

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

13 TEVET 5769

Vol. XI — Issue I

www.jvhri.org

January 9, 2009

Operation Cast Lead: Israeli forces strike Hamas in Gaza



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

Providence Mayor David Cicilline spoke forcefully on behalf of Israel.

Solidarity for Israel, prayers of peace offered

More than 150 attend community service

By NANCY KIRSCH
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PROVIDENCE — Nadav Tamir, Consul General of New England for Israel, ended his brief talk from the pulpit of Temple Emanu-El, at a community service Jan. 4 organized by JFRI's Community Rela-

See COMMUNITY, Page 8



Photo by Flash 90

ISRAELI TANKS are seen at a staging area near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, in southern Israel. Israel launched a ground offensive on Jan. 3, splitting the Gaza Strip into sections.

JINSA: Flying beneath radar screen

Think tank builds relationships between Israeli, American military forces

By RICHARD ASINOF
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PROVIDENCE — As Israeli jets streaked over the skies of the Gaza Strip, striking targeted positions in the "all-out war against Hamas," former Israeli Ambassador Dore Gold, who served as a foreign policy advi-

sor to Benjamin Netanyahu, conducted a personal briefing via conference call on Dec. 30 to members of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, or JINSA.

The briefing, according to one participant, touched on what was happening Gaza, how Hezbollah, with "many thousands of rockets aimed at the whole country of Israel," may respond to the conflict, and the ongoing threat of Natanz, a nuclear facility in Iran.



JINSA, a non-profit neo-conservative think tank in Washington, D.C., had its origins in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Israel, fighting a two-front war, found itself in dire need of military equipment — and was initially turned down by the United States.

To rectify that situation, some American Jewish leaders decided to develop a means of building

See JINSA, Page 7

No cease fire, unless on Israeli terms

By LESLIE SUSSER
JTA Staff Writer

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's retaliation against persistent Hamas mortar and rocket attacks on civilians in southern Israel was far more ferocious than anyone, including Hamas, expected.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The first week of intensive Israel Air Force bombing in Gaza in Operation Cast Lead reduced hundreds of Hamas government buildings, military compounds, laboratories, metal workshops and supply tunnels to rubble and left more than 400 Palestinians, most of them militants, dead, according to U.N. officials and Hamas officials.

The name of the operation, Cast Lead, is a Hanukkah reference: the *dreidel* originally was manufactured by pouring molten lead into a mold. It has a double meaning, because that is how bullets are manufactured.

On Jan. 3 Israel launched a ground offensive as the airstrikes continued and Israeli tanks massed on the Israel-Gaza border and Israeli warships fired along Gaza's

See WAR, Page 6

Inaugural optimism: Obama's presidency a sign of democracy's strength

First 100 days: challenges ahead for Obama, country

By NANCY KIRSCH
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PROVIDENCE — In light of President-elect Barack Obama's upcoming historic inauguration, *The Voice & Herald* talked with some political leaders, a community rabbi and policy experts to get their views and thoughts about the upcoming inauguration on Jan. 20.

Rabbi Peter W. Stein, president of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis and rabbi at Temple Sinai in Cranston,

e-mailed these thoughts.

"I look forward to the inauguration with great optimism," he wrote. "I am hopeful that President Obama will be a friend to Israel and will actively engage in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. And, on the domestic front, I am hopeful that our new president will initiate an era of cooperation, respect for different points of view, and he and the government will stand by all those who are vulnerable."

Providence Mayor David Cicilline said: "The inauguration of a new president is always exciting, but this one is particularly significant, not only because he is the first

African-American elected, but because of the message it sends to the rest of the world."

In no country other than the United States could a man raised by a single parent in a modest home rise to become president, Cicilline added. "It speaks to the strength of our democracy."

Darrell M. West, formerly the director of the Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions at Brown University, and now the vice president and director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., shared his views, in a telephone interview. "The new president will take office during the greatest challenge our country has faced

since the Great Depression, so it's certainly going to be an historic day," he said. "We've got a bad economy, two wars and problems all around the world — so, it's both a challenge and an opportunity."

Jennifer Lawless, an assistant professor of political science at Brown University, will be providing commentary and analysis at Temple Sinai in Cranston on the inauguration, during its televised broadcast, beginning at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

"I've never seen so much attention to a presidential transition," she said. "People are so excited for a new president. It has as much to do

See OBAMA, Page 21



Photo by flash 90

PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA visiting Sderot when he was a candidate in July 2008

FIRST PERSON PLURAL

Why healing is a Jewish word

Program on Jan. 12 at JCC will explore Jewish spiritual healing

By WALLY SPIEGLER

Special to The Voice & Herald

WHEN PEOPLE get sick, it is usually not catastrophic.

Life-threatening illnesses play a minor role in the pantheon of diseases that doctors treat today.

Most people stricken with illness do not necessarily feel isolated or detached from the community, as might be the case with the more seriously ill. Many can go to work and attend to their daily chores, in spite of their suffering.

What passes for Jewish healing today is outreach to those in crisis: visiting the sick and elderly, supporting families whose loved ones face terminal illness, and counseling the bereaved. These are all necessary communal services.

The question is: how can Jewish healing serve the vast majority who suffer silently with chronic illnesses?

Studies show that more money

is spent "out-of-pocket" annually on alternative medicine than for standard medical care in order to deal with unrelenting suffering. There are hundreds of chronic illnesses, from asthma and diabetes to lupus and stress disorders. The word is out that people heal better with a combination of alternative and conventional medicine.

The Jewish Healing Institute will present a free evening program, "Healing is a Jewish Word," sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. This event will take

As a polarity therapist, an energy healer, I set out to discover the Jewish path to healing. I explored the distinction between conventional medicine and holistic healing. Much of today's holistic healing established its practices from the traditions of other countries and religions: acupuncture from China, ayurveda and yoga from India, and shiatsu and reiki from Japan.

Jews are asking: why can't we find healing from our own tradition, which would be more fitting to our Jewish way of life?

I believed such a system existed but needed to be flushed out, approximating the means by which we distill meanings from Torah verses. First, I sifted through Tanach to find passages that might lead me in the right direction.

The pivotal verse I encountered says: "And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you know, upon you; but will lay them upon all them, that hate thee." (Deuteronomy 7:15) But there was more, much more.

The evening program will include examples of textual sources (Biblical, Hasidic, and Talmudic) for Jewish healing

and a demonstration of one specific Jewish way to heal our illness. We will discuss the distinction between traditional allopathic medicine and holistic healing, and we will investigate several healing environments.

Who would ever think, that in a country ruled by rational thought, where proof is required every step of the way, that prayer would be considered a legitimate source of healing? Could it be that in view of all the disenchantment with current medical practices, even some doctors themselves promote prayer?

For years now, I have attempted to coordinate my own energy healing practice

with Jewish tradition. About 10 years ago, I launched www.jewishhealing.com, a web site dedicated to Jewish healing and spirituality to establish a Jewish healing presence on the Internet. Jewishhealing.com receives numerous e-mail inquiries regarding health concerns.

In my opinion, the American Jewish community needs a Jewish alternative alongside standard medical intervention.

Wally Spiegler RPP, a certified healer, will facilitate the presentation. Space is limited, so please call the JCCRI at 861-8800 to make reservations.

"The American Jewish community needs a Jewish alternative along side standard medical intervention."

place at the JCCRI on Monday evening, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m.

In my opinion, Jewish healing is for everyone – for those who are ill, for those who know someone who is ill, for therapists of every kind who wish to add Jewish healing to their repertoire of healing methods, and for clergy wishing to add healing to their synagogue programs.



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES
For Greater Rhode Island

2009

Jan.	9	4:14
Jan.	16	4:22
Jan.	23	4:30

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The new president will take office during the greatest challenge our country has faced since the Great Depression."

Darrell M. West

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What kind of meat do Jewish food activists eat?

Activists join in as volunteers to prepare kosher meat for conference meal

By SUE FISHKOFF
JTA Staff Writer

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. (JTA) – When the executive committee for the Hazon Jewish food conference got together last July to plan the menu for the four-day gathering, they agreed that, as much as possible, the food served should be local.

No problem with produce. California's Central Coast is one of the nation's most fertile growing areas. It is rife with farms that grow a variety of fruits and vegetables; nearby dairies produce organic milk from free-range cows.

But when it came to meat, the discussion grew heated.

First, should they serve it at all? The Jewish food movement, like the environmental movement in general, is filled with vegetarians.

Second, food activists like to keep things local, and kosher meat – the only kind they would consider – doesn't always jive with making sure the animals are humanely raised, organically fed and ethically slaughtered.

There are a handful of alternative kosher meat productions based on the East Coast, run by leaders in the new Jewish food movement, but shipping that meat to California would undermine the local focus.

The talk went on for hours. "I think we should serve pasture-raised, humanely slaughtered kosher meat, and if there is none of that we should just not serve meat," declared committee member Brenda Berry. Naf Hanau strongly dis-

agreed. "There is a very strong basis in Jewish tradition for eating meat on Shabbat," he pointed out. "That is an important tradition to engage with. I do not think the Jewish community is going to stop eating meat anytime soon, so we need to find a way to give them meat that is acceptable to our values."

Finally, the group agreed that the only way to find meat that met their standards was to slaughter and produce it themselves. At last year's conference, three goats were slaughtered and cooked into a *cholent*, but that was primarily an educational exercise. This year, the goal was to *shecht* enough poultry for the entire conference.

Berkeley resident Roger Studley took on the challenge of finding a local turkey farm and convincing the farmer to allow a bunch of Jews in with a *shochet* and *mashgiach* to slaughter, pluck, eviscerate, soak, salt and package enough turkeys to feed 500 hungry food activists a nice Shabbat meal.

That's how 20 shivering volunteers found themselves ankle-deep in feathers and mud on a turkey farm 90 miles north of San Francisco on a blustery cold, unseasonably wet morning on Dec. 24.

Andy Kastner, a rabbinical student at New York's Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, had flown in

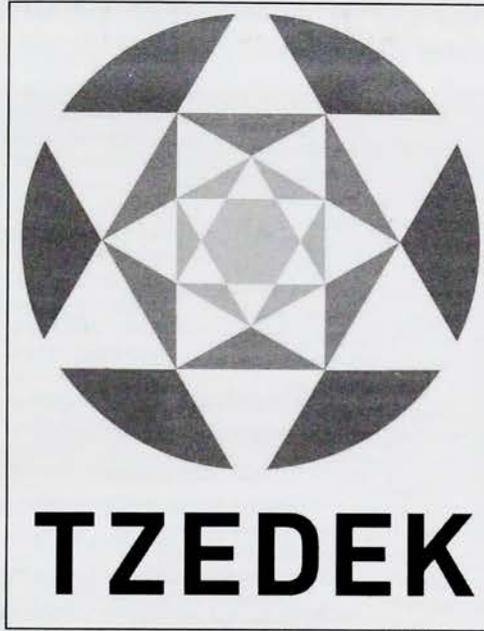


Image courtesy of Hekhsheh Tzedek
THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT unveiled the logo for its new ethical certification seal, to be known as Magen Tzedek.

to act as the *shochet*. He would slaughter each bird with a quick cut across its neck, severing the esophagus and trachea in one motion. The turkey would

group. "We're doing this old-school, hands-on. We're doing it as a community, making meat for the conference we are about

"Twenty shivering volunteers found themselves ankle-deep in feathers and mud on a turkey farm 90 miles north of San Francisco on a blustery cold, unseasonably wet morning."

be placed upside-down in a traffic cone to bleed out, and then the hapless helpers would pluck out every last feather.

The brave in attendance would then eviscerate the birds, digging their hands into the dark recesses of the still-warm bodies to remove the internal

organs. Rabbi Seth Mandel, whose day job is supervising kosher slaughterhouses for the Orthodox Union, was on hand to check the lungs and intestines for signs of disease or damage, which would render the bird non-kosher. The kosher birds would be soaked for half an hour and salted for an hour, to remove the blood, rinsed three times, and finally sealed and packed on ice for transport to the conference kitchen.

"As Jews, we are required to take these steps to make our meat suitable for eating," Studley explained to the

attend. This is a project bringing us closer to the source of the food we are eating, making real the fact that we are taking the lives of animals in order to sus-

tain ourselves." Elizheva Hurwich, a Bay Area artist and Jewish educator, said she'd come in honor of her great-grandmother, who slaughtered poultry for the kosher delicatessen she ran with her husband a century ago in Memphis, Tenn.

The next level

FROM Dec. 25-28, 2008, more than 550 Jewish food activists, farmers, educators, politicians, rabbis and just plain folk met at the Hazon Jewish food conference in California with the goal of discussing how to take the Jewish food movement to the next level.

Hurwich also knew there was a strong possibility she would be "totally grossed out and not able to do it."

But an hour into the process, she was deeply engaged in her work. She soon moved from plucking out feathers to the evisceration table and finally took up position as head salter, rubbing coarse-ground *kasher-ing* salt into every body cavity and lining up the finished birds on a grated table to drain.

None of the birds were rejected as non-kosher. Mandel said they were the healthiest birds he'd ever examined, testimony to the natural way they'd been raised.

Mandel had been to a number of similar field slaughters and said he's a big fan of alternative kosher meat productions like Kol Foods run by Devora Kimmelman-Block out of Silver Spring, Md., which provides grass-finished, humanely raised kosher beef and lamb to hundreds of customers.

But, Mandel said, these small-scale operations are not an answer to the problems of industrial meat production. So long as kosher consumers demand cheap meat, and a lot of it, he said, the big meat companies will see no reason to change.

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

All submitted content becomes the property of The Jewish Voice & Herald.

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

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

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

Business Committee:
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Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Right here on Earth

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

IN JANUARY 1964, in a letter to the editor published in *Commentary*, the writer declared: "When a space ship lands on the moon, it won't be an accident, it will be the result of years of concentration by the most brilliant scientific minds and an investment of billions of dollars. What similar concentration of mind and money is being invested in solving the problems we face right here on Earth?"

Indeed, more than four decades later, as our nation grapples with a severe, deepening economic downturn, two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the growing conflagration between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, the question about vision posed by the letter writer still resonates.

It is one that the new Obama Administration, which arrives in the midst of major crises, will need to address in terms of long-term investments, not just short-term bailouts.

The prescient letter had been written in response to an article that detailed the issues of old age and longevity. "It is not just a poignant tale of old folks but an air raid alert. While there is time," the letter writer warned, "are we educating our youth [how] to live with dignity and creativity in their life of tomorrow?"

The issue of longevity, as defined by the letter writer, is about older adults who have been trained for roles in society which they cannot play, where age has closed the door to the world of work, where life is "humiliating, frustrating existence with fear of want a constant companion."

We must determine, the letter writer continued, "what the basic rights are to which an individual is entitled: Dignity? Self-respect? Food? Housing? Medical care? For how long and when is a person of value to society? While he [or she] is economically productive? Culturally productive? Socially productive?"

Good questions, ones that will certainly come into play for our community here in Rhode Island as the legislature and the governor grapple with large shortfalls in the budget and very limited resources. To which I would add: who will make those actual determinations? A health insurance claim processor? A corporate actuary? A nursing home administrator? A bank's mortgage refinancing officer? A state bureaucrat?

And, what role will the Jewish community play in

See AGING, Page 6

Chastened by the memory of fallen heroes

SUNDAY MORNING, this past Dec. 7, dawned cold and damp. The ground was covered with a thin layer of overnight snow, the first of the season. The flakes were still falling, driven by a nasty north wind, when I arrived at the patio outside Hem-



Rabbi Jim Rosenberg

enway's, a restaurant on North Main Street in Providence at 10:45 a.m. About 50 folding chairs, all seats wet with melting snow, were set up facing the columned World War II Memorial, which stood stately in

the gloom about a hundred feet away. Despite my winter gray suit, heavy overcoat, Russian hat, and leather gloves, I was finding it difficult to keep myself warm.

To be honest, I would have greatly preferred to have been snug at my kitchen table, reading the Sunday papers, and indulging in a second cup of coffee.

However, as has been happening every now and then, I had been called out of retirement to perform a "rabbinical" function. A few days earlier Sanford Gorodetsky, commander of the Rhode Island Department of Jewish War Veterans, had phoned me to see if I could participate in a ceremony on Pearl Harbor Day. I told him that I had a full schedule on that Sunday and that, furthermore, I am retired.

When I started to offer Sanford a whole list of colleagues, he cut me off

Stein's column draws praise

JOSH STEIN'S column on Bernard Madoff ("Fanatics, Madoff: the worst of the Jewish community," *The Voice & Herald*, Dec. 26, 2008) was quite insightful, well written, and, unfortunately, "right on the money."

Growing up in Woonsocket, in a tiny Jewish community in the 1950s, I became acutely aware of the nasty half-truths and subtle innuendo used to create and promote anti-Semitism.

My family fought (literally and figuratively) to show the city that we were tough, honorable, compassionate and contributing members of this predominantly Catholic town in northern Rhode Island. We were proud of our heritage, but even prouder to be Americans, and to be their neighbors.

Then along comes Madoff, greedy and ignorant, to fuel the fires of hatred and generalization.

What a shame! Shame on him! He, as a Jew, had an obligation to know better, and to be better. This is so much larger

IT SEEMS TO ME Out in the cold

with: "I've already called every other rabbi in Rhode Island, and they're all busy."

Since most of my colleagues are gainfully employed, I was not surprised to hear this; Sundays are not made for Michelob if you happen to be a congregational rabbi.

Mr. Gorodetsky added, "I've already got a priest and a minister participating. It would be a shame and, frankly, an embarrassment not to have a rabbi."

"O.K. You win. I'll rearrange my schedule. I'll be there."

I wasn't a happy camper. The wind continued to blow. The snow continued to fall on the chairs, which were only partially protected by the building's overhang.

"Here I was feeling somewhat sorry for myself for having to endure just a few minutes of shivering, while 63 years ago American soldiers week after week were slogging through a frozen hell so that you and I might breathe free."

Just before the ceremony was to begin, the Master of Ceremonies announced to the several dozen veterans and their families that the "honored clergy" would be taking their seats in the front row.

What this honor meant to me was that I would have nobody in front of me to block the wind. I felt "stuck," but I had no reason to complain. To my right sat Chaplain Birdog, in full military dress, which meant that he was wearing next to nothing to protect him from the cold.

After several minutes, I was called up to read my part; I chose to read a selection from "Who Will Remember the Rememberers?" by the Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000).

As I stood in front of the shiver-

ing men, I noticed that almost all the women had crowded into a protected doorway at the rear of the patio. Chaplain Birdog remained passively stoic.

Finally - I myself was shivering uncontrollably by this time and had moved to a corner of the patio, where I began stamping my feet to bring some warmth back into my body - Gen. Reginald Centracchio rose up to deliver some brief and poignant final words.

He acknowledged that it was cold and that all of us were quite uncomfortable, but he went on to remind us of those thousands upon thousands of brave soldiers who defended our freedom in the frozen forests of the Ardennes during the bloody Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's last desperate counterattack.

That December and January in 1945 in Belgium and Luxembourg was one of the bitterest on record: the army trucks needed to run their engines every half-hour to prevent the oil in them from freezing, and the allied weapons frequently froze up. Nevertheless, our soldiers fought.

Suddenly, as I stood there stamping my feet, I felt a twinge of guilt. Here I was feeling somewhat

sorry for myself for having to endure just a few minutes of shivering, while 63 years ago American soldiers week after week were slogging through a frozen hell so that you and I might breathe free.

During those weeks of snow and ice in the Ardennes 76,800 American soldiers were reported killed, wounded, or missing.

After General Centracchio's sobering words, I drove home chastened. Shortly after I arrived, I enjoyed a bowl of piping hot lentil soup and counted my blessings.

Rabbi James B. Rosenberg can be reached at rabbieremits@templebabonim.org.

Letters to the Editor

than Bernie Madoff. Maybe this amoral criminal was too ignorant to realize what was at stake. Or, maybe he just didn't care.

Shame on him for living up to an unfounded, but horrific, stereotype to which we, as Jews, have all been subjected.

Again, a great column. It needed to be verbalized by one of us.

Rick Finkelstein
Cumberland

Diplomatic solution essential for Israel

NO ONE can doubt the right of Israel to protect its citizens from rocket fire by Hamas. As this is written in the last days of December, Israel has employed massive, surgical air strikes aimed at Hamas installations and personnel. A force buildup on the border threatens ground incursions into Gaza.

While this may be an understandable response to Hamas' actions, the scope of the operation will only escalate the conflict, place Israel in the role of aggressor, and threaten the lives and security of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

In the densely populated, impoverished Gaza Strip, significant civilian casualties were inevitable, no matter how precise the bombing. Additional prolonged suffering is the likely aftermath. Meanwhile, extremists across the region - on both sides of the conflict - will likely find their cause buttressed and their supporters invigorated.

But if Israel is to survive as a secure and democratic Jewish homeland, there must be a diplomatic - rather than military - solution, and a negotiated peace agreement with the Palestinians. Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance of Justice and Peace, has called on President Bush to initiate an international effort to negotiate an immediate ceasefire and allow humanitarian assistance into Gaza. We have also called on President-elect Obama to make clear that, as President, he will assert leadership to achieve a comprehensive diplomatic resolution

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FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI

Diplomatic negotiations with Hamas futile

Air assault, ground attacks by Israel may be unsuccessful

THERE'S AN OLD joke. It's not very funny, but it is hoary with age, and so has become a cliché. A scorpion asks a crocodile to let him ride on his back across the Nile. "But if I carry you, mid-way across you'll bite me and I'll die," responded the worried *Crocodylus niloticus*. "Not to fear, if I bite you mid-way across, we both die, so I won't." This appears to be a convincing argument. But mid-way across, the scorpion stings the crocodile in the back. The dying lizard turns to the venomous betrayer and says, "Why did you do that? Now we'll both die," to which the scorpion replies just before it drowns, "Well, that's Africa." Because of an early deadline, I don't know how the current



Josh Stein

Israeli offensive against Hamas will turn out. Hatred for Jews is a cancer that can neither be contained nor eliminated, which, in fact, metastasizes proportionately to the efforts of Israel to excise it (or, to switch my metaphor yet again, it's hydralike – whenever Israel cuts off one head, two grow in its place). But what else can Israel do? It pulled out of Gaza and instead of peace it got Hamas. Some pro-Israeli doves argue that Israel ought to moderate its counter-attack. For example: Diane Balsler, executive director of Brit Tzedek intones, "We can already anticipate that this incursion will be yet another failed attempt to resolve this fundamentally political conflict by military means. It is high time to break with this cycle; only through serious and sustained international diplomacy can the problems with Hamas and Gaza be resolved." Such organizations are to be commended for their consistency, but none recognizes the nature of the beast which they are trying to reconcile. Hamas

does not recognize the despised State of Israel and sees no option other than to continue its struggle to the death, by any means possible. If that requires putting its headquarters in the middle of a civilian population of innocent Arabs, so be it. The more televised martyrs,

been prophesized by Hamas. Israel's foreign minister Tzipi Livni also misses the point when, in an interview with al-Jazeera, she urges Arab governments to stop Hamas' attacks because they are injurious to the Arabs of Gaza; she ignores the volatility of the Arab Street.

"We should abandon precision bombing because the bombing is never precise enough and because its collateral damage is a provocative outrage."

the better. If it means attacking Israel indiscriminately and waiting for the inevitable retaliation so that it can cry "foul!" and have its world-wide community of sycophants take to the streets, hurling stones and vituperation, urging vendetta, bring it on! The pictures we see on television of civilian suffering are perfect for Hamas. "Look what the Jews do to us, we must get revenge," is the war-cry taken up around the world. An intifada is to be expected; indeed, it's

Negotiation with Hamas is like the crocodile's discussion with the scorpion. The scorpion knows only one thing and it does it even if it loses its own life. Negotiations with Egypt were possible because Anwar Sadat had achieved a victory of sorts in the Sinai in October 1973. Hamas achieved a victory of sorts when Israel pulled out of Gaza in August 2005. The one came to pray in Jerusalem and made peace, the other fires rockets onto Sderot. But, I fear, the air assault (followed by a ground incursion?) will fail as well. Like Lebanon two summers ago, Hamas may be lulling Israel into its rope-a-dope strategy. We hit and hit and hit harder, exhausting ourselves; and they claim victory by not surrendering. Their intifada,

when it comes, will provoke greater responses in an escalating progression of civilian deaths. Israel has two choices beyond shock and awe. It might take the French suggestion of a two-day cease fire to see if Hamas will stop its assaults or it should return to targeted assassinations of Hamas leadership (and Hezbollah's for that matter). We should abandon precision bombing because the bombing is never precise enough and because its collateral damage – both human and structural – is a provocative outrage. An army uses the weapons it has, so Hamas uses rockets and will be using human bombs in Jerusalem and elsewhere, and it doesn't care about the blow-back. We have planes, but we do care. We also have courage and intelligence. We have Mossad. (Gabriel Allon, where are you when we need you most?) But trust the scorpion? Only if we have a death wish.

Josh Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University in Bristol. He can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.

Even the flight to Israel is different during wartime

Jerusalemites unaffected by war; those near Gaza feel the impact

BY EZRA STIEGLITZ
Special to The Voice & Herald

IARRIVED in Israel on Monday evening, Dec. 29. I have been to Israel many times during the last 40 years. However, this is the first time that I have visited Israel during a widening war. The first sign that this flight was atypical became clear one hour before landing at Ben Gurion Airport. At that time, a flight attendant informed everyone that no one would be permitted to leave his or her seat 30 minutes before arrival. She strongly suggested that everyone "take care of business" before that time. I had not experienced this regulation before. Then, just prior to the final reminder, passengers were told not to leave their seats – that anyone who did would immediately be escorted back to his or her seat. She was apologetic and informed everyone that this regulation was the policy of the Israeli government and not of Delta Airlines. Her final message was that Delta is required to divert the aircraft to another

country if even one passenger is not seated. All passengers got the message and stayed in their seats. I was pleasantly surprised to meet my son Daniel (also known as Dani) at the aircraft's exit door. He was able to use his connections with Nefesh B'Nefesh (an organization that helps people make *aliyah*) to make this possible. As he is a member of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Dani greeted me in uniform. How proud I was! We traveled to Jerusalem where we stayed overnight and Dani returned to his base early the next morning where he is a student in a medic-training program. The next evening – Wednesday – Dani was given permission to leave his base to spend some time with me. We took the opportunity to visit relatives at Kibbutz Gat, near the town of Kiryat Gat which is in range of rockets launched from Gaza. I did not "feel" the war while



AN ISRAELI MAN clears a shattered window from his car after a Kassam rocket landed nearby on Dec. 29, 2008.

Photo by JTA

"When the sirens sound, residents have less than a minute to take cover. But, where do you hide when you are in an open field?"

was visiting with her two young sons. Iris and her family live near Ashdod which has been hit several times by missiles launched from Gaza. Her children were to stay with their grandparents that evening because schools were closed in the region because of

the danger of a rocket attack and Iris had to work. I could see fear and stress in Iris' face. The children, too, were clearly aware of what was happening. It was fortuitous that schools were closed because a few days before my visit, a rocket crashed through the roof of a school building in Beersheba during the time children would have been in school. During dinner, I heard the following story. The family – grandparents, children, and grandchildren – had gathered together a week before at the kibbutz cemetery to visit the graves of loved ones. During this visit, air raid sirens from Kiryat Gat were heard warning of a missile attack. When the sirens sound, residents have less than a minute to take cover. But, where do you hide when you are in an open field? The parents did their best to protect their children. One girl turned to her father and asked, "Does this mean that I

am going to die?" Fortunately, it was a false alarm. However, one can't help but wonder how such events might affect the psyche of children who are exposed to these kinds of terror. On Thursday, I anticipated with pleasure spending a beautiful Shabbat in Jerusalem with Dani. Thursday afternoon he called and said all military leaves had been canceled because of the situation in Gaza and that he would have to remain on his base for the weekend. Although disappointed, I understood the situation. A few short hours later, Dani, euphoric, called to say that he would, after all, be allowed to leave the base, though he would need his mobile phone with him at all times, including during Shabbat. An observant Jew, Dani found it "weird" to have his cell phone with him while attending Shabbat services. It is now *motzi* Shabbat (Saturday night) and I recently learned that Israel launched a ground invasion into Gaza. I hope and pray for the safety and well-being of the brave soldiers of the IDF who are fighting to protect citizens in harm's way.

Ezra Stieglitz is a member of the editorial board of The Voice & Herald and a professor at Rhode Island College.

WAR: Israeli leaders see Gaza conflict as 'all-out' war

From Page 1

Mediterranean shoreline. It was not clear how much longer the operation would last or how its goals would be achieved.

The security situation in southern Israel deteriorated quickly after Dec. 19, when Hamas declared that a six-month truce with Israel would not be renewed, and it stepped up its Kassam rocket and Iranian-supplied 120 mm mortar attacks on Sderot and other nearby Israeli towns.

Public pressure on the Israeli government to retaliate intensified, and it was clear the countdown to war had begun. On Dec. 24, after some 70 Kassams and mortars slammed into southern Israel in a single day, the government approved a detailed war plan, leaving the timing and precise scope of each phase to Defense Minister Ehud Barak and the IDF.

The initial airstrike caught Hamas completely by surprise.

In the first wave, which lasted three minutes and 40 seconds, 64 Israeli jets reduced nearly all of Hamas' military compounds, command-and-control centers and symbols of government to rubble. In the first two attacks, more than 200 people were killed, most of them Hamas militiamen.

The military problem facing Barak and the country's military planners is twofold: how to stop the Kassam rockets and how to restore Israeli deterrence in the region after eight years of relative inactivity in the face of rocket attacks.

The devastating opening salvo Israel chose was based on what many military analysts see as Israel's most effective operation in the 2006 Lebanon War: the bombing of the Hezbollah command-and-control center

in Beirut's Dahya district in the first few days of the fighting. Reducing the Dahya to rubble had a profound shock effect on Hezbollah and other leaders across the Middle East, and is seen as one of the main reasons for the current quiet on the Israel-Lebanon border.

Now Israeli military planners hope what they call the "Dahya effect" will take effect in Gaza, too, and eventually deter Hamas from rocketing Israeli civilians.

In a news conference on the first night of the fighting, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert spelled out the war's aims: to create a new security reality in the south in which Israeli civilians can live without fear of rocket or terror attacks. According to Israeli government spokesmen, this will be achieved by drastically changing "the rules of the game." Through the devastating air force attack and

the follow-up ground incursion, Israel's leaders hope to:

- send a clear message to Hamas that the price tag for any future rocket attacks on Israel will be intolerably high;
- severely weaken Hamas' current military capacity;
- limit any future Hamas military build-up; and
- achieve a new cease-fire regime under which Hamas would have to commit to no more rocket fire, no terrorist attacks, no explosive charges near the border and no more weapons' smuggling.

The understandings would be reached through a third party, probably Egyptian mediation, and kept in place through Israel's waving of a big deterrent stick. In other words, the aim of the large-scale Israeli operation is to achieve peace and quiet in southern Israel by establishing a new and very different deterrent model.

Many Israelis, however, are skeptical about the efficacy of the proposed deterrent policy. Some argue that the only way the rockets can be stopped would be to reoccupy Gaza. The Likud's Yuval Steinitz, former chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, urges creating an Israel buffer between Gaza and Egypt to prevent future arms smuggling. Otherwise, Steinitz warns, Hamas will bring rockets capable of hitting Tel

Aviv, anti-aircraft batteries that could threaten IAF flights in the Negev, and equipment to monitor all Israeli military movements there. "Maybe we would get peace for a year or two, but the price would be a devastating blow to Israel's national security," Steinitz told JTA.

Others reject the idea of any reoccupation of Gaza as counterproductive and hope the government will be able to parlay its success on the battlefield into a long-term political agreement with Hamas.

DIPLOMACY: solution for Israel

From Page 4

of the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts. As American Jews, we must support diplomacy.

Judy Kaye
Providence
Phil Rosen
Barrington

Co-chairs, Rhode Island chapter of Brit Tzedek v' Shalom

Brit Tzedek v' Shalom (www.britshalom.org) is a grassroots Jewish organization dedicated to promoting a negotiated two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

AGING: Who will decide our future?

From Page 4
addressing these issues?

These are not rhetorical questions. The radical changes proposed by Gov. Carcieri in his effort to shift federal supervision of Medicaid-financed health care to the state is fraught with great risk to those of us who are not traveling in the luxury class on life's cruise ship.

The letter writer was my mother, a social worker. It was written when she was 42 years old; she was killed in a car crash when she was 59. My older sister, at her recent 60th birthday party (an event she approached with some anxiety, because it meant she had outlived our mother), shared the letter with me,

which she had found while "Googling." I, in turn, am sharing it with you, in the hope that it will spur conversation, discussion and participation in the looming debate about who will determine our fate - and what standards will they use - as we age.

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JINSA: Linking American, Israeli military establishments

From Page 1

better long-term relationships between the Israeli and American defense establishments.

Founded in 1976, JINSA describes its role as one that "communicates with the [U.S.] national security establishment and the general public to explain the role that Israel can and does play in bolstering American interests, as well as the link between American defense policy and the security of Israel."

At its recent annual conference in December 2008 in Washington, D.C., it presented the 26th annual Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson Distinguished Service Award to Admiral Mike Mullen, the current chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Previous honorees have included former Sen. Max Cleland in 2000, Dr. Paul Wolfowitz in 2002, Sen. Evan Bayh in 2004, Sen. John McCain in 2006, and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates in 2007.

In many circles, JINSA, with 17,000 members, travels well below the radar screen, a position that seems to suit the non-profit organization, which declares that it "translates ideas into policy."

Its programs include:

- The Law Enforcement Exchange Program, which enables small-group trips to Israel for senior American law enforcement officials where they can study methods and observe

techniques used by Israeli police forces in response to terrorism, including suicide bombers.

- The Bob J. Perry Military Academics Program in Israel, which provides U.S. military cadets and midshipmen their own kind of "Birthright Israel" program, providing a personal, intensive, and positive experience in Israel – to serve as "an antidote to the limited, one-dimensional view of Israel portrayed in the American media."

- The Flag and General Officers Study Trip to Israel, which invites retired senior American generals and admirals to Israel

for intensive discussion with their Israeli counterparts.

- In addition, every weekend, JINSA underwrites a program where American servicemen and their families who have been



PARTICIPANTS in the 2008 Flag and General Officers Trip to Ze'elim, an IDF base in the Negev, with a small city built for low-intensity conflict and urban warfare training.

wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan go out for a night on the town to help boost morale.

Its critics see JINSA as a home for right-wing policy analysts who believe that "regime change"

by any means necessary is an urgent imperative. Vice President Dick Cheney, former U.S. Representative to the United

Nations John Bolton, and former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Douglas Feith were all on JINSA's Board of Advisors before they entered the Bush administration.

Many key corporate America

defense industry contractors – Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, United Technologies and Rockwell Collins – help to underwrite JINSA's programs.

JINSA'S VIEW OF OBAMA

In its recent JINSA Reports dated Dec. 18, the organization offered commen-

tary on President-elect Barack Obama's potential plans to resolve the Middle East conflict.

"President-elect Obama called the status quo between Israel and the Palestinians 'unsustainable' and that 'Israel has a security interest in solving this.' Solving what?" the JINSA report asked.

"Certainly, Israel has a security interest in stopping the barrage of increasingly long-range and accurate rockets and missiles from Gaza...," the report continued. "Whether Israel has a security interest in the establishment of a Palestinian state in part of the West Bank and/or Gaza while Hamas and Fatah are engaged in a civil war (including on the West Bank) and Hamas is engaged in a war against Israel is entirely debatable."

The report went on to criticize

the idea, said to be offered in some American policy circles, of establishing a Palestinian state before there is recognition of Israel's right to exist.

"Of great concern is the idea afloat in American circles that a Palestinian state should be established before Israel achieves verifiable Palestinian acceptance of its legitimacy, and that such a state should be established on the West Bank, leaving Gaza in abeyance," the report said.

BENEFIT TO ISRAEL

For Justin 'Jay' Strauss of Cranston, a member of the Jewish Federation Board of Directors, who was recently "recruited" to become a member of the JINSA Advisory Board while attending a Naval War College conference in Newport in July 2008, JINSA provides important benefits for Israel. "The Jewish people of the United States have built a stronger relationship with the military of the United States, based on ongoing programs with the military and with Israel, all sponsored by JINSA," Strauss said.

Strauss had been invited to participate in a JINSA-sponsored visit to the strategic region of Azerbaijan in September 2008, but the visit was cancelled after the intervention of Russian leader Vladimir Putin, who, according to Strauss, said "nyet" to the meeting, because he "didn't want any NATO countries interfering in this region."

"The Jewish people of the United States have built a stronger relationship with the military of the United States."

Justin Strauss

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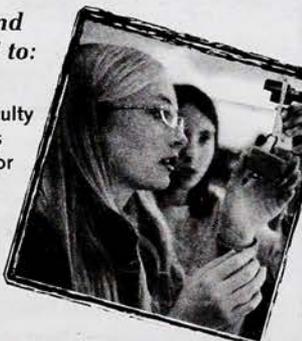
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COMMUNITY: Joining together with prayers and song to support Israel

From Page 1

tions Council (CRC), invoking a phrase of President-elect Barack Obama about Israel's desire for long-term peace: "Yes, we can!" The crowd erupted with applause.

The community service for Israel solidarity, which drew more than 150 people, included statements of support from all the members of Rhode Island's Congressional delegation: Rep. Patrick Kennedy, Rep. James Langevin, Sen. Jack Reed and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse. R.I. Gov. Donald Carcieri also issued a written statement (Copies of the statements are available on *The Voice & Herald* web site, JFHRI.org).

In addition, there were personal remarks by the Rev. Donald Anderson, executive minister for the R.I. State Council of Churches, a prayer for our nation led by Sharon Gaines, president of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, a prayer for peace led by Ken Schneider, and a prayer for Israel led by Avi Nevel.

JFRI President Doris Feinberg offered welcoming and concluding comments. "There are differences among us," she said. "We cast aside our differences and come together for peace."

Providence resident Leonard Mandell, a long-time member of Temple Emanu-El and a member of Temple Beth-El, said, "I'm



Rabbi Wayne Franklin
of Temple Emanu-El.

here because I have a Jewish soul. I pray that God brings leadership to the people who follow Islam to discuss living in peace."

LOVER OF PEACE, ISRAEL

"I am a lover of the land of Israel and a lover of peace," said Temple Sinai's Rabbi Peter Stein, speaking in his role as president of the R.I. Board of Rabbis. "Let the great *shofar* of peace be sounded for all people," he said, "and bring peace to Israel and all the world."

Stein and the other religious and lay leaders who addressed the somber, yet attentive, audience repeated one consistent message: solidarity with the people and government of Israel and a hope for peace in Israel. Local television crews and several Providence police officers, including Colonel Dean Esserman, were within and



Nadav Tamir, Consul General of
New England for Israel.

outside the synagogue. Rabbi Wayne Franklin, of Temple Emanu-El, said, "None of us delights in deaths of individuals or soldiers in Israel or Gaza... Israel's self-respect entitles her to defend its people." He referenced an image he'd seen in *The New York Times* of a bombed classroom in Beersheba. He translated the Hebrew writing on the classroom wall: "Who is indeed honored? One who honors all God's creatures." Franklin prayed for students in the Middle East to value peace, not martyrdom.

Providence Mayor David Cicilline, after first acknowledging his rabbi, Rabbi Leslie Gutterman of Temple Beth-El, and other rabbis present, echoed his enduring support for Israel. "The road to peace is long, arduous and exhausting; stopping these



Cantor Richard Perlman, spiritual
leader of Temple Am David

atrocities is only the beginning. Support for Hamas must end."

The Rev. Donald Anderson, executive minister with the R.I. State Council of Churches, spoke as an individual. "Extremist voices must be overcome by voices of peace," he said. "In faith, hope lives."

The Consul General of New England for Israel, Nadav Tamir, expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support.

"We want peace with our neighbors, and we're willing to compromise... side-by-side with a Palestinian state," Tamir said. When Hamas launched 80 rockets into Israel on Christmas Day, despite repeated warnings to honor the cease-fire, Israel had no choice but to protect itself, he said. "We cry with Palestinian mothers - we don't want to kill Palestinian civilians, but Hamas uses its citizens as human shields."

Before leading the congregation in singing "Shir LaShalom," Cantor Richard Perlman, spiritual leader of Temple Am David, said, "Enough of blood and tears, and enough terror, fighting and war."

At the conclusion of the hour-plus service, Rabbi Joel Seltzer, of Temple Emanu-El, raised the *ruach* level with "Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu." The song's refrain, he said, has the Arabic word for peace, *salaam*. "By invoking their words, we hope to hasten the day *shalom* will reign," he said.

Small group protests

OUTSIDE THE synagogue, 25 to 35 people protested, holding signs advocating "End U.S. support to Israel," singing "We Shall Overcome," and voicing support for the Palestinians in Gaza. Those outside they represented many different peace groups within Rhode Island.

Michael Mellion of Pawtucket said of the groups outside: "They have no understanding of the situation Israelis face - they are so focused on Palestinian propaganda. We celebrate and value life, and we are confronted with a culture that hates Jews and glorifies death."



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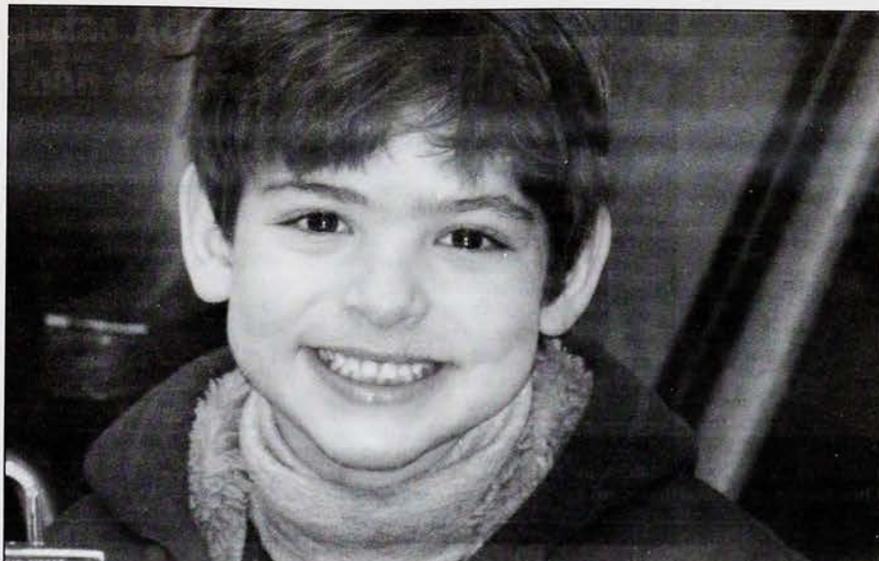
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ARI STEINBERG is all smiles at The Mothers Circle Hanukkah dinner on December 11 at the JCC. Ari is the son of Darryle and Jeremy Steinberg, Cranston residents.

Mothers learn about Judaism in a nurturing space

Mothers Circle program hits half-way point

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – As they approach the half-way mark of their eight-month, 16-session program, the women participating in 'The Mothers' Circle in Rhode Island are engaged, informed and energized by the experience.

Led by Kit Haspel, who worked for years as a clinical psychologist and now holds a master's degree in Judaic studies from Hebrew College, the seven women have learned an enormous amount since they first met in September, according to Haspel.

"Ours is quite a diverse group in terms of both age and religious backgrounds, including the Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist faiths," she said. "Everyone has bonded really well and support each other on this, at times difficult, but incredibly generous journey."

The group has learned about *mitzvot*, making a Jewish home, Jewish parenting, the High Holidays, Sukkot, and Hanukkah, and other topics, as they arise.

The Mothers Circle welcomes women of all faiths and heritages who are raising Jewish families, and the program provides a supportive environment to learn about being Jewish and to empower mothers to ask – and get answers – about Judaism.

"It really is an incredibly

generous thing they're doing – to raise Jewish children when they are not Jewish; it is a gift to the Jewish community," Haspel said. "They appreciate having a space where they can share all their feelings and questions they have about this commitment with others who are doing the same thing in a setting that is both non-judgmental and informative."

One mother, Haspel continued, said that she felt less like an outsider and more a part of her family when they do Jewish

about Judaism's life cycle events, prayers, rituals and celebrations.

It's really been a wonderful experience involving others in the community, Haspel explained. "Thanks to Cantor Judy Seplowin's generosity, each mother now has a CD of the cantor (of Temple Beth-El) singing the Shema, Hanukkah prayers and Shabbat prayers. It's a wonderful way for them to listen and learn."

Rabbi Sarah Mack, associate rabbi at Temple Beth-El, has come to one class and will return

"To raise Jewish children when they are not Jewish is a gift to the Jewish community."

Kit Haspel

things than she ever had before.

Some women who had never before done so now light candles and have Shabbat dinners. At least two women went to a Tot Shabbat service for the first time. Others have declared their homes "pork-free," decided to fast on Yom Kippur, put up *mezzuzot*, and posted a *mitzvah* list (rather than a chore list) on the refrigerator.

While the majority of the women were not affiliated with a synagogue when the group began, many are considering some affiliation now.

Created by the Jewish Outreach Institute, sponsored locally by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE/RI) in partnership with the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and funded locally by the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation, the Mothers Circle teaches non-Jewish women

to answer questions on such topics as "the Jewish view of God." Diane Cerep, creativity center coordinator at BJE/RI, created several activities for the mothers to do at home with their children such as making a Hanukkah drip mat and a *tzedakah* box.

The program, which is free of charge and provides free childcare, offers individual and small group instruction – with a rabbi "on call" to answer questions one-on-one – and opportunities to connect more globally through a national email discussion list serve. The list serve, available after women sign up at www.TheMothersCircle.org, provides a supportive online community of peers from around the country to share their experiences, thoughts and questions.

The Mothers Circle participants will host a Shabbat dinner for themselves and their families, on Jan. 9. The next issue of The Voice & Herald will include a story describing the event and the women's thoughts, reactions and emotions.



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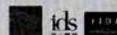


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What's a young Jewish professional to do?

A tale of GesherCity RI, Moishe House and MatzoBall

By JULIA McCANN
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – On Dec. 25, as many of us headed to our favorite Chinese eatery for our holiday chow mein and tried to catch an afternoon showing of a new holiday flick, I was left wondering what young Jewish professionals do for fun on the holidays if they don't have family around.

I came to discover several organizations and events designed to make local singles and young couples feel more at home in our little state during

the holiday season.

For starters, there's Gesher-City, a national organization with connections (Gesher means "bridge") in locations as far away as Orange County, Calif., and Palm Beach, Fla. The local R.I. chapter was started by Jacob Brier and is now headed by Rob Cutler, the current coordinator. The organization held its first annual Hanukkah Party this year, which was anything but traditional.

Held Dec. 23, partygoers were required to "mangia bene" at Caffè Dolce Vita on Federal Hill. The chef was asked to hold the pancetta, making the Italian restaurant's traditional orichetta with vodka sauce into a meatless dish for the event. There were scattered traditional decorations and blue-and-white crackers

filled with dreidels and other toys.

Attendees connected to their Jewish heritage with a jam-packed trivia session which consisted of a general Jewish education round, a "Jews-in-Sports" round, and "Name-that-Jewish-Celebrity".

Many were surprised to learn that "American Idol" Judge Paula Abdul is, in fact, Jewish, and that Marilyn Monroe converted to Judaism. Several guests remembered the differences between a hanukkiyah and a menorah

(i.e., that a hanukkiyah has eight branches and a menorah has only seven and that the hanukkiyah is the proper one to use during holiday celebration).

GesherCity also participated in a latke cook-off on Dec. 18 hosted by the JCC. The title-defending GesherCity team was crushed by its loss to a pair of 10-year-old girls whose sweet potato and marshmallow recipe won.

Moishe House is an alternate group for young-professionals. It's another national organization, and its local chapter was started by a group of post-graduates from Brown University. Nathaniel Lepp and Jesse Stout had been involved in Hillel and were seeking a way to stay involved in Jewish life and maintain their

circle of friends with whom they shared countless Shabbat dinners throughout their years in school.

A key difference between the two groups is that while GesherCity is based out of the JCC building with most events held at the homes of "cluster leaders" or event organizers, Moishe House is literally that, a home with open doors, to be used as a place to hold events.

This year, Moishe House is in the midst of a move from artsy Wickenden Street to Providence's West Side and the group spent a low-key holiday season. People interested in visiting Moishe House for future events can find them at 61 Parade St. on the Armory Park.

Maybe there's not a substan-

See BRIDGES, Page 20



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Jewish Community Calendar

FRIDAY

January 9

Yiddish Schmooz

Adults gather to speak Yiddish, sing songs, tell stories.

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

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: 862-8800, ext.108

SATURDAY

January 10

Tot Shabbat

Engaging, fund and age-appropriate Shabbat morning services, including singing, dancer, 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

Family Havdalah Program

Sponsored by Family Committee of Temple Emanu-El. Light dairy dinner, "Make Your Own Havdalah Candle," and singing.

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

WHEN: 6:15-8 p.m.

COST: \$5/family

MORE INFO: blazar@pol.net

MONDAY

January 12

Cope with Winter Blues

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

WHERE: Bright View Commons, 57A Grandville Ct., Wakefield

WHEN: 1-2:30 p.m.

MORE INFO: 621-5374

Shalom Baby Knitting

Join with JFRI's Women 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

Leisure Club Winter Session

Temple Emanu-el Leisure Club Continuing Education and Entertainment, Monday and Thursday afternoons. Membership is open to all adults.

WHERE: Temple Emanu-el, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

WHEN 2 P.M.

COST: \$18/year

More info: 331-1616

WEDNESDAY

January 14

Israel Helps To Conquer AIDS

Professor Michael L. Alkan, M.D., will speak.

WHEN: 7 p.m., reception to follow

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

MORE INFO: kclarkson@jfri.org

FRIDAY

January 16

'The Cantor's Tale'

Temple Sinai Seniors will show "The Cantor's Tale," a documentary which provides a nostalgic journey through family, neighborhood and tradition.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

WHEN: noon

MORE INFO: 942-8350

K'Tantan PJ Library Shabbat

Children, ages toddler through first grade, can come dressed



JOIN WITH PJ LIBRARY, Temple Habonim and Barrington Books for story time on Jan. 15 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at 184 County Rd., Barrington.

in their pajamas for this unique Shabbat service, which features a story from the PJ library collection.

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

WHEN: 6 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

SATURDAY

January 17

Multi-generational Shabbat

Temple Torat Yisrael's Shabbat Yachad.

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

WHEN: 9:15 a.m.

MORE INFO: 785-1800 to RSVP

SUNDAY

January 18

CPR Class

Hosted by Temple Sinai Brotherhood; space is limited to 10.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 9 a.m.-noon

COST: \$20/person

MORE INFO: 732-2784, or gdead21@aol.com to RSVP

TUESDAY

January 20

Presidential Inauguration

Jennifer Lawless will provide commentary on President Obama's inauguration.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

WHEN: noon

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Adult Learning Registration

Eight-session courses, open to the public, on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Courses include Talmud study, Hebrew poetry, and choral club.

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

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-1616

WEDNESDAY

January 21

Boker Tov

Offers songs, stories, snacks and playtime in the Temple Beth-El boardroom. Hour long program for children not yet in pre-school and their parents, grandparents or caregivers.

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

WHEN: 9:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

THURSDAY

January 22

Bereavement Group

Hug N'hamah at Torat Yisrael, 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

SUNDAY

January 25

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo

Temple Sinai presents "Celebration 2009 - a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo." Free, vendors include DJs, florists, caterers, event planners, and photographers.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

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

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Music with Preschool

Sunday morning bagels and a craft activity relating to Tu'B Shevat, followed by music with Debbie Waldman.

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

WHEN: 9:15- 10:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Sisterhood Book Review

Discussion of *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman.

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

WHEN: 10 a.m.

MORE INFO: 785-1800, RSVP by Jan. 21.

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Winners of the 2008 Voice & Herald Hanukkah art contest



Second-place winner: Justin Adams, 11



First-place winner: Tsipora Gil, 8



Third-place winner: Nehama Gil, 6



Third-place winner: Sheva Teitelbaum, 9

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First-place winner: Benjamin Forstadt, 10



First-place winner: Bracha Poyurs, 6



Third-place winner: Yehuda Lapin, 10



Second-place winner: Chava Saklad, 6



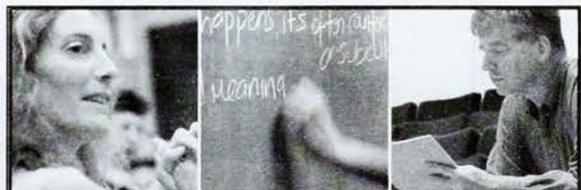
Second-place winner: Menucha Krinsky, 7

MAZEL TOV!

IN THE VOICE & HERALD'S annual Hanukkah art contest, this year's winners from our youngest category, ages 4 to 6, are:
 First place winner: Bracha Poyurs, age 6, from Sharon, Mass.
 Second place winner: Chava Saklad, age 6, from Providence.
 Third place winner: Nehama Gil, age 6, from Sharon, Mass.
 A total of 36 pictures was submitted in this category.

A total of 44 pictures were submitted in the ages 7 to 9 category. The winners are:
 First-place winner: Tsipora Gil, age 8, from Sharon, Mass.
 Second-place winner: Menucha Krinsky, age 7, from Providence.
 Third-place winner: Sheva Teitelbaum, age 9, from Providence.
 A total of 15 pictures was submitted in the ages 10 to 13 category. The winners are:
 First-place winner: Benjamin

Forstadt, age 10, from Providence.
 Second-place winner: Justin Adams, age 11, from Attleboro, Mass.
 Third-place winner: Yehuda Lapin, age 10, from Providence.
 Congratulations to the winners and to all who submitted art work for this year's "Hanukkah as a family holiday" themed art contest. Pictures may be picked up at the front desk of the JCC during regular business hours.



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People do not live by bread alone; soup is needed

Everyone can benefit from budget-conscious recipes

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

HEARTY SOUP and great bread can make a delicious and appealing meal on cold dark winter nights. Meals like these won't tax your budget or stretch your waistline, as long as you're prudent about how much delicious bread you consume.

THREE SISTERS SOUP

Native American traditions refer to corn, squash and beans as "the three sisters" because the three go so well together. The cookbook explains: "These sisters are laden with fiber, and their multiple colors provide the benefits of multiple vitamins and minerals as well."

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 large onion, cut into 1/4-inch dice
1 stalk celery, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/4-inch dice
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
2 cups frozen butternut squash cubes
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed well and drained
1 cup frozen corn kernels
2 cups canned crushed tomatoes
3 cups water
1/2 cup frozen shelled edamame
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
fine sea salt
freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat the olive oil in a large soup pot at medium heat. Add the onion and celery. Cook

together for 4-5 minutes, until shiny and translucent. Make sure not to get any color on the onion. If onion starts to brown, lower the heat.

In a small bowl, mix the oregano, garlic powder and cumin. Stir and add to the onions. Sauté for 2 minutes to toast the spices.

Add the butternut squash, beans, corn and tomatoes. Cook for 5 minutes. Add 3 cups water, or more if needed, to cover the vegetables. Add the edamame and cayenne and simmer for 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Makes six servings.

From Kosher by Design Lightens Up, by Susie Fishbein, published 2008 by Mesorah Publications, Ltd.

BREAD AND TOMATO SOUP

Ingredients:

1 small yellow onion, peeled and finely chopped
3 tablespoons olive oil
6-9 cloves garlic, crushed
4-5 medium Roma (Italian plum) tomatoes, peeled and chopped into small cubes
5 cups chicken stock
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
4 slices French bread, day-old and dried
1/2 cup fresh basil, sliced into thin strips

Method:

In a soup pot, on a low heat, sauté the onion in olive oil until it softens, but does not brown, for 8-10 minutes.

Add the crushed garlic and continue cooking for another 30 seconds or so. The heat should be low enough that the garlic doesn't brown.

Add the tomatoes and sauté for 2-3 minutes.

Add the chicken stock, salt and pepper and bring to a boil. Simmer for 15 minutes.

In the bottom of four soup bowls, place one slice of the dry bread and a quarter of the basil. Pour the soup over the bread and serve.

Makes four servings.

From Soup, a Kosher Collection, by Pam Reiss, published 2004 by M. Evans and Company, Inc.

OLIVE BREAD

Ingredients:

1 and 1/2 tablespoons dry yeast or 2 ounces fresh yeast
2 and 3/4 cups water
4 cups flour
1/2 cup olive oil
1 tablespoon salt
1 and 1/2 cups cut olives
1/2 cup fresh thyme, minced
5 cut garlic cloves

Method:

In a mixing bowl, combine yeast, water, flour and oil slightly and add salt. Knead until you get a smooth dough.

Add olives, thyme and garlic. Continue kneading until all ingredients are blended into dough. Cover with plastic wrap and leave in a warm spot for 30 minutes.

Divide dough into 4 to 6 balls. Shape into loaves.

Place on a greased baking pan. Let dough rise until double in size.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes.

Makes four to six loaves.

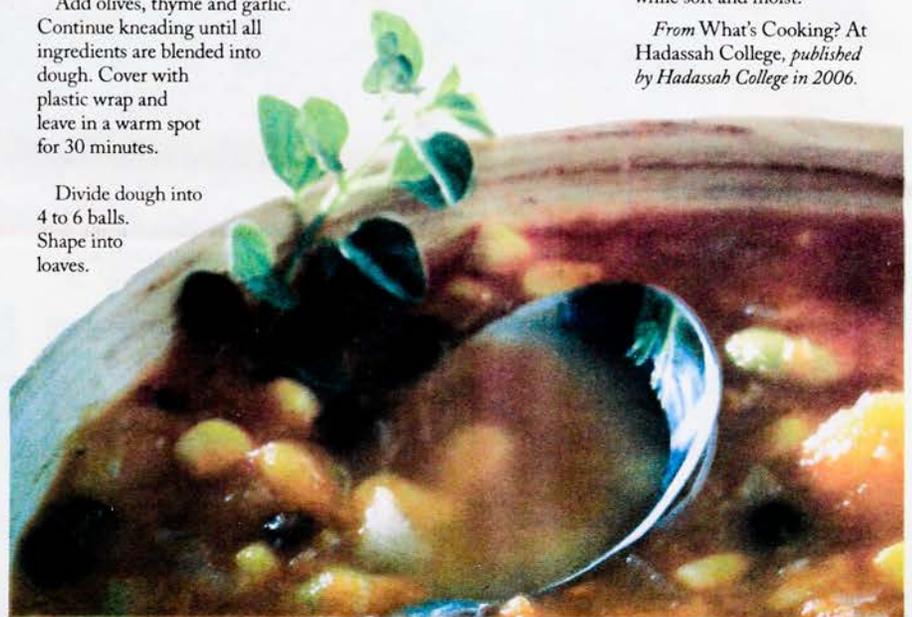
From What's Cooking? At Hadassah College, published by Hadassah College in 2006.

PITA

According to the cookbook: "Pita is the traditional Middle Eastern flat bread, and although many think the word is Arabic, it is actually Greek from the word, *pita*. The word was adopted by the Jews of Salonika who spoke Ladino (Medieval Spanish, Hebrew and Aramic) who adopted the word, *pita*. The word traveled to the land of Israel in the 15th century."

Ingredients:

4 cups flour
pinch salt



Three Sisters Soup

Image courtesy of Kosher by Design Lightens Up by Susie Fishbein

Method:
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Sift flour into a mixing bowl. Add salt, yeast, sugar, oil and water. Mix and knead.

Cover bowl and allow to rest for 15 minutes.

Cut dough into 3/8 cup (the size of 5 tablespoons) pieces and roll into balls. Allow to rest for 10 minutes.

Roll out balls and flatten into circles. Allow to rest for 15 minutes. Place on non-stick cookie sheets or lightly oiled cookie sheets in the hottest part of the oven. Bake up to 12 minutes but watch so they do not burn.

Wrap *pitas* in clean dish towel, and serve hot while soft and moist.

From What's Cooking? At Hadassah College, published by Hadassah College in 2006.

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One-stop shopping at bar/bat mitzvah expo

Vendors galore at Temple Sinai's bar and bat mitzvah expo

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

CRANSTON – Most Jewish life cycle events involve a little – or a lot – of food, invitations and music; *bar* and *bat mitzvah* celebrations are no exception. Whether you are hosting an *oneg* Shabbat for the entire congregation after your son becomes *bar mitzvah* or an evening of dinner and dancing after your daughter becomes *bat mitzvah*, planning is essential. With a little *mazel* and some advance preparation, you might accomplish all your planning at a one-stop shopping event on Sunday, Jan. 25 at Temple Sinai's Celebrations 2009, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Expo.

The traditional *bar* and *bat mitzvah* vendors – DJs, florists, caterers, event planners and photographers – will be there to answer questions, offer advice and describe their goods or services. The annual event, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., offers free admission and raffle prizes.

As with most planning, making a list before you attend the expo is encouraged. If, for example, your cousin's *klezmer* band will perform at the *bat mitzvah*, you can bypass the music vendors.

If, however, you need to contract with vendors of many goods and services, check out all the vendors, and pace yourself accordingly.

Consider the needs and wishes of all generations attending the event. If the *bubbes* and *zaydes* are appalled by your child's musical preferences, talk with the DJs about how they manage such challenges – your dilemma won't be the first for these experienced entertainers. They'll help you find a compromise that works.

While "Coke and Pepsi" may be a universally played game at

offered some hard-earned advice: First, know your numbers.

"Getting a good understanding of the attendance is so important, and sometimes that slips by folks. If you exceed the numbers, it's just not comfortable if you agree to 200 people and then 250 or 300 people actually attend the event."

Second, help the vendor determine the appropriate food.

"We can only assist to a certain degree," said Ruggieri, who said that people who host personal functions should know what kinds of food will be popular.

The newly renovated hotel, he said, has great event space for *bar* and *bat mitzvah* parties. Its Rose Island Ballroom seats 200 to 250 people and overlooks the Newport Bridge and Narragansett Bay and its Grand Ballroom seats 600, though without a water view.

As a personalized kosher catering company, Accounting for Taste, LLC is an old hand at *bar* and *bat mitzvah* meal preparation. Deb Blazer, who owns the company, explained that she's never done the exact same menu twice.

"I like to sit with the family and personalize the menu," she said. "When you call a caterer, try to have a budget in mind and some idea of the kind of food you want," she said. "If

"No event is too large or too small."

Deb Blazer
Accounting for Taste

bar and *bat mitzvah* parties, the entertainers at Celebrations 2009 will have other ideas, as well.

Allergic to flowers? Party planners will have great ideas for centerpieces that won't make you sneeze.

Some vendors, such as the Hyatt Regency Newport, are new to the *bar* and *bat mitzvah* scene, yet have experience with other functions, such as weddings and corporate events. The Hyatt's Director of Catering and Convention Services, Alex Ruggieri,



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See EXPO, Page 24

Celebrations 2009



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Shabbat: Agudas Achim offers more than services

ATTLEBORO - Congregation Agudas Achim welcomes members of the Jewish community to its Shabbat B'Yachad (Shabbat Together) on Jan. 17. Hour long elective programs, which begin at 9 a.m., include drumming, a Shabbat stroll through the trails of the North Attleboro fish hatchery, the rabbi's roundtable, yoga, chess and game club, text study for teens, or exploring Jewish identity through stamps, letters

and documents. The regular Shabbat morning service begins promptly at 10 a.m. and a potluck lunch is held at noon.

Members of the Jewish community are welcome to attend any or all of the Shabbat B'Yachad events.

For more information about Shabbat B'Yachad, call Agudas Achim at 508-222-2243, for potluck meal questions, contact Susan Lichtman, lunch coordinator, at 508-252-5652.



Photo courtesy of Providence Hebrew Day School.

THE PROVIDENCE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL student choir performs Hanukkah songs for parents, families, friends and faculty.

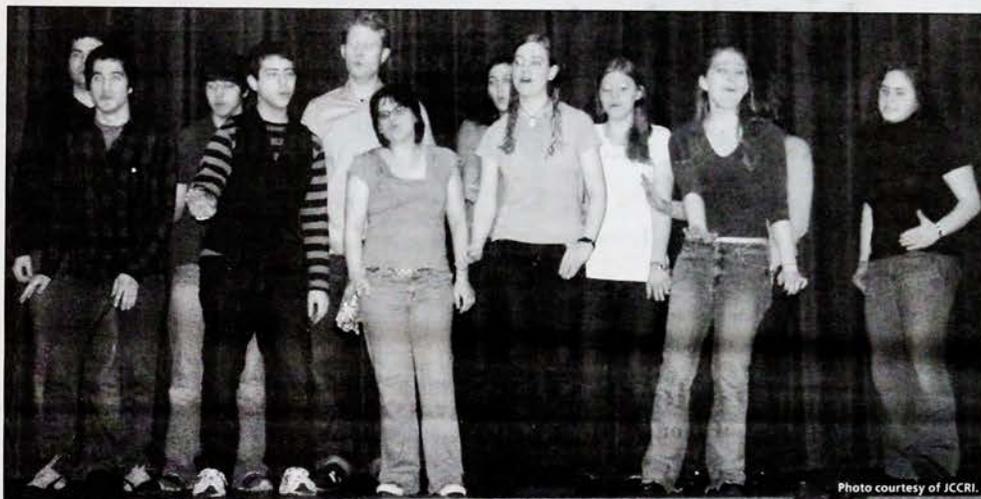


Photo courtesy of JCCRI.

CHICAGO'S RHYTHM AND JEWS

THE DEC. 17 PERFORMANCE by Chicago's Rhythm and Jews, an a cappella group from the University of Chicago, captivated the crowd at the JCC. Although most of the audience members were middle school students, several seniors also enjoyed the concert, including JCC member Carolyn Swift, who graduated from the University of Chicago in 1947.

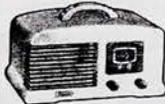
Rob McConeghy, (rear, center, tall guy) who used to play basketball at the JCCRI, is a member of the a cappella group, and from Providence. The student group was touring during the winter holiday break from city to city, and Providence was one of the chosen.

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HANUKKAH LIGHTS



Photo courtesy of Temple Habonim

ANNA BROUSSEAU, a young congregant, watches as the candlelighting gets underway at Temple Habonim.



Photo courtesy of Temple Habonim

THE HANUKKIYOT LIGHTS are reflected in the windows at Temple Habonim's Hanukkah party on Dec. 21.



Photo courtesy of Providence Hebrew Day School

YAAKOV SHOLOM BURGER, a Providence Hebrew Day School second-grade student, prepares to light the menorah at the school's family Hanukkah celebration.

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STATEHOUSE LIGHTING

Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer, director of Chabad of Rhode Island, and Gov. Carcieri lead the Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony at the R.I. Statehouse Dec. 23. They were joined by members of the community, including Ziv Assor (with guitar), Dr. Michael Bharier, Rabbi Schneur Zalman Laufer and Anshel Strauss. Prayers for peace and for the martyrs of Mumbai were said.



Photo courtesy of Elianna Bresler

Suing terrorists: justice for terror victims

PROVIDENCE –David J. Strachman, an attorney who has represented terror victims in civil suits against terrorist entities will speak at the Rochambeau branch of the Providence Public Library on Monday, Jan. 26 from 7 to 8 p.m. He has brought lawsuits in New York and Wash-

ington, D.C. on victims' behalf against terrorist groups such as Hamas and the Palestinian Liberation Organization and countries such as Iran and Syria.

A partner at McIntyre, Tate and Lynch in Providence, Strachman brought the first civil suit under the Anti Terrorism

Act of 1990. He is an adjunct professor of law at Southern New England School of Law and the author of the recently published Civil Terrorism Law (Lawyers and Judges Publishing, 2008), the first book on civil terrorism litigation.

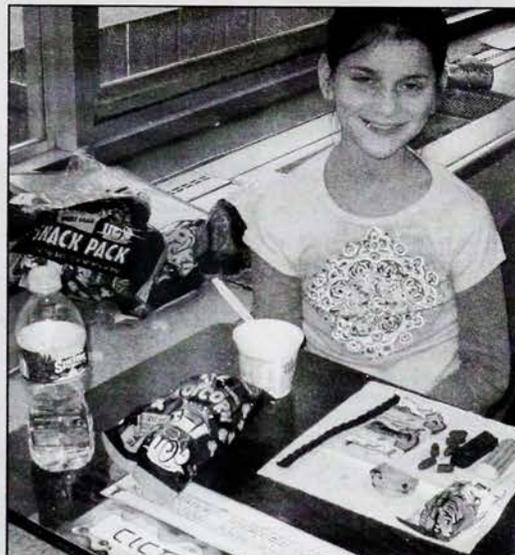


Photo courtesy of Providence Hebrew Day School

ENJOYING HER SIYUM PARTY

PROVIDENCE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL fifth-grader Tsipora Gil of Sharon, Mass. enjoys her siyum or culminating party on Parshat Beshalach. The PHDS fifth-graders celebrate three siyumim each year, upon the completion of three sections of the book of Shemos.

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Jerome Deluty, 88

CRANSTON — Jerome Deluty, of Cedar Point Blvd., Boynton Beach, Fla. and Cranston, died Dec. 27, in Hospice of Palm Beach County, Delray Beach. He was the husband of the late Doris (Viner) Deluty. Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Sadie (Garlick) Deluty, he had lived in Cranston for 58 years.

He was a graduate of Hope High School, class of 1937 and Brown University, class of 1941. He was a World War II Army veteran serving in the South Pacific. He was a member of Touro

Fraternal Assoc. and Temple Torat Yisrael and its Men's Club.

Father of Edward Deluty and his wife Karen of Cranston, Harris Deluty and his wife LiYing of Singapore and Maxine Roberts of Wellesley, Mass. Brother of Gertrude Stein Nelson and her husband Sam, Lenore Edenbaum and her husband Jesse, and Helene Klein and her husband Richard, all of Cranston. Grandfather of Melissa, Alana, Daniel, Evan and Sarah. Companion of Anne Mushnick of Narragansett and Boynton Beach.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island, 169 George St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860.

Mollye Miller-Fiorucci, 100

BEAUMONT, Texas — Mollye (Israel) Miller-Fiorucci died Oct. 6.

Born Sept. 18, 1908 in Providence, she was the daughter of Jacob Israel and Annie (Feldman) Exter-Israel.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, George, who died in 1959 and her second husband, Oliver, who died in 1993.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Jane Damm — Buttrill. She leaves her grandchildren and their spouses: Mary Belle (Damm)

Reese and Grady, George A. Damm and Teresa, John C. Damm and Lauren, Carol A. Damm and Michael Jerosch-Herald, JoEllen (Damm) Ritchie and Lee, and Neal Joslyn, spouse of the late Ruth (Damm) Joslyn. She leaves 14 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

From her second marriage, she is survived by her stepdaughters: Elisa China, and Primo and Velia Saverina, five step-grandchildren, eight step great-grandchildren, and one step great-great grandchild.

She was the sister of the late Ruben Israel and Bessie (Israel) Silverman. She was the step-sister of the late David Harris Exter, Mary (Israel) Lewis, Katherine Israel, Benjamin P. Israel, Hyman Israel, and Paul Israel.

Evelyn S. Goldstein, 84

CRANSTON — Evelyn S. Goldstein, of 65 Meredith Drive, died Dec. 28 in Hallworth House, Providence. She was the wife of the late Leon Goldstein. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Morris and Mamie (Brown) Block, she had lived in Cranston for 44 years.

She was a graduate of Hope High School, class of 1942, and owned Artist Materials in Providence and Warwick for 53 years, retiring in 1994. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El, ITN, B'nai B'rith and a former member of Temple Am David and its Sisterhood.

Mother of Marc Goldstein and his wife Rhonda of Warwick, and Rena Goldstein, with whom she resided. Sister of the late Robert Block and Muriel Sonnenfeld. Grandmother of Daniel, Andrea and Max.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Emanu-El or Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

Dr. Alvin Lazaroff, 88

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Dr. Alvin Lazaroff died at home on Dec.

Obituaries

25. He was the husband of Anita (Wadler) Lazaroff for 61 years. Father of Dr. Gary Lazaroff and his wife Judith, and Lynne Lazaroff Drazen. Grandfather of Caryn Lazaroff, Greg Lazaroff, Jennifer Trapnell and her husband Mark, and Josh Drazen. Great-grandfather of Eve and Alison Trapnell.

He was a 1943 graduate of Tufts Dental School and had a private practice in dentistry in Branford, Conn. until his retirement. He was also a veteran of World

War II and served as a Lt. J.G. in the Navy on the U.S.S. Cottle.

Contributions may be sent to Connecticut Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford, Conn. 06405

Reva Paisner

PROVIDENCE — Reva Novogroski Paisner died Dec. 21 at Epoch on Blackstone Blvd. A lifelong resident of Rhode Island, she served as a psychiatric social worker at Rhode Island Hospital for nearly 20 years.

Born in Westerly in 1916, she was the child of Max and Esther Novogroski. She graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College in 1937. She married her husband, Isadore, in 1940. She was a Director of the Associated Harvard Alumni and a president of the Radcliffe Club of Rhode Island.

She leaves her children, Bruce of New York City, Maxine P. Winig of Chestnut Hill, Mass., and Richard of Chevy Chase, Md.; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Her husband preceded her in death.

Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Isadore and Reva Paisner Scholarship c/o Harvard College, 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138 or to the Classical Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2872, Providence, R.I. 02906.

A memorial service will be held at Sugarman Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence at 2 p.m. on February 8.

Janet K. Silverman, 84

TAMPA, Fla. — Janet K. Silverman died Dec. 27. She was the daughter of the late Fannie and Barnett Kapelow. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert.

She leaves her five children, Bruce Silverman (Vikki), Joan Allyn Nagy, Susan Ben Avraham (Rene), Nancy Gardosh (Miki) and Margie

Szicszay (Tom); 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She also leaves her two sisters, Libby Finberg Silberman of Providence and Celia Sholovitz of West Hartford, Conn.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Suncoast Alzheimer and Gerontology Center, 4001 East Fletcher Avenue, Tampa, Fla. 33613.

AIDS activist to speak

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Michael L. Alkan, a professor emeritus of medicine at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the former chief of infectious diseases at Soroka University Medical Center, will talk about Israel's efforts to help conquer AIDS, at the Jewish Community Center at 7 p.m. on Jan. 14.

A lecturer at Ben Gurion University of the Negev's Medical School for International Health (MSIH) and Sderot's Sapir College, Alkan has traveled and taught around the world. He

recently returned from Africa and China where he was involved with government initiatives to help fight the war on AIDS.

A dessert and coffee reception will follow his presentation which is free and open to the public. As seating is limited, please reserve your seat. Contact Karen Clarkson at the JFRI, kclarkson@jfri.org or 421-4111, ext. 177.

The event is sponsored by the AIDS Task Force of The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, in conjunction with American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

BRIDGES: Building connections with Jewish singles

From Page 10

tial calling for a Jewish club scene in Providence, because the MatzoBall, an annual event held Dec. 24 at venues across the nation, was canceled at the Providence location.

The event, created with Jewish singles in mind, was originally scheduled to be held at Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel. The event's web site sets the tone for the event with dance/rave music and encourages attendees to "mix and mingle all night long." The event cost of \$30 was set by the MatzoBall organization, and is equivalent to or more than the

cost of admission to see most of the nationally recognized performers who visit the venue. Cutler estimated he'd be able to fill the event with 100 people. The venue holds 1,900 but the event venue planned to open the downstairs only, which holds about 1,200. After Lupo's advertised for several weeks with no ticket sales and no inquiries about the event, they decided to cancel.

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OBAMA: Chance to address problems, produce changes

From Page 1

with Bush as Obama. People are so hungry for change."

Voice & Herald: What about expectations? It seems that people will expect miracles right off the bat.

West: He can't address the problems in the first 100 days – they may take years to address. I do think voters understand that; he'll have a long honeymoon. He's taking office in a very difficult time, so he'll get the benefit of the doubt longer than most presidents.

Lawless: In the first 100 days, lowering expectations is essential. With foreign policy and the economy, people understand that there won't be a 100-day honeymoon. The first year or two is critically important.

He has done a good job explaining to people that we're not going to leave Iraq the day he takes office, but I'm not sure he's prepared people to understand that the economy won't get better. He needs to work on that; Rush Limbaugh is already blaming Obama for the recession.

Voice & Herald: What about the logistics of the actual Inauguration Day – D.C. is going to be overwhelmed with people, so what do you anticipate? And

will you attend the festivities?

Lawless: I won't be there – I'm doing some commentary about Inauguration Day (at Temple Sinai and at Brown University), so I really need to be able to see and hear what's going on.

Symbolically, I see two really important aspects about the day. First, a record number of people are going to Washington, D.C.

With the approval ratings for President Bush and Congress the lowest I've ever seen, it's amazing that people are willing to give Barack Obama a chance.

This is really a chance to enliven political democracy in an environment that's so economically troubled and seemingly polarized.

West: I am very excited about attending Inauguration Day. It's going to be a mob scene – the city is expecting 2-4 million people (for the event). With

respect to the infrastructure, people are going to have to do a lot of walking. The highways and the Metro (D.C.'s subway and bus system) will be completely overwhelmed but people will be in good spirits.

In spite of the hassles, there's such a sense of history with our first African-American president. I think people are very excited about this historic time period.

Voice & Herald: What do you anticipate going forward? What advice would you give President-elect Obama, if you could?

West:

"Obama will have strong political support from American people – he's got the highest job approval rating of any incoming president in 20 years."

Darrell West

What people like about President-elect Obama is that he is different. Three-fourths of the country doesn't like the status quo – they want something different. It really is an Obama moment.

The message really has to be the economy – it's the 800-pound gorilla. People will be patient for one or two years, but if the economy

doesn't improve (after that), people will blame him.

He'll have strong political support from American people – he's got the highest job approval rating of any incoming president in 20 years.

Lawless: It's huge change, having elected a bi-racial president. The political system is open to people who haven't traditionally looked the part – women, Latinos and others.

Latinos are the most important in terms of voting blocks both political parties, as they're socially conservative yet vote with the Democrats on economic issues.

The Jewish vote is tricky; generally, the Democrats can count on them, but with the exception of a few congressional seats in Florida and New York, they're not a majority group. Jewish voters are active and contribute.

When you broaden your electoral base, as Obama did, and inspire a lot of people to get involved, you won't necessarily have mandates for certain issues. The Obama victory, which was a win with greater margins than we've seen for quite some time, is not necessary a signal that the country is moving to the left, but that we're all ready for a change from George Bush.

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D'VAR TORAH Traditional burial practices are more than symbolic

This week's parashah reminds us that people must be free from both physical and spiritual burdens to feel liberated and empowered.

By **RABBI JAMES JACOBSON-MAISELS**
Special to The Voice & Herald

OUR PARSHAH, *Vayechi*, is book-ended by two deaths, those of Jacob and Joseph. Both men make their successors swear to lay their bones to rest in the land of Israel, and these promises are ultimately fulfilled. What is the significance of this return of Jacob and Joseph's bones to the land of Israel? Our answer is found in the Torah, where bones (*atzamot*) can also be read as essence (*atzmut*). That is, the taking up of Joseph and Jacob's bones is, in fact, a liberation of their essences from the bondage of Egypt.

Comparing Egyptian and Jewish burial practices illustrates

the vast cultural differences between the two societies. In Egypt, as the Torah explicitly points out, the dead are embalmed, mummified and placed in a coffin or sarcophagus to be preserved. As illustrated by the Hebrew word for Egypt (*Mitzrayim*), connected to the root word *tzar*, or narrow. Egypt was a society of narrowness, of restriction and oppression, of slavery, death and abuse. So too, Egypt's burial practice was one of restriction, sealing off, preservation and narrowness.

In contrast, in a Jewish burial, the body must be free to return to the ground. This is especially true in Israel, the final burial place of both Jacob and Joseph, where the beloved's body is returned to the ground without a coffin, wrapped only in a simple white shroud. Here, the bones and essence of a person are not confined, but liberated to return to the source from whence they came. It is in

these two societies' treatment of bones (*atzamot*) that their essence (*atzmut*) is revealed. The narrowness of *Mitzrayim* is contrasted with the openness, liberation and transformation of Israel.

The exodus of Jacob and Joseph's bones and essence, then, represents the entire process of liberation from Egypt. It precisely demonstrates the importance of the dual liberation of both body (*atzamot*) and spirit (*atzmut*), and the movement from narrowness to expansive liberation. Indeed, this dual reading of the Hebrew root points us toward an understanding that the liberation of body or spirit alone is insufficient. A liberated body without spirit is only a corpse, while a liberated spirit without body is simply a ghost. Only together, bones and essence, is liberation of the full human being achieved.

Exile and redemption, slavery and freedom, are not merely historical events. Both exile and

redemption, Egypt and Israel, are deep truths that occur in every place, in every person and in every time. Across the developing world the physical enslavement of poverty, hunger and disease exiles human beings from their inherent potential. The physical exile is manifest in the overwhelming lack of basic resources: the scarcity of food, clean water and medication, as well as essential means of economic development, such as seeds, livestock and tools. Liberation is only possible when people are able to provide for their physical needs and thus liberate their bones from the narrowness of poverty.

At the same time, the spiritual enslavement of lack of education, political voice, community organization and human rights traps citizens of the developing world in a second exile. Only when people are empowered to have the social and political resources necessary to succeed

— to live without fear of oppression and violence, the freedom to collaborate with their neighbors and to have the opportunity to participate in the decisions which affect their lives — only then can their essence be freed.

It is only as one, with each other and aided by the divine, that both the bodies (*atzamot*) and spirits (*atzmut*) of all those trapped in the narrowness of oppression can be freed. And it is only as one, as both body and spirit, bones and essence, that true redemption is possible.

Jacobson-Maisels earned a master's degree in Modern Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford in England. He then pursued four years of yeshiva study in Israel.

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Simchas

Engagement

BRUCE and **SANDY LENORE** announce the engagement of their daughter **Rachel** to **Kobi Zamir**, son of **Avi** and **Hanah Zamir**, of Nes Ziona, Israel. Rachel, a 2004 graduate of the University of Connecticut, is presently an account supervisor at Marina Maher Communications, a public relations agency in New York City. Kobi is a real estate development consultant and attends Baruch College in New York City where he is studying for a business degree. They will marry July 2, in Israel, and make their home in New York City.



Rachel Lenore and Kobi Zamir



Rachel Greenberg and David Scheraga

Engagement

BILL and **MONA SCHERAGA** announce the engagement of their son **David** to **Dr. Rachel Greenberg**, daughter of **Dr. Larry** and **Barbara Greenberg** of Pikesville, Md. A graduate of Temple Medical School, Rachel is completing her residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. She will begin her fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine next year at the NIH in Bethesda, Md. David received his bachelor of science in bioengineering from Syracuse University and completed his masters degree in systems engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. He is employed as a systems engineer in Baltimore. The couple will wed next spring.

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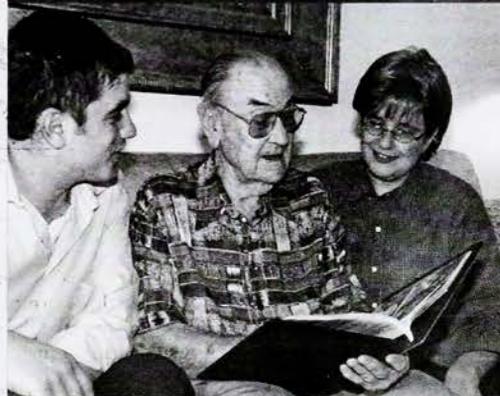
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July 2008

EXPO: Temple Sinai is host for bar/bat mitzvah fair

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you tell me (or another caterer) that you expect 300 people to attend and you have \$5,000 to spend on food, most caterers will work with you to figure out what you can and can't afford."

When people come to see me, she said, we talk about whether there's a theme to the party and the colors of the linens. Blazer urged prospective clients to ask for references and then follow up with them. Finally, once you've settled on menu items, it's always appropriate to ask for a sample tasting of those foods. "No event is too large or too small (for us)," she said.

Mike Sarenson, owner of Music Express, in Cranston, has done tons of bar and bat mitzvah parties, by his reckoning. His recommendation? Do a video of the party. "It's a great way to pass memories down from generation to generation."



Photo courtesy of Temma Holland

DANIELLE FRIEDMAN became the third generation of women in her family to become bat mitzvah.

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