

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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February 20, 2009

Who won?

See ELECTION, Page 16



Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu



Kadima's Tzipi Livni



Photos by JTA

Yisrael Beiteinu's Avigdor Lieberman

Saluting 100 years



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

CHARLOTTE "LOTTIE" KWASHA turned 100 on Feb. 12. Kwasha, who served during World War II under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, laughs as Mayor David N. Cicilline blows bubbles at her birthday celebration at the Epoch Senior Living on Blackstone Boulevard in Providence.

JCDS plans to close middle school

High financial aid costs, small enrollment cited as factors

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Community Day School board of trustees voted nearly unanimously, 17-1, to close the middle school at the end of the school year, in June 2009. The decision was announced in an e-mail to parents and staff on Friday, Feb. 13. (To read a copy of the e-mail, see Page 17.)

"We made this decision in the broadest economic context," explained Bruce Wolpert, chair of the JCDS board of trustees, in an interview at *The Voice & Herald* offices. "All schools are encountering significant economic difficulties. We strongly believe that by taking this step, we are ultimately significantly strengthening the school."

Wolpert continued: "In a nutshell, we were looking at a projected deficit in excess of \$600,000 for next year. When we did our financial analysis, the middle school was a significant portion of that loss." The small size of the middle school — 37 students — and the high need for financial aid — about

See JCDS, Page 15

Immigration: Confusion at the crossroads

Jewish leaders launch 'Progress by Pesach,' urging reform

By MARY KORR

Senior Contributing Writer

HUI LIU "Jason" Ng, a detainee who died in federal custody in Rhode Island last summer (see accompanying story), is an egregious example of the broken immigration system which Jewish leaders seek to change in a new nationwide campaign called "Progress by Pesach."

Gideon Aronoff, president of the Hebrew Immigrant

See POLICY, Page 11



Photo by Mary Korr

THE WYATT FEDERAL DETENTION Facility in Central Falls is surrounded by barbed wire.

The tragic case of Mr. Ng, who died in federal custody

By MARY KORR

Senior Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE — On Aug. 5, 2008, Hui Lui "Jason" Ng lay dying at Rhode Island Hospital.

A guard from the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, where Ng had occupied cell J-2 with another federal detainee, kept close watch.

The warden had ordered Ng to be placed in "soft restraints." They were not needed. He could not walk. His spine had been fractured.

See GULAG, Page 10

ALISON IN ISRAEL

How to become an insider at your own wedding

Part Two of Alison Stern Perez's story of her wedding in Israel

SO, THERE I was, three months before our projected wedding date, faced with a list of "no-no's" about as long as the sleeves that I was told needed to be on my wedding dress.

I was fearful of what would come next on the list, distrusting of the entire Orthodox Jewish establishment after having just barely survived the year-long ordeal of having to prove my Jewishness. I was already fairly obstinate and argumentative as a result of my sense of lack of control and entitlement to choose the manner in which my wedding would be carried out. In short, I was a soon-to-be-bride to be reckoned with.

My poor husband-to-be just didn't know what to do with himself, and was nearing his wits' end. He couldn't figure out what all my "fuss" was about, as he had never fathomed that I

hadn't had the Judaism rulebook handed out to me at birth, as he had.

When it came to planning the ceremony, as far as he was concerned, we were supposed to just do what the rabbi told us to do. As enlightened as Mikhael is, he had simply never conceived of the possibility of challenging the accepted customs, and he was, himself, a bit fearful of my clear desire to do so. I wonder if this is what they meant when people told us that a cultural gap is not an easy obstacle to overcome.

Finally, we decided to just let the rabbi guide us. Mikhael gave me *carte blanche* to find a suitable rabbi, which I thought was a great achievement until I realized that an "open-minded Orthodox rabbi" is pretty much an oxymoron, especially in Israel.

Nonetheless, I searched high and low, finally coming upon a non-profit organization whose express purpose is to supply rabbis accredited to perform Orthodox ceremonies for couples who aren't exactly jazzed about Orthodox customs.

I came to our first meeting with the rabbi armed with a list of my wants, needs, and arguments. I wanted to be able to give Mikhael his ring at some point during the ceremony, even

though I knew it wouldn't be at the same time as he would give me mine.

I wanted to figure out a way for us to sign a more egalitarian *ketubah*, as well as to confirm the possibility of a rumor that I had heard, of a really far-out option of the bride signing her own *ketubah* and giving it to the groom during the ceremony. I wanted to know if women could at least accompany the men under the *huppah* during the giving of the seven blessings, and if they could speak afterwards.

I also wanted Mikhael and I to put my veil down together, and break the glass together, as opposed to the traditional male-centered versions of these rituals. And, of course, it was important to me that, in his speeches, the rabbi use only *chatan*, the Hebrew word for "groom," and not *baal*, the word that just so happens to double for both "husband" and "owner."

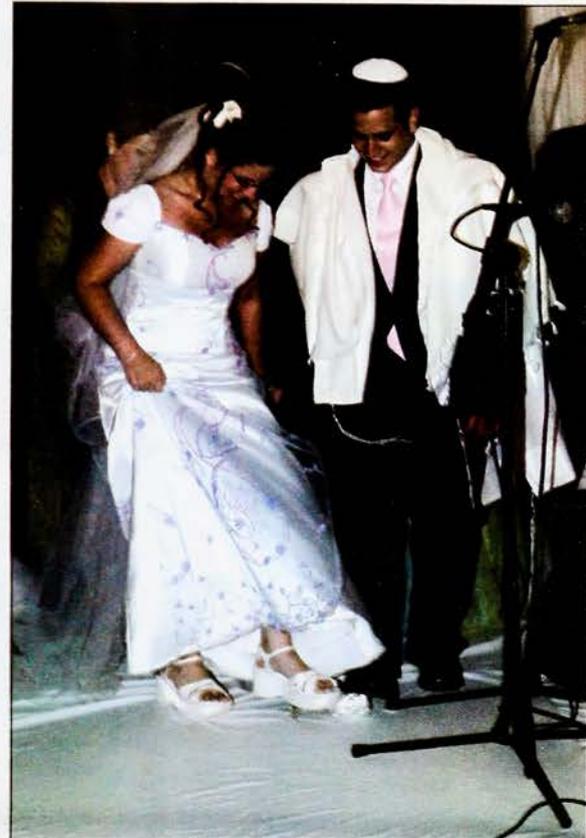
Finally, and this was my own deal-breaker: I wanted our dogs to be part of the ceremony in some manner, preferably as ring-bearers.

Needless to say, this was a tall order—particularly that last little item. Most of our friends had scoffed at me when I presented this desire, and the amount of

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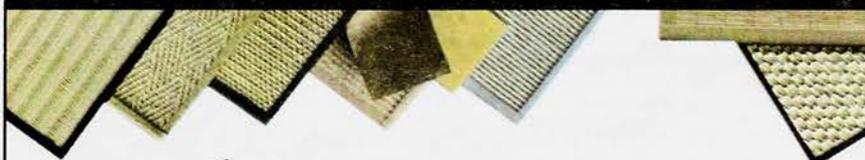


Alison Stern Perez



MIKHAEL AND ALISON break the glass together, as a couple, in a break with tradition.
Photo courtesy of Alison Stern Perez

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CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES For Greater Rhode Island

Feb. 20	5:06
Feb. 27	5:14
March 6	5:22
March 13	6:30

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"What every Israeli government finds when it takes the reins is the same reality: The same West Bank, the same Iran, the same Gaza, the same Arab world."

Ori Nir

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COMING NEXT ISSUE:

HOMES & REAL ESTATE

More than food for thought: Filling food pantries as need grows

Interfaith coalition, synagogues, NCJW chapter take leadership role

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

“PLEASE, SIR, I want some more,” sang Oliver, in the musical adapted for Charles Dickens’ *Oliver Twist*, requesting more gruel for his hungry belly.

While Rhode Island’s hungry shouldn’t have to resort to pick-pocketing for food, their numbers grow daily.

In a state of about 1 million people, 90,000 of us currently receive food stamps while 45,000 of us are served by food pantries around the state, according to Andrew Schiff, executive director of the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Thanks to an initiative of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Fight Poverty with Faith, an effort spurred by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island’s Community Relations Council (the CRC), one food pantry – at St. Michael’s Church – will receive food in a targeted, organized fashion from the Jewish community. According to Maxine Richman, a member

of the CRC steering committee, the food pantry serves some 400 families each month.

“By getting synagogues and other Jewish agencies involved in helping one food pantry, we’re helping to fulfill a basic human need, and build bridges with other religious groups,” said Richman.

Individuals who live in South Providence can access the St. Michael’s Church’s food pantry – which has operated for 40 or 50 years, according to Sister Ann Keefe, one of the church’s religious leaders. At St. Michael’s, everyone gets the same food as everyone else, rather than the more common approach of letting individuals pick their foodstuffs.

“At this food pantry, what’s provided allows a mom to make a healthy, well-balanced meal for her family, with food they can readily prepare,” said Sister Ann.



Photo courtesy of Temple Habonim
THIS CAR’S BOUNTY of food was some of what was delivered by Temple Habonim congregants to St. Michael’s food pantry on Sunday, Feb. 15 as part of a community service initiative.

She said that the food pantry, which does not receive food from the Rhode Island Food Bank, offers people some dignity. “If you live in the area and come to the door for food, you’re not begging. By taking care of your family, you’re helping us take care of the community,” Sister Ann continued.

“At St. Michael’s, we have a philosophy that every person is a part of a circle and every person adds to that circle.”

More than 60 years ago, South Providence residents might have heard or spoken Yiddish, as the area was home to Jewish, as well as Irish, immigrants. Today, the area and the church’s congregation of 2,000 families include African-Americans, Africans from Burundi, Tanzania and Rwanda, and individuals from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Laos.

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE
Temple Habonim’s sixth-graders recently raised \$160 from their recent *challah* bake

sale that they will donate to the food pantry, according to Rabbi Andy Klein. Temple Habonim has taken responsibility for donating food to St. Michael’s food pantry in January and February.

“I’m very excited that the Jewish com-

munity as a whole has taken on one hunger project, and we’re proud to have kicked it off,” he said. It’s been a strong community-building project here, and people who haven’t been involved in other ways got involved in this, he said.

Perri Levis, a congregant

synagogue, taking food to St. Michael’s, making cards to put in the food bags, or going to the church to help sort food and restock the food pantry.”

“People learn by having a connection to the service they’re doing,” Levis continued, who’s been involved professionally with community service learning for many years. “I wanted an opportunity for the kids to do more than bring in *tzedekah*, so the sixth-graders were responsible for the entire *challah* sale.”

What will Habonim congregants do after February, when their organized commitment to St. Michael’s ends?

While Levis doesn’t know the answer to that, she advocates blending experiential and academic learning experiences and sharing knowledge. To those

ends, she created a list of fiction and nonfiction books for students and families who want to learn more about hunger and homelessness. She has shared materials with Liz Hollander, of Temple Beth-El in Providence, which will be responsible for food donations for St. Michael’s in April. In the meantime, Temple Emanuel-El in Providence will donate food for March.

NCJW HELPS EFFORT

The National Council of Jewish Women/Rhode Island Chapter (NCJW/RI) is helping to coordinate the initiative



Photo by Nancy Kirsch
Maxine Richman

“By getting synagogues and other Jewish agencies involved in helping one food pantry, we’re helping to fulfill a basic human need, and build bridges with other religious groups.”

Maxine Richman

whom Rabbi Klein asked to spearhead the synagogue’s initiative, was pleased that congregants have been able to see the impact of their involvement and contributions. “We have created different opportunities for people to participate: dropping off food at the

See FOOD, Page 35

Kosher food pantry planned

ANOTHER INITIATIVE – that of creating a kosher food pantry – is in the early planning stages, said Susan Adler, executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency.

“We felt it was a real *shanda* that we never had a kosher food pantry,” Adler said. She feels that such an initiative is especially important in these harsh economic times. AgeWell Rhode Island will be the lead agency

on this, she explained, and representatives have met with their counterparts at Jewish Family and Child Services in Waltham, Mass., which has experience with such programs.

Planning meetings are scheduled in the next few weeks, according to Adler.

For more information, contact Adler at 621-5374, or e-mail her at sadler-jeri@jsari.org.

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
**How we connect,
converge as Jews**

BY RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

IN HIS COLUMN, Rabbi Jim Rosenberg addresses the conundrum of how we define ourselves as Jews, and our apparent inability to explain ourselves to ourselves. He writes that this creates an opportunity for a "life-long quest for self-understanding." Despite our many differences, he continues, "we Jews remain *am echad*, one people, deeply connected by our quest for past and future."

To which, I would add, as commentary: there is one common denominator that can be said about all members the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts: Regardless of belief, practice, *kasbrut* adherence, family history, affiliation, participation, education or charitable donation, everyone receives a free, mailed copy of *The Voice & Herald*, published by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

To quote one prominent JFRI community leader, *The Voice & Herald* is "the glue" that holds the community together. And, as one prominent JFRI volunteer said: the value of the newspaper is far greater than its bottom line: it is a trusted, critical communications channel for the Jewish community, writ large.

Our print run is about 10,000 every other week. We penetrate 95 percent of our market in terms of readership – reaching more than 22,500 community members out of an estimated 23,500 Jews who live in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. We are mailed to all the legislators in Rhode Island; we are also distributed at more than 85 locations across the region – including coffee shops, supermarkets, delis, libraries, synagogues, community centers, etc.

The small, hardworking and dedicated staff of *The Voice & Herald* produces a professional newspaper that is comprehensive, well-designed, well-written and edited, and chock full of local Jewish news. We run a very lean operation. That said, the economic downturn – and the resultant decline in advertising revenue – has created some stresses on our budget.

While we continue to attract new advertising – to both the newspaper and our web site – there has been a larger than projected attrition in existing advertisers, a measure of the severity of the current economic downturn. This news is not surprising.

But, it is a big challenge. In response, *The Voice & Herald* is developing ways to generate new revenue streams. First, we are planning to launch a new special section, "The Best of Jewish Rhode

IT SEEMS TO ME
Our inability to explain ourselves to ourselves

*Defining Jewishness can
be never-ending quest*

"MY FATHER IS Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish." These 11 words are the last words spoken by Daniel Pearl, *The Wall Street Journal* reporter who was murdered in Karachi, Pakistan, on Feb. 21, 2002. A year later, Daniel's father Judea spoke at an interfaith memorial



**Rabbi Jim
Rosenberg**

service at Temple B'nai Jeshuran in New York City in observance of the first *yahrzeit* of Daniel's death. Judea began his remarks by commenting on his son's final words: "He did not say it under duress, nor did he say it with defiance or with gallantry. He said it in his usual matter-of-fact way, slightly irritated, as if

saying: 'How many times do I have to repeat myself? Two plus two equals four, and I am Jewish!'"

Judea and his wife Ruth went on to edit a book, published by Jewish Lights in early 2004, entitled *I Am Jewish, Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl*. The book is a potpourri of brief statements, rambling meditations, memoirs, and well-organized, cogent essays. Among the 147 contributors are prominent Israeli politicians such as Shimon Perez and Ehud Barak; Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; well-known writers like Amos Oz, Cynthia Ozick, A.B. Yehoshua and Elie Wiesel; former Soviet *refusenik* Natan Sharansky; journalists on the order of Thomas Friedman, Mike Wallace and Daniel Schorr; Bernard Lewis, the world-class scholar of Near Eastern Studies; the actor Kirk Douglas; two 10-year-old Floridians, Robyn J. Friedman and Samantha Schram; numerous rabbis, including Harold Kushner (*When Bad Things Happen...*) and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, current president of the Union for

Reform Judaism. There were 147 different contributors, 147 different takes on what it means to be Jewish.

I am now well into my seventh decade and have been an ordained rabbi since June 6, 1971; yet I still cannot fully explain my Jewishness to myself, let alone to others. I suspect that a large number of us in the Rhode Island Jewish community are equally perplexed by the nature of our Jewishness, and surely our non-Jewish spouses share in our perplexity.

As for the American Jewish community as a whole, we embrace a bewildering variety of groups, subgroups, and outspoken individuals, many of whom appear – at least at times – to be at each other's throats. If we throw into this mix of American Jewish claims and counter-claims the views of other *diaspora* communities, and if we add for good measure the opinions of the 5,000,000 fiercely independent and argumentative Jews of Israel, we can see that we must abandon all hope of arriving at any consensus in response to this question: "Who is a Jew?"

"I find it heart-warming to discover that we remain *am echad*, one people, deeply connected by our quest for past and future."

While there can be no single, all-inclusive answer to our question, it is possible to bring some order to the chaos of conflicting claims to our Jewish identity. I would simplify the discussion by reducing Jewish identity to four categories or rubrics: Religious, ethnic, national, and racist. Many of us Jews see our identity through the lens of our religion; however, a substantial majority of Jews worldwide rarely, if ever, participate in the religious life of their community. How, then, can we Jews define ourselves through our religion, when so many of us claim to be non-religious?

Other Jews emphasize the ethnic dimension of our identity; but in an open society such as ours, ethnicity is not easily transferred from parents to children. Thus, my father's brand of Jewishness,

shaped by his 86 years as a first-generation immigrant, does not speak to the experiences of my son and my daughter. Many Israelis, by way of contrast, see their Jewishness in terms of nationalism; many of them define Jewish life in terms of land and language, but most Jews continue to live outside of the Jewish State.

Like many of my fellow Jews, in my everyday life, I mix and match these rubrics. As the context shifts, I flow from one form of Jewish identity to another. Meanwhile, the anti-Semites in our midst continue to define Jews through their own racist hatred. It goes without saying that the Jewish community can never let our enemies tell us who we are.

What can we conclude from the fact that we cannot define our Jewish selves in a manner that wins communal consensus? First and foremost, and yet most paradoxically, we need to understand that at core of Jewish identity is our inability to explain ourselves to ourselves. How, then, can we even begin to explain ourselves to our Christian neighbors? I myself remain

undaunted by the conundrum of my Jewish identity. Rather, I view the mystery and the complexity of who I am as an opportunity for a life-long quest for self-understanding. In continuing to struggle to make sense of my Jewish self, I find it heart-warming to discover and to rediscover that despite our many differences, we Jews remain *am echad*, one people, deeply connected by our quest for past and future.

Every human identity is complex and mysterious; in this regard we Jews are by no means unique. All of us, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, need to continue to probe the mysteries of our individual and collective pasts that we may better understand who we are in the process of becoming today. Aaron Lansky, President of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass., puts it this way:

"If you want to know who you are, you better know where you're coming from."

Rabbi James Rosenberg can be reached at rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org.

Letters to the Editor

Story earns praise

WE LOVED the "Mothers Circle Shabbat..." article in the Jan. 23 issue of *The Voice & Herald*. You really captured the climate of the evening. My parents enjoyed reading it, too.

Rachael Elmaleh
Providence

**Different memories
of Brooklyn**

IN THE Feb. 6 issue of *The Voice & Herald*, "The birth and progress of Jewish 'un-holidays,'" Dr. Stanley Aronson refers to Flatbush and Bay

I grew up in the Boro Park section of Brooklyn in the 1920s and 1930s. In my memory, Bay Ridge was primarily Scandinavian while Boro Park was home to fairly well-to-do Jewish families with a scattering of Italians.

There have been great transformations in Boro Park. In the 1920s it was mostly one- and two-family homes with large yards, even a tennis court for my neighbor and many empty corner lots where we children played. By the 1930s, the empty lots were all filled with apartment houses. Now, Boro Park has become home to one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities outside of Israel.

I left the area in 1940 and, after a long



CORRECTION: Left to right, are Claire Cohen, a cousin of the groom, and the maid of honor; Gerald Cohen, the groom's brother and best man; Frances Borod, the bride; and Maudie Cohen, the groom's

VIEWPOINT

Reporting the good news at Hope High School

By CAROLE MARSHALL
Special to The Voice & Herald

TEACHERS AND students at Hope High School's Information Technology Community recently received some very good news.

After years of being criticized and lambasted because of disappointing standardized testing scores, 60 percent of our 11th-graders scored proficient or better than proficient this year in reading, up from 20 percent last year.

The percentage of students proficient in writing, though not as good, also advanced several percentage points. While there is of course room for more improvement, that is amazing news.

And guess what? It was ignored by the media and all of the educational experts who in the past have been so quick to comment.

In prior years, front-page articles and letters-to-the-editor would follow quickly on the heels of the disappointing published results, assigning blame and suggesting new approaches to get those students to learn.

During the past decade, I have watched administrators be regularly shuffled out of their positions at Hope.

For both teachers and stu-

dents, this always meant a new regime, broken relationships, lack of continuity, but still we shouldered on. And, finally, this year the many years of change and experimentation have culminated in a win. It seems fitting that someone, somewhere should analyze what worked.

Here are my thoughts on what was accomplished to change education at Hope.

- Hope was broken down into three small learning communities, each with its own principal, assistant principal and two guidance counselors. Each community had a special identity and each community received resources and community partners that reinforced its identity. Students were from arts, IT or leadership, not from "Hope for the hopeless."

- A group of teacher leaders chosen from among the faculty worked with teachers in each content area — science, history, math, etc. — to ensure that our students were being trained to read and write in those content areas. The Teacher Leaders were given fewer periods in the classroom so that they could

research the best strategies for teaching literacy and could develop materials to distribute to teachers for use in the classroom.

- We were allowed to maintain the same team of administrators for a record three years. Disappointing test scores did not spell their immediate doom. It seemed

years ago, which emphasized learning as a rigorous, accountable and social activity starting in elementary school, reached the 11th-grade this year.

- Finally, this year we decided to offer rewards that students would actually value; rather than pizza parties, we promised

iPods for any student with a proficient grade.

This may not seem acceptable to some, but I would defend it by saying that our students have many good reasons, based on their experiences, to doubt the value of not only

standardized testing but also the structure of academic rewards.

Is it worth the money to create good urban schools in Providence where children, who are probably not our children, care about their education enough to succeed?

When I first started teaching in Providence, the answer was clearly no; children were warehoused in huge, impersonal schools where just keeping them in their classrooms and under control was the priority. We at Hope have worked extraordinarily hard over the past decade

and in the face of many disappointments to provide a good education to all of our students.

Unfortunately, it will not take much to dismantle the structure we've created that is now bearing fruit. Already, the week the scores were announced, 87 teachers at Hope were handed lay-off notices, and a rumor made the rounds that one of the small learning communities at Hope is on the chopping block.

Many worry: must teachers and community members only watch as the structure that was slowly created to support success is dismantled?

Carole Marshall is an English teacher, working in the Information Technology Academy at Hope High School.

There is only enough money for about half of the required iPods to reward students, according to Marshall. Help is certainly welcomed; checks in any amount can be made out to Hope High School and sent to the attention of lead teacher Becky Coustan at Hope High School, 324 Hope St., Providence, R.I., 02906. Please attach a note on the check that it is for the NECAP students.

"Is it worth the money to create good urban schools in Providence where children, who are probably not our children, care about their education enough to succeed?"

to be understood that building a good academic climate takes time and continuity. Both teachers and students had enough time to feel comfortable working together with their administrators and there was enough time to develop goals that were shared by all. Principals were allowed to interview for teaching positions and to hire the best people.

- The students who were recipients of the benefits from the massive professional development program put in place by the district almost 10

NOT ALONE

Hope and action are proper responses to inhumane acts

Evil is centuries old, yet we each can work against it

Editor's Note: Parents should be aware that parts of this editorial may not be suitable for young readers.

LISTENING TO the radio can be a dangerous habit. Especially National Public Radio, where many a show spends an entire hour delving into a single topic. How can an in-depth exploration of important issues possibly be a bad thing? The bad part is that, too often, the discussions are not only interesting and compelling,



Alan Krinsky

but also horrifying and depressing.

Basically, sometimes I learn things I would rather not know.

In the last few weeks I have learned, for instance, about the extent and details of how millions of women and girls

have been tricked, sold and kidnapped into prostitution, and tortured to keep them enslaved. Some experts speculate that there are more people enslaved today than at the height of the Atlantic slave trade.

I also heard an exposé (by an investigative journalist at Brandeis University) of international adoption. Although many international adoptions are certainly legitimate (and China was singled out for having a largely legitimate situation), it appears that the money exchanged in international adoption has led to horrendous criminal behavior, such as the sale and kidnapping of babies.

These and other facts of our world are disgusting, distressing and depressing. How can people be so cruel as to kidnap, torture and kill their fellow human beings?

We like to think there is a universal moral sense. That notions of right and wrong extend across history and cultures. That believers and agnostics and atheists are all capable of being moral human

beings. But then how do we explain such cruelty? If morality is natural and universal, why do so many humans act in immoral and amoral ways?

So, are we born with an intuitive moral source? Or, are we born as wild animals, requiring taming, to be elevated into moral beings? Or, are we blank slates,

"We do not ask why there is evil, but rather, 'How should we respond?'"

able to learn good or evil, but not naturally one or the other? Or, perhaps, do we contain inclinations in both directions —whether in a religious sense (the *Yetzer HaTov* and the *Yetzer HaRa* of Jewish tradition) or in a genetic sense (with cooperative and competitive genes)?

In a sense, all of these facts and these questions return us to the perennial question of why is there evil in the world at all? And the best answer (or, at least the least unsatisfactory answer) I have found in the Jewish tradition is this: It's the wrong

question.

As the British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has explained, we do not ask why there is evil, but rather, "How should we respond?"

My answer to this question is lacking. Surely, I do not do much, let alone enough. I donate some money to *tzedakah*. When

I was younger, but not so much recently, I donated some time. Perhaps in my writing, as in this week's reflections, I can raise some awareness.

Perhaps I can, alone or with a group of people,

influence government policy? Yet, what really have I done, can I do, to help stop such massive, global problems as the trafficking in human beings?

There are no great answers. I suppose we each do a little piece. To paraphrase the dictum from *Pirkei Avot*, "It is not upon you to complete the work, but you are not free to remove yourself from it." Yet we should each try to make our piece larger, because there is more than enough to go around. And some rare individuals do emerge as leaders of efforts or movements against

particular problems or ills.

There are successes. Certain practices become intolerable. Maybe it takes decades, but changes take place, even against such seemingly intractable problems as the enslavement of human beings in prostitution. There are liberations.

It is not exactly a comfort to know that human cruelty is as old as humanity itself. And Jews have so often been victims and borne witness to such cruelty in history, recent and ancient. Yet it is a comfort to know that at least the Jewish tradition — with full awareness of such cruelty — has always proclaimed hope in response.

So, listening to the radio can be a dangerous practice. There are things I wish I never knew. And yet I will continue to listen to the radio, to these in-depth programs detailing human cruelty and the efforts to end them. For surely the only thing worse than knowing these things would be to not know them.

Alan Krinsky lives in Providence and works in the field of healthcare quality improvement; he can be contacted at adkrinsky@netzero.net.

VIEWPOINT

A heart-felt eulogy for CAJE

*The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education closes its doors*BY LARRY KATZ
lkatz@bjeri.org

The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), 1976-2009, was a native Rhody who quickly made it big on the international Jewish scene.

Conceived by the student protestors of the CJF General Assembly in Boston in 1975, the first CAJE conference was held at Brown University in August 1976, when about 350 people gathered to discuss educational "alternatives."

CAJE began and continued as the meeting place of a very diverse group, which included college students, teachers, principals, lay leaders and camp counselors representing all of the movements – Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform, Hasid, Yiddishist, secularist, humanist, Zionist, etc.

Day school, complementary school, adult and informal educators learned from each other. At many conferences, people came from as far as Israel, the former Soviet Union and Latin America, and CAJE conferences moved about, from California to Texas to Vermont, and twice to Israel.

CAJE was born as the anti-establishment Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education. It was a conference where

one could find out what educators were doing in other areas and other movements, find the latest instructional materials and art from scores of vendors and learn with the cream of the Jewish educational world.

Religious and theological leaders shared the stage with community organizers, representatives of charitable enterprises, public servants and fundraisers. For several years, teachers could choose to preview any of hundreds of Jewish films and software. A couple of feature films were screened at CAJE even before their official premiers.

CAJE attracted scores of storytellers, theatrical groups, comedians, dancers, musicians, singers, and those who excel in the arts, most of whom were learning from each other even more than they were booking performances in synagogues or selling their crafts to gift shops.

Nowhere else could anyone find Jewish talent concentrated in such a small space for such a brief time. Participants enjoyed a spiritual high and truly believed that Jewish education and iden-

tity were assured when promoted by the people CAJE attracted.

CAJE was more than a conference. It published a fine journal on various subjects of Jewish education and provided a

pick up the pieces. Hopefully, foundations will fund a couple of CAJE's departments, such as early childhood and publications. I assume there will be some regional "mini-CAJEs," as there were in the past.

However, most central agencies for Jewish education had to signifi-

cantly cut back their professional development and teacher services budgets long before the current financial crisis, and they often relied on CAJE to provide much of what they could no longer do. The professional educator groups that preceded and survived CAJE have concentrated on people who fill administrative roles. At least one professional group is reassessing that position, especially in light of the collapse of CAJE.

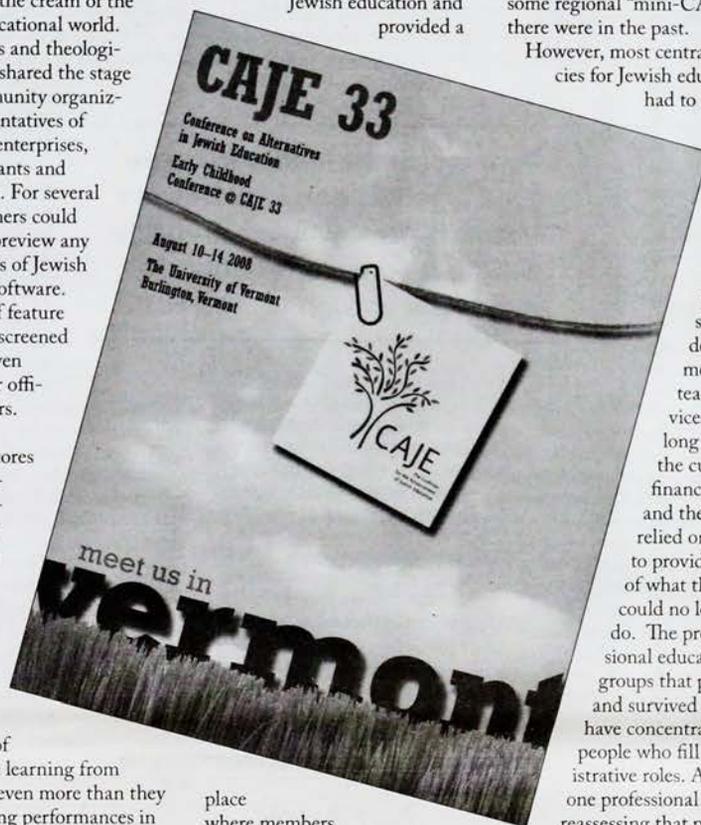
CAJE's financial collapse has been projected for a few years. Though many are already trying to revive the vision of CAJE, the Jewish community would have to revive its interest and investment in Jewish education both locally and nationally if a

trans-denominational successor to CAJE will succeed.

The community and private foundations had their chance during the years before the current

financial crisis. In difficult economic times and during any major community crisis, Jewish education, identity and all that goes with promoting Jewish values, *tzedakah* and crisis awareness in younger generations are pushed aside to deal with the issues at hand. And there seems to be a crisis every few years.

Today's financial crisis is dire, and many families are facing circumstances that they never imagined. People MUST be



place where members could "bank" and share the lessons and instructional materials they themselves created. Crises were answered with "crisis curricula." CAJE became a leading advocate for teachers and for Jewish education, and in the past several years for early childhood education in particular.

CAJE was not the only Jewish education organization out there, but it was truly a grass-roots group that reached out beyond

movement boundaries. Its strength and its flaw is that it was dedicated to professional development of teachers – the one area that truly can result in miracles in the classroom. CAJE was a significant factor in providing some in-service education in a community with a severe shortage of qualified Jewish educators. However, professional development is usually the first area that the great majority of budget-conscious organizations decide to cut.

"Nowhere else could anyone find Jewish talent concentrated in such a small space for such a brief time."

COMMUNITY: Newspaper is 'glue' that connects us

From Page 4

Readers – both in print and online – will have the opportunity to vote their choices in more than 40 categories. We urge all of our readers to participate and to vote (early and often).

In addition, we are going to be publishing in the next few months a collection of columns by Dr. Stanley Aronson that have appeared in *The Voice & Herald*, edited by Mary Korr.

Dr. Aronson had kindly consented to have his book used to support *The Voice & Herald*.

We will be offering a free copy of the book to the first 500 *Voice & Herald* patrons who make a contribution of

\$54 (triple "chai") or more to the newspaper. Please make your checks out to *The Jewish Voice & Herald*, and mail to: *Voice & Herald* Patrons, 130 Sessions St., Providence, R.I., 02906.

We need your help, we thank you for your willingness to support the newspaper – and our community.

"Local information," Andrew Keen wrote recently in *The New York Times*, addressing the decline of daily newspapers, "is potentially the most valuable product in the new knowledge economy." *The Voice & Herald* is clearly a most valuable source of local information about, for and written by our local Jewish community.

tend to their souls and must ensure that Jewish values will be taught to the next generations so that there will be a caring Jewish community to care for those in need. For this to happen, we need well-prepared teachers.

Private philanthropy is much more prominent these days, but even great foundations can be fickle. I have witnessed the burial of major, multi-million dollar plans for Jewish education due to various crises and whims, so I doubt there can be another CAJE without a serious reassessment of the role of Jewish education and identity building in the Jewish community. This is what the 1975 protest was all about that resulted in CAJE. Since I doubt there will be such a reassessment, I am pessimistic about any full-blown revival of CAJE. I crave the spiritual uplift that CAJE provided each year.

Lawrence Katz, associate executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, who joined CAJE in 1979, is a life member of CAJE. He served on the planning committee for a few conferences and on the CAJE Advocacy Commission. He currently is president of the Jewish Educators Assembly.

Letters to the Editor**BROOKLYN: Many changes**

From Page 4

a visit a few years ago that all the empty space is gone. Apparently in response to the demands for large home space by the Orthodox community, a special zoning law was passed for Boro Park in 1992 permitting building on larger than the normal percentage of a lot's area resulting in the disappearance of setbacks, yards and lawns.

Saul Ricklin
Bristol**Thank you**

Thank you so much for the article you ran about my son Max. I have received a tremendous amount of calls about it. I have been informed that you inserted my incorrect e-mail address. It should be kdwares@aol.com. Thank you.

Kevin Dwares
Cranston

Israeli David Polonsky is artist-in-residence at Brown/RISD Hillel

Art director of 'Waltz with Bashir' will be here for three months

MARCY BRINK-DANAN
marcy@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – Can a surrealist artist be Israel's cultural ambassador to the world? Brown/RISD Hillel hosts Israeli illustrator David Polonsky, the art director of the award-winning film, "Waltz with Bashir," as artist-in-residence Feb. 9-May 1. But please don't call him a representative. In an interview, Polonsky argued that his aim was not to make political statements, but to make art. "At the same time," he said, "this is an opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of Israel and her people."

Recent accolades, including the Golden Globe Award for best foreign language film, the top prize at the Cannes film festival, the Best Picture by the National Society of Film Critics and a nomination for an Academy Award for best foreign film have made Polonsky's name a household word among film buffs around the world. The movie, a full-length animated documentary, is the product of director Ari Folman's muddled memory of the 1982 Lebanon war.

In a kind of therapeutic mission, Folman recreated scenes of military service through interviews and historical research. This anti-war film's vibrant visuals are the medium through which Folman's story unfolds; a story of fantasy, fact, fear and forgetting. In four

years, Polonsky developed the film's aesthetic with a team of animators, a process which resulted in the creation of more than 1,700 drawings.

Observers have remarked that the film's imagery recalls the visual codes of the best graphic novels, including Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, the now-classic Holocaust memoir that conveyed in pictures what so many words tried in vain to capture. Like *Maus*, the use of animation to portray the scenes in "Waltz with Bashir" brings Israeli experience to life, a life which is, in spite of itself, colorful, vivid and alive.

Born in Kiev in 1973, Polonsky immigrated to Israel at age eight. A student of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Israel's premier design school



A SCENE FROM "Waltz with Bashir," a film in which David Polonsky served as art director.

in Jerusalem, he now teaches illustration and animation there and at the Shenkar School of Engineering and Design in Tel Aviv. Polonsky has also won the Israel Museum Ben-Yitzhak Award for Children's Book

Illustration; his editorial illustrations have regularly appeared in Israeli dailies and magazines.

As artist-in-residence at Brown/RISD, Polonsky will teach classes, make presentations

See artist, Page 18

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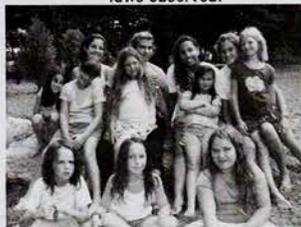
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Balancing short- and long-term priorities

Israel is high on the list

PROVIDENCE – “Why are you spending money on this now?”

As president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, this is a question I am sometimes asked – and which is my responsibility to answer.



Doris Feinberg

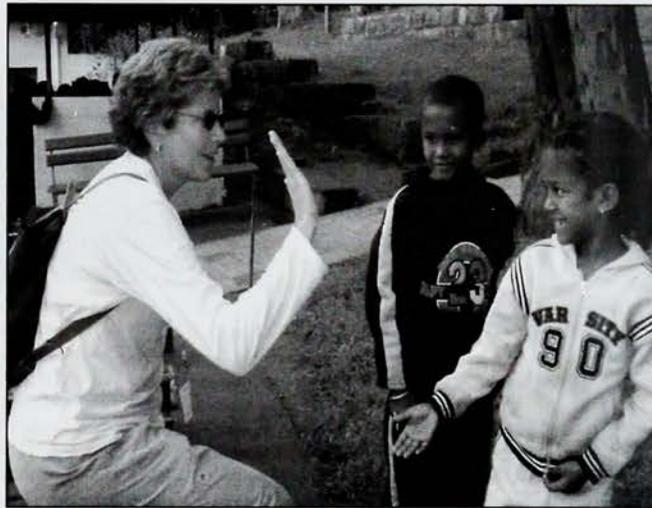
While we are continuing to fund immediate needs, federation leadership also must plan for the Rhode Island Jewish community's long-term strength and viability. This requires a balancing act between the real priorities that are before us right now and the long-term goals, including building and strengthening a leadership structure that will serve our community for years to come.

We are all deeply concerned about the current economic crisis that is gripping our community, our nation and the world. Many of our values seem to be under threat because of the challenges presented by limited resources, and there is

an impulse to focus only on short-term needs.

And, while JFRI's mandate is to be responsive to the current situation, it's not in the community's long-term best interest to be exclusively reactive to it.

Over the past several months you've read in my column about how we are making sure we look after those



Doris Feinberg, president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island was a leader of a national UJC mission to Ethiopia and Israel in 2007.

efficient in the delivery of our services.

But there are other issues we don't fall off our radar screens, because they, too, are permanent priorities for the Jewish community.

Israel is high on that list. While it can be hard to remember when there are so many issues concerning us at home, Israel is part of our family and

community, too.

One of my responsibilities is to make sure that our Federation continues to support Israel – not just with dollars but with ongoing connection and support. Right now, we have an opportunity

to take some steps toward a leadership mission to Israel that may include some of our political figures and some emerging Jewish communal leaders.

Going on this mission gives

us a golden opportunity to show our political leaders Israel through our eyes and make them more aware of Federation importance. Bringing members of our community along for face-to-face encounters with our Israeli brothers and sisters, along with leadership training, reminds them of the importance of our campaign, not just this year and next, but five and 10 years from now.

Initiatives like an Israel mission pay dividends in our financial well being. The long-standing commitment from members of our community for Israel is as important to our community as social services education. Some may wonder how we can possibly consider such an initiative now. I ask: How can we not?

Doris Feinberg is president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Her column appears regularly in The Voice & Herald.

“While it can be hard to remember when there are so many issues concerning us at home, Israel is part of our family and community, too.”

who need us most right now, and about how we are reorganizing our community structure to stay maximally responsive and

JFRI re-launches Cardozo Society for attorneys

By JACKIE SALETT
jsalett@jfri.org

The Cardozo Society, a group for Rhode Island Jewish attorneys, judges and law students, has been re-launched by the Jewish Federation of Rhode

Island. The society, named for former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo, is designed to strengthen relationships among those in the legal profession through education and leadership, while working to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Rhode Island and throughout the world.

The Cardozo Society programming seeks to integrate legal and Jewish concerns in order to demonstrate the unique contributions the legal profession can make to improve the Jewish community at large.

The Cardozo Society will provide opportunities for: continuing legal education;

networking; mentoring and public service; and, advocacy on issues of concern.

On March 1, from noon to 1 p.m., the Cardozo Society will hold an event featuring The Honorable Bruce M. Selya U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit.

Selya will give a talk entitled: “A window into the federal judiciary: what you always wanted to know but never had the opportunity to ask.”

While no minimum gift to JFRI

is required to participate in Cardozo Society activities, attorneys who contribute \$1,800 or more (\$1,000 or more for attorneys below the age of 35) to the Community Campaign, they will be recognized as members of the Cardozo Society.

To RSVP for the event, or for more information on the Cardozo Society, please contact Jackie Salett at 421-4111, ext. 172, or e-mail her at jsalett@jfri.org.

The Young Leadership Network of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island invites you to our

Signature Event

to celebrate our commitment to a vibrant Jewish community

Saturday, March 7, 2009
8:00 pm

The Federal Reserve
60 Dorrance Street, Providence

Savory & Sweet, Apps & Treats
Enjoy our signature cocktail & wine from 8:00-9:00 pm
Music & Dancing
\$50.00 per person

Please reply online at www.JFRI.org
no later than March 1st

THE network

The Network is dedicated to involving young professionals, in their mid-20s to mid-40s in a broad range of activities, as a means to enhance their commitment and connection to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, to Israel and to the greater Jewish community.

Need more information? Contact Rachel Mersky Woda, Director of Next Generation Philanthropy at 401.421.4111 x.206 or rwoda@JFRI.org.



www.JFRI.org

To survive and thrive: Women survivors focus of new exhibit

URI Providence campus is host to two-month series

By STEVEN PENNELL
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – A series of programs, “The Holocaust: Women and Resistance – The Will to Survive and Thrive,” will be on display for two months, from March 2 – April 30, thanks to a collaboration between the Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island and the University of Rhode Island.

All the events are free and held at URI’s Providence campus, at 80 Washington St., in downtown Providence.

• “Letters to Sala – A Young Woman’s Life In Nazi Labor Camps” is based on a collection of rare Holocaust-era letters and photographs. Handwritten postcards, photographs, and a personal diary to official documents were saved at great personal risk by Sala Garnarcz Kirschener, a Polish Holocaust survivor, from the time she entered a Nazi labor camp in 1940 until her liberation in 1945.

The collection provides a first-hand view of the human drama



Photo courtesy of URI
Holocaust survivor
Sala Garnarcz Kirschener

that unfolded among Jewish victims forced to work as slave laborers. Ann Kirschner, Sala’s daughter and biographer, and Jill Vexler, Ph.D., the exhibit curator, will speak at the opening reception and book signing on March 5 at 7 p.m.

• “My Mother’s Story – A Kindertransport Story,” from Brown University’s Peter Neivert, is the story of Ilsa Kaiser who barely managed to escape Nazi persecution through the Kindertransport.

It was a brief window of opportunity during which some Jewish parents were able to find sponsorship and the funding, thrusting their children on trains headed for France, the Netherlands, England and Australia. Peter Neivert has

gathered photographs, papers, and artifacts that document the family history, his mother’s experience at a boarding school and her eventual emigration to the United States. He will share his mother’s story during the Gallery Night reception on March 19 at 7 p.m.

• “Trust in the Journey: Becoming A Family” is an original play about Marie Silverman, Jeannette Bornstein and Ruth Goldstein, now of Rhode Island. Sisters Marie and Jeannette were ages 5 and 9, respectively, when they hastily left Antwerp with their parents as the Nazis marched into town. They lived on the run throughout France for five years in a root cellar, two schools and a deportation camp, finally escaping without their parents across the mountains to Barcelona, Spain.

With an aunt and uncle, they eventually made it to the United States. Again separated from their family, they lived in an orphanage in Rhode Island. The play documents their experiences on the run and as refugees, their relationship with Ruth Goldstein, with whom Marie lived, and their reunion with their mother after five years apart.

This exhibit is funded by the R.I. Holocaust Education and

Resource Center and URI Providence Student Government Board and Arts and Culture Program with assistance from URI Hillel. Tours of the exhibit are available upon request.

For information on these programs, contact Steven Pennell, coordinator of arts and culture at URI Providence campus, at 277-5206.

Signature event: Fun, philanthropy

By RACHEL MERSKY WODA
rmwoda@jfri.org

In these tough economic times, many of us are tightening our (financial) belts. The idea of an evening

out seems, well, almost frivolous.

With all of that in mind, we hope that you will attend the Signature Event for the Young Leadership Network of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Here are a

few good reasons. You will:

- Enjoy a wonderful evening that includes good food, fun drinks, great music and dancing;
- See old friends who you

haven’t seen in a while;

• Make connections with great new people who share your interest in being a part of our vibrant Jewish community, and learn how you can play a role in shaping its future.

When we gather together as one people, one community – in good times and bad – we gain from being together.

With that renewed commitment, we can most effectively support fellow Jews who need

help here in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world.

Rachel Mersky Woda is the director of Next Generation Philanthropy at JFRI.

The Network Signature Event

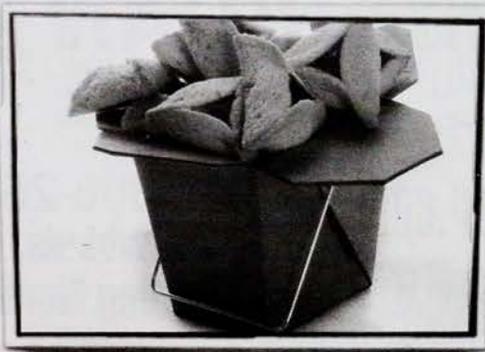
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\$50.00 per person
(no solicitations will be made at this event)

Please RSVP online at
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The Women’s Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island



Sunday, March 1st 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk
Assisted Living Center
Shalom Drive, Warwick

Join us for Purim Mitzvah Day at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Center

Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, and Tamarisk, are collaborating with the Women’s Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island to bring you a fun and festive Purim Mitzvah Day! Activities will include:

- hamantaschen baking
- card making for American and Israeli soldiers
- creating art work for our community seniors
- packing shaloch manot bags to be delivered to nursing homes

Come in costume for a Purim parade around Tamarisk and stay for PJ Library story time. Sign up for shaloch manot delivery, sponsored by the Women’s Association of the Jewish Seniors Agency, and begin a new family tradition of mitzvot.



www.JFRI.org

RSVP by February 25th
401.421.4111 x163
slachapelle@jfri.org

Have questions? Need more information about these events or how to get involved in the Women’s Alliance?

Contact Beth A. Dindas, Director of Women’s Philanthropy
401.421.4111 x174 or bdindas@JFRI.org

GULAG: Married, with two kids and a job, Ng was swept away

From Page 1

No restraint could contain his suffering, his sorrow.

He was at the hospital only through the intercession of U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith — who ordered government attorneys to make sure Ng got an MRI and be given a wheelchair.

The study showed metastatic liver cancer and fractured vertebrae in his spine.

Ng was transferred to Rhode Island Hospital on Aug. 1. His family would not be allowed to visit for several days — they had to be “cleared.”

As he lay dying on Aug. 5, his family arrived at 2:30 p.m.

Ng's wife, Lin Li “Michelle” Ng, an American citizen, lifted their sons for her husband to see. Raymond was 3, and Johnny, a baby when Ng was arrested at his final green card hearing the previous July, was almost 2. Both boys were born in America, in a New York suburb where the family lived and owned a home.

Did little Raymond recognize his once 6-foot tall and robust father shrunken beneath the hospital sheet?

Did he say, “Happy birthday, daddy?” Ng had turned 34 on Aug. 3.

Did he kiss him goodbye?
Did he cry?

SAYING FAREWELLS

Ng's in-laws, and his sister and brother-in-law, Wendy and Brian

Zhao, were there as well.

The siblings had shared the long journey from their birthplace in China to New York City with their parents half a lifetime ago.

The family said their farewells at 8:01 p.m.

According to an interview in *The New York Times*, Ng's sister bent down and whispered to him: “Brother, don't worry, don't be afraid. They are not going to send you back to the facility again. Brother, you are free now.”

The summer evening's dusk deepened into darkness. The midnight hour passed and at 1:22 a.m., Ng surrendered his body. At 4 a.m., Rhode Island Hospital notified the family of Ng's death.

His spirit had died long before.



Photo by Mary Korr

HIS REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL attention denied, Jason Ng spent much of the last month of his life inside Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls.

CAUSE OF DEATH

The medical examiner listed the cause of death as “complications of metastatic hepatocellular

Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility on Jan. 12, 2009 concluded there was denial of medical care, illegal use of force against Ng, and denial of access to attorneys by Wyatt officials.

Staff members have been fired, the board of directors has been overhauled, and there is an ongoing federal investigation.

On Feb. 9, McConnell filed a civil law suit in the U.S. District Court in Providence, on behalf of

“Brother, don't worry, don't be afraid. They are not going to send you back to the facility again. Brother, you are free now.”

**Wendy Zhao,
sister of Jason Ng**

carcinoma and the manner of death was natural.”

The broken back and bruises all

over his body told another story.

The ACLU Rhode Island attorney representing the family, John McConnell, Jr., has seen the autopsy report and photographs. He likened Ng's bruises to those seen at “Abu Ghraib.”

An investigation by the Dept. of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs

the family.

“Jason was an incredibly meek and mild man. Jason was, ‘Yes sir, yes sir,’ to everyone,” said McConnell.

He said Michelle Ng is feeling “overwhelmed, with a myriad of emotions, from helplessness to struggling to take care of her two sons and trying to figure out answers.”

Most of all, he said, “She is trying to figure out why it happened. She just can't understand how this could happen in America.”

Ng, a student dissident in the post-Tiananmen Square crackdown days in China, had been worried about deportation back to China. Two years after his arrival in this country, he had applied for political asylum. It was turned down.

Ng's journey towards the American dream was tangled and fraught with mistakes made along the way — and many accomplishments as well. Ironically, the retribution he feared in China happened here in Rhode Island, a state founded on freedom of expression.

Part Two: The reality of immigration in Rhode Island will run next issue.

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

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Chronology of a tragedy

HIU LUI NG was born on Aug. 3, 1974, in Wenzhou city, Zhejiang Province in China.

- Entered the United States lawfully with his parents on Feb. 6, 1992, on a B-2 visa. He remained in the United States past the authorized time.
- In 1994, family seeks political asylum. Ng and his sister attend school in Long Island City. Ng attends a community college and graduates and gains employment as a Microsoft certified software engineer. Asylum not granted.
- A Dec. 11, 2000, notice ordering him to appear at an immigration hearing on Feb. 2, 2001, was mailed to a nonexistent address. He did not receive notice and did not appear at the hearing.
- Consequently, an immigration judge ordered Ng removed from the United States in absentia on Feb. 2, 2001.
- Ng married his wife, Lin Li "Michelle" Qu on Feb. 9, 2001. She was a legal permanent resident at the time.
- Mrs. Ng filed an I-130 Immigrant Petition on behalf of her husband on April 20, 2001. It was around this time that they learned that he had

been ordered removed by an immigration judge, because the attorney handling the 1-130 petition informed him of the order. Couple continue to petition immigration through Mrs. Ng's status.

- Mrs. Ng became a United States citizen on June 13, 2003.
- On Aug. 11, 2006, Mrs. Ng re-submitted an I-130 immigrant petition, because more than five years had passed since she filed the form and they had not contacted the couple for approval. Upon second filing, they are scheduled for an interview for adjustment of status on July 19, 2007, at 26 Federal Plaza, N.Y.C.
- When Ngs appeared for their interview on July 19, 2007, Mr. Ng was arrested and detained by DHS officers.
- He was sent to the Varick Detention Facility in New York City, and was then sent to the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls on July 20, where he remained until Jan. 10, 2008.
- After a series of legal appeals, up and through the Second Circuit Court, his case was remanded back to Bureau of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

- On Jan. 10, 2008, he was transferred to Franklin County House of Corrections in Greenfield, Mass.
- On April 17, 2008, he was transferred back to the Franklin County Jail in St. Albans, Vt., where he began to suffer from a skin rash and developing back pain and weight loss. No medical facilities were there.
- On July 3, 2008, he was transferred back to Wyatt in Central Falls, where his back condition worsens to the point where he cannot walk on his own. His condition continues to deteriorate.
- Judge orders Wyatt officials to take Ng for an MRI, which shows metastatic liver cancer and a broken back. He is taken to Rhode Island Hospital on Aug. 1.
- Jason Ng dies Aug. 6 at Rhode Island Hospital.
- ICE investigation finds Wyatt Detention Center at fault for maltreatment of Ng. ICE removes 153 federal detainees and cancels contract with Wyatt.
- Family files lawsuit against Wyatt, ICE on Feb. 9, 2009.

POLICY: Jewish leaders seek change

From Page 1

Aid Society (HIAS), said in a teleconference which *The Voice & Herald* participated in on Jan. 26: "Raids are not okay...the terrible treatment of detainees needs an immediate and forthright addressing."

He called on President Obama to issue an executive order staying raids and maltreatment of detainees while Congress debates immigration reform.

"We as Jews know what happens when the stranger is ill treated. We were subject to Egyptian lashes," said Rabbi Steve Gutow, president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), the umbrella organi-

"We as Jews know what happens when the stranger is ill treated. We were subject to Egyptian lashes."

Rabbi Steve Gutow, president, JCPA



Gideon Aronoff, president of HIAS

zation for 125 Jewish community relations councils. "Jews in the Bible were pretty close to what we consider undocumented workers

today. One of the principles that separates us from others is our insistence on social justice."

The campaign message is "real immigration reform in 2009 over the failed policy of exclusively relying on raids and enforcement tactics as a means of controlling immigration," he said.

"We want the president to take immediate action to end ICE raids," said Jane Ramsey, the director of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago.

She said those in detention centers are left "without adequate due process, access to clergy and medical care." She suggested local Jewish communities might consider holding a vigil at local detention centers.

Aronoff added: "Raiding people's homes is not OK. The terrible treatment of detainees needs an immediate - and a forthright - addressing of this issue. There is a place for enforcement within the concept of a rational system."

"We believe the president can provide for short-term changes while Congress works on the long-term reforms," said Vic Rosenthal, executive director of Jewish Community Action (JCA) of St. Paul. "We believe the president can issue an executive order prohibiting raids."

"As a broad Jewish coalition of communities, we can make this happen," Ramsey added.

For more information on the campaign, visit www.hias.org/progress.

Excerpts from investigative report

AN INVESTIGATION by the Dept. Of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility was released on Jan. 12, 2009.

This is an excerpt from the investigative report, on page 13, which detailed events of July 30, 2008:

"At approximately 06:00 hours, officers from the Wyatt Detention Facility (WDF) attempted to facilitate transportation from the WDF to the ICE office in Hartford, Ct.

The movement was videotaped by overhead mounted surveillance cameras and by hand held camcorder...

The video begins by showing Captain (name redacted) instructing Mr. Ng that he had been issued a cane and would not be given a wheelchair. Captain further advised Mr. Ng that he needed to move on his own. Mr. Ng advised the Captain that he could not walk. Captain explained to Mr. Ng that he had been seen by a doctor and that he was fine.

Captain repeatedly advised Mr. Ng to stand up. Mr. Ng was visibly crying and appeared to have difficulty standing. At this time, Captain appears to signal to the other officer holding the camcorder to stop recording.

Mr. Ng then attempted to put his shoes on. Mr. Ng advised that he could not walk. Captain advised Mr. Ng that he needed to walk to the Receiving and Discharge Unit. Mr. Ng repeated he could not walk. Captain directed Mr. Ng to put his shoes on. Mr. Ng asked

Captain to believe him that he could not move his legs. Mr. Ng continued to struggle to put his shoes on. Mr. Ng appeared to be in pain at that time..."

"...At this time, Captain and the assisting officer lifted Mr. Ng from his bed, under his shoulder in the armpit area. As Captain and officer lifted Mr. Ng he began to scream loudly. Captain and officer proceeded to carry Mr. Ng down the hallway, face forward, allowing his feet to drag on the ground. Mr. Ng continued to scream as he was being carried."

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AS WE GROW OLDER

Staying alert is worth whatever effort is required

*If you hibernate,
you're your own
worst enemy*

One of the most often repeated phrases used by senior citizens is, "I don't know why I am so tired."

This is usually followed by the acknowledgement that they have minimum responsibilities and no difficult chores. But they



**Tema
Gouse**

are tired all of the time. I do not do this often, but I will impose a professional opinion about this quandary. You are probably not tired. You are bored, or (dare I whisper), a little

bit depressed. I ask my contemporaries to not get defensive or take offense. Depression is as natural to old age as gray hair and wrinkles. Depression in the elderly almost never requires hospitalization or intensive medication. (The use of anti-depression medication for a while is often the best friend of the sad, aging lady.)

The "Golden Years" are dimmed by an indifference to impressions we create which may be the by-product of diminished

brain stimulation. We become lethargic and less interested in the world around us.

Of course, nature affects our appearance – and our intellect. I am not recommending plastic surgery (though I am not opposed to it if it improves your self-image). But to deprive yourself of the pleasures that are of the mind because there are more candles on the cake is sad.

I am not unrealistic.

We all know that retention of thinking skills are as unpredictable as the roll of dice. And we hear so many sad tales of brain deterioration and its impact on the afflicted and everyone who loves them. But the senior who retains his or her faculties but chooses not to use them is foolish. And pathetic.

For those older people who have retained their senses, the options for remaining vital are endless. Other than previously enjoyed physically taxing activities, there are not many pleasures that you must eliminate because you are eligible for pension and Social Security.

My message to you: Stay-

ing alert is worth whatever effort it requires. Those who hibernate and choose to discontinue previous pleasures are their own worst enemies and will have more misery than pleasure from their longevity.

Those seniors who mastered bridge and *mah jongg* when they were juniors are fortunate. Chances are they do not play or bid as well as when they were

juniors, but if your co-players are of your vintage, errors can be a source of humor

"To deprive yourself of the pleasures that are of the mind because there are more candles on the cake is sad."

rather than tragedy.

Whether you are young or old, never play bridge with anyone who feels bridge is not a game, but a competition. If you have always loved golf and the doctor approves, do not stop because your current scores are in three digits. So play only with non-competitive players, even young ones.

Now I make the pitch for books and music, the best friends we old folks have. If books were your friends when you were young, then you are fortunate. I have often said that the reason I have lived so long is because there

are so many books I still want to read.

If you want some challenge but have never done crossword puzzles, try them. Find the simple ones that do not require college degrees. And do not be bashful about using dictionaries, the thesaurus, and an atlas. These puzzles can also be a shared experience.

Whatever your taste in music, there are pleasures out there. If you are fortunate enough to have a partner, go dancing, even if he objects (note the sexist wording). If one of you does and the other does not like what I call the "kids music," then buy ear muffs.

So what am I aiming at? I am trying to convince you that pleasure did not end when you sold your house or even when you started to need assistance in living. What can make the miseries and inconveniences of old age more tolerable is continuing to use what is left of your gray matter and, bottom line, stay alert.

It requires more effort than



TEMA SAYS: Continue to use what's left of your gray matter; I'm going to buy Beyonce's new CD. I liked her when she sang at the Superbowl.

we sometimes feel we have but it is worth the try. Think of your other options; isolating yourself, dwelling on your aches and pains, being angry at your kids for not calling this week. You can even worry about your financial holdings. *Yeesh!*

To set a good example of my flexibility, I may go out and buy Beyonce's newest CD. I think that's the name of the singer I saw performing at this year's Super Bowl. Yes, I watched it until I fell asleep.

Tema Gouse can be reached at nbgtpg@cox.net.

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MEDICAL ARTS

We're a people in perpetual transition

Commentaries on transnational Jewish migrations

AN OCEAN voyage may serve many purposes: a luxury cruise, perhaps to the West Indies; a prison ship carrying England's excess prison population to the Australian

PART ONE

penal colony; even a trip in a hell called steerage, bearing desperate European refugees westward across the Atlantic. The tourists, the prisoners and the refugees were all marine travelers, but only one sailed voluntarily.



Stanley Aronson M.D.

The Jews have never been a maritime nation. Yet the magnitude of their global dissemination in the 19th and 20th centuries remains unique

amongst the many identified ethnic groups constituting the immigrant American population. No definable population has undergone such extensive migration while still preserving its cultural integrity.

In recent centuries, every

European nation had sent its excess population elsewhere, principally to the Western hemisphere. And thus, while Ireland, for example, sent many to the West, largely impelled by over-population and the potato famine of the mid-19th century; and Italy, undergoing civil unrest, dispatched its young people to North and South America, Ireland and Italy nonetheless remained steadfastly the cultural and political locus of things called Italian or Irish.

And both nations persisted as motherlands for their overseas descendants. Generations later, many an American of Irish or Italian descent makes nostalgic pilgrimages to the motherland; and, between 1908 and 1925, 1,167,000 Italians living in the United States remigrated permanently back to Italy, representing 55.8 percent of all who had originally come to this nation.

Jewish migration to other lands, principally the United States, and was prompted by different forces, was more numeric in terms of the migrating percent of the resident population. It resulted ultimately in irreversible changes in the cultural and demographic

profile of global Jewry.

Furthermore, the number of migrating Jews who ever returned to their European countries of origin remains extremely small.

And, can you imagine an American Jew, derived from some godforsaken, pogrom-ridden village, talking nostalgically of the Motherland while praising the cultural authenticity and tolerance of Tsarist Russia?

Further, can you picture this assimilated Jew saying to himself: "Yes, I am an Ameri-

can, but part of my heritage belongs forever to Minsk."

Migration of Jews to overseas continents began in earnest in the middle of the 19th century. Which is not to say that some Jews did not undertake hazardous ocean voyages to the Americas as early as the 18th century. This migratory process by 1940 culminated in the collective transfer of some 4 million European Jews to the United States. Newport, R.I., by 1750, had the largest Jewish community in North America numbering almost 1,000 members of what was then called the Mosaic Faith. Most of those Jews were of Sephardic origin and represented groups grown robust in overcoming the travails of migration. They had been expelled from Spain and Portugal, had migrated to Holland or Morocco or even Tunisia; and because of inhospitable circumstances, were then forced to take voyage to Dutch West Indian colonies such as Curacao where the long arm of the Iberian Inquisition finally caught up with them forcing yet another migration, this time to a Rhode Island refuge.

Jews had dreamed of a major migration to the Americas as early as 1783. In June of that year, the Jews of Frankfurt and Leipzig sent a prayerful letter to the president of the Continental Congress: "Schreiben eines deutschen Juden an den Amerikanischen Presidenten."

Part of the letter declared: "We ask no more than to be permitted to become subjects of these 13 provinces, and would gladly contribute twofold taxes for their benefit, if we can only obtain permission to establish

colonies at our own cost and to engage in agriculture, commerce, arts and sciences." The proposal was not answered.

To an 18th century Jewish family sequestered in some small Russian village surrounded by seamless poverty, America was at best a delusory dream.

These Jews, to a substantial degree illiterate in the dominant languages of the continent, had no way of undertaking passage to the west. The living conditions of the Eastern European Jews were indeed so perilous that President Grant, commenting specifically on the Rumanian enclaves of Jewry, declared: "The reports concerning the sufferings of the Rumanian Jews deeply stir our humane sentiments. That which reaches us from Rumania is a chain of malice and barbarity without measure."

Within a century, however, a new diaspora transformed Judaism. And, in this demographic transformation Europe was no longer the center of global Jewry and the United States, and to a lesser degree, Israel, became the new nucleus of Judaism.

The reasons for this massive Jewish migration can be readily summarized in four principal themes: First, and foremost, were the egregious living conditions, and lack of meaningful medical resources,

See IMMIGRATION, Page 37

"Jewish migration to other lands, principally the United States, ...resulted ultimately in irreversible changes in the cultural and demographic profile of global Jewry."

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WEDDING: Overcoming obstacles, bringing our worlds together

From Page 1

rabbis who recoiled in horror at my very mention of dogs was not encouraging, to say the least.

Mikhael's extended family was equally repulsed, although his nuclear family was familiar with, if not wholly understanding of, my connection to our dogs.

Surprisingly – shockingly, really – the rabbi I had found agreed to almost all of my demands. He was so flexible, and so understanding of my anxieties, that we found ourselves wondering if he was really an Orthodox rabbi. He seemed completely dedicated to the cause of returning my faith in the Israeli Jewish establishment, and he was completely responsible for doing so. Collaboratively, the three of us wove together a ceremony that was both modern and traditional, both uniquely special to us and common in its following of Jewish customs, both personal for us and familiar for the more conservative members of Mikhael's family.

With no common language, cultural background, or religious understanding across our families (other than a lot of smiling and nodding), it was most important for us to figure out a way for everyone to feel included, and for no one to feel alienated (least of all, myself).

Our ultimate desire was to symbolize, through our wed-



Photo courtesy of Alison Stern Perez

THE NEWLYWEDS EMBRACE at their wedding party. The wedding, in three languages, took more than two hours, unlike the customary Israeli wedding, which takes about 25 minutes.

ding ceremony, our vision for our marriage itself. We wanted our families and our guests to understand the magnitude of what we have accomplished, both through our respective *aliyahs* and through our coming together, and of what we hope to accomplish in the future through the family we hope to build.

We chose to be married in

front of the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem for a distinct symbolic reason, and our hope was to bring together the vastly different worlds of our upbringings.

This was clearly not an easy thing to do, and our ceremony – which was conducted in three languages – reflected this, in its length of nearly two hours (the

average Israeli wedding ceremony lasts no longer than 25 minutes).

But, as we wrote on our wedding poster: "One ocean, eight years, two continents, three languages, four cultures, seven time zones, and 5,541 miles (8,917 kilometers) apart... Through one war, two one-way plane tickets, many lonely nights, lots of cul-

"One ocean, eight years, two continents, three languages, four cultures, seven time zones, and 5,541 miles (8,917 kilometers) apart... Through one war, two one-way plane tickets, many lonely nights, lots of culture shock, and two dogs later, we found each other."

ture shock, and two dogs later... Along with two blue stripes and a *Magen David*, we found each other... And together with you all, we are bridging the gaps!"

Alison Stern Perez was born and grew up in Seattle, Wash., and is a graduate of Brown University. You can e-mail her at alisonsternperez@gmail.com, and read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.



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The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

JCDS: Board of trustees votes to close middle school

From Page 1

50 percent of the financial aid budget – was cited as important factors.

On Monday, Feb. 16, JCDS Head of School Robert Sarkisian and Wolpert met with the parents of JCDS middle school students for an extended conversation. (See *Parents*, Page 17.)

"The decision made by JCDS, while heart-wrenching and difficult, is prudent," said Stephen Silberfarb, CEO and Executive Vice President of JFRI. "Considering the financial burden the middle school was placing on JCDS, it was the only responsible decision to make."

Wolpert said the decision to close the middle school wasn't easy to make. "We did approach donors, none of whom wanted to fund deficit budgets," he

said. "While we're an educational institution, we also have a financial duty, and the board felt strongly that it had to take these steps. That said, it was very emotional, and difficult for many board members, including me."

Another factor, according to Wolpert, was the distinct possibility that a significant funding source, the business tax credit for school donations, known as SGO, may disappear entirely in the next year.

THE GOOD NEWS

In the longer term, Wolpert stressed, he believes that JCDS will be a stronger school. "Bob (Sarkisian) is coming back as the head of school next year," Wolpert said. "We will announce shortly a tuition discount program for families

who have more than one child attending the school." In addition, Wolpert continued, there are several initiatives that JCDS will be undertaking to improve the quality of education in the lower school. "I want to emphasize," he said, "that the board of trustees is committed to the school for the long term."

At the same time, he said, "We don't want to minimize the short-term angst."

One of the priorities, Wolpert said, will be working with the parents to find alternative placement for their children in local schools – Jewish day, public, and private. A number of the area schools have agreed to waive application deadlines and to schedule informational evenings for parents and prospective students, including the

South Area Solomon Schechter School in Norwood.

Toward that end, Wolpert praised the support from BJERI, which has been very active in helping to provide different alternatives as to where the middle-school students can continue their education.

SUPPORT FOR JCDS

JFRI expressed its support for the JCDS decision. "Considering the ongoing deficits and enrollment challenges, which threaten the viability of the entire school, this was a prudent and responsible decision," said JFRI's Silberfarb. (To view an e-mail from Silberfarb to the community, see Page 37.)

"This decision has a very real and very sad human dimension," he continued. "Students and their families who had expected to continue their Jewish studies at a local, familiar and beloved venue will no longer have that option. In particular, 14 7th-graders and their families, who were anticipating their final year at JCDS complete with graduation ceremonies, will not have that opportunity. As a community we are deprived of wishing these students and their families a *mazal tov*, and sharing in their parents' *nachas*. All of us at JFRI and across the community who support day school education are saddened."

Silberfarb said that Jewish education remains a top communal priority. "We cannot let this decision obscure the caring, nurturing and challenging academic environment JCDS provides to its students and their families," he said. "We need to get word out about the unique value of a Jewish day school education. We need to redouble our efforts to increase enrollment and to increase funds available for tuition assistance. We who are pained by this decision have to turn our anguish into action by stepping up to make Jewish education in Rhode Island sustainable."

After the meeting with parents on the Monday night following the announcement, at which it was suggested that JCDS explore the possibility of creating a "revenue neutral" way of keeping the current 7th-grade class together for one more year, Wolpert said: "I can't tell you if it is a realistic possibility until all finances have been analyzed for this class, and the cost of meeting the necessary educational requirements have been reviewed. As I said at the meeting," Wolpert continued, "the cost of running an 8th-grade next year has to be 'revenue neutral.'"

Potential alternative schools

The JCDS administration, in cooperation with the Bureau of Jewish Education for Rhode Island, is working to assist parents of middle-school students find other school placement. "The first school we contacted was the South Area Schechter School in Norwood, which is the closest non-Orthodox Jewish Day School," said Bruce Wolpert, JCDS board chair. "They have

been very helpful in trying to assist our middle-school parents and students. They are planning to have an information night at JCDS within the next several weeks," he said.

Wolpert said that JCDS has also been in contact with numerous private schools, such as Wheeler, Providence Country Day, Moses Brown and Gordon schools. "There were numerous informational packages given to parents at

the Feb. 17 meeting," Wolpert said. "We also understand that there are still sixth-grade openings at Nathan Bishop Middle School."

In addition, Providence Hebrew Day School has offered its help, Wolpert said.

Wolpert suggested that parents contact Larry Katz and BJERI for additional information, lkatz@bjeri.org, or 331-0956, ext. 179.

'A Time of Fire' – gunfire, prayer and hope

Dangers of genocide and civil war in Africa

By PHILIP EIL

Special to *The Voice & Herald*

IT BEGINS with the sounds of gunfire and prayer.

Shortly after its opening sequence, however, "A Time of Fire," the drama by Ugandan playwright Charles Mulekwa now playing at the Providence Black Repertory Company, settles into a place from which it can never escape.

The play, directed by Black Rep artistic director and founder Donald W. King, takes place in a cave in an unnamed African country where three men – Kadogo, a soldier (Cedric Lilly); Omo, a student (Jonathan Dent); and Ssasi, a thief (Raidge) – are hiding from the dangers of a civil war.

Unhappy with their situations, both outside the cave and in, the men lash out in idio-

syncratic ways: Omo corrects his peers' use of vocabulary. Kadogo brandishes an assault rifle and boasts a "Shoot first, then think," philosophy. Ssasi roars about his physical wounds, his tortured past, and an unwillingness to trust anyone.

While the energy of the cast and a sparse set by Michael McGarty work in the play's favor, "A Time of Fire" stumbles at times under its own weight.

REVIEW

There are many back stories, difficult at times for the audience to follow. Which character watched his father be shot? Who renounced his brother, the leader of the rebel forces?

The story's themes – moral chaos during wartime; initial adversaries arriving at a mutual respect – are important if not familiar. And, an occasional clunky line, such as: "In times like these, identity means nothing," diminish the play's raw power.

Although play didn't achieve

the "electrifying" impact of its billing, the performance itself was a moving testament to the Black Rep's commitment to live theater in Providence. On a Friday evening with Westminster Street cold and barren outside, the three actors tore into their roles – screaming, fighting, crying, singing – for a small audience.

The most memorable line of the night, perhaps, came not from the play, but from the Black Rep employee who introduced it. "If you like the play or even if you don't," she said. "Tell a friend to come by and see it."

The Providence Black Repertory Company is at 276 Westminster St. in downtown Providence and online at www.blackrep.org. "A Time of Fire" plays Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays (followed by a "Talk-back" with cast and crew) at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Sunday matinees are pay-what-you-can.



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Israel votes, but outcome depends on who spins the results

Editor's Note: It is up to the Israeli President, Shimon Peres, to ask either Kadima's Tzipi Livni or Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu to attempt to form the next majority coalition in the Knesset. As we go to press on Feb. 18, no decision has yet been announced. However, as each of these four stories demonstrates, there is no agreement as to who actually won the election.

Parsing the vote

By URIEL HEILMAN
JTA Staff Writer

(JTA) — In the chaos of the day after Israel's election, the possibilities for who will lead Israel's next government, and with what sort of coalition, seem endless.

NEWS ANALYSIS

However, if the parties are categorized by ideology, the noteworthy consequences of this election immediately become clear:

1. Victory for the right wing

First and foremost, this election was a triumph for the right wing. Right-wing parties (not including the religious parties), picked up 18 seats in the 120-member Knesset. Left-wing parties lost eight seats. This analysis considers Labor, Kadima and Meretz left-wing parties, and Yisrael Beiteinu, Likud, Jewish Home and National Union right-wing parties.

Things look even worse for the left if the religious parties are counted as right wing — they are, though their major concerns are religious in nature — and if Kadima is counted as a centrist rather than a leftist party.

All major parties, including Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu, favor a two-state solution with the Palestinians. Where they differ is how to achieve that solution, how fast to accomplish it and in slight variations over the contours of the Palestinian state.

2. Netanyahu's comeback

While Benjamin Netanyahu did not do as well as some polls two months ago projected, his party still registered the biggest gains overall, and by a lot. Likud picked up 15 seats, rising to 27 from the 12 it won in a lackluster showing in 2006.

3. Kadima did not gain

Kadima actually lost ground. In the last election, in 2006, incumbent Prime Minister Ehud Olmert won 29 seats for his party. He had been prime minister for just under three months, having taken over when Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke.

With Livni at the helm Kadima captured 28 seats, one less than Olmert. To be fair, even

With Obama and Bibi, will there be chemistry?

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (JTA)

— When Bibi met Barack, there was chemistry, the story goes.

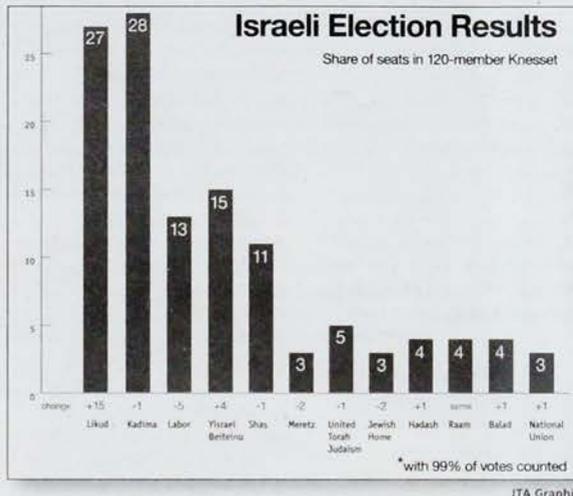
Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the once and possible future Israeli prime minister, first met then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama in a private meeting in 2007, during one of Netanyahu's stateside visits. It was clear, Netanyahu aides later told reporters, that the two men one day would assume roles on the world stage.

The pair met a second time last July, in Jerusalem, and both with their country's top jobs in their sights. Obama had secured the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, while Netanyahu had revived his Likud Party from a rump and was leading in polls to succeed the scandal-tainted Ehud Olmert, who would announce his resignation as prime minister days later.

Netanyahu's campaign took on Obama's hues, adopting the slogan of "change" for Israel and erecting a campaign Web site that mimicked Obama's.

Or so the story goes.

This version, accurate if not quite complete, is being peddled behind the scenes in Washington by those keen on seeing a smooth relationship between Jerusalem and Washington if Netanyahu becomes Israel's prime minister, which remains a possibility after the right wing's strong showing in the election. Netanyahu and



Obama may not agree on the details, they say, but like any successful couple they see eye to eye when it comes to the big picture.

If Netanyahu becomes prime minister, this will be his second time around, and survivors from his 1996-99 dalliance with the Clinton administration are not only around, they are members of Obama's new administration. Dennis Ross, President Clinton's top Middle East peace negotiator, is expected to take up a Middle

East policy overseer slot at the State Department — headed, as it happens, by Hillary Clinton, the former first lady.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Look up "Netanyahu, Binyamin (Bibi) — personal qualities" in Ross' mammoth 2004 account of his struggle for peace, *The Missing Peace*, and on page 260 Ross describes the Israeli prime minister as "nearly insufferable"

in his first meeting with Clinton. "After Netanyahu was gone, President Clinton observed, 'He thinks he is the superpower and we are here to do what he requires,'" Ross writes.

Obama's envoy to the region, George Mitchell, appears to be adopting that cautious approach. Possible differences loom, however.

Ori Nir, the spokesman for Americans for Peace Now, said interactions between Netanyahu and Obama may be beside the point. The determining factor in the Middle East, he said, is not the personality of the occupant of the White House but the realities of the region.

"What every Israeli government finds when it takes the reins is the same reality: the same West Bank, the same Iran, the same Gaza, the same Arab world," Nir said. "Campaign slogans aside, it has to deal with that reality."

Lieberman loyalty proposal finds support

By BEN HARRIS
JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK (JTA) — As Yisrael Beiteinu vaulted into third place in Israel's elections, capturing 15 Knesset seats, several American Jewish organizational leaders defended the party's controversial leader, Avigdor Lieberman.

Some liberal Israeli and Jewish groups have condemned Lieberman as a fascist — the left-wing Meretz Party even compared him to the late far-right Austrian politician Joerg Haider — for his proposal to require Israeli citizens to sign an oath of allegiance to the Jewish state in a bid to curtail Israeli Arab political power. But the Anti-Defamation League, an organization that is quick to spot instances of discrimination, says Lieberman is right to be concerned about apparent acts of disloyalty by Israeli Arabs

as a condition of Israeli citizenship. Those who refuse — Arab or Jewish — would have their citizenship revoked, though they'd be permitted to remain in the country as permanent residents.

"Arabs have all their rights in Israel, but they have no right to *Eretz Yisrael*," Lieberman said at the Herzliya Conference, an annual summit on Israeli state and security.

Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said he found Lieberman's proposal "legitimate."

Foxman promised to speak out if Lieberman advanced any legislative proposals not in keeping with the spirit of Israeli democracy, noting that the ADL had criticized his proposals in the past. Marc Stern, the acting co-executive director of the American Jewish Congress, noted that

he also pointed out that Lieberman's proposal would require all citizens to take loyalty oaths, not merely oaths by those seeking to become citizens. Stern called Lieberman's proposal "not a serious solution to a very serious problem."

Ori Nir, a spokesman for Americans for Peace Now, said that expressions of solidarity by Israeli Arabs with the enemies of Israel should be considered protected political speech, and that asking Israeli Arabs to sign a loyalty oath only would alienate them further.

"Once you put them on the spot, by the mere act of doing that you're going to alienate them in such a way that you will create security challenges to the state," Nir said. "You will put them on a spot where they will have to make some sort of a decision. That may lead some of them to a situa-

Livni scores surprise win, but not clear victory

By JTA STAFF

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Four months ago, shortly after appearing to make it to the top of the Israeli political pyramid, Tzipi Livni stumbled.

Ehud Olmert had resigned as prime minister and Livni had won the Kadima primary election, but she was having trouble assembling a coalition government. Unable to get a key Kadima coalition member, the Shas Party, to stay in the government, Livni announced that she refused to accede to Shas' heavy demands and was compelled to call for new general elections.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Livni celebrated her vindication. Scoring a come-from-behind victory at the ballot box, Livni edged Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, who had been the front-runner for nearly the entire race, to win an apparent 28 seats for Kadima, with Likud capturing 27.

But faced with a right-wing bloc with far more seats, the question Livni faces now is whether she can leverage her new national mandate to assemble a coalition government quickly. With Israel's right wing and religious bloc surging to a 65-55 majority in the 120-seat Knesset in voting, the task will not be easy. Indeed, Netanyahu, too, was celebrating after the results became clear.

Livni's narrow lead was aided by the splintering of the right-wing vote. Avigdor Lieberman of Yisrael Beiteinu drew key votes away from Netanyahu on the right even as the right-wing Knesset mandate soared. Likud grew to 27 seats from 12, and Yisrael Beiteinu increased its share to 15 seats from 11. Labor fell to 13 seats from 18.

Meanwhile Kadima, which had 29 seats before the election, basically held steady, losing a single seat.

Kadima's lead means that Livni, currently the foreign minister, is likely to get the first shot at assembling the minimum 61-seat majority needed to govern. But even that is uncertain, with Netanyahu arguing that the strength of his right-wing bloc makes him the best candidate to lead a coalition. Ultimately, Israeli President Shimon Peres, in consultation with leaders of the parties, will decide whom to give first stab at assembling a coalition.

Parents respond to JCDS plans

Parents suggest keeping school open for current seventh-grade

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – For some parents, it is hoped that the decision to close the middle school at Jewish Community Day School, announced on Friday, Feb. 13, may not be a *fait accompli* for this year's 7th-graders.

As part of discussions at a parents' meeting organized by JCDS on Feb. 16, there was strong interest voiced by parents and staff in exploring the possibility of keeping the middle school open for the current 7th-graders, so they could finish their middle school education together.

Although tempers sometime

flared, most of the two dozen parents at the meeting were somber and serious.

"It's not the Jewish way," said Dr. Giselle Corre, whose seventh-grader, Jacob Mukand, attends JCDS, referring to both the decision and the method in which it was carried out.

Some parents expressed anger and frustration, saying that they felt the JCDS board of trustees acted unilaterally, rather than reaching out to the parent community to discuss the budget concerns.

Bruce Wolpert, JCDS board president, who led the meeting, responded by saying: "If there are donors willing to come up with the money to (close the) shortfall, my question is, 'Where have they been?' Last fall, we talked about a significant financial problem, we never hid that fact, so where are they?"

Parents asked numerous ques-

tions about how many teachers would be needed to run a seventh-grade class for a year, what it would cost, and what the tuition levels would be.

Wolpert said that he and Joe Mann, JCDS board treasurer, would work with a small parent group to explore whether a revenue neutral plan might be doable, based on a certain number of students returning. Wolpert cautioned parents, however, that Robert Sarkisian, the headmaster, would have final authority on the academics of any proposal.

Corre said, in response: "We'll give up quality for continuity, so they (the students) are not shipped from one school to another like cattle."

The parents appeared to be in consensus that they wanted to keep the 14 7th-graders together for one more year so they could graduate together.

Robyn Goldstein, whose son Corey is a 7th-grade student, said that "the kids are crushed, they're crying and they want to stay together."

One parent believed the community should do whatever it could to keep children currently enrolled at the middle school there until their graduation.

Wolpert answered: "Where, sir, would the money come from? JFRI has given the school money (more than \$2 million),



Photo by Nancy Kirsch

JCDS parents listen to Robert Sarkisian, head of school.

and they definitely are committed to Jewish day schools, but especially in this economy, their resources are limited, he said. "We can't borrow from our endowment any more."

several area schools were available for parents, several adults expressed a desire to talk with representatives from South Area Solomon Schechter School in Norwood, Mass.

Sarkisian has plans to arrange such a meeting, once February school vacation concludes.

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of Providence Hebrew Day School, said that he let BJERI know that his school is available. "We are available to service their needs, and we do have openings. At the end of the day, while the goals of the school are not exactly the same, we could, perhaps, create a track for the JCDS students to stay together," he said.

Wolpert reiterated his praised BJERI for being willing to assist students in making a transition.

JFRI has given the school money (more than \$2 million), and they definitely are committed to Jewish day schools, but especially in this economy, their resources are limited."

Bruce Wolpert

In terms of potential alternatives, many private schools have extended their deadlines for the situation, according to Sarkasian. Packets of information from

E-mail to JCDS middle school parents

February 13, 2009
Dear JCDSRI

Parents and Friends:

I would like to inform you of the discussions and decisions that were made during the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the school which took place today, Feb. 13, 2009.

The meeting focused primarily on the effect that the turbulence in the national and world economies is having on the school's finances.

Background:
Difficult Economic Times

This school year, the school incurred a significant budget deficit which was funded principally by loans of approximately \$500,000 from the school's endowment. At the same time that we were borrowing from the endowment, the national and world economies reduced our endowment as well. Before we started to make the borrowings, our endowment was approximately \$2,200,000. As of last December, our endowment had been reduced to \$1,300,000.

At the same time, we have suffered enrollment declines similar to many other Jewish day schools in this country. Additionally, many private schools have experienced a decline in enrollment, as well as a significant loss of endowment funds. Our school has not been insulated from these events.

Even with these financial challenges, we remain strongly committed to fulfilling the school's mission statement, which states that the JCDSRI "educates students in millennia, Jewish tradition, knowledge and values and provides comprehensive general educational tools and skills." It goes on to say, "We are commit-

ted to building a vibrant Jewish future by creating an inseparable bond with the past and engaging fully with the modern world."

While our primary mission is to be a quality educational institution, we also are duty bound to carefully review and manage the finances of the school. Our projections for the next school year, if we were to take no additional action, show a budget deficit in excess of \$600,000. Obviously, we cannot sustain our school facing a budget deficit of this proportion.

In light of these projections, and the fact that the Middle School has lost in excess of \$200,000 in this fiscal year alone, the Board has made the difficult decision to close the Middle School (Grades 6, 7 and 8), effective the end of this current school year. A careful analysis has been made of the revenue and expenses attributable to the Middle School and given the present financial state of the school, as well as the national and world economies, there is no reasonable hope that we could close this budget gap before the start of the next school year in order to continue operating.

We know that there are many questions and concerns that you may have as a result of this news. We have scheduled an initial informational meeting primarily for current Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Grade parents, with an invitation extended to current Eighth Grade parents, as well. This special meeting will take place this Monday evening, Feb. 16, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the modular classrooms at the rear of the school property (it may be easier access for you to enter the building on Morris Avenue). We

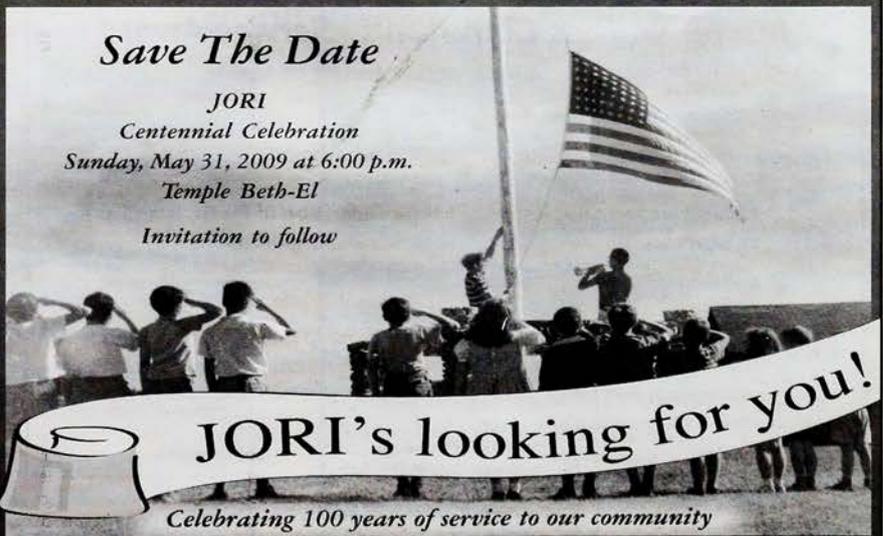
See E-MAIL, Page 35

**WERE YOU A JORI CAMPER?
Were you a JORI Counselor?
Are you in your 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's?**

Save The Date

JORI
Centennial Celebration
Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
Temple Beth-El

Invitation to follow



Camp JORI is preparing to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of its organization and wants to share it with you!

Please call 401-463-3170 or email campjori@hotmail.com

Coping in hard times can bring a family together

Challenges can help to strengthen emotional health

By SCOTT HALTZMAN, M.D.
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE – This past summer, when gas prices hovered around \$4 a gallon, and people were trading in their Hummer for a Prius, I was reminded of events in my own childhood. In the winter of 1973-74, an oil embargo had forced changes in the life of every American. Back then, I wasn't old enough to drive, and the only bill I had to worry about paying was for my subscription to *Mad Magazine*.

But I remember how my father had turned down the thermostat to 62 degrees at night, and how we would walk around in sweaters and long underwear. You may say I am exaggerating when I tell you we could see our breath in the morning, but that's my story, and I'm sticking to it!

At the time, I wasn't happy with the situation. I was frustrated, irritated and annoyed. And I was cold!

But I can say that the lessons I learned during that cold winter, and in a few winters that followed, have been with me my whole life.

I don't look back anymore with frustration, irritation or annoyance; I look back with thanks. The energy crisis taught me many important things that I didn't

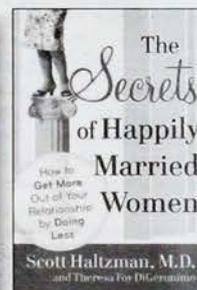
think I needed to learn: things like conservation, ecology, making sacrifices for the good of everyone, even things like world politics and economics. I don't think I would

have learned any of those things if I hadn't needed to spend a few nights in a sweater.

Back then the energy crisis drew our attention. Today, it's the economic crisis. With our current tough financial times, it may seem insensitive of me to suggest that household stress can be good for our lives, or the lives of our children.

But, like it or not, hard times can make a family emotionally healthier. Child development research shows, for example, that children exposed to moderate adverse events are emotionally stronger later in life compared to children who had not had any significant stress in early in life.

• And, adult individuals who have weathered hardships



SCOTT HALTZMAN, M.D., a Brown University psychiatrist will be the keynote speaker at Bradley Hospital's "Parenting Matters" program in April. His book, *The Secrets of Happy Families*, will be released in June.

together with their family will often look back, as I did my "long john days," will say that they grew stronger because of the challenges they had to overcome.

• Getting through tough times does take some work though,

"Developing a strong supportive network can help you reassure you and your family that you'll always be there for each other."

and riding the rough seas or adversity is easier if the whole family is on board. And, in order to help brace the family for difficulties, it's best to shore your up your ship before it sets sail. Ready for some advice from a doctor on how to do it?

• First, take care of your physical and emotional health. Eating

moderate portions of healthy food, exercising regularly, and engaging in intellectual challenges keep you fit during trying times.

• Next, maintain open lines of communication.

Having families keep in touch takes more than the ability to talk to one another. It takes good listening. Before you jump in to give your opinion, make sure you've let the person you are talking to know that his or her opinion was heard first. Being able to share thoughts and feelings during troubled times will go a long way toward coming up with comfort and support.

• Demonstrate empathy, acceptance, and love. So, "my son the doctor," ends

up being a shoe salesman. It that OK by you? When you pressure people to be someone other than themselves, you shake the foundation of trust that they are appreciated for who they are. Taking time to see the world through the eyes

of those you love will help you to understand how to prop them up in times of trouble.

• Finally, set realistic goals. We all mess up from time to time, so don't kick yourself over it. Being a strong family unit means learning from your mistakes, not expecting perfection. During tumultuous times, you'll probably make quite a few missteps, but remember that by keeping your expectations down to earth you can solve problems, together, one step at a time.

When bad things happen, it can put tremendous strain on a family. But developing a strong supportive network can help you get through these days and reassure you and your family that you'll always be there for each other. After all, back in the 1970s, my sweaters and long-johns kept me warm, but it was the support, attention, and love of my family that kept me strong.

Scott Haltzman, M.D., is a psychiatrist and author at Brown University. He wrote: *The Secrets of Happily Married Men*, and *The Secrets of Happily Married Women*.

His new book, *The Secrets of Happy Families*, will be published in June. In April, he will be the keynote speaker at the "Parenting Matters" conference.

You can visit his web site, www.DrScott.com, or reach him at DrHaltzman@secretsofmarriedmen.com.

ARTIST: Better understanding of Israel

From Page 7

and offer student art critiques. In addition to the installation of a gallery exhibition, artist's talks and workshops for students at Brown University, RISD and members of the Providence community, Polonsky's film will be screened. When asked about the difference between Israeli and American audiences, Polonsky noted that, "the film touches a nerve among those who served in Israel's wars, helping them to cope with their own traumatic memories." He has also found, however, that people around the world react emotionally to the story and images of war. According to Polonsky, "the use of animation creates a stage of its own, allowing the audience to experience the effects of war outside of time and place."

Polonsky is in Providence as part of the recently launched Schusterman Visiting Artist Program, which brings Israeli artists to the United States to expose Americans to Israel's creative side. Supported by multiple Brown University and RISD departments and student groups and local Jewish

organizations, including the Board of Jewish Education and Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Temple Emanu-El of Providence, Polonsky's visit promises to illustrate a picture of Israel's difficult realities.

Most programs that aim to raise American support for Israel offer images of the softer side of Israel: the warm weather, the hi-tech industry, the country's Jewish heritage. However, even in the most tranquil regions, reality isn't pretty; it is, in turns, complicated, messy, joyful and somber.

Art, rather than political punditry, is the natural medium through which to represent the ongoing state of war that Israelis confront as well as the creative means they have for coping with that reality. Polonsky presents, through his breathtaking film and other illustration projects, creativity with a conscience.

To find out more about David Polonsky's appearances while in Providence, or to get a copy of the program, call 863-2805.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is seeking nominations for the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award

to be presented at the JFRI Annual Meeting on May 11, 2009

Do you know someone in the community who has:

- Fulfilled leadership roles in the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and in local and/or national Jewish agencies and organizations.
- and who
- Assumed and creditably discharged leadership roles within the Rhode Island general community in non-profit organizations and achieved recognition that reflects favorably upon him/herself and upon the Jewish community.



www.JFRI.org

If you know someone whose work in the community meets these criteria, please contact Gail Putnam at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island for guidelines and nomination form. Gail can be reached at: 401.421.4111 x158 or gputnam@JFRI.org.

The deadline for nominations is March 16, 2009.

Jewish Community Calendar

Friday

February 20

Shabbat for Young Families

Kid-friendly Shabbat dinner, with interactive service, stories, songs.

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

WHEN: 5:45 p.m.

COST: \$10 per family

MORE INFO: 785-1800

Shadows of Israel, Palestine

Gever/Shabab, a play written by Noam Dorr, explores the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

WHERE: Rites & Reason Theatre (George Houston Bass Performing Arts Space), Brown's Churchill House, 155 Angell St., Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m. (runs through March 1)

COST: Donation \$10

MORE INFO: geverandshabab@brown.edu, or 863-3558

Sunday

February 22

Never Again

Workshop on plans to introduce bill mandating that all students in Rhode Island learn about genocide.

WHERE: Salomon Hall, Room 001, Brown University

WHEN: 1-4 p.m.

COST: Free

MORE INFO: 264-7835

Shireinu Choral Group

A tribute to our heritage in song and story, sponsored by R.I. Chapter of Hadassah.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

WHEN: 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: 463-3636

Tuesday

February 24

Federal Immigration Judge Robin Feder

Judge Feder will express her personal views on immigration issues.

WHERE: Temple Beth El, 70 Orchard, Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Wednesday

February 25

David Frum

The Republican Jewish Coalition, R.I. chapter hosts David Frum, former Bush speechwriter.

WHERE: List Art Building at Brown, on College St. opposite the Rockefeller Library.



An inventive *spiel* at Temple Habonim last year told the story of Purim in rap. This year there are exciting *spiels* and events planned at Temple Emanu-El, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, and Temple Habonim, among others.

WHEN: 6 p.m.

MORE INFO: RSVP 595-9943

Friday

February 27

Freylach Shabbat

A "ruach-filled" service, followed by a catered Shabbat meal.

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

WHEN: 6 p.m.

MORE INFO: 331-1616

Saturday

February 28

Shabbat Story Time

PJ Library Program

WHERE: Congregation Beth

Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence.

WHEN: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

MORE INFO: 331-0956, ext. 180

Winterfest

Fifth annual auction and dinner, sponsored by Congregation Beth David of Narragansett and South County Hebrew School.

WHERE: Grand Ballroom at the Village Inn, Narragansett.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$36

MORE INFO: 972-5807

Klezmer Coffee

House

Fishel Bresler & Shelley Katsh.

WHERE: 209 Douglas Ave., Providence

WHEN: 8 to 10 p.m.

COST: \$9

MORE INFO: www.BrooklynCoffeeTeaHouse.com, or Breslersmusic@gmail.com

Beth Sholom Film Festival

"Home Game" will be shown.

WHERE: Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence

WHEN: 7:45 p.m.

COST: \$5 advance, \$7 at door.

MORE INFO: 621-9393,

Sunday

March 1

Purim Mitzvah Day

Family *hamantaschen* baking, *shaloch manot* delivery sign-up, crafts

and Purim parade at Tamarisk. Followed by PJ Library story time.

WHERE: Tamarisk Assisted Living Center, Shalom Drive, Warwick

WHEN: 1-4 p.m.

MORE INFO: RSVP by Feb. 25 to 421-4111, ext. 163

Monday

March 2

Hadassah Book Club

Discussion of *Leah's Journey* by Gloria Goldreich.

WHERE: Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Providence

WHEN: 7 p.m.

MORE INFO: 351-9944

Tuesday

March 3

Lunch and Learn

NCJW/RI presents Lt. Gov. Elizabeth H. Roberts. Brown-bag lunch; coffee and dessert provided.

WHERE: JCCRI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

WHEN: noon-2 p.m.

COST: Free

MORE INFO: Laura Silberfarb, loliven@visi.com

Thursday

March 5

Letters to Sala

Ann Kirschner talks about her mother's life in Nazi labor camps at opening reception and book signing.

See CALENDAR, Page 38

The Jewish Community Calendar in *The Voice & Herald* lists events that are open to the public and of interest to the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern

Massachusetts. The deadline for calendar events is two weeks before the actual publication date of the issue. For instance, for the issue dated March 6, items will need to be received by Feb.

25. Please send all potential items to voiceread@jfri.org, with the subject line, Calendar Item. Space limitations and editorial considerations may limit what items are included.

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Cheap eats that are easy to make, tasty to eat

A harried parent's answer to bad fast food

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

GOOD, CHEAP, healthy food will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of bad food (with apologies to R. Crumb).

As a single dad, coming home after a grueling day to a teen-age son who was patient but always famished, the task at hand was how to create a great-tasting, protein-rich, appetizing dinner that could be ready in less than 30 minutes and in total, costs less than \$10.

Here are a few recipes (with some apologies here, I never write any recipes down, and I improvise) that had my son going back for seconds and thirds (and the dogs vociferously seeking out any leftovers).

SAUTÉED CHICKEN LIVERS

Ingredients

1 lb. chicken livers (about \$3 a lb.)
1 bunch organic green onions/scallions
4 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons tamar (soy sauce)
1 cup flour (optional)
1 cup old Shabbat wine (optional)
2 cloves garlic

Method:

In a frying pan, heat the olive oil so that it is sizzling. Add chopped scallions, two smashed garlic cloves, and chicken livers.

(If you're Southern at heart, you can dust the chicken livers in flour; put the flour in a paper bag and shake the livers in it.)

Cook for about four minutes on each side, turning the livers as needed so they don't burn. Add more olive oil as needed.

At the first turning of the livers, add tamar and stir it in.

About two minutes before the livers are done, add 1 cup of wine (white or red will do, preferably sweet). This adds a "je ne sais quoi" flavor.

Let the livers "rest" and get the rest of the meal plated. I usually serve with slices of orange (nice color and citrus complements the taste and texture of liver). A salad of romaine lettuce, rinsed very well and a few leaves torn by hand, completes the meal.

MISO SOUP

Miso soup is quick, easy, delicious and very inexpensive to make. It has great versatility, in that by adding ingredients, you can create different textures, tastes and palate-pleasing opportunities.

Miso is fermented soybean paste (sometimes fermented with rice, barley or ginger), and miso soup, at its simplest level, is mixing and dissolving miso paste into water and bringing to a boil and serving. Patrons of Japanese restaurants may be very familiar with it. It can also serve as a great vegetarian soup base.

There are any number of misos – for simplicity, I'll refer to them as light brown, dark brown and reddish miso. In general, the paler the miso paste, the less salty the taste.

In terms of health benefits, miso, while high in sodium (1 oz. contains half the recommended daily allowance), is very high in vitamin B₁₂, trace minerals such as zinc, and protein – one tablespoon of miso contains 2 grams of protein for just 25 calories. Miso's minerals support immune function, energy production, bones and blood vessels. Researchers at

the University of Alabama say that data suggest that "miso consumption may be a factor in producing a lower breast cancer incidence in Japanese women," exerting a chemoprotective effect.

Bottom line: Miso soup is healthy, and it tastes good, too.

Ingredients

3 tablespoons red miso (to taste)
1 pint container red miso (with barley)
2 quarts water
3 stalks scallions/green onions
1 tablespoon sliced fresh ginger
1 package firm tofu
½ pound fresh green string beans
3 radishes

Method:

Bring two quarts of water to a boil in a soup pot.

Add the miso, stirring carefully so it dissolves.

Dice tofu in cubes (if you have time, wrap it in a clean dish cloth, put a heavy cookbook atop it for 10 minutes, to help force the water out) and add to soup.

Add ginger and green beans, sliced into two-inch segments.

The soup will be ready in about 10 minutes. Add chopped scallions and radish slices as garnishes and serve. The green beans will add color and crunch, the radish slices add both color, crunch and bite. Miso soup stores well in the refrigerator; when serving the soup on subsequent days, consider adding rice noodles or pasta, which will thicken the broth.

BREAKFAST FAJITAS

Breakfast may be the most important meal of the day, but I found that my teen-age son never had much of an appetite, in large part because we were almost always careen-

ing out the door before 7 a.m. and, to get ready, I had already walked the dog, put the garbage out, sent out the appropriate e-mails before work, made coffee, made breakfast, and "herded" him towards the door. After numerous half-eaten breakfasts, I lucked upon this easy, inexpensive meal: egg, corn and cheese fajitas.

Ingredients

4 large brown eggs
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2 ears corn
4 flour tortillas
1 tablespoon olive oil

Method:

In a frying pan, scramble the eggs, with the kernels from two ears of corn (I often used leftover ears of corn from the dinner the night before). Add the cheese just before eggs are ready. In another frying pan, while eggs are cooking, add oil over medium heat. Heat flour tortillas, one at a time,

so that they become, well, more malleable. Remove from heat, put a portion of egg and corn in the center, fold in half, then cut in half, and serve. If you have more time, you can put the sliced tortilla sections back into the frying pan to crisp. Alas, I never had the time in the morning, and my son would devour them without any need for enticement.

I always made extras, so that they were available for snacking when my son came home from school.

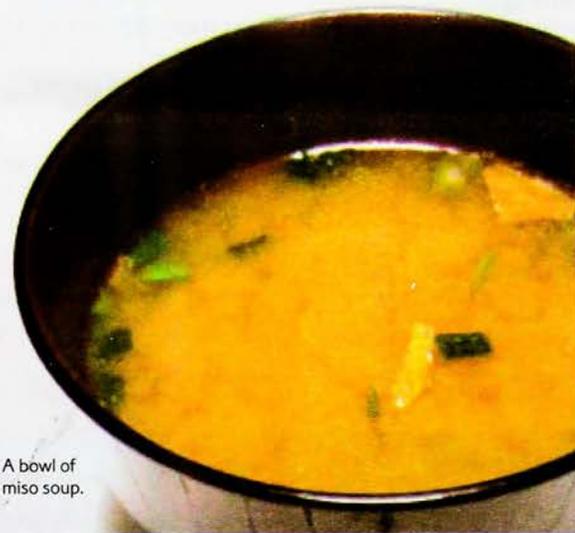
Serve with fresh orange or fruit slices and a glass of juice.

"SOULFUL" FISH FILLETS

Given the disliked fact that toxic mercury is present in almost all fish these days (thank you, "clean" coal emissions), I limit my fish dinners to about once a month. I am picky, I only choose wild caught fish, and I only fish at a reasonable price (less than \$8 a pound).

My fish faves are bluefish (as a

See CHEAP, Page 38



A bowl of miso soup.



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A family's
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Page 23



FINANCIAL PLANNING

A special section of *The Voice & Herald*



Local banks
as partners.
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Vol. XI — Issue IV

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February 20, 2009

Dressed for success

See CLOTHIER, Page 22

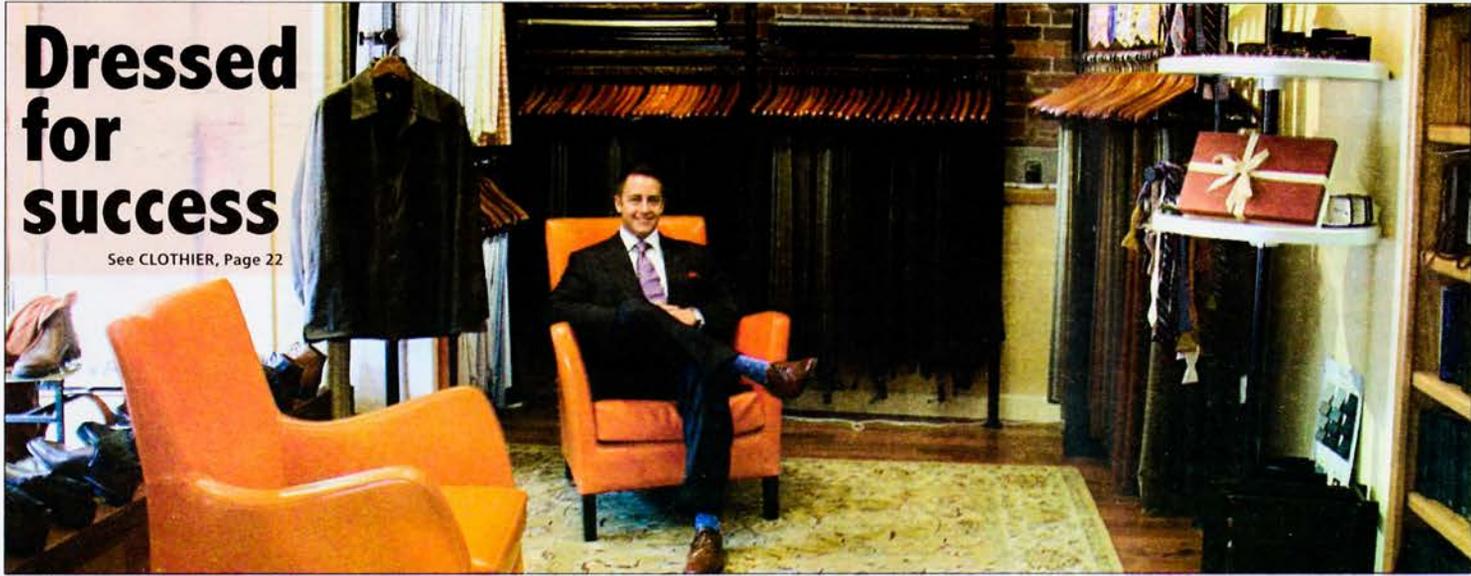


Photo courtesy of Marc Streisand

MARC A. STREISAND, the president of Marc Allen Fine Clothiers on 200 South Main St. in Providence, has created a world-class clothing store for men in Rhode Island.

Our Jewish community: Serving as a bridge over troubled waters

Support system reaches out to help those in need

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

"IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens, in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

For many people in Rhode Island, the current "worst of times" are tempered, for the better, with the help and support they receive from others in the Jewish community.

Yet, for many families, here in Rhode Island and elsewhere, the wolf is at the door. Here are some

of the stories:

- "My 79-year-old father is working retail 25 to 30 hours a week to make ends meet; he's anxious now because he can't help me and my family, especially since the company is cutting his hours. He has to work," said a single parent with two college-age children. She and her daughter have no health insurance, because she's currently unemployed.

- The economic downturn — and the loss of jobs — can take anyone by surprise. "Oh my God, should I put the food back?" asked a 40-something woman (in a wealthy Westchester, N.Y. community), whose husband called her while she was at the grocery store to tell her he'd been fired.

- "My (60-something year-old)

dad (the family's breadwinner) has health problems and he fears he's going to lose his job in June, but he's doing everything he can to hold onto it," said a Brown University senior who is from the East Coast. "He's worked at one place for 30 years. He didn't want us (his adult children) to know, but my mom told me." When will good things happen to good people, she wondered.

"The rug has been pulled out from the 82-year-olds, who saved for retirement and did everything right," said Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai in Cranston.

LEARNING TO TALK ABOUT IT

The hardest part of the current economic situation is the fact that many — particularly men — have

a hard time talking about losing a job or needing financial help.

"We need to provide Jewish people with permission, and encouragement, to talk about their struggles," said Rick Reamer, a professor of social work at Rhode

Island College. That myth that surrounds us about our affluence and our educational prowess and



Photo courtesy of Jewish Historical Association of R.I.

Times of economic downturn are also times for economic innovation. Above, the storefront for Benny's in 1931.

accomplishments is just that, a myth, he said.

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A world-class clothier in downtown Providence

Owner Marc A. Streisand puts emphasis on quality, customer service

BY RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — It's just after 8 a.m., on a frigid January morning, and while most retail shops nearby are still closed, Marc Allen Fine Clothiers on 200 South Main St. in Providence is open for business — and humming. A businessman walks in to pick up his custom-tailored pair of pants. He tries them on, but feels that they need to be a bit longer in length.

The store's owner, Marc A. Streisand, phones upstairs to one of his on-duty tailors and, as the customer waited, the pants are re-adjusted and presented to the local businessman in less than 10 minutes.

"It's all about confidence," the customer says, explaining why he shops at Marc Allen. "These pants really look good on me. I know that they fit me properly. It makes a difference in the way I present myself," he continued.

By 8:30 a.m., the satisfied customer was on his way for a business meeting in Newport, wearing his new pair of pants.

In New York City, where

Streisand ran his own shop for more than a decade, creating custom-tailored men's clothes, he was one of many in a fiercely competitive market. Here in Providence, he is very much on his own turf, standing above the crowd, creating a world-class men's clothier for those seeking "the right look."

Streisand, who lives in the Oak Hill section of Pawtucket with his family, has been impressed with the strong sense of community, particularly the Jewish community. "People actually come to my store

the right fabric for suits, in Italy or in England, dealing with top-of-the-line mills. "My specialty is in custom-designed clothes for the discerning customer," he said.

Everything is done on premises, in-house, from dry-cleaning to tailoring.

The prices can be high — one customer recently bought two custom suits, each made with fabric costing more than \$1,500 a yard. However, many of his custom-made suits, Streisand says, will sell between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Streisand would love to get into the *bar mitzva* market, because "there's nothing like have a great suit for one of the more important days in a young man's life." He recognizes that it can be a difficult market, because young men may quickly outgrow the

suit and there is a tendency for them to be very "hard" on their clothes.

For Streisand, creating a comfortable ambiance in his store is very important, and he keeps hours that cater to the individual customer — setting up appointments early in the morning or later in the evening to take care of a busy clientele. "A customer can come in before his day really gets started and take care of his clothing needs," he said.

"My specialty is in custom-designed clothes for the discerning customer."

Marc A. Streisand

because I'm Jewish," he said, a very different experience than in New York. According to Streisand, he has outfitted numerous businessmen, bankers, lawyers, and rabbis alike.

Unlike many other retail clothing stores, where the suits are pre-made and pre-sized, with a one-size fits all approach to fashion, Streisand prides himself with creating original, custom-tailored suits, beginning with the feel of the fabric. He undertakes searches to find just



Photo courtesy of Marc Streisand

MARC A. STREISAND prides himself on his custom-designed suits.

He also organizes a regular "ladies night," recognizing that a woman may often be an important part of a man's decision-making when it comes to what he wears.

"I want customers to come in,

feel comfortable, have a good time, and walk out knowing they have purchased great clothes, with a confidence that it looks and fits exactly the way it should," Streisand said.

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A family's charitable legacy rediscovered

From an initial \$200 gift, fund grew to distribute more than \$1 million in scholarships

By RICHARD ASINOF
rasinof@jfri.org

I'M NOT SURE how to begin this story. It's about a scholarship fund that was begun in 1943 by my grandfather, Moses Asinof, with a contribution in honor of my grandmother, Pauline A. Asinof, who died in 1942, of leukemia.

He set up the scholarship fund through the Springfield, Mass., National Council of Jewish Women chapter, of which my grandmother had served as president.

A news brief in the July 21, 2005, *Western Mass. Jewish Ledger* describes the history of the scholarship fund as follows: "The scholarship program, which started in 1942 with a single \$100 scholarship [sic] that allowed the recipient to attend Smith College, has more than 40 individual funds that have awarded more than \$1 million to financially assist local students in their pursuit of higher education."

The web site of the Jewish Federation of Western Mas-



Photo by Richard Asinof

Oil portrait of Pauline Asinof, in whose name the scholarship fund was established in 1943 with a \$200 donation.

sachusetts tells its version of the history this way: "The National Council of Jewish Women, Springfield Section, established its first scholarship fund in 1943. In 1992, the Springfield Council of Jewish Women transferred their funds to the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts. ... In 2008, 51 awards totaling \$56,850 were made."

In my cellar, in a cardboard

box that had been from my mother's files, rediscovered after my father's death, I recently found many of the original files of the scholarship. It's an anthropologist's dream, a trove of letters, applications, thank-you notes, newsletters, financial records and correspondence.

The first gift and grant, it turns out, was actually for \$200; it went to Clarice Labrovitz for the 1943-1944 academic year

so that she could attend Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

In 1953, the fund's 10th anniversary, the amount of scholarship awards had grown tenfold. New scholarships worth \$2,100 went to 11 students - Jerome Becker, \$200, Bates College; Myrna Selwitz, \$200, University of Massachusetts; Rose May Levin, \$250, American International College; Vivian Lapidis, \$200, University of Massachu-

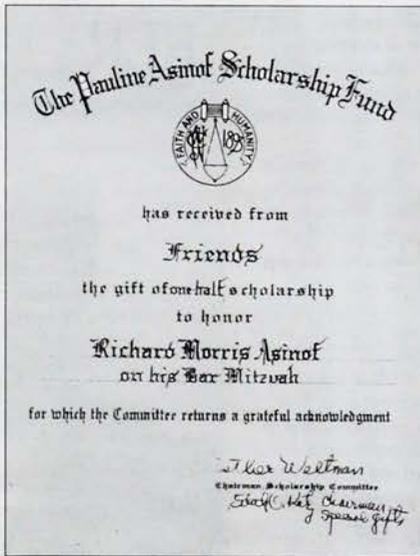
setts, Carole Norris, \$200, University of Massachusetts; Ann Karol, \$100, Boston University; Arnold Zogry, \$200, Colgate; Richard West, \$100, Wesleyan; Alan Gerstein, \$400, Wesleyan; Sandra Harmetz, \$200, Smith; and Bernard Kosto, \$50, Yale.

The history, it seems, is very much contained in these files, and it hasn't been told, as best as I can determine. You won't find it on Wikipedia. Part of my motivation for writing this story was talking with someone working in women's philanthropy who grew up in the Springfield community and who said she was unfamiliar with the Pauline Asinof Scholarship Fund.

It's the story of how a small Jewish community raised money through very small gifts to create educational opportunities for its young adults. For any *simcha* - birthdays, engagements, marriages, births, *bar/bat mitzvahs* - gifts were given in honor of the occasion. The 1959 Scholarship Bulletin of the NJCW Springfield section literally lists hundreds of such gifts by community members.

Indeed, in the file box was a leather-bound certificate, written with calligraphy, announcing that one-half scholarship (about \$250) had been given in honor of my *bar mitzvah* in 1965.

See GIVING, Page 38



The certificate recognizing contributions given to the Pauline Asinof Scholarship Fund in honor of my *bar mitzvah*.

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Even in slump, accounting firm flourishes

Firm's employees like the environment

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

"IM OPTIMISTIC when it comes to the accounting field," said Alan Litwin, a managing director at Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. ("KLR"), a Providence-based certified public accounting and business accounting firm that, despite the economic downturns, continues to grow.

In the past few months, KLR, founded in 1975, has grown to include a staff of 160, by adding Sullivan, Shuman & Freedberg, a Natick, Mass., accounting firm, and opening a small office in downtown Boston, Mass. "We continue to hire and recruit, even in a challenging market," he said. "KLR will hire the best and the brightest, predominantly from such local universities as Bryant, URI, Providence College, Bentley, Boston University and Northeastern."

Litwin says that KLR likes hiring "hungry kids," many of whom gain meaningful practical experience at KLR in college-sponsored cooperative or internship programs.

"Each year, we hire about five or six college graduates – about

half of whom worked for us as interns – and another 10 or so employees who are lateral hires, with experience."

Of the 160 employees, about 130 are in Rhode Island, he said, which makes KLR almost twice the size of the next largest accounting firm, with some 70 people, in the state.

KLR is not solely an accounting firm, he explained, as it also has expertise in financial and tax services, business valuations and executive recruiting.

Also, KLR is affiliated with Envision Technology Advisors that works with businesses in managing their networks, virtualization, storage, web development and e-commerce.

KLR spent the better part of two years searching for a firm in the Boston area with the right fit, he said. Why so long? "The most important factors in a merger," he said, "are culture, culture and culture."

We wanted to find a firm whose vision and values were similar to ours."



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Courtesy of Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd.

Alan Litwin, managing director at Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd.

VALUES CLEARLY MATTER
In June, KLR was chosen one

"The most important factors in a merger are culture, culture and culture."

Alan Litwin

of Rhode Island's "Best Places to Work" for the third year in a row by *The Providence Business*

News in a competition based in large part on employee responses to detailed surveys. Litwin attributes that recognition to two factors.

First, the career opportunities are significant and the working environment is good, Litwin explained. "We give our employees a great deal of responsibility and provide the training they need to succeed."

Three years ago, the firm established KLR University offering in-house training that won an award from *Practical Accountant*, competing with accounting firms across the country.

"Now, KLR University offers nearly 80 courses for our team," Litwin said. KLR uses the "latest and greatest" in technology, and its been completely paperless for five years, he added. KLR is cautious about the clients it takes, he said, so even the newest employees will have significant interactions with clients' key staff, such as the controller or the chief financial officer.

Second, we treat our staff like peers, he said. "Quality of life is very important and we're proud that our turnover last year was less than 8 percent, in an industry averaging a 20 percent turnover each year. I don't know if we have anyone who's not on flextime," Litwin said, laughing.

His Jewish values of *tikkun olam* and giving back to the community are demonstrated through KLR's employees' significant community activity supporting local nonprofits.

Litwin said that they engage, throughout the year, in firm-wide community service activities, such as annual food drives, adopt-a-family programs and walk-a-thons. In addition, the firm does a great deal of paid tax, accounting and financial planning work for nonprofit organizations and employs some 15 individuals who work exclusively with nonprofit clients.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

While it's too late for those who invested their funds with Bernard Madoff, closer scrutiny – and more regulation – of financial services and hedge funds is inevitable, said Litwin. After the Enron bankruptcy and the dissolution of accounting giant, Arthur Anderson, the SEC imposed new regulations on the large accounting

See VALUES, Page 31

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**Sources of help
when you're down and out**

IN ADDITION to your synagogue and AgeWell Rhode Island (at 223-2335), there are other resources available. While a comprehensive list would be exhaustive, some suggested resources include:

Emergency 2-1-1:
Dial 211 from any phone in Rhode Island and you'll talk to a trained operator at a clearinghouse, run locally by the United Way of Rhode Island. He or she will talk with you about your immediate needs and refer you to the most appropriate social service agencies or other resources.

Community Action:
Reamer called these programs one of the best outgrowths of the 1960s. When all else falls apart for people, they can help with energy and food assistance and other basic needs. Several Community Action Programs exist in the state, so check out www.ricomcommunityaction.org, email pmc-farland@comcap.org or fax 461-6581 to find out which program services your city or town.

netWORKri: A program of the State's Department of Labor and Training, it is Rhode Island's one-stop career center system, a

partnership of professional labor, training, and education organizations. Jobseekers and employers are matched through quality employment programs and services at the centers. Check out the website, www.network.ri.org, to find the center most convenient to you.

Public libraries:
Librarians are a font of useful information – they are researchers, first and foremost, who are there to answer your questions, and libraries often sponsor useful seminars. Check your local phone book for libraries in your community or go to www.oslri.org. And, in Rhode Island, one library card will allow you access to the state-wide library service.

On Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., the Weaver Library, 41 Grove Ave., East Providence, will host a free session, open to the public, called, "Job Search Strategies: How to 'Wow' in Topsy-Turvy Times." Career counselor Andrea Eastman will present strategies on how to market yourself effectively in today's tough economy. For more information, contact Joyce May at jmay@eplib.org or 434-2453.

COPING: Learning to share and talk makes a difference

"When a rabbi speaks from the *bima* or writes something in the synagogue newsletter, or a synagogue holds an adult education program, it gives people permission to acknowledge the situation," Reamer said.

Rabbis report that communication is beginning to flow. Members of Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Am David and perhaps others, have received letters from their respective clergy, offering support and succor.

One unemployed professional in his late 40s, whose wife is working, was touched and moved by the letter that Rabbi Franklin sent to Emanu-El congregants.

Am David's Cantor Perlman, for example, has volunteered his services as an informal *shiddach* between those congregants who need jobs and those who know of existing jobs.

Although the number of unemployed far exceeds the number of jobs he's hearing about, he's already connected two congregants with jobs. "We've touched a nerve," he said. "This is the most positive response I've ever gotten here – this compassionate idea is overwhelming to (my congregants)."

Temple Torat Yisrael's and

Temple Agudas Achim's newsletters included a column by Nicole Jellinek, a licensed clinical social worker with Jewish Family Service who holds office hours with both synagogues.

Identify your financial stressors and make a plan, she wrote, and Liz Heiss, a psychologist with a private practice in northern Rhode Island, agreed: "In some families, the kids are still getting great presents, because the par-

are often reluctant to seek help, viewing it as a sign of weakness.

Yet, therapy can help people manage these difficult issues, such as the husband who can't get out of bed in the morning after losing his management position, and his wife who can't stand living with him.

People do shy away from seeking help, agreed Lesley Landau, a psychologist with a private practice in northern Rhode Island.

"The (bad) economy is a great leveler, as being unemployed used to carry a great deal of shame; now, someone's who unemployed is a victim of the economy."

Kids know more than parents think they know, and they often imagine that the situation is worse than it really is, said Landau. "Information needs to be shared. While you

don't need to overwhelm them or scare them, the clearer you can be with your children about their fears, the better, she said.

There is a hurdle to get over, Rabbi Stein agreed. "Many people feel ashamed, embarrassed or think, 'That help isn't for me, it's for people who are really on the rocks.'"

"We need to provide Jewish people with permission, and encouragement, to talk about their struggles."

**Frederic Reamer,
professor of social work,
Rhode Island College.**

ents don't want their situation to affect the children. The debt piles on and piles on, and that leads to more anxiety."

It's important to educate people that therapy and counseling can be profoundly helpful, Reamer said, by helping with depression and anxiety. Unlike women, who are more likely to seek out emotional support from friends or professionals, men, in particular,

See HOPE, Page 37

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The art & science of philanthropy

Making good choices in challenging economic times

By BRADLEY LAYE, CFP®
blaye@jfri.org

THE CREATIVE side of philanthropy and legacy giving is to see one's philanthropic dreams come to fruition, one's values transferred to the next generation, and enjoy the privilege of social capital to improve the world.

As the Jewish world was shaken to its core over the news and facts surrounding the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme, the answer to Jewish philanthropy and investment strategy is trust.

THE ART

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) is perceived in many ways among many people, but at the core, there is no more trustworthy, transparent or responsible organization to assist you in fulfilling your philanthropic dreams.

We are partners with every Jewish organization, institution and program in growing Jewish life in Rhode Island and taking care of the Jewish people around the world.

Consistently, I am asked by donors how to handle their philanthropy in this economic

situation. The answer is focus and clarity about what impact and results you want to have. I myself have narrowed my giving, though not reduced it, to those organizations and causes I am most connected to because I know they are feeling the pressures more now than ever.

The strategic choices to make in this environment are to give to those charities that provide the most leverage for your gift and have the most impact. JFRI is uniquely focused on these two requirements as we leverage an individual donor's gift with the gifts of thousands of donors so we can have the most impact in the most important areas within our community.

Our new allocations process will further add to these strengths as we move ahead to fund communal programs and services that are of top priority locally and abroad.

With every challenge comes an opportunity. With this economic situation, there are opportunities to fulfill your philanthropic intentions,

THE SCIENCE

create a Jewish legacy, and engage your children and grandchildren in Jewish philanthropy.

There are a number of vehicles and techniques you can use to

that are of particular use now. Please call or e-mail if you have questions or would like to see how any of the options we have may benefit, your family and the community.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

By making a donation to JFRI you can receive an immediate and significant charitable tax deduction, receive income for the rest of your life at a high effective rate, and leave a Jewish legacy to the Jewish programs,

"There is no more trustworthy, transparent or responsible organization to assist you in fulfilling your philanthropic dreams."

services or institutions of your choice. There are examples of rates listed in the ad below.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

While assets, particularly real estate, are suffering from depressed prices, now is an opportune time to consider putting them into a charitable lead trust. While in the trust, your ongoing philanthropic contributions are paid by the trust. At the end of the trust, those assets pass to your heirs' estate tax-free and potentially gift tax-free, all at the appreciated amount. If you

have real estate or other assets you believe will appreciate in the coming years, this is opportunity to lock in that appreciation without tax consequences.

RETIREMENT PLANS

Along with pensions, these tax-advantaged plans have been the backbone of retirees' nest eggs. Since they are tax-advantaged, however, they face potentially onerous taxes upon transfer to subsequent generations.

It is not uncommon for tax on qualified retirement plans passed to children upon death to be as high as 75 or 80 percent. Qualified retirement plans should be the first consideration for philanthropy done within an estate. Additionally, these plans pass by contract, not by your will, so changing beneficiaries is usually very easy and can even be done online in some cases.

BEQUEST

This current economic situation is a life event for everyone. As with any life event, it is an important time to revisit your estate plan and will. Your will is opportunity to transfer your values, not just your wealth, to your children and grandchildren. Through an unrestricted bequest, restricted bequest, or the creation of a donor advised fund that allows your children



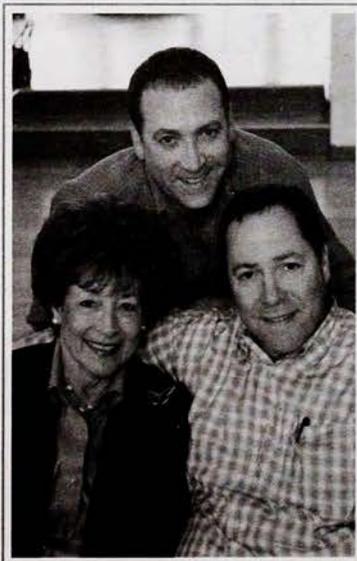
Bradley Laye

and grandchildren to become philanthropists, this option is a simple yet significant way to fulfill your philanthropic dreams.

My team and I are here to assist you and your professional advisors in a confidential manner with expertise in philanthropic options. We are ready to engage in confidential and important conversations about your philanthropic desires in keeping with your values.

Bradley Laye is the Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. He can be reached at blaye@JFRI.org or at 401-421-4111 ext. 173.

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

An image from Jacob Finkelstein & Sons of a worker stitching patterns in 1946.

Working in partnership with the local bank

Bankers played key role in family business

BY RICK FINKELSTEIN
Special to The Voice & Herald

I DO REMEMBER “the banks.” Or, should I say, I remember the bankers who came to visit us each year at my dad’s business. Our company was Jacob Finkelstein & Sons Inc., at 128 Singleton St. in Woonsocket, where my dad Elliot, and his three brothers manufactured men’s outerwear for more than 50 years.

Although there was no mortgage on the factory building, the brothers still worked with “the banks” each year, needing to borrow money every February, March and April to buy the raw materials (wool, leather, knits, etc.), to manufacture their garments.

Then, by mid-October or, at worst, by late November, the brothers had sold enough product, and had received enough income, to repay that year’s loan.

We were “out of the banks,” as my dad used to express it, and I will always remember how relieved he was on that annual day of final repayment.

“Early in, same year out. Never carry a loan into a new calendar year!”

That was the mantra. The Finkelstein boys adamantly stuck to this formula, carefully monitoring “demon debt” and becoming, in time, one of America’s largest outerwear manufacturers.

I was a young boy then, so I was not privy to the intricacies of borrowing and lending, interest rates and repayment schedules.

My memory, rather, is of the warm friendship between my

dad and the bankers who visited him. It was the “Industrial National Bank” back then before it was Fleet, and it seemed to be the same gentlemen, year after year, who came to the factory to meet and greet and question the workers, touch and feel the inventory, chat with the principals, and “go over the numbers.”

Year after year they arrived to re-evaluate us, to make sure that their investment would be safe, to make certain we were still worthy of borrowing funds. It was warm and it was cordial;

became more a partner than a lender. And, each year, after completing their visit and doing their research, they again would forward us the funds we needed for our upcoming production season.

This was their decision, and they took deep responsibility for it, always aware of their obligation to their investors and their depositors. It was their loan to us. It was real, it was personal; it carried moral obligation. It was never spliced and diced or repackaged, resold and shipped overseas. It remained a local loan, from a local bank to its local business partner, and there was something very healthy and honorable about that.

I do remember “the banks.”

A version of this essay was originally published on the editorial pages of The Providence Journal on Dec. 2, 2008.

but it was a scrutinizing review every single year. Through the decades, the relationship grew in trust and size, and as a lender, Industrial came to love working with our successful and honorable family business.

I now look back on that intimate, calm, sincere and thorough arrangement with a smile.

To a large extent, the money we borrowed each spring came from the savings of other Rhode Islanders. Local money, lent locally, to help employ Rhode Islanders as they manufactured a quality product and shipped it nationwide.

Those loan officers, I now realize, stayed very involved with our business. They came to know us intimately, the owners, the products, the skilled work force, even the factory building itself.

We did our job as manufacturers, while Industrial did its job as banker. Relationships were built face-to-face back then, in that belly-to-belly world, and, over time, Industrial



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Young mothers have ideas aplenty for low-cost and free activities

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

“PARTNERS IN crime” is how Sharon Sock and Jeanine Silversmith, both of Warwick, describe their relationship. Fortunately, their idea of

“crime” is spreading the news about many family activities that won’t “break the bank.” Among their many joint projects is a laminated list of both indoor and outdoor family activities, “The Rhode Island Go-to List of Places to Go,” that, with one exception, are all Rhode Island-based.

Sharon took her children to the Providence Animal Rescue League where they played with puppies and kittens. She used the outing as

a teaching tool, explaining to her sons (Kevin, 13; Reese, 6; and Cooper, 4), that many pets have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Other than the price of gas, the afternoon cost nothing; the benefits to the Sock children – and the animals they cuddled – were great.

Sharon grew up at Temple Am David, where she, her husband Garrett, and their children now worship, as do the Silversmiths. The Jewish connections between the couple extend beyond the synagogue, as Sharon and Ian Silversmith – Jeanine’s husband – knew each other from Camp JORI. Jeanine, who moved from New York with Ian just a few years ago, explained, “Sharon was one of my very first friends here. She saved me from the isolation I felt after my daughter was born, which was soon after we moved to Rhode Island.”

In addition, Sharon helped Jeanine, a convert to Judaism, learn more about raising Jewish children. Not affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island’s Shalom Rhode Island programming, Shalom Friends, co-founded seven years ago by Sharon, offers classes three times a week for families with children from birth to age 5. Held at Temple Am David in Warwick, classes are open to families throughout the state. Sharon, who attended Harry Elkin Midrasha and Providence Hebrew Day School, discovered that “many of my friends knew they wanted to be Jewish, but

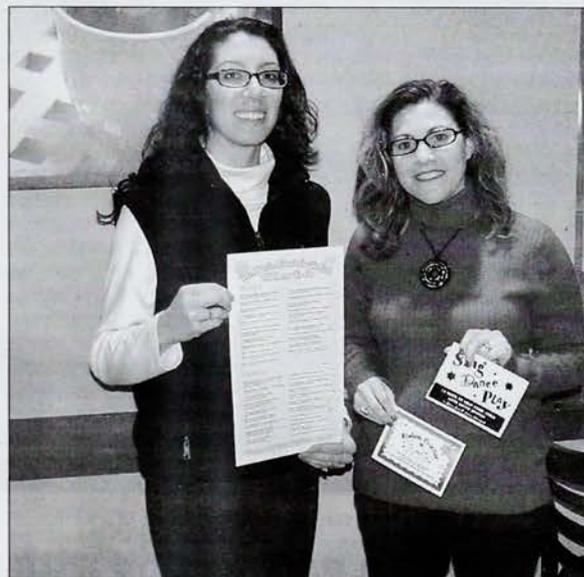


Photo by Nancy Kirsch

JEANINE SILVERSMITH, left, and Sharon Sock display materials that describe some of their low-cost, yet high-fun, family activities.

The Sock Family Adventures

SHARON SOCK was gracious enough to offer some thoughts and suggestions, based on their family adventures. Sharon wrote, “My husband has been keeping a journal of all of our adventures. Someday when our kids are grown up, he’ll give it to them. Our adventures get us outside in the world and give us quality family time. The majority of our adventures do not cost us a penny.” Here are some of her suggestions:

1. Letter boxing is a blast. Go to the website (www.letterboxing.org) for treasure hunt clues for any city in the country; it’s great when you find the box that you are searching for. Bring a compass, snacks and drinks.
2. The *Off the Beaten Path* series for Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut are really helpful. We’ve discovered the oldest continually running general and candy stores, beautiful waterfalls and

hiking trails. The Book Barn, in Niantic, Conn., has more than 350,000 used books – many are sold for only \$1.00. It is such a fun place to visit. Two other books – *Curious New England* and *RI Curiosities* – list odd places to see.

3. Did you know that many national parks don’t charge admission? Check out www.nps.gov. The USS Constitution is a great place to visit, as are Saugus Iron Works in Mass., and Touro Synagogue in Newport.

4. There is so much history in New England to discover – become a tourist in Rhode Island or nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut. Although some may think history is boring, approach it as an adventure and be flexible – you never know what you’ll discover. We often pack a lunch, snacks and drinks to keep the costs down and to save time so that we can see as much as we can.

didn’t know how. I made it my mission to teach parents in a very basic way to celebrate Judaism with their young children.”

“Our family started having Shabbat dinners after the first week of Shalom Friends,” said Jeanine, “and we haven’t missed one yet. We’ve added more experiences as time has gone on, like baking *challah*.”

The eight-week long classes include singing, Jewish music, Shabbat celebrations, arts and crafts projects and more. For Jeanine, raising Jewish children is especially important. “Here,

(with a smaller Jewish community than in New York), I want them to have a strong Jewish identity, especially when they’re a minority.” The Silversmiths’ daughter, Sierra, age 3½, is enthusiastic about Shalom Friends, while son, Devin, 1, is still “learning the ropes.”

“Every time I see these tiny little kids in my Shalom Friends classes cover their eyes before the Shabbat candles were lit, I am thrilled,” said Sharon. “The children and families in Shalom Friends inspire me.”

These two women – one raised

See FAMILY, Page 32

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Top 10 tips for beating the budget blues

Sometimes it takes a neighborhood to make things better

BY RICHARD ASINOF
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AND

NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@jfri.org

1. Share and share alike.

Even before the economy tanked, three neighbors got together and chipped in to collectively buy – and share – a snow-blower. Neighbors could do the same with other large-scale items not used on a daily basis such as chain saws, lawn mowers or other gardening equipment. The result? Closer neighbor-to-neighbor relationships and a smaller outlay of cash.

2. Frequent second-hand stores for great bargains.

Second-hand stores range from big and impersonal stores, such as Savers and Salvation Army, to the small and intimate boutiques owned by someone you might know well. Whether you are searching for Purim costumes, khakis for your constantly-growing son, or a “new” purse for yourself, these stores might fit the bill. Some clothes have never been worn, some have been gently worn, and others were nearly worn to death.

Be sure to check out the store’s policy on returns (in some instances, all sales are final; other times, they only offer store credit) before you

hand over your cash or credit card. And, it’s recommended that you wash or dry clean everything before first wearing.

3. Bartering goods and services has been going on for years. If you’re a fabulous chef, but hate to clean house, provide a full dinner for your friend, the “neat freak,” in exchange for a clean house. Some people nearly live on – and for – bartered goods and services. There may be tax and legal implications, so consider those as well.

4. You watch our kids so I can go out with my spouse; next week, I’ll do the same for you. This is an ideal way for friends with young children, especially if the children know and like one another, to go out for a night on the town without incurring the additional expense of babysitters. Friends should feel comfortable enough with each other to be able to say to the babysitting parents: “I don’t let Sophie eat six bowls of ice cream at one sitting,” or “Jacob isn’t allowed to play in the backyard after dark,” and trust that they will honor your rules.

5. Hold a cooking party. Get five friends together on a Sunday afternoon so you can collectively cook for the week; each cook prepares enough food for the other cooks and their families. The result? You get five home-cooked entrées, and you avoid the hassle and expense of buying carry-out or fast food for your

family because you “couldn’t think of a thing to make.” If you’re really organized, one or two people can shop in advance and buy, in bulk, ingredients used in several of the recipes – eggs, cheese and pasta, for example. That will reduce your costs even more, and remember, vegetarian meals tend to be less expensive than those with meat, fish or chicken.

6. Walk or bike when you can; carpool when you can’t. Many of us are fortunate to live close to work, favorite stores and restaurants, and our synagogues. Why not get some exercise by walking or biking to your destination? Even though gas prices have dropped since this summer, driving is expensive – and polluting. If you can’t do that, try to find opportunities

“Some people nearly live on – and for – bartered goods and services.”

to carpool when you can – if three families within a block or two of each other all headed to the same synagogue for Religious School, try carpooling. You’ll save wear and tear on your car, yourself and the environment.

7. Brew your own coffee at home, take it to work with you. Those daily lattes and chais (and the delectable muffin that you didn’t plan on buying) at your favorite coffee shop can be an expensive, addictive habit. If you



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do the math, you’re likely to be saving more than \$1,000 a year.

8. Share a pot of homemade chicken soup with your neighbors. Odds are, it will come back to you two or three times, as your neighbors return the favor and provide you with all kinds of good food – homemade minestrone, brownies, pumpkin custard, lentil soup. Not to mention the invites to dinner – both at their homes and to go out. It’s worked very well in my neighborhood.

9. Put your pocket change in a container. You’ll be amazed how much money piles up in the pockets and pocketbooks, only to be “lost” in the normal

mayhem of a household. Further, provide incentive to your kids – they can earn 10 percent of the total for putting it into the appropriate sleeve to take to the bank. On average, the take every two months is about \$50.

10. Grow your own food in the spring, fall and summer. It doesn’t take a green thumb, really, to produce salad fixings, tomatoes, carrots, cukes, sugar snaps, squash, even potatoes. Plant berries – blackberries, raspberries, blueberries – and you’ll have a plentiful source of fresh fruit every year.

Have ideas of your own? Send them to The Voice & Herald and we’ll share the best ideas with our readers.



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VALUES: Tikkun olam informs director's decisions

From Page 24

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Litwin doesn't anticipate seeing economic recovery until the first quarter of 2010; and, from his perspective, the jury is out on the outcome of President Obama's stimulus package and his policies on the Federal Reserve and interest rates. In Rhode Island, where we have very high unemployment and

an unfavorable tax structure for business, the housing market may bring us out of the recession, as we have little existing inventory or new construction.

In the meantime, KLR colleagues work with clients to be strategic about decision-making. If you're not dealing with profitable accounts, he said, it might

make sense to walk away from the business. When we bounce back from the recession, we want to be positioned to take advantage of growth and weak competition, he said. How can companies do that? Get efficient with overhead, streamline as much as possible, and evaluate how to be more efficient and

deliver better goods or services at a reasonable cost.

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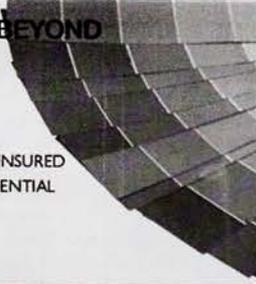
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REAL ESTATE INSIGHT

Should you list your house for sale this winter?

There are advantages to listing your home

now

MY HUSBAND, Art, and I break up the winter by escaping to Florida. Each time we fly in at night for some reason the weather is always clear, and from 30,000 feet, I am able to see the East Coast go from dark ground to white snow covered terrain.

I begin to think about business, and think about all the people who ask me at this time of year whether they should put their house on the market now, or wait until the snow melts in the spring.

The biggest driving factor in the housing market is supply and demand, which is the ultimate determiner of price.

Statistically, the winter market has fewer houses to compete with. This will generally translate to the seller getting a better price for his or her property.

There are things to think about when deciding on whether this is the right time to sell your home. All houses have some deficiencies. We tend to weigh our priorities when we purchase property

and live with the drawbacks.

Before we know it, we are so used to the drawbacks that we forgot what they were. For example, some houses have tiny yards. Buyers are often less inclined to notice the size of the yard because it is too cold to spend a lot of time outside.

For those sellers, the winter is a perfect time to market your house. When the assets are inside, your broker will spend

will more likely accept that they have to do work more readily.

The buyers who look to purchase in the winter, dig out of the snow to head to open houses, make appointments in inclement weather and look in the dark after work are motivated and serious.

These clients are not "tire kickers."

They are the people who are buying property in this economic environment.

There are some specific factors in this 2009 winter market that make a case for listing your house this winter. The interest rates are in the low 5 percent range. There were a few hours in the last month that the rates dropped into the high 4s. These are historical lows and explain why mortgage applications for both new home purchases and for refinancing are up this month.

"Winter does offer a great opportunity to connect with serious buyers, have a smaller amount of competition and have buyers take advantage of lower interest rates."

much more time pointing them out on the appointment.

On the other hand, if you have a house with an old kitchen and appliances that haven't been touched in 30 years but have the most beautiful yard in the neighborhood, then spring is your time.

The buyer will pay much more attention to the yard fantasizing about the cookouts and croquet in the summer. They will spend fewer minutes in the house and



WINTER MAY OFFER a great opportunity to connect with serious buyers.

With more competition in the spring, it may take a longer time to sell your house. Time is not on your side in this real estate market. The value of your house declines daily if it is not priced correctly. Price it to houses that have gone under agreement since mid-October 2008.

I have told clients for years that the last negotiated offer from your first offer is almost always the best offer you will see.

Every seller needs to think about his or her individual

circumstances and motivations for selling at any time of the year. Winter does offer a great opportunity to connect with serious buyers, have a smaller amount of competition and have buyers take advantage of lower interest rates. Think about it before you wait for the tulips and daffodils to come up this spring.

Sally Lapidés can be reached at slapidés@residentialproperties.com

FAMILY: Fun without a financial free-for-all

From Page 28

Catholic who loves Excel spread sheets and budgets, the other raised Jewish who is creative and artistic but doesn't know from spread sheets – clearly enjoy and appreciate each other. They were asked, "Are you good friends?" Simultaneously, emphatically and without reservation, each woman said, "Yes."

Living Jewishly is something both women incorporate into their daily lives.

For Sharon, that means using the animal shelter experience to teach her children about being kind to animals, for example.

For Jeanine, who works part-time for the Wildlife Conservation Society, Judaism and nature are strongly intertwined. She wants children – and their parents – to spend more time in nature, so she created "Rhode Island Families in Nature," which is on the "Go-to List." The group hosts monthly hikes in Rhode Island, and includes links to parks or nature preserves.

"Judaism isn't just about going to services or observing holidays," said Sharon. "It's something we do every day... at the library or the animal shelter or on a nature walk."

The "Go-to List" includes old favorites as the Providence Children's Museum and the Museum of Natural History at Roger Williams Park as well as more novel suggestions, such as the train table at Barnes & Noble and Wright's Dairy Farm, where kids can watch the milking. And, how many parents of young children knew that Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge has stroller-friendly paths?

In conversation, Sharon

hike, pretend you are Moses in the desert searching for Israel. Bring your children's favorite snacks and call it "manna from heaven." Or, set aside one *tzedeckah* day each month or every season to deliver canned goods to a local food pantry.

For those who are already thinking about this summer, Camp Am David is a weekend family camp – for seniors, singles and families – scheduled for Aug. 21 to 23, at Camp JORI.

The price has not yet been established, though more information will be available on the synagogue web site later this spring, www.amdavid.org.

Sharon and Jeanine are selling their laminated "Go-to List" (with a refrigerator magnet on the back) for an introductory offer of \$2.00 (through March 25), to cover their cost, and their "Sing/Dance/Play" brochure for \$5.00. For every "Sing/Dance/Play" brochure purchased, they will donate \$1 to the Emunah Sarah Herzog Children's Center in Afula, Israel. Contact Sharon at sharon.sock@yahoo.com or Jeanine at jeaninesilversmith@gmail.com. They also recommend www.kidinfo.org, which lists ideas, events and activities for children in Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts.

"Judaism is something we do at the library, the animal shelter or on a nature walk."

Sharon Sock

offered an idea that's not on the "Go-to List": "On a day it was just too cold for my kids to go outside, I brought buckets of snow into the bathtub for them to play in."

The "Go-to List" and Shalom Friends aren't the only endeavors keeping these women busy; they've also created a booklet, "Sing/Dance/Play: 18 Ways to Help Your Child Love Being Jewish," that incorporates many day-to-day ideas for living Jewishly. For example, on your next neighborhood walk or nature

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Yiddish resources expand

AMHERST, Mass. - The full texts of more than 10,000 works of modern Yiddish literature can now be read, downloaded, and printed in popular formats, free of charge, at www.yiddishbooks.org, or www.archive.org/details/nationalyiddishbookcenter. The nonprofit Yiddish Book Center has rescued a million endangered Yiddish books and redistributed them to more than 600 libraries and universities. Its collection, which includes thousands of duplicate copies, is believed to represent the majority of known titles published in Yiddish.

The unique new online resource, 3,000,000 pages in all, comes from an alliance between the Yiddish Book Center and another young and intrepid nonprofit organization, the Internet Archive in San Francisco, that offers free access to millions of books, music, movies, and billions of archived web pages.

For Yiddish Book Center information, contact www.yiddishbookcenter.org or yiddish@bikher.org. For Internet Archive information, contact www.archive.org or info@archive.org.

JERI Satellite Office Hours

JEWISH ELDERCARE of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, will hold its "drop-in" satellite office hours at Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road, Middletown, on March 5 from 10:30 a.m. to noon; at Bright View Commons, 57A Grandville Court, Wakefield, on March 9 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The topic will be "Tips for Aging Gracefully and with Dignity," and JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant JERI Director Ethan Adler will be available to counsel and advise seniors and their families on any issues or concerns. Ethan will also be available for pastoral counseling.

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or email sadler-jeri@jsari.org. For general information on programs provided by Jewish Seniors Agency, visit www.jsari.org.

Play explores humanity in Israel, Palestine

BY RITES AND REASON THEATRE STAFF

Special to *The Voice & Herald*

PROVIDENCE - Brown University's Rites and Reason Theatre will present *Gever/Shabab: Shadows of Israel-Palestine*, an intimate portrait of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, from Feb. 19 - March 1. Written by Noam Dorr, Brown '09, the play tells a story of captivity and freedom, as well as choices and inevitabilities, through the voices of a young Israeli and a young Palestinian. Dorr's inspiration for the play came primarily from personal experiences growing up in Israel and his desire to probe deeply into the wounds created by the conflict: "I felt that the experience was a unique opportunity for me to explore the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

and the different perspectives of seeing it. In the process of doing this, I often had to deal with opinions and views that were not easy for me to hear. Throughout this process, I was always guided by the idea that no matter what differences we have, we are all human beings, and long to be treated as such by others."

Held at Brown University's George Houston Bass Performing Arts Space, 155 Angell St., Providence, the play will run on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 3p.m. Following the Sunday matinee performances, FolkThought, the Rites and Reason signature post-play discussions, will be held. Suggested donation of \$10 per person may be collected at the door. E-mail geverandshabab@brown.edu or call 863-3558 for reservations.

Scholar at Yiddish shmooz

PROVIDENCE - Renee Lipson, a well-known Yiddish scholar and personality in the Fall River and New Bedford, Mass. Jewish communities, will acquaint shmoozers with the origins of their Hebrew names. The program will also include a Yiddish language lesson, a

sing-along of remembered Yiddish songs and other events.

The meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 27 at JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., in Providence, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Sue Suls at the JCCRI at 861-8800, ext. 108.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Roberts

Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts will speak about becoming an effective family advocate.

Lt. Governor Roberts will address NCJW

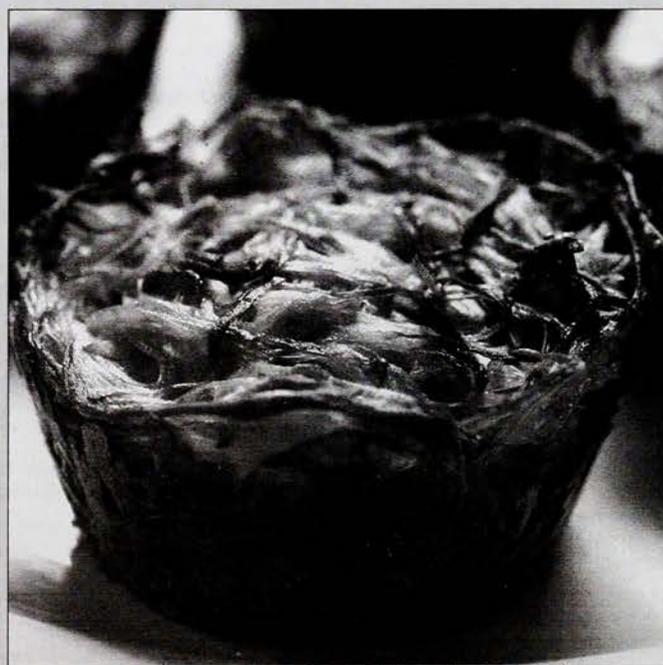
PROVIDENCE - The National Council of Jewish Women/Rhode Island Section (NCJW/RI) invites you to "Lunch and Learn" with Elizabeth H. Roberts, Rhode Island's first female lieutenant governor, on Tuesday, March 3, from noon to 2 p.m. at the JCCRI, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Roberts will speak on how you can "Become an Effective Advocate for Children and Families."

During Roberts' tenure as a state senator from 1997 to 2007, she advocated for quality, affordable health care for every family, launching Mission: Healthy

RI, an advisory work group that prepared the eight-part Healthy Rhode Island Reform Act of 2008.

A donation of new or gently-used children's books for the Women's Center is requested. The program is free and open to the public. Bring a brown bag lunch; complimentary coffee and dessert will be provided.

NCJW/RI is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates turning progressive ideals into action. For additional information, please contact Laura Silberfarb @ loliven@visi.com.



These potato kugel cups are from *Quick & Kosher, Recipes from the Bride Who Know Nothing*, by Jamie Geller, published by Feldheim Publishers, copyright 2007.

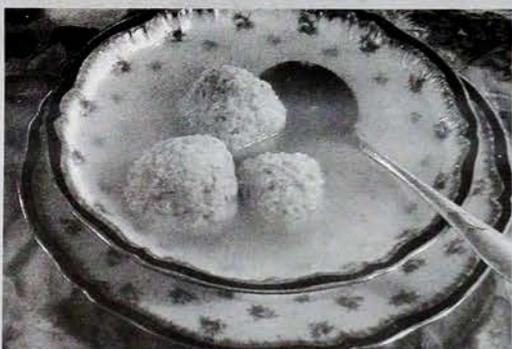


Image of Joan Nathan is from *The Foods of Israel Today*, by Joan Nathan, published by Alfred A. Knopf, copyright 2003.

Joan Nathan will judge Habonim's kugel contest

BARRINGTON - Whether you call it 'kugel' or 'kigel,' enter Temple Habonim's first ever kugel-off, which will be judged by famous cookbook author (and Rhode Island native) Joan Nathan. The contest will be held at 7 p.m. on March 7 at the synagogue.

For those who want to compete, bake two kugels, each in 9 x 13 pans, cut each kugel into 40-50 pieces and provide a list of ingredients for each entry. RSVP promptly to Temple Habonim at 245-6536, with or without kugels. Bakers and eaters, all are welcome, the fee is \$10 per person.



You could be a winner in chicken soup challenge

NEW YORK, N.Y. – The National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) is sponsoring the “Better than Your Bubby’s Chicken Soup Challenge,” a search for the best chicken soup recipe in America. Whether you prepare your grandmother’s famous recipe or your own creative version of chicken soup fusion, NJOP wants to taste your Jewish penicillin. Cooks across America

are invited to submit their original recipes for a chance to win great prizes including a free trip to Israel, kitchen décor consultation and other great prizes.

Visit <http://betterthanyourbubbys.blogspot.com/> for contest details. Only kosher recipes are eligible; email entries to contests@njop.org or call 1-888-SHABBAT. Deadline for entry is March 2.



Music ‘rocked’ with Afro-Semitic Experience

URI Hillel, a sponsor with other URI organizations, presented the Afro-Semitic Experience concert on Jan. 29. The award-winning jazz ensemble had audience members up and dancing through the concert featuring klezmer, jazz, gospel, and Afro-Cuban rhythms.

Pictured in the foreground are students, Jacob Holzman, left, Jamie Brosow and Jon Aronoff, surrounded by band members, David Chevan, Warren Byrd, Alvin Carter, Baba David Coleman, Will Bartlett and Stacy Phillips.

JFS ‘Money for Wheat’ helps with Pesach needs

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Family Service’s (JFS) Moe’s Chitum (Money for Wheat) campaign helps people in need by distributing funds to purchase food for Passover. Last year, thanks to generous donors, JFS distributed more than \$16,000 which was distributed

to 290 individuals, communal seders, such as the AIDS seder and the kosher meals seder at Temple Torat Yisrael.

Jewish Family Service earmarks these funds for those who are truly in need – those who would have tremendous difficulty celebrating Passover without

such assistance. Those who are eligible are provided a gift card to a conveniently located supermarket.

If your family needs such assistance to celebrate Passover this year, or you know of a family in need, please contact your rabbi or JFS at 331-1244 to

receive the appropriate paperwork which should be promptly returned to the JFS. Please contact JFS’ Linda Zanni at 331-1244 if you can make a monetary or food donation.

Music in Middletown’s Temple Shalom

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. – On March 7 at 8 p.m., Temple Shalom will hold its spring concert, “A Grand Night for Singing,” which will feature Broadway musical and Disney songs, including music by Bernstein, Gershwin, Sondheim and Rodgers. Fred Scheff – a tenor who is the synagogue’s cantor – Kathrynne Jennings and Doug Jabara will sing, accompanied by Tim Steele.

Seating at the performance, at Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road, Middletown, R.I., is limited, so order tickets early. Tickets are \$30, and checks are payable to Temple Shalom. Send a check, with a stamped self-addressed envelope, and mail to Edward Scheff, 210 Brookhaven Road, North Kingstown, R.I. 02852. For more info, call 885-6073.



Can you help us?

The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association needs your help. Herman Weintraub of Cranston gave us this photograph, but we only know that Fred Kelman took the picture inside Congregation Sons of Jacob. Who are the men? What was the occasion? And what year? If you can help solve any of these mysteries, please contact Anne Sherman, office manager, at 331-1360.

Leadership role for Graboys

KINGSTON – George Graboys was recently named chairman of the University of Rhode Island Foundation’s executive board.

As the chief executive officer of Citizens Bank for many years before his retirement, Graboys led the establishment of the Citizens Financial Group.

Graboys served on the JFRI Board from 1982 to 1986.

Pharmacist to speak to Cranston Senior Guild

CRANSTON – The Cranston Senior Guild will meet on Wed., March 4 at 1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue, in Cranston.

Mario Casinelli, a local pharmacist, will speak to the group; a raffle and refreshments will follow.

Stepping up

By Nancy Kirsch
nkirsch@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE – At Temple Emanu-El, congregants are encouraged to bring food to the Purim carnival on March 8 and the Purim *spiel* on March 9, as the synagogue has agreed to help the food pantry in March. The St. Michael’s food pantry needs macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, cereal, dry milk, canned tuna, canned or dry soup, rice, dry or canned beans, and canned fruit. “In the spirit of Purim and feeding the hungry, we ask that everyone bring some food,” said Deborah Siegel, chair of the social advocacy subcommittee of the synagogue’s social action committee.

As a lead-in to its commitment for April, Temple Beth-El is holding a presentation on March 27 at 7:45 p.m. after Shabbat services. Sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Committee, the event includes comments by Neil Steinberg, president of the Rhode Island Foundation.

At the event Beth El will announce its partnership with St. Michael’s, as part of the R.I. Interfaith Coalition to Fight Poverty with Faith.

According to Sandy Rosenberg, Temple Am David will bring food in May, and the JCCRI will assume responsibility for July and August.

E-MAIL: To JCDS parents

From page 17

will offer placement assistance for Middle School students and parents, discuss various alternatives, and be available to answer your questions. If you cannot attend, another meeting will be scheduled immediately after vacation. There will also be another informational meeting for current Pre-Kindergarten through Fourth Grade parents on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Bohnen Vestry of Temple Emanu-El. You will learn of plans to strengthen our Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Lower School, and streamlining of the tuition assistance program will also be discussed. We urge you to make every effort to attend this meeting.

Other immediate actions resulting from the Feb. 13 Board of Trustees meeting include:

1. Bob Sarkisian will be returning next year as head of our school, and we are in discussions with Bob regarding having a longer term relationship with him.
2. The Trustees approved a three percent increase in tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year. This modest increase reflects our commitment to keep our school affordable to as many parents as we possibly can. We have passed a significant tuition assistance program aimed at parents who have more than one child at the school so as to ease

the financial burden on these families. We are very cognizant of the difficult economic times that we live in and are trying to be as helpful as possible given the economic realities we are all facing. We will provide more specific information regarding this program in the very near future. This program would be in addition to the tuition aid we presently provide to our parents.

3. The Board has approved a new incentive program which will, among other things, allow families to receive a \$500 tuition rebate for each new or prospective family who, as a direct result of their introduction, enrolls at least one child in our school for the next academic year. New families who enroll in the school will also receive a \$500 tuition rebate toward their next year's tuition if they enroll as a result of a recommendation from their rabbi. Families will also receive a \$50 tuition rebate toward next year's tuition for each new/prospective family referral (not a sibling family) that contacts us and subsequently completes a full meeting and tour of the school.

Next Steps/
Looking Forward:

The decision with respect to the Middle School is a first critical step toward reducing the school's budget deficit. We strongly believe that we are ultimately

strengthening the school from a financial point of view, which will allow us to make the Lower School prosper and grow.

We are quite confident that with Bob Sarkisian's continued strong leadership as Head of School, we will be able to achieve this goal and will ultimately be stronger as an educational institution, ensuring the long term vitality of our school.

The past several months, to be sure, have brought uncommon challenges to the school, as well as to countless nonprofit and educational institutions and organizations around the world. We do live in very challenging times and, unfortunately, the economic uncertainty will likely continue well into the future. We are very sympathetic as to how this new economic reality affects our parents and students.

Our school's leadership is working proactively and prudently to ensure the vitality and continued success of our school, requiring some very difficult but necessary decisions. We will continue to keep you informed as our efforts move forward and we hope to see you at these meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce A. Wolpert,
President
Board of Trustees
Jewish Community Day
School of Rhode Island

Developments at JCDS

The Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDS) announced last Friday that the JCDS middle school will close at the end of this school year. This heart-wrenching and difficult decision was made by a responsible board of trustees, which includes JCDS parents and community members, led by JCDS president Bruce Wolpert.

We have wonderful kids, engaged families and dedicated teachers and administrators associated with the middle school. It's just that the entire school has been struggling financially for some time now - mostly because overall enrollment has fallen well short of expectations - and the accumulated and ongoing deficits are untenable. To be sure, the JCDS enrollment difficulties also reflect both worrying national trends in community day school enrollment and the current economic difficulties.



Stephen Silberfarb

Closing the middle school isn't just about dollars and cents. This decision has a very real and very sad human dimension. Students and their families who had expected to continue their Jewish studies at a local, familiar and beloved venue will no longer have that option. In particular, 14 seventh-graders and their families, who were anticipating their final year at JCDS complete with graduation ceremonies, will not have that opportunity. As a community we are deprived of wishing these students and their families a mazal tov, and sharing in their parents' nachas. All of us at JFRI and across the community who support day school education are saddened.

A school relies on a basic economic model which requires a certain number of students. In the case of the middle school, the enrollment was declining to the point that the school and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), as its main community funder, could no longer cover the persistent deficits. The deficits, if left unresolved, threaten the viability of the entire school. JFRI's financial commitment to JCDS is considerable. JFRI has granted to JCDS a million dollars over the past several years (with almost a million "in the pipeline" for the next few years).

It is well known that JCDS enrollment was dropping and that the deficits, even with substantial other fundraising from generous and committed donors, were growing. The truth is that in the absence of increased enrollment JCDS needed to change its structure and reduce its expenses. There really was no other choice.

Last year's management and leadership changes allowed for a new head of school and an expanded Board of Trustees to guide the school. The new JCDS Board of Trustees was in the difficult position of having to identify specific and immediate cuts to help stabilize the school's finances. Given the high cost of operating a middle school (relative to the lower school) and declining enrollment (which made operating the middle school a significant financial drain on the budget relative to the entire school), the Board of Trustees made the difficult and painful decision that it is not financially feasible or prudent to continue.

Jewish education is a top priority of our community, and we all have a stake in the school's success. JFRI provides significant funding to JCDS and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE/RI) provides needed in-kind services. We will continue to partner with JCDS. Together, we will focus on growing the lower school.

To assist with this transition, BJE/RI has been working closely with JCDS to develop alternatives for middle school families for next year. BJE/RI is determining middle school options at its Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School, and is preparing to work with synagogues and other partners on Jewish education alternatives. JFRI, together with BJE/RI, is examining what other assistance might be available to those families wishing to keep their children in a Jewish middle school.

We cannot pretend that closing the middle school is good news. It is a painful decision that had to be made. But we cannot let this decision obscure the caring, nurturing and challenging academic environment JCDS provides to its students and their families. We need to get word out about the unique value of a Jewish day school education. We need to redouble our efforts to increase enrollment and to increase funds available for tuition assistance.

Our Jewish day schools are important pillars of our community, as are our synagogue schools, early childhood programs and Jewish camps like JORI. The best way to grow the enrollment at our schools and camps is by word of mouth, and each one of us can be a recruiter for Jewish education. We can talk them up to prospective parents. We can donate to scholarship funds. We can volunteer our special skills. The bottom line is that we can overcome the setback of closing the middle school by working harder and smarter to build the JCDS lower school and rededicate ourselves to making Jewish education and experiences available to every Jewish child.

FOOD: Replenishing a pantry's shelves in nourishing manner

From Page 3

in order to involve as many synagogues and other Jewish organizations in Rhode Island as possible.



Photo by Nancy Kirsch
Sister Ann Keefe

"It's a work in progress," said Sandy Rosenberg, co-chair of the NCJW/RI's advocacy committee; Laura

Silberfarb serves as the other co-chair. "We see this as a statewide effort and hope to get everyone on board," Rosenberg said. "Our plan is to have our members aware of the entire schedule and contribute wherever they are connected."

In addition to addressing the immediate needs of feeding the hungry, the Interfaith Coalition's initiatives include efforts to educate clergy across the state about poverty issues, and advocate for systemic changes affecting our state's neediest.

One issue that the Coalition has not yet addressed, but that deeply troubles both women, is that so many of the state's poor don't access food stamps,

despite being eligible to do so.

According to the Food Bank's Schiff, a study done by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, using Census data, indicated that only 55 percent of those eligible were using food stamps in 2006, one of the nation's lowest participation rates. While food stamp enrollment has increased almost 20 percent, he said, we don't have up-to-date figures on the situation.

"Sister Ann and I want to find those who are eligible and encourage them to use food stamps - they'd be helping their families if they do that," Richman said. "It'd be its own economic stimulus package - all those little stores in South Providence that sell food would benefit."

The growing need led to the St. Michael's initiative, according to Richman, explaining the focus on one church. "There's an immediate need to feed people's hunger before we can focus on long-term solutions," she said.

"The Jewish community is more humbled when it can help. They (the community accessing food at St. Michael's) are like a mini-United Nations, and Jews are learning that the need exists," she said.

Schiff, from the Rhode Island

Food Bank, agrees. "It's all good," he said, "when there's aid going to the community, and anything that helps connect people to community-based programs is helpful."

In these tough economic times, do small gifts of food really help?

Absolutely, said Sister Ann. "Whether you can donate 20 pounds of food or an extra box of macaroni and cheese or an extra can of vegetables - it all helps. In every faith tradition, people care for the needy," she said.

VOTE: Israel

From page 16

ter launched a failed war in Lebanon and, after two years of dilly-dallying, a war of indeterminate success in Gaza.

4. Arab parties grew Israel's Arab parties picked up two seats, increasing their Knesset representation by 20 percent. Balad, whose erstwhile leader, Azmi Bishara, fed Israel while under investigation for treason for passing on information about Israeli army positions to Hezbollah during the 2006 war, picked up one seat. Hadash, a mixed Jewish-Arab party, picked up another.

Obituaries

Betty B. Brown, 83

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Betty Brown, of Coconut Creek, Fla., died Feb. 10 at Hospice by the Sea, Boca Raton. She was the wife of Sydney I. Brown for 61 years. Born in New London, Conn., a daughter of the late George and Helen (Blair) Beloff, she had lived in Florida for 17 years, previously living in Providence and East Providence for 44 years. She attended Highland Manor Junior College in New Jersey.

She was the mother of Caryl S. Freedman and her husband, Mark, of Warwick, and Janis Klein and her husband, Jonathan, of Israel. She was the sister of Joan Goldman of Lake Worth, Fla., and grandmother of Shelby, Tracy, Aaron and Chaim.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3004, Warwick, R.I. 02886.

Mildred Eisenstein, 89

PROVIDENCE — Mildred Eisenstein died on Jan. 27. She was born in Scranton, Penn. on Aug. 12, 1919, the daughter of Isadore and Freida Kaiser. She was raised in Scranton, graduated high school with honors, and met her husband, Arthur. For most of their 67 years of marriage, she and her husband lived in Providence and Cranston, though they traveled extensively. She worked as a fashion coordinator at Casual Corner.

Her husband died in 2007. She is survived by her sister Ceil; her children, Judy and Ken; their spouses Bob and Nancy; and her three grandchildren, Nikki, Michael and Nina.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Cranston Public Library, Knightsville Branch, 1847 Cranston St., Cranston, R.I. 02920 or the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Milton Heller, 85

PROVIDENCE — Milton Heller, of Providence, died Jan. 29. Born in Providence, a son of the late Joseph and Rose (Salter) Heller, he had lived in New York before returning to Rhode Island in the 1970s.

He was a graduate of CCNY, now known as Bernard Baruch College. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked for the State of New York before retiring in 1970.

He is survived by his cousins; Lester Salter and Elliot Salter, both of Providence; Jerry Roy of Hollywood, Calif.; Margie Israel of Wilmington, N.C.; and Audrey Wilson of Northfield, N.J.

Contributions may be made to The Milton & Rose Heller Fund c/o The Rhode Island Foundation, 1 Union Station, Providence, R.I. 02903.

Nathan Kay

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Nathan Kay, husband of Robin Montgomery Kay, died at his home in Palm Springs, Calif. on Jan. 8. In addition to his wife, he leaves his stepson, Adam Devejian; sisters, Molly Granoff (Marvin Granoff), Silvia Greenfeld, Rose Sagan (Lester Sagan), Betty Kay; and brother, Harold Kay (Nancy Kay); and nieces and nephews.

He was a *summa cum laude* graduate of Providence College and was an officer in the Navy. He worked in advertising on Madison Avenue in New York City and held executive positions at Revlon, Almay, and Max Factor, where he was president of one of its operating divisions. In 1986, he launched his own business, Photo Finish Cosmetics. He semi-retired in 1994, and he and his wife moved to Palm Springs, Calif.

Contributions may be made to his favorite charity, The Pegasus

Riding Academy for the Handicapped, 35-450 B Pegasus Court, Palm Desert, Calif. 92211, where he volunteered for 11 years.

Harold Leavitt, 95

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Harold Leavitt, of Boca Raton, Fla., died Feb. 3. He was the husband of Erma (Weiner) Leavitt.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Annie (Emers) Leavitt, he had been

a lifelong resident of the city before moving to Florida in 1989.

A graduate of Providence College, he served on the President's Council at Providence College for many years. He was the founder and president of the former Leavitt-Colson Company. He was a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he served in Europe and North Africa.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El, a former member and past president of Ledgemont Country Club, a past president of the former Jewish Home for the Aged of RI, a former board member of the National Association of Electrical Distributors, and had served on the advisory board of IT&T.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Robert M. Leavitt, of Providence; and his grandchildren, Andrew, Laura and Julia. He was the father of the late Laurance Leavitt, and brother of the late Eli Leavitt and Rhea Schneider.

Contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Barbara (Manheim) Levine, 82

PROVIDENCE — Barbara Levine, of 105 Chace Ave., Providence, died Jan. 28. She was the wife of the late Norman L. Levine.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Field) Manheim, she was a lifelong resident of the city. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and the Cranston Senior Guild.

She is survived by her children,

Joan Bookbinder and her husband, Jeffrey, of Warwick; and Fredda Kearney and her husband, Bill, of Seekonk; and her grandchildren, Jennie, Michael, Jonathan, Karen, Laura and Rebecca. She was the sister of the late Ted Manheim.

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

Pearl Kaplan (Hurwitz) Loeber, 100

BOSTON, Mass. — Pearl Loeber died on Jan. 15, two months after celebrating her 100th birthday with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at Hebrew Senior Life in Boston.

She was born on Nov. 12, 1908 in Brooklyn, N.Y. In Dec. 1927, she married Arthur Kaplan; in 1931, they moved to Providence where they raised their sons. Her husband died in 1976 and, in 1986, she married Alfred Loeber, who died in 1987.

She was a lifetime member of Temple Emanu-El and was active in the Providence Jewish community and several philanthropies, among them the CJP and Hadassah. She was a longtime member of Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass.

She leaves her sons, Richard of Cape Elizabeth, Maine and his wife, Daisy; and Lawrence of Jamaica Plain, Mass., and his wife, Ellen; and Audrey Yett of Weston, Mass.; Hilary Els of London, England; Steve Loeber of Santa Fe, N.M.; Robert Loeber; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Rabbi Wayne Franklin Discretionary Fund, c/o Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Rhoda (Lipkin) Miller, 83

WARWICK — Rhoda Miller, of Warwick, died Feb. 6. She was the wife of the late Murray Miller. Born in New York City, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Tillie Lipkin. She worked as a school aide in the Hoxie Elemen-

tary School, retiring in 2003.

She is survived by her daughter, Sandra Haas and her husband, Bruce, of Warwick; and her grandchildren, Jeffrey and Brandy. She was the mother of the late Robert Miller.

Contributions may be made to the Make A Wish Foundation of R.I., 757 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02910.

Beatrice (Garbatsky) Rechter, 88

NEW JERSEY — Beatrice Rechter, formerly of New Bedford, Mass., died Feb. 4 in New Jersey. She was the wife of the late Herman Rechter.

Born in New Bedford, a daughter of the late Abram and Lena (Halperin) Garbatsky, she lived in New Bedford until retiring in Florida in 1985. She was a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue.

She is survived by her sons and their wives, William (Barbara) of New York, N.Y.; Stephen (Pamela) of Castro Valley, Calif.; Jay (Elizabeth) of Laguna Beach, Calif.; and Jeffrey (Donna) of Belle Mead, N.J.; her sisters, Esther Kaplan of New Bedford, Mass.; and Delores Singer of Vineyard Haven, Mass. She leaves her grandchildren, Neille, Jordan, Jonathan, Caroline, Brian and Melissa. She was the sister of the late Robert Garbatsky.

Contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Robert (Bob) Singer, 85

WARREN — Robert Singer died Jan. 15. He was the husband of Harriet (Glashow) Singer, to whom he was married for more than 60 years. He was the son of the late Lawrence and Rose (Karp) Singer.

He is survived by two daughters, Karen and Amy; a son, David; four grandchildren, Addie, Jenny, Matthew and Scott; son-in-law, Emmett Mullin; honorary son-in-law, Conrad Levenson; and two honorary grandchildren, Nolan and

Continued on next page

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From previous page
Helen Levenson; and his brothers, Ernest and Herbert Singer.
A graduate of Colby College, he owned Hillhouse Ltd. for more than 50 years. He served in the 106th Infantry Division during World War II where he participated in the Battle of the Bulge.
Contributions may be made to Planned Parenthood of R.I. or the Brown University Sports Foundation.

Dr. Morris "Duke" Ducoff, 91

PROVIDENCE – Dr. Morris "Duke" Ducoff died on Feb. 12 at Rhode Island Hospital.
He was the husband of Lillian (Gerson) Ducoff. Born in Union City, N.J., the son of the late Max and Rebecca (Brodsky) Ducoff, he had been a resident of Epoch of the East Side, Providence for three years, previously residing in Teaneck, N.J. and Pembroke Pines, Fla.
He was a graduate of New York University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry. Following his service in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946, he practiced dentistry in Union City and Teaneck, N.J. until 1978. He was a member of Temple Beth-El.
He was the father of Dr. Robert J. Ducoff and his wife, Diane, of Providence, and Richard B. Ducoff of Plantation, Fla.; the grandfather of Michelle Miller and her husband, Andrew, of Pawtucket; Patti Albert and her husband, Benjamin, of West Hartford, Conn.; and Lynn Belkin and her husband, Matthew, of Brooklyn, N.Y. He was the great-grandfather of Sydney and Adam Miller and Ysabel Albert.

Contributions may be made to the Frances and David Friedman Fund, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906 or Hadassah, 1150 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920.

Arden B. Klar, 82

EAST PROVIDENCE – Arden Klar of 38 Tanglewood Dr., died on Feb. 13, at Rhode Island Hospital.
He was the husband of the late Harriet (Kosofsky) Klar. Born in Providence, a son of the late William and Bertha (Cohen) Klar, he had lived in East Providence for 50 years.
He was an insurance agent for the John Hancock Insurance Company for 35 years, retiring 17 years ago. Arden was a World War II Navy veteran serving in the Pacific. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El and Touro Fraternal Association.
He was the father of Jeffrey and Brian Klar, both of St. Louis, Mo.; Lynn Klar of East Providence, Joyce Klar of Natick, Mass., and the late Michael Jay Klar. He was the brother of Marvin Klar of Cranston, and the grandfather of Coby, Brandon and Aaron.
Contributions may be made to Potter League for Animals, P.O. Box 412, Newport, R.I. 02840.

D'VAR TORAH

Jews elevate life with good deeds

**PARASHAT MISHPATIM
EXODUS 21-24**

Only through action can we accomplish good works and fulfill our Talmudic obligations.

By RABBI SHRAGA SIMMONS
Special to The Voice & Herald

Last week's *parasha* told of the dramatic revelation of God to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai. It was a spiritual trip so powerful that every Jew literally had an out-of-body experience. The ultimate "wow!"

This week's follow-up, *Mishpatim*, is one of the longest Torah portions, containing an exhaustive list of over 50 separate *mitzvot*. Included are laws regarding murder, kidnapping, cursing authority, personal injury and property damage.

The juxtaposition between the two is striking: After the spiritual high of Mount Sinai, why would God "bring us down" with all these details of daily life?

The spiritual high of Sinai is gratifying, but it doesn't solve one problem of the world in which we live. Spirituality is

not achieved by meditating alone on a mountaintop or by learning in an out-of-the-way monastery. Jewish spirituality comes through grappling with the mundane world in a way that uplifts and elevates.

Jews don't retreat from life, we elevate it. On Friday night, we raise the cup of wine and use it – not to get drunk – but to make *Kiddush* and sanctify the Sabbath day. Spirituality, says

Judaism, is to be found in the kitchen, the office, and yes, even in the bedroom.

If that's true, why did we need Mount Sinai in the first place?

Because a powerful spiritual experience is what jump-starts our engines. We've all had such a moment of insight – whether in some instance of Jewish learning or standing atop Masada. But that feeling lasts only a short time.

One burst of inspiration may have to last for years, says Maimonides.

The Torah tells us that to maximize a moment of insight, we need to concretize it. The spiritual insight must take root in the reality of our physical world.

That is why – after being commanded in last week's *parasha*, "Thou shall not steal" – this week's *parasha* describes how to prosecute a thief. Only through the laws of daily life can we hope to transform ourselves and

our world.
By legislating *mitzvot* like caring for the widow and orphan, the Torah builds a framework for profound personal transformation.

This really gets down to the whole issue of "letter of the law" versus "spirit of the law." "Letter of the law" is performing an act because it is prescribed by the Torah. "Spirit of the law" is performing an act because of an inner emotional sense.

Take charity, for example. The Torah commands us to give 10 percent of our income to charity

(the letter of the law), which, of course, is intended to develop within us feelings of compassion for others (the spirit of the law).

Ideally we should have both. But, given the choice of one or the other, which is actually more crucial? Judaism would love you to give 10 percent of your income from your heart. It suspects, however, that in a large majority of cases, were we to wait for people's hearts to prompt them to give away thousands of dollars annually, we would be waiting a very long time. Judaism says: Give 10 percent – and if your heart catches up, terrific. In the meantime, a lot of good had been done.

The lesson of all this? "Doing" is more important than "feeling." "How do you feel about it?" is not the Jewish question. "What do you do about it?" is the Jewish question.

The validity of any religious experience is whether the result is a better person. That, the Torah tells us, is how we bring the heights of Sinai ... down to earth.

Rabbi Shraga Simmons, originally from Buffalo, N.Y., is co-editor of *aish.com* in Jerusalem. This piece is reprinted with permission from *aish.com*.

"Spirituality, says Judaism, is to be found in the kitchen, the office, and yes, even in the bedroom."

HOPE: Jewish community agencies are reaching out

From page 25

JEWISH AGENCIES OFFER HELP

Unlike some other communities that have been devastated, Rhode Island hasn't been hit so dramatically, according to Minna Ellison, director of planning and philanthropic initiatives at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI).

We've been sliding into a recession for a while, but we're clearly seeing people who need help, Ellison said. To that end, the JFRI allocated funds, as did some individual donors, to the Jewish Family Service (JFS) for emergency help.

Ellison said that the JFRI is in constant communication with synagogues and Jewish agencies to see how they are doing.

"We're here to help people, and if they need help, Beth Laramie at AgeWell Rhode Island is a resource for people, regardless of their age."

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

For some families in dire straits, \$100, the amount JFS will allocate to any one family in any one year, may keep the proverbial wolf from the door.

"AgeWell is the central point of help for people in the Jewish community, though they don't have to be Jewish or elderly to

seek help," said Patty Harwood, the director of senior services. After we screen and assess people's situations, we help them determine where that \$100 is best spent – for prescription medication, groceries or oil to heat their homes."

In no instance does the agency disburse the funds directly to the family, Harwood said. Instead, a check is written to the landlord or oil company, or grocery store gift cards are given to the individual or family in need.

It's a hard time for people who are getting laid off, according to Laramie. "Some people have no money for rent or food. Some people can't even afford gas money to drive to our office,"

she said, so the agency does the assessment by phone. "It's just a hard time."

AgeWell is getting calls from people who've never sought help before, Harwood said, and many of these folks just don't know what to do.

"At Thanksgiving, we gave out 22 Thanksgiving food baskets, while in the past we've given out 10 to 12 food baskets. At Hanukkah, we saw a similar uptick in requests for help," she said. The funds allocated to AgeWell from JFRI, Touro Fraternal Association (which donated \$1,500 late last year) and a private donor have not all been disbursed.

THE LOSS OF JOB, INCOME AFFECTS EVERYONE

Absolutely everybody is affected, said Ivy Marwil, a psychotherapist who sees patients in her Providence office. "Grandparents may have paid their grandchildren's private school tuition and can no longer assume that responsibility. Mothers who didn't work and now feel the need to find a job but can't, because there are so few jobs out there." People who have jobs fear they may be in the next round of layoffs. Even without layoffs, Marwil said, the economy makes people feel very much at risk.

IMMIGRATION: U.S. eagerly sought workers to fuel economy

From page 13

in Eastern Europe.

Second was the lack of commercial opportunity or educational advancement in Eastern Europe, particularly with established quotas for all secondary and tertiary forms of education in the Pale of Settlement.

Third was the unrestricted

immigration policy and the expansion of industrial opportunities in the United States eagerly seeking workers.

And fourth were the many letters from immigrants, already established in the United States, extolling life in the land of golden opportunity and expressing a desire to subsidize the transatlantic passage for those still fester-

ing in the old country.

My next two columns in subsequent issues will address the specific demographic numbers underlying this massive migration and touch upon some of the medical problems that the Jewish immigrants had encountered in passage.

Dr. Aronson can be reached at *smamad@cox.net*.

GIVING: How small gifts for *simchas* enabled a scholarship fund to flourish

From Page 24

In a handwritten letter dated June 2, 1957, Mrs. Sol "Esther" Weltman, chair of the Pauline Asinof Scholarship Committee, writes to my grandfather:

"Dear Moe:

Another record year has been completed for the Pauline Asinof Scholarship Fund — more money, more scholarships, more deserving students helped toward their goal of a college education."

Weltman's letter continues: "We are especially pleased with the increasing contributions of our membership, which this year showed a 33 and 1/3 percent increase over last year. When you realize that most of the \$1,637 collected comes to us in \$1 contributions, you can appreciate how great the participation is among Council members."

Indeed, she wrote my grandfather every year, thanking him for his generosity and faith in the community. "The dividends from this extraordinary enterprise cannot be estimated in numbers and dollars," Weltman wrote in 1953. "For the help given these many fine students in the development of their

potential ... cannot be measured by statistics."

The model for the successful fund-raising was very much run by the women in the community, who took on the leadership roles. They kept the books; they reviewed the applications; they interviewed each candidate in person; and they did the due diligence, followed up with the schools to review academic records.

Other local families went on to create similar scholarship funds, such as the Maurice Goldstein Scholarship Fund. There are more than 40 such family scholarship funds today.

"Words cannot express my most sincere appreciation in

your helping me to further my education, by choosing me as one of the winners of

"When you realize that most of the \$1,637 collected comes to us in \$1 contributions, you can appreciate how great the participation is among Council members."

**Esther Weltman,
In a letter to Moses Asinof**

your scholarship," writes Calia Konosky, who received a \$100 scholarship in 1959 to attend Bridgewater State. "I will do

my best to show you that you have made the right choice. Once again, thank you."

I'm not sure how to end this story. The journalist in me wants to know: What happened

to these students? What career paths do they choose? How did this scholarship influence these students' own philanthropic endeavors?

And, for the women who managed this fund, I want to ask: Why was it so successful? How did it change over the years? Was the decision made in 1992 to turn it over to the Jewish Endowment Foundation made because of a problem in continuity?

Has there been a next generation of philanthropy? Do they think that this is a good model for charitable giving

today in 2009? Do members of the Jewish community still make contributions to the scholarship for *simchas*?

Further, how did other local NCJW chapters establish their scholarship funds?

Here in Rhode Island, there is a rich philanthropic tradition — as well as a strong history of leadership in social activism — undertaken by the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women.

According to the history on its web site, "NCJW (in Rhode Island) has been awarding scholarships for about 50 years. Each year seven or eight worthy students are awarded scholarships based on their academic performance, financial need and activities showing their service to the community." Initially, according to the history, "monies came from profits at the Thrift Shop. In subsequent years, individual endowments helped provide scholarship funds."

Next stop: A visit to the Springfield community to talk with some of the women who helped organize and manage the scholarship fund. Stay tuned.



Newspaper clipping from June 5, 1953, from *The Springfield Daily News*, announcing Pauline Asinof Scholarship awards.

From Page 19

WHERE: Main Gallery, URI Feinstein Providence Campus

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. opening, exhibit runs through April 30.

MORE INFO: www.uri.edu/prov or 277-5206

Israel-China Relations

M. Avrum Ehrlich of Shandonq University discusses China, Israel.

WHERE: JCCRI Social Hall 401 Elm Grove Ave. Providence

WHEN: 7pm

MORE INFO: kclarkson@jfri.org

Friday

March 6

Family Shabbat Service
Rabbi Peter Stein will speak about his recent trip to Israel.

WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

MORE INFO: 942-8350

Saturday

March 7

Jewish Community Calendar

Kugel Bake-Off

A kugel baking contest, judged by Joan Nathan. Bakers, eaters welcome.

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

WHEN: 7 p.m.

COST: \$10

MORE INFO: 245-6536

Sunday

March 8

Sisterhood Film Festival

"Watermarks" (with subtitles) tells the story of seven champion women swimmers in Vienna, exiled by World War II.

WHEN: 2 p.m.

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

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Purim Carnival

Games, fun, food and much more, sponsored by USY

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

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

COST: \$7 per child

MORE INFO: 463-7944

Monday

March 9

Purim Party
Costume parade, Megillah reading, followed by "Megillah Mia."

WHEN: 5:30 p.m., K'Tantan Purim Party; 6:30 p.m., parade, reading and spiel.

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

MORE INFO: 331-6070

Purim Spiel

Megillah reading followed by inventive *spiel*.

WHEN: reading, 6:10 p.m., *spiel*, 7:30 p.m.

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

MORE INFO: 331-1616

Purim Spiel

In the words, music of "Aladdin."

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

WHEN: 6:15 p.m., *spiel*; 7 p.m. pizza dinner

Purim Party

"Mordecai's Magical, Mysterious, Magnificent, Momentous Purim." When: 7 p.m.

WHERE: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

MORE INFO: 942-8350

CHEAP: Affordable food that's healthy, tastes good, your teenagers will eat

From Page 38

bottom feeder, not very good for you, but when in season and fresh, cheap and delicious, I like to grill it with barbecue sauce).

However, the two kinds of fish that you're likely to find at those prices are haddock fillets and sole fillets. Each will work for this recipe.

Ingredients

- 1lb. mushrooms
- 1 apple (sweet, crisp variety, such as "honey-crisp" or "delicious")
- 1 lb. haddock or sole fillets
- 1 tablespoon tamari
- 1 lb. spinach
- 2 cloves garlic

- 3 green onions/scallions (from a bunch)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Method:

In a frying pan, bring olive oil to medium heat, adding smashed garlic gloves, chopped green onions, and sliced mushrooms (wash well, cut off bottoms of stems). Let the mushrooms cook down for about 5 minutes.

Wash and rinse spinach carefully, add to mushrooms, let cook down.

Add fillets of fish, skin down if they are not de-skinned, creating space for them by pushing the spinach

and mushrooms to one side.

Add four or five apple slices atop the mushrooms/spinach.

Cook at a simmer heat until the fish turns white throughout.

Plate with additional apple slices (consider soaking them in a cup of orange juice to preserve color).

The meal should take less than 20 minutes to prepare. You will want to clean up immediately after dinner, however, so that any lingering redolent fish aroma leaves the premises. Or, leave a bowl of white vinegar out overnight to kill the aroma.

CHEAP, HEALTHY SOFT DRINKS

A small note on drinks; if you're not big on conventional soda, consider the following soft drinks to serve with dinner as healthy budget-savers.

Ingredients

- 1 liter of sparkling water
- 1 lemon
- 1 juice box (choose your flavor)
- 1 orange

Method:

In a glass, with ice, fill half with sparkling water. Add a slice of lemon, squeezed. Add half contents of juice box. Add a slice of orange. Makes 4-5 glasses

Engagement



Evan Galkin and Ashley Penfield

Ashley Nicole Penfield and Evan Matthew Galkin of West Warwick are pleased to announce their engagement.

The daughter of Yvette and Carl Penfield, Jr. of Clarksburg, Md., Miss Penfield attends the University of Rhode Island where she is studying animal veterinary science with a specialty in animal management; she is a member of Sigma Kappa sorority. She is also the granddaughter of Mary and Carl Penfield, Sr., of Germantown, Md.

Mr. Galkin is the son of Pamela Mann of East Greenwich and Dr. Harris Galkin of East Greenwich. He is the grandson of Celia and the late Fred Dunder of Cranston, and Trudy Galkin and the late Herbert Galkin of Cranston and Boynton Beach, Fla. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Mr. Galkin is employed by Bankers Life and Casualty Company. A summer wedding in Newport is planned.

Birth

Howard and Caryn Eichenbaum of Woburn, Mass. are happy to announce the Dec. 29 birth of their daughter, Raya Jordanna, in Boston. She is the granddaughter of Alice and the late Raymond Eichenbaum of Providence, and Miriam and Ed Cohen of Malden, Mass., and the great-granddaughter of Lorraine and the late Jack Bendell of Malden, Mass.



Raya Jordanna

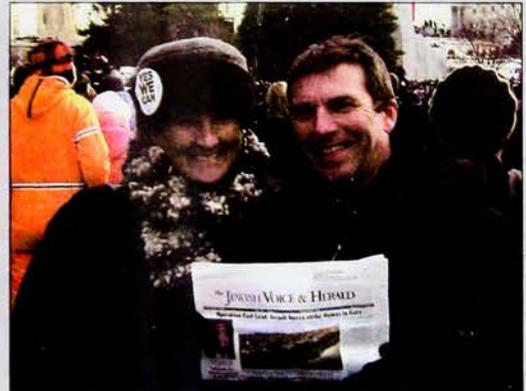
Golden Anniversary

Melvin and Reva Coleman, of Waterford, Conn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a surprise party given by their daughter, Sherri, on Nov. 30, at the Seaman's Inn in Mystic, Conn. Guests came from New England and beyond.

The couple was married Nov. 27, 1958, at the home of Eunice and Harold Tregar, the bride's aunt and uncle, in Cranston. Rabbi Jacobson officiated.

Melvin and Reva are the proud parents of Sherri Dennis and her husband, Donald, of Cotuit, Mass., and Linda Coleman and her husband, Dr. Clifford Gordon, of Barrington. Their grandchildren are Nathaniel Gordon and Cameron, Halle and Jenna Dennis.

We are read



Washington, D.C.

Linn and Steve Freedman attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama with *The Voice & Herald*.

Golden Anniversary



On March 1, 2009, the Gellers will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The Gellers' children, Lori (and Marc) Adler, Karen (and Stuart) Kanefsky, and David (and Deborah) Geller, and grandchildren, Bryan Z. and Chelsea F. Adler; Cyrus I., Tori F., and Ari E. Geller; and Max R. and Jack E. Kanefsky, look forward to the *simcha*.



Left: On March 1, 1959, Phillip (Skip) Geller took Sylvania Ann Gorman's hand in marriage. Above: The Gellers on a recent cruise.

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www.CohenCamps.org
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הנני *Hineni*



The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island knows the importance of caring for our community in these challenging times. Help support those in need when they need it most. Right now.

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

Here I am.



www.JFRI.org