle and The Women's Alliance.

The Network Signature Event will be held on Saturday, March 7, at 8 p.m. at the Federal Reserve. The cost will be \$50 per person and invitations will be sent out in January. For more information, call 421-4111, ext. 206, or e-mail rwoda@jfri.org.

Statehouse prayer vigil: call to action

BY MARTY COOPER
mcooper@jfri.org

TUESDAY, JAN. 6, promises to be a historic day at the Statehouse, as the Rhode Island interfaith community will hold a public prayer vigil at 3 p.m. in the Statehouse rotunda to encourage the state's elected officials to create a budget and programs that will not come at the expense of those in need.

At the vigil, a shofar will be blown and several clergy, including a rabbi, will conduct prayers. During the vigil the names of our elected officials will be called out to emphasize that those in need must not be left homeless, hungry or lacking proper healthcare.

The R.I. Interfaith Coalition, whose mission is to fight poverty with faith, will lead the vigil. More than 45 faith-based organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), and several synagogues and Jewish agencies, are members of the coalition.

Since its formation in July, the Coalition has met several times to discuss how the faith-based community can work together so that no child, family or person will go to bed hungry or homeless. The coalition's goal is to cut poverty by 50 percent within 10 years.

Marty Cooper is the director of JFRI's Community Relations Council.

Registration Open!

UJC National Young Leadership New Orleans Conference
March 15-17, 2009

Join hundreds of like-minded young Jewish leaders to experience the concept of *tikkun olam*, repairing our world, through the lens of post-hurricane New Orleans. Stipends available from Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

For more information, contact Rachel Mersky Woda, Director of Next Generation Philanthropy, at 401.421.4111 or rwoda@jfri.org.

For complete conference information, visit www.NOLAconference.org.



www.JFRI.org

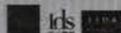


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PONZI: Madoff's scheme defrauds many wealthy investors

From Page 1

in his fraudulent fund were major supporters of a plethora of nonprofit organizations, served on their boards or advised those organizations on how to invest their money—in some cases placing large sums of the groups' capital in Madoff's hands.

Reflecting this sense that the full extent of the damage is still unclear, the executive vice president/chief executive officer of the UJA-Federation of New York said that even though its endowments were not exposed, the organization still could be hurt if donors lost money in the scheme.

"We do not yet know the full extent of the losses that supporters of UJA-Federation and other Jewish institutions have had," John Ruskay said. "But we have already heard that many major institutions had substantial funds invested, as did foundations. In the context of a very challenging economic environment this will present another significant difficulty. We don't know yet the extent of the wreckage."

Reports are trickling out in the national media about prominent businessmen from across the country who have lost money in Madoff's scheme.

New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon, GMAC Financial Services chairman J. Ezra Merkin and former Philadelphia Eagles owner Norman Braman all were reported to have taken significant hits due to their dealings with Madoff, who reportedly would not accept any investment in his fund below \$10 million.

Reports have surfaced also that media magnate Mortimer Zuckerman's charity was significantly hurt by investing with Madoff.

In Los Angeles, the Jewish Community Foundation's \$238 million Common Investment Pool lost \$18 million it had invested with Madoff, according to a letter sent out by the foundation.

Among other Jewish institutions and foundations believed

to be hit by the Madoff scandal: the American Jewish Congress, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Steven Spielberg's Wunderkinder Foundation, Elie Wiesel's Foundation for Humanity and Carl Shapiro's charitable foundation.

But Merkin, who last week told investors in his hedge fund, Ascot Partners, that all of their money had been defrauded by Madoff, is of particular interest to the Jewish community. He has philanthropic ties to a number of Jewish organizations and institutions, serving as a volunteer investment adviser for many of them, including Yeshiva University. Other causes with which he is said to be connected include State of Israel Bonds, The Jewish Campus Life Fund, Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center, the Ramaz School, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, and SAR Academy, a Jewish day school in the Bronx.

Sources say that several of these entities had money in Ascot, which they now stand to lose because of Merkin's decision to invest so heavily in Madoff's fund. According to Orthodox communal insiders, Ramaz and SAR lost millions between them.

An official at one major Jewish foundation told JTA that it had been advised to invest with Madoff, but decided against it after concluding that his return-on-investment forecasts seemed too good to be true.

Certainly the extent of the damage to the philanthropic world could become clearer as details emerge in coming days and weeks of just who was invested with Madoff.

One philanthropic official said there is a lesson to be learned here for the philanthropy world, where Jewish businessmen and philanthropists directed their own private funds and the funds of institutions that they help oversee toward Madoff.

"What really emerges out of this," said Jeffrey Solomon, the president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, is that "people sometimes forget to conduct the due diligence when dealing with others with social prominence—and especially in the hedge-fund area where people think you have to be really smart to be in hedge funds. In many ways for all investments something like this is tragic, but for nonprofits where boards have

See FRAUD, Page 28

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List of defrauded investors grows

Wire service reports indicate that the list of defrauded investors is growing and will continue to grow, as more individuals and organizations come forward.

In addition to those cited in the article, other nonprofit organizations, businesses and wealthy individuals are evaluating their situation, post-Madoff. They include, among others, in no particular order: Yad Sarah in Israel, the Maimonides School in Boston; the Charles I. and Mary Kaplan Foundation in Rockville, Md.; the Julian J. Levitt Foundation in Texas; the JEHT Foundation (which has provided funding for The Family Life Center, a nonprofit in Providence that assists formerly incarcerated individuals and their families to reintegrate

into society; JEHT Foundation is shutting down, due to its losses); Bank Medici in Vienna; The Innocence Project; UJA Federation; North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System; Mort Zuckerman; Hadassah, Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, D.C.; Jewish Community Center of Rockville, Md.; Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington D.C.; and the American Jewish Congress.

Speculation is rampant about who, if anyone, within the Rhode Island Jewish community lost money and, if so, how much.

Affected individuals may elect to disclose their involvement or not, while companies and nonprofit organizations are going public more quickly.

JFRI: No investments in any Madoff fund

Editor's note: The following statement was issued Dec. 16 by Doris Feinberg, President, and Steve Silberfarb, CEO and Executive Vice President:

AS YOU ARE no doubt aware, several days ago Bernard Madoff, a Wall Street figure, was arrested and charged with allegedly running a \$50 billion "Ponzi scheme" in what may rank among the biggest fraud cases ever. The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island expresses its sympa-

thies for all those impacted by the Madoff fraud, especially the members of our Jewish community who are affected, and condemns this manipulative scheme to prey on those who have devoted their lives and resources to good works.

JFRI has NO investments with any Madoff fund. Our endowment assets, including the investments of our Donor Advised Funds, Life Income Plans (Charitable Gift Annuities/Remainder Trusts), and Supporting Foundations, have NOT been exposed

and will not be impacted.

All JFRI Endowment investments are managed by our Investment Committee with consultation by Prime Buchholz, our investment advisory firm.

Our volunteer-led Investment Committee reviews asset allocations, adherence to investment policy, and investment returns. Our relationship with our fund holders and professional advisors is one of complete transparency, accountability, and respect.

POOL: At home in the water, a 12-year-old finds her passion

worth of ribbons to show for it.

Sarah, who lives with her parents, Linda Kaplan and Neal Steingold, and her younger brother, Ben, on the East Side of Providence, first learned to swim in a "Mommy and Me" swim program at the JCC when she was a mere six months old.

It was a "Daddy and Me" program for Sarah, as her father, a Providence native, took her to swim lessons.

When Sarah was five, her parents found a competitive swim program for her and, seven years later, none of them regrets the decision. "I had too much energy," explained Sarah, a bit sheepishly, about the decision to enroll her with the Bay and Ocean State Squids team, then considered one of the strongest teams in New England.

When her coach, Josh Stern, ceased coaching, she and several other swimmers 'swam on over' to Attleboro to join the Attleboro Bluefish.

That team name may be familiar to Olympics' fans – Elizabeth Beisel, the 15-year-old girl from Rhode Island who competed in the 2008 summer Olympics, swam with that team. Elizabeth wasn't the only one, said Neal,

as the team sent 13 swimmers to the Olympics in 2008.

Is going to the Olympics one of Sarah's goals – or dreams? Although she admits to being highly competitive – in school, Hebrew school and in any pool you'll find her, she doesn't see herself as an Olympic contender.

Although her parents explained that Sarah is considered one of the best swimmers of her age in Rhode Island and is highly placed in New England, "Sarah sees how hard it is (to make it to the Olympics)," said Linda. "The difference between 16th place and first place could be a second." Sarah regularly swims with Beisel and others

possibilities for Sarah, now a seventh grader at Gordon School in East Providence. Many of the competitive swimmers attend very good colleges and receive scholarships, said Linda, and swimming in college is definitely appealing.

While college is several years away, her *bat mitzvah* this spring and competing in the New England championship for four days in February in Vermont are nearer-term goals. Sarah swims butterfly, breast-stroke, backstroke and

freestyle, in individual events and relays. Sarah's goal for this meet is to be in the top eight swimmers of her age group.

Qualifying for this meet in the past, demands a lot of swim time

– hours and hours of it. In total, she spends about 15 hours a week – week in, week out – in the pool, and that doesn't even include the driving time to and from the practices or meets. Drive time is often when she



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

THE FAMILY AT HOME: from left, Sarah, Ben, and Neal Steingold, and Linda Kaplan

"Sarah is lucky. Some people search their whole lives for their passions and never find them. Sarah found hers at age five."

Linda Kaplan

who've been to the Olympics, so there's no division or separation between the "Olympic hopefuls" and others. Swimming as part of a relay, Sarah placed sixth in New England when she was only 10.

Swimming competitively at college, though, offers many

works on homework or listens to her Torah portion on her iPod.

"Sarah is lucky," said Linda. "Some people search their whole lives for their passions and never find them. Sarah found hers at age five."

Little wonder, then, that her passion for swimming extends to life beyond the pool. For her Mitzvah Mania project (a requirement for all 7th graders at Temple Beth-El), she gave swimming lessons to preschoolers and kindergarteners at the place where it all began for her – the JCC pool. Her *bat mitzvah* theme? The ocean, of course. Narragansett is Sarah's favorite

place to swim and boogie board. This summer, too, she may participate in the Save the Bay swim.

That competitive streak extends to every member of this family: Neal played basketball and football at Moses Brown and rugby in college, until he was injured; Linda was a competitive figure skater when she was a girl; and Ben plays soccer and baseball, and played in the Mayor's Cup baseball game last summer.

When this reporter came to their house to interview them, there was a Monopoly game out and in full swing. Competition prevails.

The Dr. James Yashar and Judge Marjorie Yashar

Evening of Jewish Renaissance

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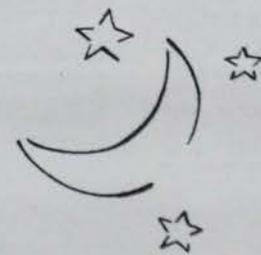
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Thank you to the presenters, vendors and special guests who helped make the 2008 Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance a great success.



With special thanks to Dr. James Yashar & Judge Marjorie Yashar, whose support makes this program possible.

תודה רבה



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The Great Depression, viewed from the streets of Brooklyn

*Neither commerce
nor community
ceased during
the 1930s*

THIS past October 2008 was a time when troubled America examined its moral values and its financial institutions, finding the first confused and the second structurally flawed. Not since the years of



**Stanley
Aronson M.D.**

the Great Depression have so many doubts been expressed about our collective destiny. The word, recession, had not been used then: the only things that receded during the Depression were hemlines and hairlines.

Those despairing years, almost eight decades ago, are remembered most vividly by those who survived them.

January 1930: The newspapers are now filled with statements provided by the nation's elder statesmen and other wise white males reassuring the rest of us that our economy is fundamentally sound and that faith in our leadership is all that is needed to avoid becoming needy.

Nine-year-olds were not supposed to know the meaning of despair, but they sensed that something was pervasively amiss. Youngsters might not understand the words whispered in Yiddish by the adults — although they could not fail to feel instinctively the gravity of the situation. My parents had rented a small, four-room apartment for themselves, my older brother and me.

By early spring of 1930, two cousins had moved into the living room and at mealtime we took turns at sitting around the kitchen table, a habit that persisted for years as a stream of impoverished relatives was sheltered in our living room.

New York's Board of Health placed no occupancy limits upon the tenement flats of Brooklyn and my family was accordingly free to absorb as many as we could accommodate.

DYNAMICS OF RETAIL ECONOMICS

A nine-year-old is no authority on the dynamics of retail economics. Yet I witnessed a dramatic, Depression-driven shift from structured enterprises established in department stores to neighborhood shops, and then to the streets where the same

products were now sold directly.

Finally, when merchants could no longer afford storefront establishments, there was a movement toward push-carts or tenement flats that served as stores during the day and residences at night.

Stores may have become vacant but not the streets, since rudimentary commerce never ceased. Upper- and middle-class Brooklynites avoided these congested streets of the Brownsville slums for fear, perhaps, that poverty was contagious.

"When you purchased a pound of potatoes, you often ended up getting a free lecture on the merits of socialism or the venality of capitalism."

Most of Brooklyn's major department stores closed during the early years of the Depression, leaving only Abraham & Straus as a source of wondrous showcase displays and upscale purchases.

Newspapers in the pre-Depression years had typically been sold in so-called candy stores or kiosks established near subway entrances. Many of the sales of daily newspapers were then taken over by itinerant

newsboys wandering the streets with loads of fresh newspapers in their sling pouches.

So commonplace were they, indeed, that the image of the youngster proclaiming, "Extra, Extra!" became a banal icon of the early Depression interval.

Other youngsters constructed small boxes, purchased some shoe-shining equipment and used their afternoon hours offering shoeshines for three cents. Still others ran errands, carried messages, or did neighborhood shopping for others, all for a modest fee. Their hereditary merchandising genes came to the surface in a generation of impoverished Jewish kids. Sadly, though, the dropout rate in the local high schools increased.

What other merchandise moved from the established stores to the rent-free sidewalks?

Fruit was now typically vended from small stands consisting of little more than a fruit-crate, set on end, with apples, peaches or oranges set atop in neat pyramids. A hand-printed, plaintive sign below might add a moral incentive to purchase an apple: "I am a veteran of the Great War of 1917-18."

Vegetables, with prices varying from block to block, were also sold from the backs of horse-drawn wagons, this over-

head cost being cheaper than rent for the stationary produce store. Wagons or push-carts also patrolled the streets seeking old clothes (*alte schmattes*) purchased by the pound and then laundered, ironed, and resold in other neighborhoods.

Literally, the street became the daily marketplace, the place of banal commerce, much as it had been 200 years before in Eastern European *shtetls*; or more recently when the streets of the Lower East Side teemed with push-carts.

People purchased their needs, but not in silence. When goods were exchanged, so, too, were ideas. The streets became a marketplace of contending political ideologies as well. When you purchased a pound of potatoes, you often ended up getting a free lecture on the merits of socialism or the venality of capitalism.

Then there were other enterprises that retreated to the tenement flats, everything from dress-making, millinery efforts, the sale of second-hand magazines, even law offices.

Thus, to this pre-adolescent youngster, the Depression created a massive mercantile retreat from the complex to the simple, from simple cash payment to a complex barter-system. Credit cards had not yet been invented, but credit was none-

See DEPRESSION, Page 27

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

Jewish Community Calendar

FRIDAY

December 26

Hanukkah Dinner

To be followed by candle-lighting and Shabbat services.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 6 p.m.

COST: \$5/person, \$20 family

MORE INFO: 942-8350 to RSVP

SATURDAY

December 27

Chabad Hanukkah Café

Enjoy a post-Shabbat dinner and hear guest speaker, Melave Malka. *Latkes*, hot apple cider.

WHERE: The Laufer Home, 48 Savoy St., Providence

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 273-7238

MONDAY

The Jewish Community Calendar in *The Voice & Herald* lists events that are open to the public and of interest to the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. The deadline for calendar events is two weeks before the actual publication date of the issue. For

December 29

Alcoholics Anonymous

Temple Sinai hosts a newly formed "Sobriety for All" group every Monday evening.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Avenue, Cranston

WHEN: 7-8 p.m.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

FRIDAY

January 2

Shabbat for Young Families

Kid-friendly Shabbat dinner, followed by an interactive service with stories, songs and prayers.

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

WHEN: 5:45 p.m.

COST: \$10 per family.

MORE INFO: RSVP to Temple Torat Yisrael by Dec. 30, 785-1800

"My Dreams for the Future"

Congregant Tonya Glantz, a third-year doctoral candidate, will talk

instance, for the issue dated Jan. 23, items will need to be received by Jan. 12. Please send all potential items to voiceherald@jfri.org, with the subject line, Calendar Item. Space limitations and editorial considerations may limit what items are included.

about child welfare and education.

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

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

SUNDAY

January 4

Lithuanian Records

One of the largest databases compiled in recent years is the All-Lithuania Database, containing more than 500,000 records of Litvak ancestors. Presented by Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

WHERE: Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward St., Newton, Mass.

WHEN: 1:30 - 4 p.m.

COST: free for members and \$5 for non-members.

MORE INFO: (617) 796-8522

TUESDAY

January 6

Statehouse Prayer Vigil

Interfaith public prayer vigil in the Rotunda to encourage state's elected officials to create budget that will not come at the expense of those in need.

WHEN: 3 p.m.

WHERE: Statehouse Rotunda

MORE INFO: kclarkson@jfri.org

Early Rabbis and the Church Fathers

First in a series of six seminars on Tuesdays led by Rabbi Stein,

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston.

WHEN: 10 - 11 a.m. and 8-9 p.m.

COST: \$10 for Temple Sinai members and \$20 for non-members.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

THURSDAY

January 8

Global Warming Conference

Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light, a network of faith groups and individuals, will convene "Faith Lights Our Way" to develop a religious community response to climate change.

WHERE: LaSalle Academy, 612 Academy Ave., Providence

WHEN: 5 - 9:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 338-3916 to RSVP, pre-register at www.riipl.org/pre_register.htm.

Bereavement Group

The Hug N'hamah (Circle of Consolation) is facilitated by Dr. Judith Lubiner and Rabbi Amy Levin.

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

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 785-1800

FRIDAY

January 9

Yiddish Schmooz

Adults gather to speak Yiddish

WHEN: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: 862-8800, ext.108

SATURDAY

January 10

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.

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

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: 463-7944

MONDAY

January 12

Cope with Winter Blues

JSA's Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island hosts "drop-in" hours, with topic: "How to deal with the winter blues."

WHERE: Bright View Commons 57A Grandville Ct. Wakefield

See CALENDAR, Page 27

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Photo courtesy of Camp JORI

ON ISRAEL DAY, there's a bumper crop of vegetables at Camp JORI.

Camp JORI: Where summertime is fun

*A time to make new
friends, build skills,
explore Jewish values*

BY RONNI SALTZMAN
GUTTIN

Special to The Voice & Herald

IT'S SUMMERTIME,
and the living is easy
— even when you are
working on your back-
hand swing, training for the
next swim meet, preparing
for the end-of-session play, or
paddling to the island in the
middle of Worden's Pond.
Summertime is also a

time for building skills,
making new friends, and
exploring Jewish values.

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they plan for summer as
soon as school begins.

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abroad placement in Israel
around the camp calendar.

One camper is negotiating

with her parents to attend
camp all summer and skip
a long family vacation.

As Sophie, a 14-year-old
camper says best, you know
you are a JORI camper when:

- You can take a three-minute shower
- You love Ira's Chelm stories
- Blue and White are teams, not colors
- You cry when you hear your cabin song
- Your best jewelry is last summer's friendship bracelets
- You start counting down for camp in December

See JORI, Page 29

Seven things I love about Camp JORI

BY MIRA DOV COFFEY
Special to The Voice & Herald

LAST SUMMER,
I went to a Jewish
camp called Camp
JORI. There's a lot that I
like about camp, but what I
really like about going to a
Jewish camp is that at school
no one knows you're Jewish,
and when you tell them, they
sometimes act like they never
met a Jewish person before.

At Camp JORI, everyone is
Jewish and it feels great to see
there are a lot of Jews out there.

Also, it's great because you
celebrate Shabbat and the food
is kosher (and really good).

There are also some Israeli
counselors who are awesome
and they teach you stuff like
Israeli dancing and a game
called Gaga.

There is not one bad thing
about Camp JORI (well,
maybe the heat, but you get
used to it).

Seven things I love about
Camp JORI:

1. Olympics. That is when
you get into two groups (blue
and white) and play games
against each other.
2. The counselors. They are



FIFTH-GRADER Mira Dov Coffey

really nice and always make
sure you are happy.

3. How the counselors and
other camp staff surprise you.
They always think of super-
smart ways to surprise you, so
be careful!

4. Cookie raids. You sneak
into the kitchen and try to steal
the cookies that Bruce (the
main chef) made — without
getting caught.

5. All of the activities they
have. Always fun.

6. Overnights. You sleep over
night in the forest behind the
archery field.

7. Everything! Everything
you do at camp is fun.

If you want to know more,
e-mail my mom at silvercof-
fey@aol.com, or go to the
Camp JORI web site at www.
campjori.com.

Mira Coffey is a fifth-grader
at Camel's Hump Middle School
in Richmond. Last summer, she
spent four weeks at Camp JORI,
a non-affiliated Jewish over-
night camp in Wakefield. Her
tuition was partially covered by
a generous scholarship from the
Greenberg-Lopkin Jewish Camp
Scholarship Fund. She's already
signed up for this coming summer.



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Camp Ramah: One big Jewish community

Providence couple fell in love at Camp Ramah

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

OUR CAMP bunk-mates and camp experiences, for better or worse, may simply be distant memories, but not for Ivy and Daniel (Toby) Marwil, who met in 1970 at Camp Ramah, the camping arm of Conservative Judaism, and have been together ever since.

Before Ivy, a 17-year-old from Philadelphia, and Toby, an 18-year old from Detroit, arrived to work at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, they had each attended Camp Ramah (though at different sites) for several years and had friends in common.

Now a developmental pediatrician and a part-time cantor, Toby described that first meeting: "It was the first night of pre-camp (before the campers arrive, the counselors come to get everything set up and ready) and Ivy arrived during Shabbat services - her plane had been delayed. There was this buzz, 'Ivy's here, Ivy's here.'"

He pushed through the crowd of people around her, as if parting the waters, so he could see - and meet - Ivy. "When I saw her for the

first time, I was stunned by her beauty - she had amazing eyes. I was instantaneously smitten," he said.

In contrast, Ivy, now a psychotherapist, was focusing on other issues, as she intended to make *aliyah* that fall and was scheduled to begin her freshman year at Hebrew University. Their photo album, which they pulled out to show me, contained her one-way ticket to Israel. "I was excited to meet him," said Ivy, "but my head was in a different place. Even though I liked him, I thought to myself, 'why get involved?'"

Their first date, on their counselors' night off, was at a restaurant in the nearby town of Eagle River. At the end of the summer, they said their goodbyes, but Toby hitchhiked (Kids, don't try this today - life was different in the 1970s.) from Michigan to Philadelphia before Ivy left for Israel. He wrote her every day, said



Photo by Nancy Kirsch
CAMP MEMORIES keep Toby and Ivy Marwil smiling, years after their Camp Ramah experiences.

Ivy, who still has many, if not all, of those aerogramme missives. (Kids, this was before e-mail, cell phones, Face-

States, got married and finished their undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan.

When they married, both

Israel during the Christmas holidays as a sophomore at the University of Michigan, and Ivy visited him when she came home for Pesach. Toby attended Hebrew University for his junior year abroad, and then they returned to the United

States, got married and finished their undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan.

When they married, both sets of parents worried that the young couple was, well, too young. There was a family history of youthful brides - Toby's mom married at age 18 and Ivy's mom married at age 20, but as Toby said, "Now (as a parent), I understand. I had no prospects and I was young. I wouldn't want my child to marry someone like me."

Whether their relationship would have blossomed if they had met, say at college, is anyone's guess, but Ivy firmly believes that camp relationships are a great way to get to know someone. The most important part is friendship, and camp offers an organic way to meet and develop friendships; it's a much more natural environment, she said.

The coeducational and educational aspects of Camp Ramah allow boys and girls to do so much together, said Toby. Campers bonded in so many ways, even through the less-desirable experiences, such as the daily 90 minute classes they had. Then, all conversations were held in Hebrew - cleanup, sports, everything - so we all gained huge vocabularies, said Toby. For Ivy, Camp Ramah offered an incredible community. When she first attended Camp Ramah, as a 9-year-old, she didn't know the *motzi* or other prayers, she said. "I loved that we were one big community... in the dining hall, the social hall, the Friday afternoon preparation for Shabbat was so peaceful. We'd all be dressed in white clothing for Shabbat. The tree of prayer surrounded by benches... I loved it all."

The Jewish geography connections are strong: long

See RAMAH, Page 29

"I loved that we were one big community... in the dining hall, the social hall, the Friday afternoon preparation for Shabbat was so peaceful."

Ivy Marwil

book, so letter-writing was the primary method of long-distance communication.)

Toby took three part-time jobs to earn money to visit Ivy in

and Ivy's mom married at age 20, but as Toby said, "Now (as a parent), I understand. I had no prospects and I was young. I wouldn't want my child to

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For Seltzers, it was family tradition

CAMP RAMAH was a family affair for Rabbi Joel and Eliana Seltzer, who met at the Camp Ramah in the Poconos when they were six and five years old, respectively.

Both sets of their parents worked at the camp, so these younger-than-typical campers participated in programs during the day and, at night, stayed in their parents' cabins.

Eliana had a crush on Joel when she was 12, and he, 13; Joel had a crush on Eliana when he was 16; though they didn't become serious until they worked at Camp Ramah after Joel's freshman year in college.

"I knew she was the one, but it took a year of convincing," he said in a phone interview. Their long-distance relationship during college years was bolstered by their two months together each summer at Camp Ramah.

The magic of Ramah, he said, is that it is a full experience. "It's not Hebrew school for two hours during the week or on Sunday, it's not Shabbat services, it's an all-encompassing experience. It's an incredible experience, where Judaism is taken very seriously. What other camp has two classes each day?"



ELIANA AND JOEL SELTZER at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, where they first met.

Photo courtesy of Eliana and Joel Seltzer

Some people hear about the Hebrew and text study and think, 'Are you crazy?' Not everyone

cantors and, even more important, an army of lay leaders."

Seltzer added, "The friends I made at Camp Ramah are still some of my best friends. Each Camp Ramah has its own culture and personality and every 'Ramahnik' thinks his or her Camp Ramah is the best. There's a lot of territoriality about it, but in a proud way."

With his (and Eliana's) roots firmly grounded in

Camp Ramah in the Poconos, Seltzer closed his comments with a question and an eye toward the future: "What will happen down the road and, God willing, we have kids. Do we send them to Camp Ramah in Palmer?"

— Nancy Kirsch

"The magic of Ramah is its full experience. It's not Hebrew school, it's not Shabbat services, it's an all-encompassing experience. It's an incredible experience, where Judaism is taken very seriously."

loves that part of it, but it's an important part of the experience.

Seltzer is delighted to see how the Ramah experience is transforming synagogues. "In the last 20 or 30 years, 'Ramahniks' are pushing concepts of lay leadership and ownership in services. Ramah has helped train a generation of rabbis,



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Photo from the Fred Kelman Collection at the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

THE HAWKS, a group of 7-year-olds, play "Callie's Up." From left, Sheldon Birenbaum, Stephen Potemkin, Irving Max, Kenneth Steiner, Freddie White, and Stuart Yorlas.



Photo courtesy of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

ON THE SWINGS at Camptown in 1951. Do you recognize any of the campers?



Photo courtesy of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

IN THE POND at Camptown in 1951.



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Indulge your sweet tooth: it's Hanukkah

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

Hanukkah comes but once a year, so go ahead...indulge, even though fried foods and chocolate are not the healthiest choices. Enjoy these Hanukkah treats - something other than latkes to eat - while you're basking in the reflection and warmth of your lit *hanukkiyah*.

**PINEAPPLE FRITTERS
À LA CÉLESTINE**

Ingredients:

2 large pineapples, peeled, cored and thickly sliced
superfine granulated sugar, for dredging and sprinkling
1/4 cup Kirsch (a cherry-flavored liquor, sometimes called Kirschwasser)

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup warm water
7/8 cup beer

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 tablespoon brandy
pinch of salt

2 egg whites, whisked
apricot jam, for spreading
vegetable oil, for deep-frying

Method:

Dredge the pineapple with sugar, and then sprinkle generously with the Kirsch. Let steep for 30 to 40 minutes.

Sift the flour and mix with the water, beer, oil, brandy and salt to make a batter.

Dry the pineapple slices on paper towels, and then coat slices with a thin layer of apricot jam.

While the oil is heating, fold the whisked egg whites into the batter.

Take the fruit and batter to the stove. When the oil is hot (350 degrees), dip the pineapple slices into the batter, and then fry until golden brown on both sides.

Serve hot, sprinkled with sugar, if desired.

Hanukkah treats: not-so-healthy, but oh-so-delicious

Serves 6 to 8

From The Jewish Kitchen: Recipes and Stories from Around the World, by Clarissa Hyman, and published by Interlink Books.

CHOCOLATE BABKA

According to the cookbook notes, 'babka' literally means 'little grandmother's bread.'

Ingredients:

4 and 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons warm water
3/4 ounce active dried yeast, reconstituted in half the warm water, or 1 and 1/2 ounces fresh yeast

1/2 cup vegetable oil
2/3 cup sugar

3 tablespoons baking cocoa powder

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons hot chocolate mix

3 tablespoons sugar

8 table-
spoons

raisins

1-2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Method:

Mix the flour, yeast, remaining water, oil and sugar. Knead well, cover with a clean dish towel and let stand in a warm place for 1 to 2 hours, until well risen.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Grease a baking sheet or line it with parchment paper.

Mix the cocoa powder, hot chocolate mix, sugar and raisins.

Punch down the dough and knead again. Roll out into a square about 12 to 16 inches wide. Cover with the cocoa mixture and sprinkle with a little oil. Roll up like a jelly roll (you can bring the ends together to make a ring, if you choose) and bake for 45 minutes.

The bottom of the cake should sound hollow when tapped. Let stand five

minutes on the baking sheet, then turn onto a wire rack to cool.
Makes one 12- to-16 inch roll.

**SOUFGANIYOT
- ISRAELI
HANUKKAH
JELLY**

DOUGHNUTS
Ingredients:

1 package dry yeast
3 table-
spoons sugar
1/4 cup lukewarm water
3 and 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour, approximate
1/2 cup

lukewarm milk
1 large egg
1 large egg yolk

pinch of salt
grated zest of 1 lemon
3 and 1/2 tablespoons butter,
at room temperature

vegetable oil for deep-frying
apricot jam, about 1/2 cup
Confectioners' or granulated sugar for rolling

Method:

Dissolve the yeast and 1 tablespoon of the sugar in the water. Let sit for 10 minutes.

Put the flour in the bowl of a food processor equipped with a steel blade. Add the dissolved yeast, milk, whole egg yolk, salt, lemon zest, and the remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Process until blended. Add the butter and process until the dough becomes sticky, yet elastic.

Remove the dough to a bowl, cover, and let rise in a warm place for at least an hour. If you want to prepare it ahead, place the dough in the refrigerator overnight, and then let it warm to room temper-

ature before rolling and cutting.

Dust a pastry board with flour. Roll the dough out to a 1/2 inch thickness. Using the top of a glass, cut into rounds about 2 inches in diameter and roll these into balls. Cover and let rise 30 minutes more.

Pour 2 inches of oil into a heavy pot and heat to 375 degrees.

Drop the doughnuts into the oil, 4 or 5 at a time. Cook about 3 minutes on each side, turning when brown. Drain on paper towels. Using an injector (available at cooking stores) insert a teaspoon of jam into each doughnut, or use a turkey baster, first softening the jam in a food processor. Cut a slit halfway into the doughnut, then put the turkey baster into the slit and squeeze out the jam. Roll the *soufganiyot* in confectioners' or granulated sugar and serve immediately.

Makes about 24 doughnuts.

From The Foods of Israel Today, by Joan Nathan, and published by Alfred A. Knopf.

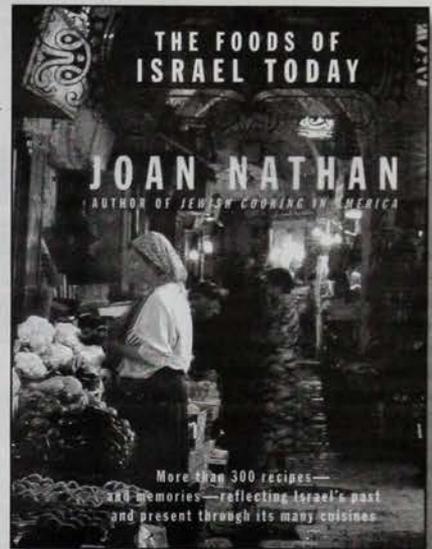


Photo from The Jewish Kitchen: Recipes and Stories from Around the World

PINEAPPLE FRITTERS À LA CÉLESTINE is an atypical, but tasty, Hanukkah dessert

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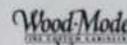


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REAL ESTATE INSIGHT

Two-and three-family houses – the perfect first home

Many first-time buyers are scooping up multi-family residences

EVEN DURING a recession, real estate continues to be an excellent investment over one's lifetime. It's difficult for anyone to predict either the highest or lowest point in the market.



Sally Lapides

If you are a first-time homebuyer, a multi-family unit is one of the options that you may want to consider. My grandparents and parents started their adult lives in a two-family house. I started with a six-unit

building for my first home. I had five people paying me monthly rent and I lived in the building for free. I enjoyed a substantial appreciation during the three years I lived there. It allowed me to buy my first single-family house for my second home purchase.

Statewide, there are 1,359 multi-unit homes currently on the market. Most cities and towns in Rhode Island have diversity in the housing stock in their communities.

In a recent conversation with my friend, Steve Tetzner from Homestar Mortgage, we defined some of the reasons for first-time buyers to buy a multi-family house.

- Rental income can help a buyer qualify and pay a mortgage. It can be such a huge relief when everyone is so inse-

cure with money to receive a rent check from your tenant to defray the costs of owning the house.

- First-time buyers can put



"A multi-family unit as a first home can be a great stepping-stone to building a real estate portfolio."

as little as 3 percent down on the purchase of a multi-family house. There are great programs for first-time buyers that

allow the buyer to enter the market with very little money down and a low fixed interest rate. There is money available for residential mortgages today despite any rumors that it has dried up.

Rehab loans with 3 percent down are available to purchase bank-owned or foreclosed properties. The borrower can borrow 97 percent of purchase price plus improvements.

Generally speaking, foreclosed properties can be stripped of some of the items that we take for granted as being included when we purchase a non-foreclosed property. Recently, I have seen homes stripped of their copper plumbing, kitchen cabinets, bathroom fixtures and heating systems. This kind of program can provide the buyer with money to renovate in these circumstances.

Ownership of a multi-unit allows you to deduct a percentage of improvements, maintenance and depreciation on your tax return which is not allowed on a single-family home.

One of the biggest reasons to buy a multi-family unit as a first home is that it can be a great stepping-stone to building a real estate portfolio. After you occupy the property, you can use the future equity to buy more and keep the current property as a rental.

The prices are making financial sense today to consider multi-unit ownership opportunities. If your job is secure and you are ready to think about home-ownership, this is a great time to take advantage of buying before the market begins to go up again.

Sally Lapides can be reached at slapides@residentialproperties.com.

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Photo courtesy of NEAT

MOCK TRIAL STUDENTS from New England Academy of Torah return victorious from their first mock trial; the school's team placed third in Rhode Island a few years ago. Pictured, left to right: Tova Gerber, Adina Schechtman, Chani Diamond, Estee Saklad, Slavy Mandel, and Ruchama Diamond.

Holocaust Education Center seeks award nominees

By HOLOCAUST EDUCATION & RESOURCE CENTER OF RI
Special to The Voice & Herald

THE NEVER AGAIN Award is given annually at the community Yom H'Shoah program to the volunteer or volunteers whose activities have made a significant contribution to the mission of the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island.

The mission of the Holocaust Education Center is to teach the history of the Holocaust to promote human dignity and justice, and to serve as a memorial to its victims.

To nominate an individual or for more information, please call the Holocaust Education Center at 453-7860 or email mzeidman@hercri.org. The deadline to submit a nomination is Feb. 17, 2009.

Girl Scout troop, Jewish agencies collaborate on tzedekah

Struggling families' holidays a bit brighter this year

By LILLIE GUTOFF
Special to The Voice & Herald

OUR TROOP, Girl Scout Troop 81 of Providence, wanted to make life a little bit brighter for low-income families during this difficult economy. We designed and carried out a gift-giving project as part of our work towards the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

We painted two gift boards, created posters and decorating boxes to display at the Providence JCC. Our troop leaders Laura Silberfarb, Pam Vogel, Karen Rasnick and Amy McGowan worked with Stephanie Rosen at the Jewish Family Service and Darlene Desroches at the JCC to gather information from the families about their gift wishes. A total of 18 families, almost all headed by single parents,

were chosen to receive gifts.

We set up two displays at the JCC, where Darlene was an invaluable help in coordinating the holiday gift drive. On the gift boards, we painted many bright stars with the gift recipient's gender, and what he or she wanted. Gifts were then bought and put into the boxes for wrapping and delivery.

We wrapped the presents at

the Shirlala concert and the JCC Hanukkah party. We paid for the materials and gift wrapping and many Girl Scout families also bought gifts. We had a good time wrapping and distributing more than 50 presents and knowing we made a positive impact. We want to thank everyone who was kind enough to participate in the gift drive.



Photo courtesy of Girl Scout Troop 81

Left to right, front row: Nicole Wilner, Rebecca Silberfarb, Hannah Feinstein, Maxine Rasnick; middle: Sylvie Barry, Schneider, Lillie Guttoff, Nili Levine, Amy Vogel, Katrina Claffin, Talia Bessler; and back row: Karen Rasnick, Pam Vogel, Amy McGowan, Laura Silberfarb display their wrapped gifts at the JCC.

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Photo courtesy of PJ Library

A LITTLE 'LIGHT READING' FOR RABBI PETER STEIN

RABBI PETER STEIN of Temple Sinai in Cranston reads the PJ Library Book, *The Only One Club*, as part of the PJ Library events at Barnes & Noble on Dec. 10.

SHIRLALA BRIGHTENS OUR WORLD

THE GERTSACOV FAMILY: Marc, Susan, and Anna (brother Jackson was not in the picture) pose with Shira Kline following her Shirlala Hanukkah concert at the JCC on Dec. 11. More than 200 people enjoyed this outrageously hip concert which was sponsored by the Alan and Keral Gertsacov Memorial Fund.



Photo courtesy of JERI

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION FOR SENIORS

JEWISH NURSING HOME and assisted living residents enjoyed festive Hanukkah celebrations led by the staff of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency. Michele Keir, of JERI, holds a menorah with Bethany Home of RI residents, left to right: Rose Portney, Lorraine Porter and Larissa Reider.

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Photo courtesy of PJ Library

MUSIC AND DANCE ENERGIZES TODDLERS

THE YOUNG CROWD enjoys the PJ Library music entertainment at Barnes & Noble on Dec. 10.

Academic scholarships available from HIAS

NEW YORK – The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) is currently inviting applications for its 2009 scholarship competition. HIAS-assisted refugees who immigrated to the United States after Jan. 1, 1992 are eligible to apply; high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education and students of all ages already enrolled in college, professional, vocational, university or graduate school programs are those who can submit applications.

All applicants must demonstrate at least one year's attendance in an American high school (12th graders only), college, or graduate school. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic excellence, financial need, and community service. The HIAS scholarship program has been helping HIAS-assisted immigrants pursue higher education since 1974. Last year, awards were given to 131 students in the United States. The U.S. scholar-

ship amount awarded this year will be \$2,000 per student. Applications are available online only. Eligibility requirements and the application form can be found at www.hias.org/scholarships. The online application must be submitted by midnight EST on February 24, 2009. HIAS also awards scholarships in Israel.

For more information about the scholarship program, visit www.hias.org.

Winning art work will take to the skies

By **BABAGANEWZ.COM**
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

IN A CONTEST designed to make spirits soar, students in grades 4 – 7 are invited to create a logo for one of Nefesh B'Nefesh's *aliyah* planes. One grand prize winner will be selected to have his/her design reproduced on a Nefesh B'Nefesh plane and will receive roundtrip airfare and accommodations for two for a three night, four day trip to Israel in the summer of 2009. This winner will also have his/her work posted on *BabagaNewz.com* and announced on NefeshB'Nefesh.com. Three runners-up will also have their art work published and each will receive a gift pack from *BabagaNewz.com*.

The contest, which is currently underway and open to students in the U.S. and Canada, except where prohibited, ends at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5. Complete rules and the official entry form (to be signed by parents) may be downloaded at *BabagaNewz.com/destinationisrael*.

com/destinationisrael.

BabagaNewz.com, an educational website for Jewish middle-schoolers and their teachers, is teaming up with Nefesh B'Nefesh, the organization that is revitalizing *aliyah* from North America and the United Kingdom.

All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges whose decisions are final. No purchase is necessary. Schools are encouraged to submit groups of individual entries, one per person.

"The *BabagaNewz* team is very excited to engage Jewish students from across the country and get them to express their connection to Israel in a creative way," said *BabagaNewz.com* Web Editor Sara Marx. "We are happy to be working with Nefesh B'Nefesh to offer this contest and are excited to see what students come up with."

Contest updates and winners will be posted on *BabagaNewz.com/destinationisrael* and on NefeshB'Nefesh.com.



Photo courtesy of Temple Sinai

STUDENTS COMPETE in the electronic game of "Jeopardy" testing their knowledge of environmental issues.

Sinai students are earth's guardians

By **LEONORE SONES**
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

AT TEMPLE SINAI, the religious school teachers, students and parents are following God's commandments to Adam: "Till the land and to guard it," by serving as guardians of the earth.

Students in fourth through seventh grades and their families, with teachers and the Confirmation class, on a scavenger hunt to evaluate how they could conserve more energy at the synagogue to reduce carbon emissions and global warming. Each family's eco-scavenger

hunt booklet said: "Just as the oil fueled the Temple's Menorah for eight days, we have the chance to be modern Maccabees, ensuring that our energy lasts as long as possible." Some of the challenges posed: Did you know that you can prevent the emission of 1100 pounds of carbon dioxide by lowering your thermostat by three degrees in the winter? List four things in the temple (other than light bulbs) that use electricity.

After the scavenger hunt, they played an electronic game of "Jeopardy" that tested their knowledge of environmental issues.

Cranston Senior Guild to meet

CRANSTON – The Cranston Senior Guild will hold its first meeting of 2009 on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 1 p.m. at

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Dorothy and Judah Rosen will host a raffle and refreshments will follow.

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PJ Library Calendar

THURSDAY

January 8

BOOK CLUB

Jewish Community Day School
Rhode Island
85 Taft Ave., Providence
3:30- 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

January 10

TOT SHABBAT

Temple Am David
40 Gardiner St., Cranston

10:30- 11:30 a.m.

TUESDAY,

January 13

STORY TIME

Temple Emanu-El
99 Taft Ave., Providence
10-11 a.m.

THURSDAY

January 15

STORY TIME

PJ Library & Temple Habonim
partner with Barrington Books
184 Country Rd., Barrington
6:30- 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

January 16

SHABBAT STORY TIME

Temple Beth-El
70 Orchard Ave. Providence
3:30-4:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of BJE

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN participate in story telling at PJ Library Book Fair at Barnes & Noble on Dec. 10. More than 450 people from the Jewish community attended, and PJ Library earned about \$900 as a result of sales.

HOMETOWN: Growing up in a nitty-gritty city

From Page 7

The family included his older brother, George, and his late sister, Marilynne, "who succumbed to lung cancer," he says, as well as a younger sibling who died in childhood.

A Fall River physician, Dr. David Greer, now a dean emeritus of Brown Medical School, was instrumental in his career choice. He let the young Tom Graboys, as a teenager of 15 and 16, "round" with him at Truesdale Hospital. "I was drawing blood at 16," he says. "You could never do that today."

These hands-on experiences and his admiration for Dr. Greer, with whom he ran, led

him to pursue medicine. He attended Cornell University, where he met his first wife, Caroline, and then went on to New York Medical College.

His wife passed away 10 years ago, from colon cancer, and left him "bereft." The couple's two daughters are grown and now watch over their father like hawks. His grandsons are his greatest joys, although he rues they never knew the real Tom.

Dr. Graboys has been a clinical professor of medicine and attending cardiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Lown Cardiovascular Center and Harvard Medical School.

In addition to his prestigious academic and clinical posi-

tions, he became well-known in Boston athletic circles when he was part of the "dream team" of cardiologists who correctly diagnosed Boston Celtic forward Reggie Lewis with a structural heart defect that ultimately led to his death.

Dr. Graboys was also actively involved in the anti-nuclear movement, and served on the advisory board of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a group which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, and which included Dr. Greer and Dr. Bernard Lown; he has worked with the latter for three decades and was his heir apparent until his illness forced him to retire.

GOLAN: No good reason to give it back

From Page 7

opportunity to do so in 2006. However, an incompetent and indecisive Israeli government lost that opportunity.

SEPARATE SYRIA FROM IRAN?

The second reason stated by Ambassador Ross was the need to separate Syria from Iran. What is the benefit compared to the price to pay?

Both Iran and Syria are under U.N. investigation: Syria, because of the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister

Hariri; and Iran, because of its nuclear activities. Both states are on the list of countries supporting terrorism and under international sanctions. Both states have tensions with the rest of the Arab countries, and both have American troops on their borders. Both are pariah states that are considered outcasts by the international community. Why should Israel reward one of them and ease their conditions?

All over Israel you see bumper stickers, posters and even banners hanging from

apartment balconies declaring in Hebrew: "Ha'am im HaGolan" (the people with the Golan). The slogan opposes any deals with Syria that might involve giving back any part of the Golan region.

Opinion polls show that only 5 percent of Israelis say they are willing to return Golan in its entirety, but a majority would be prepared to let Syria have some of the territory.

Vladimir Pyatov lives in Warwick.

DEPRESSION: Community, commerce went on

From Page 12

widely rendered. The large department stores became deserted, many mom-and-pop stores were bereft of customers but the public streets then became entrepreneurial malls where a creative commercialism flourished — with no rents demanded, but no guarantee either of rain-free

shopping days. Poverty, while still pervasive, became the parent of imaginative salesmanship.

Jules Feiffer, in contemplating Brooklyn's poverty, wrote the following: "I used to think that I was poor, I was needy. Then they told me it was self-defeating to think of myself as needy, I was deprived. Then they told me deprived was a bad

image; I was underprivileged. Then they told me underprivileged was overused; I was disadvantaged. I still didn't have a dime but I sure have a great vocabulary."

Stanley Avonson, a retired physician, can be reached at imamd@cox.net.

AUTHOR: Blending fact with fiction in *Nov. 22, 1963*

From Page 3

ing on something else?

Braver: I do have to stop and take a break between books.

I enjoy teaching creative writing at Roger Williams University. I work with PEN American Center, a human rights organization for writers and journalists, that advocates for writers imprisoned for their political writings.

In a semester-long project, undergraduates develop a dossier of information on a particular writer to present to the Pen American Center.

This year, we're working on the case of a young Egyptian student imprisoned for blogging about the government. They get really invested in the effort, when they realize that human beings,

doing what they hope to do with their lives (writing and publishing) are sitting in jail for expressing their views.

Perhaps my desire to help others comes from the Jewish sensibilities I had growing up — I do feel a sense of responsibility to the rest of the world and I think that comes from my Jewish upbringing about service to your community. If I have the freedom to do what I am doing, I have the responsibility to make a contribution to help others.

Braver lives in Rhode Island with his family. He is the author of four books.

*More information, including a video interview with Braver about writing *November 22, 1963*, is available at www.adambraver.com.*

Jewish Community Calendar

From Page 13

WHEN: 1-2:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 621-5374

MONDAY

January 12

Shalom Baby Knitting Event
Join with Women's Alliance Community Service Committee to knit baby blankets.

WHERE: Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence

WHEN: 10 a.m. - noon

MORE INFO: 421-4111, ext. 163

WEDNESDAY

January 14

Israel Helps To Conquer AIDS
Professor Michael L. Aikan, M.D.,

will speak

WHEN: 7 p.m., reception to follow

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: kclarkson@jfri.org

SUNDAY

January 25

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo

Temple Sinai presents "Celebrations 2009 — A Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo." Free; vendors include D.J.s, florists, caterers, event planners, and photographers.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Freda Dworkis, 94

PROVIDENCE — Freda Dworkis, a lifelong Providence resident, died Dec. 4, at Orchard View Manor in East Providence.

She was the wife of the late Myles Dworkis and the daughter of the late Max and Sara (Sentilwitz) Wexler. She was the mother of Leonard Dworkis of Ocoee, Fla., and Phyllis Rabb of Boca Raton, Fla., the grandmother of five and the great-grandmother of four. She was the youngest of five siblings who predeceased her.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Make a Wish Foundation of R.I., 757 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02910.

Isabelle Fisher-Gerzog, 92

DUNEDIN, Fla. — Isabelle C. (Plante) Fisher-Gerzog died on Dec. 9.

She was the widow of Kent Fisher and Samuel Gerzog. Born Jan. 17, 1916, in Cranston, she was the daughter of Amos J. and Clarina (Dionne) Plante. She leaves a son, Philip A. Gerzog, of Florida and a daughter, Marsha Silverman, of California; and two brothers, Norman Plante of Cape Cod, Mass., and Charles Plante of Rumford. She also leaves five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Hospice Foundation of the Florida Suncoast, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, Fla. 33760.

Samuel S. Israeloff, 59

PROVIDENCE — Samuel S. Israeloff died Nov. 23 in Hillside, Ill. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Milton and Ruth (Shaulson) Israeloff, and had worked in South Florida for 30 years as a yacht broker.

He was a Marine, and served stateside during the Vietnam War, and had worked

as a national radio news correspondent for Metromedia News.

He was the father of Jackie Anglin and her husband Michael, of Clarendon Hills, Ill., and Tracy Gordon of Germantown, Md.; the brother of James Israeloff and his wife Bonnie, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; the grandfather of Madeline, Matthew and Conor Anglin; nephew of Gerald Shaulson of Cranston; and cousin of many.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, Ill. 60018 or www.abta.org.

Robert M. Miller, 85

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — Robert M. Miller, of Boynton Beach, Fla., died Nov. 23, at home. He was the husband of the late Esther (Lubin) Miller. Born in Providence, a son of the late Joseph and Margaret (Phenes) Miller, he had lived in Boynton Beach for 21 years and had previously lived in Warwick and Cranston.

He was the owner of L&M Cars, Inc. in Warwick for 22 years, retiring 16 years ago.

He was a World War II Navy veteran, serving in Europe. He was a member of Metacommet Country Club and Potowomut Golf Club in Rhode Island and Palm Beach National Country Club in Florida.

He was the father of Jeffrey R. Miller of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Donna L. Snyder of Smithfield and the late Steven L. Miller; the brother of the late Arlene Salzberg; and grandfather of Kristen and Adam. He was the companion of Helen Schwartzzenberg of Boynton Beach, Fla.

Contributions may be made to Home & Hospice Care of R.I., 169 George St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860.

Leonard Snow, 77

WARWICK — Leonard Snow,

Obituaries

of 22 Glenbrook Rd., died Dec. 15, at Rhode Island Hospital.

He was the husband of the late Gloria (Goldman) Snow. Born in Providence, a son of the late Max and Esther (Sandler) Snow, he had lived in Warwick for 50 years.

He was in the auto industry for 60 years.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean Conflict stationed in Italy. Father of Susan Snow of Warwick and Elaine Sawyer of Phoenix, Ariz. Brother of Abraham Snow of Cranston and the late Israel Snow and Raye Solomon.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 275 Westminster St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

Ruth Wagner, 81

PROVIDENCE — Ruth Formal Wagner, of Greenwich Farms, Warwick, died Dec. 16, at West Shore Health Center, Warwick. She was the wife of the late Herbert Wagner and Salek Formal.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Jacob and Inez (Simons) Formal, she had lived in Providence most of her life before moving to Warwick two years ago. She was the owner of North Main Shoe Company for 20 years until her retirement in 1985. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood, Hadassah and Miriam Hospital Women's Association.

She was a past treasurer of the former Women's Assoc. of the Jewish Home for the Aged, past president of the Mothers' Association at Temple Am David and a past president of the Providence PTA.

Mother of Sidney Formal of McLean, Va., Jacqueline Konicov of Cranston and Marilyn Formal of N.C., stepmother of Harvey A. Wagner of Warwick, Joan Tebrow of West Warwick and Mayda Abrams of Katona, N.Y. Grandmother of 18, and great-grandmother of four.

Contributions in her

memory may be made to your favorite charity.

Joel Zarum, 76

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Joel Zarum, formerly of Warwick, died Dec. 4 at home.

He was the husband of Marjorie (Mayerson) Zarum. He was the father of Michael Zarum of Newton, Mass., and Warwick, and Ella Zarum Walker and her husband Kit of Olema, Calif.; brother of Dorothy (Zarum) and Richard Bookbinder of Boca Raton, Fla.; uncle of Jeffrey, Bruce and Edward Bookbinder,

their spouses and children, and many other relatives and friends.

Born in Portland, Maine, he was the son of the late Edward and Lillian S. (Wainer) Zarum. Before retiring to Punta Gorda, he was a vice president of Ross-Simons, Inc. He was a board member of Temple Beth-El in Northport, Fla., and a past president of its Men's Club. He attended the University of Rhode Island.

Contributions may be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at www.leukemia.org.

FRAUD: Stealing money

the fiduciary responsibility of acting with great prudence, it is even more tragic."

According to a fund-raiser who has been scouring recent 990 tax filings to see how this might affect his non-profit, several other major philanthropists have put money in Madoff's hands: As of the end of 2007, Sandy Gottesman had \$20 million of his foundation's \$144 million invested with Madoff and Robert Beren had two foundations with more than that in endowments invested with Ascot. U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) says his foundation has about \$15 million invested with Madoff.

Yeshiva University issued a statement via e-mail to JTA.

"We are shocked at this revelation," the university said. "Bernard Madoff has tendered his resignation from all positions affiliated with the university and involvement with the university. Our lawyers and accountants are investigating all aspects

of his relationship to Yeshiva University. We reserve our comments until we complete our investigation."

Associate editor Nancy Kirsch contributed to this story.

Technion loses \$72M

NEW YORK (JTA) — The American fund-raising arm of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology lost its \$29 million investment and tens of millions more in supposed profits through investing with Bernard Madoff, an organization spokesman told JTA. The American Technion Society lost its original investment with the fraudulent fund — plus \$43 million in gains it reinvested — for a net loss of \$72 million.

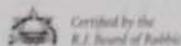
With the Madoff loss, the endowment is down to approximately \$200 million. The university itself lost 25 million shekels, about \$6.7 million, that it had invested with Madoff.

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Photos courtesy of Camp JORI

CAMPERS ALWAYS HAVE FUN at Camp JORI, whether mugging for the camera, left, or becoming "conehead" girls.

JORI: New ropes course planned for 2009

From Page 14

Anna, a veteran counselor, says you know you're a JORI staffer when:

- All of your CDs are marked, CJ mix 1, CJ mix 2, etc.

Recently, campers and staff joined together at the JORI annual reunion to reminisce about the summer of 2008 and make plans for camp during the summer of 2009.

Overheard were comments such as:

- "Do you remember when Michael hit that homerun? I'm going to hit further than that this summer."
- "The swim meet was awesome! I think Lisa said we got a total of 10 ribbons."
- "Services outdoors are more fun and the guitars and harmonicas sound good."

"I wonder what plays they are choosing for this summer...I can't wait to try out." The response to all of the JORI campers and staff waiting to hear the latest news is that planning for the summer of 2009 is already underway. A swim meet is already scheduled for each session of camp, dates have been chosen for inter-camp play

in basketball and soccer, research into available scripts is being done, and planned improvements for the ball field are on paper. New programming and improvements include a ropes course to be installed in the early spring, new equipment for the waterfront to make sailing on Worden's Pond more successful, and other surprises to come! While enrollment is

rolling in daily, there are still spaces available for the summer of 2009. Please contact Camp JORI at 463-3170, or e-mail campjori@hotmail.com. Registration is taking place online at www.campjori.com. Ronni Saltzman Guttin is the director of Camp JORI, the only Jewish camp in Rhode Island.

RAMAH: A place where memories – and relationships – live on

From Page 18

before Rabbi Wayne Franklin was a rabbi, he was Ivy's swim counselor at Camp Ramah in the Poconos.

"The saddest day of my life (each year) was the last day of summer camp," said Toby. "When I went back home, everything there was the same, but I felt so different and so changed (from the camp experience). Before Camp Ramah, I had followed Jewish rituals and practices because my parents did them," he said. "But camp internalized those experiences for me – we *lived* every morning at services. A really close friend and I would watch these incredible sunsets every

night. There was something about the environment and the space and the sunsets that was inspirational – the grandeur of God was so clear." For Ivy, Jewish camp is much more powerful than any other Jewish force, more than going to Israel or Jewish day school. "You're living it every day." That Camp Ramah community has lasted long past her days as a camper and camp counselor. Both Ivy and Toby have served on the board of directors of Camp Ramah in Palmer, Mass., and their sons, Noah and Zach, were campers and counselors there. Little wonder, then, that the Camp Ramah community

is responsible for more marriages than just theirs. In fact, Ivy recently discovered a site on the Camp Ramah web site www.campramah.org, inviting

couples who met as campers or counselors to "register their marriages" and share their Camp Ramah stories with the entire Camp Ramah community,

www.campramah.org/marriages/marriage_register.html

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 Worcester, MA - Feb. 1
 Boston, MA - Feb. 8
 New Haven, CT - Feb. 15
 Providence, RI - Apr. 5



Photo courtesy of Ivy and Toby Marwell

TOBY AND IVY at Camp Ramah in August 1970.

We are read everywhere

Where in the world will we go next?

Thailand

CHARLOTTE I. PENN shows her Voice & Herald during her three week visit in November with her son, Lewis (Larry) Goldenberg, at his home in Bangsaen, Thailand.



China

LYNN AND LAURENCE POHL, of Providence, traveled to China in the summer of 2008. Their travels took them to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. They visited the Shanghai Refugees Museum with their well-traveled copy of *The Voice & Herald*.



Gibraltar and Spain

On a recent trip to Gibraltar, ANN AND ED GROSSMAN of Narragansett, while reading *The Voice & Herald*, met one of the island's famed Barbary apes. The Grossmans, who also visited Seville, Spain, were surprised to learn that Gibraltar is home to 600 Jews and four synagogues.

We have now been to:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Africa: Tanzania, South Africa | Egypt: Luxor | Poland: Warsaw |
| Antarctica | England: London | Portugal: Lisbon |
| Argentina: Buenos Aires | France: Paris | Russia: Moscow |
| Armenia: Yerevan | Germany | Singapore |
| Austria: Vienna | Gibraltar | Scotland |
| Azores: Ponta Del Gada | Greece | Spain: Barcelona |
| Brazil | Hungary: Budapest | Taiwan |
| Cambodia: Angkor Wat | Iceland: Reykjavik | Thailand |
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| Croatia: Dubrovnik | Jordan | Thailand: Bangkok, Sukothai |
| Czech Republic: Prague | Laos | Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City |
| | Mongolia | Uzbekistan |
| | Mexico: Oaxaca | |
| | Nepal | |
| | Peru: Chiclayo | |

D'VAR TORAH

Joseph skillfully planned and prevented deprivation during famine

PARASHAT MIKETZ
GENESIS 41:1 - 44:17

This week's parashah reminds us how Joseph prevented, rather than reacted, to hunger and the lessons we can learn today.

By ADINA GERVER
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

JOSEPH is a visionary; a man with a powerful capacity for imagining a future entirely unlike the reality before him. He skillfully interprets Pharaoh's dreams: in cows and sheaves, he sees seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

It was the plan that Joseph presented, after all, that "pleased Pharaoh and all his courtiers."

What was so compelling about Joseph's plan? Joseph's proposal earned him the honorific "discerning and wise" because he went beyond promises to alleviate

hunger and famine; he managed to prevent it through careful planning, storing, and withholding from the Egyptians portions of their harvests during years of plenty.

Like all of us, Joseph faced a world that had the potential to feed all of its inhabitants, yet uneven food availability challenged its ability to do so.

The world today has enough food to feed itself, but unlike Egypt under Joseph's aegis, people starve from lack of thoughtful distribution.

Often, we find ourselves reacting to food shortages long after they wreak havoc on society. Joseph predicted and planned for famine, rather than turning a blind eye and then reacting to it after the fact. We must not only feed the hungry; like Joseph, we must avert starvation and famine, both to prevent tremendous human suffering and because it makes economic sense.

Although we may lack Joseph's dream interpretation skills, we need not lack his prognostic skills. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network uses information such as market prices of food and crop fail-

urized warnings. Indeed, analyst Edward Clay has found that "both government and donors...are unprepared to act on the warnings the systems deliver, until there are clear signs of distress amongst

the population. When that happens emergency actions can save lives, but at great cost."

Malawi provides an example of an even more proactive approach to avoiding starvation. Having suffered from famine for years, Malawi produced record crops in 2006 and 2007 by providing high-quality seeds and subsidized fertilizers to poor farmers. As a result, the prevalence of child hunger in Malawi has dropped, the country is now exporting crops to neighboring countries, food prices have fallen and farm workers' wages have risen.

When it comes to global

hunger, we must all be Josephs - imagining a world unlike the one before us. But dreaming is not enough. We must invest in early warning systems, respond to calls for help before full-fledged famine strikes, and help countries with poor soil find ways to be as self-sufficient as Egypt was during Joseph's day. Like Joseph, we must each take responsibility for seeing how much we need for ourselves during times of plenty, and how much we can give away to help build sustainability for those who face scarcity.

Adina Gerver, a freelance writer and editor, is studying at the Advanced Scholars Program of the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. This was reprinted from American Jewish World Service.

"We must not only feed the hungry."

Simchas Wedding



Laura Beth Wiessen and Steven Adam Lewis

LAURA BETH WIESSEN AND STEVEN ADAM LEWIS were married on Oct. 26, at the Whispering Pines Conference Center in West Greenwich, by Rabbi Daniel Judson. The bride is the daughter of Roslyn Rosenberg and Sonny Wiessen and the step-daughter of Allan Rosenberg and Randi Wiessen. The groom is the son of David and Eleanor Lewis of Providence.

Laura is a documentary filmmaker and writer whose work has appeared on such networks as PBS, A&E, MSNBC and Bravo. Steven is currently in his third year of study at the Hebrew College Rabbinical School in Newton, Mass.

Engagement

LORI WILFAND of Warwick and **D**ANA BRODY of Framingham, Mass., announce their engagement.

Lori is the daughter of Wayne and Roberta Wilfand of West Warwick. She is the granddaughter of Esther and Irving Nemtsov of Coconut Creek, Fla., formerly of Middletown, and Frank and the late Dobbie Wilfand of Worcester, Mass.

Dana is the son of Lisa and Michael Brody of Newton, Mass. He is the grandson of the late Haskell and Mildred Allen of Wayland, Mass. and the late Cyrille and Sanford Brody of Albany, N.Y. Lori and Dana are graduates of The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dana is the operations facilitator at MS Walker, Inc. in Norwood Mass. Lori is an associate of medical education event planning at Jespersen & Associates in Boston, Mass. They currently reside in Cambridge, Mass.

They will marry Sept. 6, 2009 in Newport.



Lori Wilfand and Dana Brody

DR. AND **M**R.S. STEWART ROSENFELD of Warwick announce the engagement of their daughter, Beth, to Dr. Jed Bell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bell of Roslyn, N.Y.

Beth is a graduate of Quinnipiac University and received a master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She

is a senior recreation therapist at New York University Medical Center. Jed is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton and the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a physiatrist completing a fellowship in pain management.

An August 2009 wedding is planned.

Award

SUSAN Leach DeBlasio was named one of this year's "Top 50 Women Attorneys in New England" by Super Lawyers, a publication sponsored by Law & Politics. A corporate attorney, Ms.

DeBlasio joined Adler Pollock &

Sheehan P.C. earlier this year. Only five percent of the lawyers in the state are named to Super Lawyers. The list is compiled based on considerable polling and peer evaluation efforts with a detailed research process that evaluates each candidate based on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement.

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- Extra credit for MIDRASHA also available.

To join us in January, please RSVP by December 20th!!!

The Madrichim program is generously supported by the Perelman Fund of the BJE/RI Endowment.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sam Grossberg: 401.331.0956 x178 or sgrossberg@bjeri.org



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