



Summer is here...relax, refresh and rejuvenate.
Our next issue will be published on July 23.

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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June 25, 2010

A 27-year sentence for Rubashkin?

Legal team vows to fight on

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — For years Sholom Rubashkin made his living as an executive in the country's largest kosher meatpacking company. Now to keep him out of prison, his defense team is arguing that the judge in his financial fraud case made treif use of federal sentencing guidelines.

Judge Linda Reade, on the federal bench in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, used a federal point system in deciding to sentence Rubashkin to 27 years in prison.

Sophisticated crime? Check, two points. Fraud in the \$20 million to \$50 million range? Check, 22 points. Was he a boss of the criminal enterprise? Check, four points. Did he perjure himself? Another two points.

Reade determined that Rubashkin's final score was 41 points; according

RUBASHKIN, 23

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JUDGES CHOOSE CHAZAK Emanu-El as first place winners.

/E. Bresler



TOURO FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION member says, "Try our chili."

/David Harrison

Chili by the numbers

A flat-out success

By CHRIS PARKER
cparker@JFRI.org

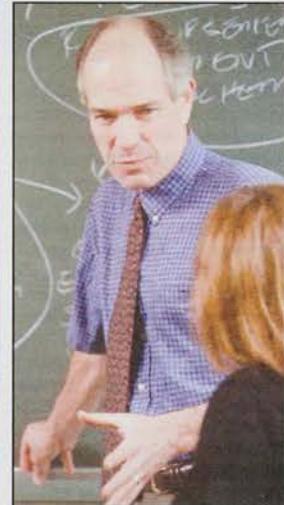
PROVIDENCE — Although the festivities surrounding the first Rhode Island Kosher Chili Cook-Off ("RIKCCO") ran from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, pulling off the actual event was, well, something like coordinating a war — where everybody wins!

Mother Nature, while not in her full glory of a spring June day, kept the rain from drenching the chili or quenching the beer drinkers' thirst. As past stories in *The Voice & Herald* have identified the year's worth of work to bring this event to fruition, read on for some highlights of the day's events.

- At 9:30 p.m. the night before (after Shabbat), Rabbi Raphie Schochet, Meredith Sinel and Bethany Sutton arrive to prepare the *glatt* kosher meat for the teams.

- At 6:30 a.m., the trucks carrying tents, tables, chairs and stage arrived.

CHILI, 15



/Vincent Mor

VINCENT MOR, CHAIR of the Caring and Social Responsibility Subcommittee

JFRI allocates nearly \$3M to communal priorities

Greater accountability and responsiveness

By CLAIRE ROCHE
croche@jferi.org

PROVIDENCE — Last year, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) undertook the first step in a three-year plan to revise the allocations process to focus on programs and services operating in support of specifically identi-

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Did you have chili?

Follow Fishel for more chili pictures...



CHILI 15-16

FISHEL BRESLER



/Susan G. Komen for the Cure

SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE IN JERUSALEM

NANCY FALCHUK, LEFT, president of Hadassah; Hadassah Lieberman, lay leader with Susan G. Komen for the Cure; and Nancy Brinker, Komen's chief executive officer; speak with Jerusalem Mayor Nir Birkat at a press conference in Washington on April 28.



/Abir Sultan JTA

HAREDI-SECULAR WARS HEAT UP IN ISRAEL

ON JUNE 17, tens of thousands of *haredi* Orthodox Israelis take to the streets in Jerusalem to protest a court order requiring *haredi* parents to send their daughters to an Emanuel school.

Rhode Island says *l'hitra'ot* to Tamir, Yedida

Returning diplomats celebrated at JFRI-sponsored event

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – The afternoon of Tuesday, June 8 was an opportunity for the greater Rhode Island Jewish community to bid farewell to Nadav Tamir and Rony Yedida, the consul general and deputy consul general for Israel to New England, respectively. Both diplomats are due to return to Israel later this summer, as their terms here have expired.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) and its Community Relations Council (CRC), the event drew some 75 individuals from the Jewish community and the local political scene to the elegant second-floor State Room of the Rhode Island Statehouse. Public officials present included Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, State Senator Josh Miller, State Senator Leonides "Lou" Raptakis, Providence Mayor David Cicilline, Providence City Councilman John Lombardi and Providence Police Chief Dean Esserman.

Before Doris Feinberg, JFRI president spoke, Jewish Community Day School students sang a song of peace, and, with the audience, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Hatikvah."

Addressing the JCDS students before they departed, Feinberg enthused, "You rock!" Turning then to Tamir, she said, "It's a bittersweet



NADAV TAMIR

moment; we're not saying goodbye, but Shalom." Nadav has served both countries so well, she said, and it's been a pleasure to have such a strong relationship. Those close collaborations are essential in both good times and bad, she added.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

As she reminisced about her first trip to Israel in 1984 (the first of 22 such trips, to date), Feinberg said, "I looked around the airport and said, 'I'm home. Everyone looked like family.' We hope we [the Jewish community in greater Rhode Island] have been your family here. Our common thread is that we all want to join together in peace one day."

Feinberg recognized Tamir for meeting with so many of us, promoting Israel, listening to our con-



STUDENTS FROM THE Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) gather at the Statehouse before they sing for – and with – the crowd of community leaders who gathered to bid farewell to Nadav Tamir and Rony Yedida. They are flanked by Naomi Stein, admissions director, at left, and Renee Rudnick, assistant head of school. In front of the students in Hebrew lettering is the school logo.

cerns and always being an able and affable presence at so many community events and programs. She quipped, "Do you ever sleep?"

Tamir, said Mayor Cicilline, has strengthened the bonds with Israel, the only country in the Middle East that shares our values of human rights, social justice, a free press and equality.

Avi Nevel, chair of the CRC's Israel Committee, called Yedida "the mother of the consulate," in managing so much of the behind-

the-scenes work to enable Tamir to be front-and-center. Nevel, an Israeli who lives in Providence, thanked several staff members of the consulate and Marty Cooper, director of the CRC, who constantly works to promote Israel.

Yedida thanked Nevel and his wife, Laura, for being so hospitable to them. "We'd drive down [from Boston] and be here among friends," she said. "In Israel, we don't say 'goodbye,' we say '*l'hitra'ot*."

ISRAEL & R.I.: NOT SO DIFFERENT

Rhode Island has been a home away from home for Tamir, especially given many commonalities between Rhode Island and Israel. Both Rhode Island and Israel were populated early on with pioneers, he noted. With Providence home to a Jewish mayor and Jewish police chief and Rhode Island's governor

ISRAELIS, 23

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Summer fun: Visit Block Island and Theatre by the Sea...

PAGE 22:

Might placebos work after all? Read Aronson's column...

Opening our hands and raising our voices

BY RABBI ALAN FLAM

PROVIDENCE — *Poteah et yadekha u-masbia l'khol bai ratzon.*

"You, God, open up your hands to care for the needs of every living creature." Every morning I recite this verse from Psalm 145, and, when I do, I look at my own open hands to remind me of my responsibility to care for others.

Hands can be powerful instruments — think of the people pulled from a car wreck or carried from a flooded home in West Warwick. More often, we open our hands in a simple act of kindness. Ours are the hands that serve a meal at the city meal site, or dial the phone number of a friend in crisis, or open the book as we tutor a child.

Another Jewish text says: "The whole world is sustained by three things: by Torah, by worship and by deeds of loving-kindness."

If only this were true. If only it were enough.

I used to believe that deeds of loving-kindness could sustain the world.

I know that working one-on-one with a child to teach her how to read makes a palpable difference. I know that each and every deed of loving-kindness can awaken the divine in the giver and in the one who receives. I know that helping another human being can be a transcendent calling.

But more and more, I am seized by an alarm that won't cease. Have individual acts of loving-kindness caused us to turn our attention away from systematic injustices that surround us? Have we lulled ourselves into a self-congratulatory apathy that distances us from



RABBI ALAN FLAM

"We have the opportunity to repair the world."

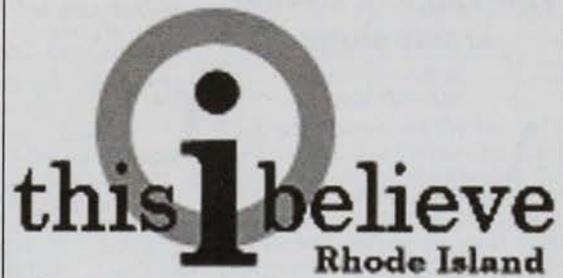
a critical awareness of the world around us?

We must take off our blinders and come out of our narrow worlds. I believe that we are living in a decisive moment in American democracy.

When our contributions go only as far as individual acts of charity but no further; when we are satisfied to make change one-on-one, but are repelled by the grittiness of politics, we discover a terrible irony. We have allowed loving-kindness to become a substitute for democracy.

As much as I love the message of "Open your hands..." it is not the only biblical text that tells us what to do with our hands. In the Exodus story, God extended

THIS I BELIEVE A decisive moment



a strong hand that yanked the Israelites from slavery, and with an outstretched arm bound them together as a people marching toward freedom.

When the prophets of old saw the people attending to their own wealth while the poor languished, they forcefully denounced selfishness and arrogant leadership.

By opening our hands and by raising our voices in the public square, we have the opportunity to repair the world. A world described by the prophet Amos and by the dream of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — a passionate and enlightened world in which justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Rabbi Alan Flam is the senior fellow/senior associate chaplain at Brown University's Sweeater Center. Contact him at Alan_Flam@brown.edu.

Flam's This I Believe-Rhode Island essay aired on WRNI on May 19, 2010. This I Believe-Rhode Island is produced locally for National Public Radio's WRNI by Rick Reamer.

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Editor's Note: Have you — a Jewish resident of the greater Rhode Island area — read your This I Believe essay for WRNI? If you'd like to submit it to The Jewish Voice & Herald for publication, email nkirsch@JFRI.org with I BELIEVE in subject line or mail your essay to Nancy Kirsch, The Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906. Be sure to include the date the essay aired.

ERRATA

In a caption accompanying an April 2 story about postpartum depression, "Women need not suffer in silence," a hospital employee was incorrectly identified. On

page 16, the caption identified the employee as Aimee Grause, PCNS, but she is actually Yolanda Gabrielle, LICSW. *The Voice & Herald* regrets the error.

Candle Lighting Times for greater Rhode Island

June 25 8:04
July 2..... 8:04

July 9..... 8:02
July 16..... 7:59

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FROM THE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Voice & Herald is not alone

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@JFRI.org

AS I WRITE this on Friday, June 18, a mere few hours after returning from a four-day American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., my head is spinning. Why? People who were once strangers and are now peers – from both Federation- and privately-owned Jewish newspapers around the country – met to evaluate, discuss, commiserate, celebrate and share ideas, stories, successes and failures:

- How might JTA (the Jewish equivalent of AP wire service) better serve its subscribers?

- How might AJPA member newspapers collaborate with one another – on news copy, ad revenue or special sections – and still provide fresh and meaningful local content?

- What's your CPM (cost per thousand for ad rates)? Do you charge for obituaries... or simchas?

- What's happening with the redesign of your paper's Web site?

- What are newspapers doing to stay in touch – on a daily or even hourly basis – with their readers?

- What best practices in budgets and money management exist?

- How can our Jewish newspapers identify special events to create community goodwill and revenue for themselves?

- How do we best meet our budgets when ad revenue is declining?

- How do our Jewish newspapers manage – with increasingly limited resources of time, money and personnel, and the expectations to do more in different media – to produce a consistently high-quality, high-value newspaper of value to the community, whether weekly, biweekly or monthly?

These and dozens of other questions were bandied about – in structured panel presentations, at the social hours and one-on-one. I left the conference filled with ideas of what might work here, what we could try and what might be absolutely wrong for our community. There's no question that the substantive materials were well worth the conference and travel fees. But, equally valuable were the people I met – and the connections I made – with my peers. I was gratified that I received some very positive feedback about *The Voice & Herald*, though we will continue to strive to improve.

Given my mother's recent death, I was not in the best social spirits. Nevertheless, I put my best foot forward and am truly grateful that I did. With one exception, I knew no one at the conference when I arrived. By the time the conference ended, I had spoken – at length – with many of my fellow journalists and, in some instances, I believe that warm professional relationships will develop.

To answer the question of how Jewish journalists do what we do, I offer a few words from the incredibly powerful keynote speech by Rabbi David Wolpe, of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles and, according to *Newsweek*, the country's #1 rabbi! "What's needed to live a good and meaningful life – and produce a good Jewish newspaper? Courage!"

What can we learn from the New Testament?

CARS PACKED THE parking lot of New Bedford, Mass.' Tifereth Israel Congregation on the Sunday evening of May 23. Hundreds of men and women crowded into the synagogue's sanctuary to hear Dr.



Rabbi Jim
Rosenberg

Amy-Jill Levine deliver the Rabbi and Minna Ziskind Memorial Lecture on "What was Jewish about Jesus." As Levine grew up within the extended Tifereth Israel family, her talk represented an emotion-laden homecoming. Demonstrating to the audience just how much at home she felt, Levine kicked off her high heels before launching into her formal presentation.

Levine is a world-class scholar. I have had the pleasure of listening to 24 of her CD lectures on the Hebrew Bible under the imprimatur of The Teaching Company, which selects for its audio and video courses only those individuals who have earned the reputation for outstanding teaching. I also had the opportunity to read her stimulating 2006 book, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*.

A prolific author and lecturer, Levine has a 42-page *curriculum vitae*, and she is only 53. Currently, she holds a chair as the professor of

IT SEEMS TO ME Our Jewish Jesus

New Testament studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn. She describes herself as a "Yankee Jewish feminist in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt," where she happens to be a member of an Orthodox synagogue.

Throughout her lecture at Tifereth Israel, Levine argued that the only sensible way to achieve some understanding of the historical Jesus – as distinct from the Christ of faith – is to see him as a first century Jew within a com-

"Moreover, Jesus thinks like a Jew."

munity of first century Jews. That is to say, Jesus is one of us! As Levine put it, "Reading the New Testament gave me my history back."

For many, if not most, Jews, the New Testament is *terra incognita*. On several occasions, members of our Jewish community have asked me, "Why should we bother to turn our attention to pages that have engendered centuries of anti-Semitism?"

I answer that if we make a serious and sustained effort to study the New Testament, we will almost certainly recover an essential part of our own history – a part of our history that we have repressed in the face of relentless Christian persecution.

In particular, the so-called Synoptic Gos-

pels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – reveal Jesus as a first century Jew whom we can readily recognize: Jesus dresses like a Jew; he wears *tzitzit*, fringes. He eats like a Jew, observing some form of *kasbrut*. In addition, he keeps the Sabbath, although not as stringently as some of his fellow Jews would like. Moreover, Jesus thinks like a Jew; he formulates a theology and an ethic deeply rooted in the Hebrew Bible, to which he frequently alluded: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:5); "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18). Finally, as many individuals have pointed out, the Golden Rule of Jesus – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" – is but a reformulation in positive form of Hillel's dictum.

The discussion of the Jewishness of Jesus has implications that extend far beyond the circle of scholars. If increasing numbers of both Jews and Christians are willing to take a fresh look at the foundational document of Christianity – that is to say, the New Testament – we have a chance to recover and to celebrate our common roots. While I certainly do not wish to deny our significant differences, I do wish to suggest that a mutual acknowledgement of the Jewishness of Jesus can help to bring us Jews and our Christian neighbors closer together.

James B. Rosenberg is rabbi emeritus of Temple Habonim in Barrington. Contact him at rabbimeritus@templehabonim.org.

A Reader's Perspective What's wrong with me?

Jewish mother struggles with her faith

BY HANNAH GOODMAN
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

BOTH OF MY parents are Jewish. After 27 years of marriage, they divorced; but during their marriage, they fought often about religion and its place in our family. My father didn't want to practice any religion – believing mainly in the laws of thermodynamics. He avoided temple and religious holiday dinners, often times conveniently traveling for business during holidays. Many times he teased my mother, my sister and me for attending synagogue services.

I married a non-Jew. My husband is an Italian "recovering Catholic" or, as he calls himself, "a Jew by proxy." We never fight about religion and its place in our lives. He not only goes to temple with us when we do, he makes a really scrumptious matzah ball soup and brisket better than any *bubbie* I know.

When we had our first child, I made sure that our daughter, from the moment she arrived in this world, would know she was Jewish. I joined a temple, had a baby naming, and ordered every book and toy from OyToys.com. This was not due to some fear that marrying outside the faith would mean that my children would be less Jewish. Rather, it was the legacy of self-loathing that my father had about being Jewish that caused me worry. I committed to the promise I made when my husband and I decided to have children – that legacy dies with me.

Not long ago, I sat in temple next to other mothers and watched our children perform their *zimriyah*: "*Hinneh mah tov u-mah na'im shevet abim gam yabad*." A song that I remember from Hebrew school, a song that always makes me tear up. I am in awe of my own daughter, taller, darker, more exotic than the other children, and who looks a little like the Disney princess Jasmine, sings louder and with a pride I never felt. This is the same child who was obsessed with Jewish holiday board books as an 18-month-old and proclaimed, at the tender age of 22 months, "I Jewish."

In between songs, one of the mothers and I got to chatting. After establishing that our children talk about one another, and we should set up a play date, we moved on to

"I attend this *zimriyah* and see how much my daughter genuinely loves coming to temple."

make plans. Somehow we confessed that our husbands are not Jewish.

We are members of a temple that has something like 50 percent of new families who are interfaith. So why did I (and dare I say she) need to confess that not only did I marry someone who isn't Jewish, but that he has no intention of converting. Quite frankly, I don't want him to convert.

There are things about my husband's non-Jewish status and my Jewish identity that, just when I think I have no issues – something, anything, a simple moment brings out the

internal conflict I have. And it's not a conflict about who I married, but about being a Jew.

I thought I was at peace with the fact that I don't love going to temple, loathe dealing with the holidays and do all of it only for my children, but then I attend this *zimriyah* and see how much my daughter genuinely loves coming to temple, and I think – what's wrong with me?

I think I am fine with my husband's non-Jewish status and then I find myself feeling that I have to confess it when at temple and, again, I think what's wrong with me?

I don't know what's wrong with me but I do know that:

- It thrills me that my husband makes better matzo ball soup than my *Bubbie* did.
- It thrills me that my oldest daughter, 6, never asks for a Christmas tree.
- I love that my 2-year-old's favorite toy is my collection of dreidels.
- I love the dancing Hasid and the Israeli art that decorates our home – gifts from my *Bubbie*.

And, for every moment when I call my Jewish self into question, I realize I may not understand my own relationship to Judaism but I do not project my conflicted feelings onto my daughter.

And I know I have done what's needed to establish my daughter's Jewish identity when she looks at me with a confused expression on her lovely face when I reach for the egg dye kit at CVS and says, "But Mom, we're Jewish."

An author and writing coach, Hannah Goodman lives with her family in Bristol. Contact her at hrqwriterwoman@gmail.com or visit www.hannahgoodman.com.

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI A time to *kvell*

A celebration of marriage

THERE ARE THOSE, and sometimes I am one, who think the world is going to hell in a handcart. For evidence, read a newspaper. But there are times, there are times...



Josh Stein

Look up the word *kvell* in Leo Rosten's classic *The Joys of Yiddish* and you'll find: "To beam with immense pride and pleasure, most commonly over an achievement of a child or grandchild; to be so proudly happy 'your buttons can burst.'" Then look up *naches* and you'll see: "Proud pleasure, special joy — particularly from the achievements of a child." Put them both together and you get "Only from your children

can anyone *sheb* (derive) such *naches* as makes you *kvell*."

On June 13 (read that as 6/13 [613], the number of commandments according to traditional Jewish reckoning) my son Jeremy, the cantor at Congregation Beth Israel in Milwaukee, Wis., married Amanda née Ruppenthal.

I won't bore you with all the details of the multi-day festivities, but will, if I may indulge myself, mention one event that took place during the post-ceremony celebration.

Among the guests were several cantorial classmates of Jeremy's, some local cantors and Cantor Brian Mayer of Temple Emanuel, whose first bar mitzvah student Jeremy had been. As the evening wore down, they sat in a circle, and each sang one of the traditional seven blessings over the bride and groom while the others hummed in the background. In between blessings, they hummed a gentle *niggun* (a wordless Hasidic melody). It was an indescribably spiritual moment

as the cantors serenaded one of their own.

This was my toast to the young couple:

"When I first heard Amanda's voice, it was on the telephone, the evening that Jeremy called to tell us that he had asked, and that she had said yes. The first thing I remember hearing was her laughter, her infec-

notes on lined paper and transform them into glorious sounds, giving pleasure to those who hear. Amanda and Jeremy, may your home always be filled with the sounds of music emanating from your talents.

"Jeremy, you were always the one in the family most connected to our religious traditions and practices, and so took your two loves, of music and Judaism, and combined them to become a cantor. Amanda, you found Judaism in college and now you, too, are a Jewish communal worker. Jeremy and Amanda, may your home always be a meeting place for like-minded people who strive to improve the world by maintaining a strong connection to Judaism's core values.

"Jeremy, child of the Ocean State, and Amanda, daughter of the Midwest, you begin your lives together with a trip to Costa Rica, hopefully the first of many sharing the sights and sounds of exotic places. May your home serve as a rendezvous point for people from around the world you have met and befriended.

"Jeremy and Amanda, as you celebrate the coming of the Sabbath bride each Friday evening, think of us, who live so far away, and in your minds, know that whether they are at our table or elsewhere, I bless our children each Friday night. And in the fullness of time, when you are lucky enough to have a first child and then children, may you bless them each week, as I've blessed my three sons, and then Suzanne [my first daughter-in-law] and now you, Amanda, whom I welcome with love and joy into our family.

"To Jeremy and Amanda, long may their home be a source of joy for themselves and for those who love them."

Well, maybe if there is such love in the world as is evident between Jeremy and Amanda, the place "ain't" going to hell in a handcart in such a great hurry. May you all know the *naches* we had, and *kvell*.

Josh Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. Contact him at jstein@rwu.edu.

"Improve the world by maintaining Judaism's core values."

tious giggle. I didn't yet know what she looked like, but I could hear in her voice sweetness and joy and I knew then that, like Jeremy, this was someone who could see the lighter side of things. Jeremy and Amanda, may your home always be filled with the joyous sounds of laughter.

"Amanda, we found out that night that you were a musician, a clarinetist. Jeremy, the flautist, had found a kindred spirit who could take black

NOT ALONE

The demonization of Israel

Those who judge are not impartial

EVER SINCE THE flotilla affair, I have been haunted, re-haunted, by the demonization of Israel, by the outrage so deeply felt and so freely expressed against Israel. Haunted by my powerlessness to end it, to overturn the absurd claims identifying Israel as the arch villain of the world, the poster child of human rights abusers, the worst of the worst in a world filled with so many examples of brutality. Haunted by my inability to persuade Elvis Costello to recant and play his music in Israel, to persuade the backers, especially the Jewish backers,



Alan Krinsky

of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement to abort their misguided campaign.

And, of course, none of this is new. Every few months, it seems, some other pretext sets Israel as the object of demonization, and we experience a nightmare repeating itself.

I recently stumbled across a small, but explosive, volume in a used bookstore. The book's author is the playwright David Mamet and its title is *The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Self-Hatred, and the Jews*.

Mamet offers something of an answer to what haunts me. And his answer is at once sad and sobering: The world always has and always

will hate the Jews.

The playwright pulls no punches. There is no polite disclaimer that not all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitism. Clearly, the demonization of Israel is. And I would suggest we not mistake demonization for criticism, and not let those engaged in demonization to claim the mantle of reasonable critics.

Mamet describes a striking image, showing how the depiction of Israeli soldiers and of Jews generally has become another blood libel, only this time the Jews are pictured as spilling blood for gratuitous pleasure instead of using the blood to make matzah.

The "basic humanity" of Israelis is denied. They do not defend themselves but rather "delight in" retaliation and reprisals. The playwright finds such characterizations of Israeli soldiers and their motives more disturbing than the misreporting of facts.

But what of the fact that criticism of Israel is so widespread? Mamet responds: "The indictments of Israel, in her life-and-death struggle, are

to ask of the victims of Columbine, 'What did they and their parents do to bring this about?'

"Then you may not ask it of the Israeli bombing victims, and of their race and nation."

What Mamet is demonstrating is that the worldwide denunciation of Israel, at the U.N., on college campuses, and elsewhere, is not evidence that Israel is a criminal nation. The judges are far from impartial. As Mamet reminds us, the world hates the Jews.

As someone trained in history, it is difficult for me to accept this notion, though it is not foreign from a theological perspective. Whatever the reason, however, it does seem to have been true century after century.

In brief, the world tolerated the Jews for a few decades, in the wake of the *Shoah* — Mamet sees this as an anomaly — but we now have a return to the dehumanization and demonization of the Jews. The flotilla affair has widely been characterized as bad public relations for Israel. As Mamet sharply states in a four-year-old Huffington Post essay,

"I have been haunted by the outrage so deeply felt and so freely expressed against Israel."

unanswerable, as they are based upon a false assumption: That the uninvolved are somehow impartial.

"Can so many non-Jews be wrong?" you ask, and I would suggest that you consider the *Shoah*, the rape victim, the schoolchildren killed at Columbine. Is it reasonable

"The Jews are not the victims of bad public relations. They are the victims of anti-Semitism."

Can the demonization of Israel be stopped? Mamet might view the task as impossible, but perhaps we ought, nevertheless, to try to end this haunting: To demonstrate again

and again that criticism and demonization are not the same, and that the Jews and non-Jews pushing the BDS effort are engaged in the latter, not the former. That, though not perfect, Israel has not transformed Gaza into the worst place on earth, that Israel, unlike its neighbors, maintains a healthy democracy. That if Hamas were to have its way, Israel would cease to exist and its Jewish inhabitants would be massacred or

driven out, made "*Judenrein*" one way or another, as most of the Arab nations have been.

And we need, I need, to repeat this message elsewhere, where there might not be as many readers who already agree with me.

Alan Krinsky works in healthcare quality improvement and lives in Providence. Contact him at adkrinsky@netzero.net.

LETTERS

The 'blame game' is tiresome

The Gaza flotilla incident represents another episode of tragic injury and loss of life, which has quickly devolved into polarized debate about what exactly occurred, whose motives and tactics were more reasonable, and who should bear the blame. But I am tired of this game. Without immediate leadership to change the course of events, I am concerned that the status quo will lead to continued tragedy, and ultimately to the demise of the Jewish, democratic Israel that we seek to preserve and protect. If only we could seize on this moment of crisis and turn it into a meaningful opportunity to end the underlying conflict once and for all. J Street calls for:

- Lifting the blockade of humanitarian and construction materials into Gaza while supporting serious, effective security measures to prevent weapons and other terrorist supplies from entering.
- The immediate release by

Hamas of Gilad Shalit and Hamas' renunciation of violence as a means of achieving Palestinian freedom and independence.

- An immediate, serious and dramatic effort, led by President Obama and strongly supported by the American Jewish community, to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, achieve a two-state solution, and secure Israel's Jewish, democratic future.

- The leaders of all sides — Arabs, Palestinians and Israelis — to begin an honest conversation with their people about how this conflict will end and the compromises and sacrifices that will be necessary to avoid further generations of violence, bloodshed, and terror.

Let us move from recriminations to action that can create effective change for the future.

Judith Kaye
Providence

Kaye is the chair of J Street Rhode Island
www.jstreet.org/rhodeisland

A Reader's Perspective

Am David's desecration infuriates college student

Synagogue is her sanctuary, her home

BY ALANNAH JOHNSON

I MUST CONFESS. I'm in love with my own sins. I'm furious. And I'm never, ever furious.

My temple was vandalized earlier today.

I found out about two hours ago that while I sat at home, sleeping quietly in my own bed, someone thought it was a brilliant idea to spray paint a large black swastika and the "N-word" across the front of my temple.

There are few places I truly feel at home, lately. I often feel like a stranger in my own home (albeit a stranger who does chores around the house) because of the atmosphere surrounding a college freshman returning after a year away. In the time I've been gone, buildings have been demolished and new skyscrapers poke the clouds in the city I used to know inside and out.

School is a home, of sorts, but my new home happens to be 400 miles away at the moment. And Rhode Island, as much as I missed you, I'm realizing more and more that you'll never really be home again.

That's why when I found out this evening that my synagogue had

been defaced and vandalized, I was so hurt and upset. My temple is my sanctuary, my refuge – my home. I became a bat mitzvah there six years ago this May. I've seen funerals officiated there, watched children grow and learn in this place, and celebrated with my congregation as a whole. Some of my most profound childhood memories rest within these walls, walls that had a swastika and other profane language scrawled across them early this morning. This isn't just a place where we go to pray. This is a place we go to feel like a community, a family; this is where we go when we want to go home.

Seven years ago, my family switched synagogues so that I could be raised with a real Jewish education. That goes beyond just learning my Hebrew letters three days a week and memorizing prayers to recite at my bat mitzvah. A real Jewish education means learning about the Holocaust in a class specially designed for kids. A real Jewish education means understanding the Hebrew we are taught instead of just mispronouncing songs in services. A real Jewish education means continuing your love for learning by taking classes at Midrasa. A real Jewish educa-

tion means coming back to teach, to volunteer with the newest generation of kids that walk through those doors.

In those seven years, I've been lucky enough to experience all of those things at my temple. Some of my closest ties to my friends, my family, the greater Jewish community, and the community of Rhode Island as a whole have

entire world.

Fifty years ago, my temple was new, fresh, beautiful inside and out. Families were joining this brand-new temple in the hopes to find others to pray together, to laugh together, to learn together. Fifty years ago, the world was just beginning to be able to discuss the horrors of the Holocaust without horrifying everyone around them.

Fifty years ago, Israel was in its second decade (as a modern state) of existence, still trying to prove its merit to the neighboring countries that sometimes challenged it. Fifty years ago, the United States was on the cusp of the civil rights movement.

The things written on my temple were hateful and cruel not only to Jews, but to African-Americans and Americans as a whole. This type of vandalism isn't about trying to make a political statement, or prove a point. People have been trying to tie it to the recent events in Gaza, but in reality, it doesn't matter what the catalyst was. What matters is that the hatred that was felt 60 years ago is still felt today, whether people realize it or not, and something needs to be done in order to restore peace and justice to our community.

I don't understand how people can be so full of hatred. I don't understand why whoever did this thought it was their only option, the only way to get their point across. I don't understand how even though the process of peace and acceptance has made such remarkable strides in such a short amount of time, why people still feel the need to propagate hatred and disunity. I don't know why people all just can't try to get along, even though sometimes it's not the easiest choice. But at least I understand that through all this hatred, my community is going to band together, to stay strong, and to find out who was responsible for this disgusting and unforgivable act.

As for me? I'm going to email my spiritual leader tonight, and ask him what I can do to assist the cleanup effort, and see if any of my friends and family are able to assist as well. After all, this isn't just our temple we're protecting here – it's our home.

Alannah Johnson, a 2009 graduate of the Harry Elkin Midrasba Community High School, and a 2008 participant in the March of the Living, blogs at <http://alannabbb.tumblr.com/>. Johnson allowed The Voice & Herald to reprint her June 3 blog entry about the desecration of Temple Am David.

"I dare you to sit in the empty sanctuary when the sun is streaming and not feel at peace with the entire world."

come from the temple. It doesn't matter how involved someone is in the temple, it doesn't matter how often you come to services or how good your Hebrew is or how many dues you might owe. You're always still welcome with open arms there, because the most important aspect of my synagogue is that it's a place of peace. I dare you to sit in the empty sanctuary one Tuesday afternoon, when the sun is streaming through the high windows and the only thing that breaks your concentration is the occasional plane flying into the nearby airport, and not feel at peace with the

LETTERS

J Street doesn't represent me

Better late than never, I am reading the May 14 issue of *The Voice & Herald*. I applaud you for your non-biased reporting by publishing Dry Bones. J Street does not represent me; like other independent Jews in this country and my brethren in Israel, I have no use for our president and his attempt to interfere with Israel's prime minister in governing our homeland.

I have many Israeli friends on Facebook as well as others throughout the world who have the same viewpoint. We are Zionists and know darn well there will never be peace in the region.

This shochet does not teach the curious

Stephen Sherman's article ("Kosher meat goes out to pasture," in the May 28 issue of *The Voice & Herald*) does a wonderful job telling the story of LoKo's work to improve the quality of kosher meat available to its members and my work in enabling them. However, one note in his article must be clarified: While I love to teach about *shechitah* (ritual slaughter), meat eating, and the Jewish ethics surrounding these issues, I do not teach *shechitah* to the curious.

The majority of Arabs who follow Islam want our homeland and people destroyed.

Our news media in the United States is pro-Arab, as shown by the lack of accurate reporting of recent events. Thank God for Sean Hannity on Fox News, who defended Israel and the greatest military in the world, the Israel Defense Forces.

I was following the events in Israel closely via telephone and the Internet, and I feel the same as the Israelis – the world is condemning us, but we will survive.

Ruth Baker
Smithfield

The process of learning *shechitah* is long and arduous. Furthermore, only an expert and experienced *shochet* can teach the art of *shechitah*. I have been blessed in my life to have immensely qualified teachers, and it would do them and your readers a disservice to suggest that a relatively novice *shochet* like me could be instructing others in this complex and important art.

Naftali Hanau
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Willard Avenue:

A long and winding road

This should answer the questions asked in Nate Lury's letter in the May 14 issue of *The Voice & Herald*, regarding the three *shuls*. Congregation Lenard Azedeck was at 142 Willard Ave., the South Providence Hebrew Congregation, called the "Russian Shul" or the "Big Shul," was at 201 Willard Ave., and Congregation Tifereth Israel, also called the "Roumanian Shul" was at 254 Willard Ave.

Located at 140 Willard Ave. was the South Providence Sheltering Home.

The synagogue located at 53 Robinson St. was Congregation Beth Isruel Anshe Austria, but it was known as the Robinson Street Shul.

All but Congregation Lenard Azedeck merged to become Congregation Sharre Zedek in 1954. It was located at 688 Broad St, the old Temple Beth-El. Sharre Zedek closed in 2006.

Anne Sherman
Sherman is the office manager for the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

Willard Avenue creates nostalgic memories

Just the name, Willard Avenue, brings back memories that provide me with a great deal of nostalgia. My mother, Helen Reich (*aleyba ba-shalom*), would often take me with her into Harry Keller's butcher shop. I can still see the chickens hanging all around and a floor covered with sawdust. Down the street was a fish store. My best recollection of that place is that by the time we left, usually with fish that was wrapped up in newspaper, my shoes were covered with scales.

On Sundays, my father, Willie Reich (*alav ba-shalom*), took me with him to the grocery store owned by Irving Greenstein. Large barrels of pickles and sour tomatoes stood just inside the door, and Irving inevitably let me fish out a pickle for myself.

Stepping back outside I would inhale the sweet aroma of sugar coming from Snells Bakery.

We davened at what we referred to as "The Robinson Street Shul." I didn't know the formal name of that *shul* until many years later when I saw a beautifully framed, silk document on the wall of my uncle's house in Jerusalem. The document was a gift that had been presented to my grandfather, Benjamin Oelbaum (*alav ba-shalom*), in appreciation of his many years of work as the *shul's* secretary. [Editor's Note: See the letter by Anne Sherman, "Willard Avenue: A long and winding road" in this issue for more information on the *shul*.]

Hannah Berman
Woodmere, N.Y.

Editor's Note:

We have been amazed at the outpouring of letters remembering the once-thriving hub of Jewish life in South Providence – the Willard Avenue area – that all originated from one story published earlier this year.

We hope that people have enjoyed reading these letters and, while we will forward any additional letters we receive to the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association, which will feature Willard Avenue in an upcoming issue of the Association's Notes, we don't plan to publish any additional Willard Avenue letters. Any previously unpublished Willard Avenue information our readers send to *The Voice & Herald* will be forwarded to the Association.

Thank you again!



AVI NEVEL; SHAHROL Shahabudin, director of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) in Boston; Jennifer Shone, media relationship coordinator for Mediapeel; Sanobar Langrana, assistant investment officer at MIDA; Adi Golani, economic affairs officer at the Consulate for Israel to New England in Boston; and Joshua Berliner, Israel's assistant to the economic minister of North America, at the World Trade Day on June 16.

World Trade Day at Bryant

SMITHFIELD – The 25th Annual World Trade Day on Wednesday, June 16, hosted by Bryant University and organized by the university's John H. Chafee Center for International Business ("Chafee Center"), drew 500 business executives.

Alan Hassenfeld, chairman of Hasbro's executive committee, chaired the World Trade Day event, and Avi Nevel, the chief executive officer of Nevel International, and Gerald Cohen, an international trade specialist at the Chafee Center, were on the event committee.

As part of a panel discussion on global opportunities, Gil Galanos, the deputy economic minister for Israel's economic mission to North America, described the advantages

of developing and conducting business in Israel. Adi Golani, of the office of the Consulate for Israel to New England in Boston, was one of 18 international exhibitors.

Building on the theme, "American Renewal & Growth," the World Trade Day event featured local, national, and international speakers including Donald Carcieri, the governor of Rhode Island; Keith Stokes, the executive director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation; Ambassador Demetrios Marantis, the deputy U.S. trade representative; and business author Stan Davis.

The annual World Trade Day event offers international networking opportunities to businesses.

Letter-writing campaign for Israel's right to self-defense

BY VOICE & HERALD STAFF
Voiceherald@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – On June 15, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Community Relations Council (CRC) sent an action alert to its members and a statement (see box, below) to Rhode Island's congressional delegation, urging support for Israel. This action alert is part

of a national initiative, urging Members of Congress to sign onto bipartisan letters (one from U.S. representatives, one from U.S. senators) to President Obama that affirm America's support for Israel and call on him to back Israel's right to self-defense at the United Nations and other international organizations. The U.S. should stand with Israel, the letters say, because it is in our national security interest. AIPAC and members of the Jewish Federations of North America, including the JFRI, encouraged their constituents to contact their elected

representatives to endorse these bipartisan letters.

Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and U.S. Representatives James Langevin and Patrick Kennedy, all of Rhode Island, have signed the Senate and House letters, thanks, in part, to the phone calls and emails from Marty Cooper, the CRC director and other CRC members, said Cooper.

To read the text of the letters that will be sent to President Obama and a consistently updated list of congressional signatories, visit www.aipac.org/694.asp#36246.

Statement from the CRC:

The Rhode Island Jewish community is saddened by the loss of life and injuries sustained aboard the Turkish ship Mavi Marara on Monday, May 31. We stand in strong support of and solidarity with the State of Israel as it struggles to cope with those who refuse to allow it and its neighbors to live in peace. We continue to support mutual recognition and peaceful coexistence between Israel and all of its neighbors.

"The Gaza Strip is under the control of Hamas, a group widely recognized as a terror organization and whose declared objective is the destruction of Israel. Hamas uses the Gaza Strip as its armed base from which to wage war against Israel and undermine the peace process.

Despite unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza in 2005, Israel has not enjoyed a quiet border. Hamas and its affiliated terror organizations have fired thousands of rockets at Israeli cities and towns and launched dozens of cross-border attacks against Israel. In an effort to deprive Hamas of weapons and ammunition, Israel has been forced to rely on a legal blockade.

The violence that broke out on the Mavi Marara should have been averted. Israel gave repeated and ample notice to the organizers of the flotilla that it would not be allowed to enter Gaza without a search for weapons. In fact, no violence was reported on any of the other five ships in the flotilla. Israel repeatedly welcomed the delivery of humanitarian aid, but required the flotilla to dock at the Ashdod harbor for a customary inspection to ensure the cargo did not also include supplies that could be used for military action or other smuggled goods. This is the same procedure ships entering the United States must also follow.

It is important to understand the key facts that led up to the tragic events that took place.

- When Israel stopped the flotilla, it exercised a legitimate right to self-defense, and had ample reason for concern about cargo

going unchecked into Hamas-controlled Gaza.

- Hamas and other terrorist organizations have shown that they will use the cover of humanitarian aid as a way to smuggle arms into Gaza. The Israeli government repeatedly warned the flotilla that it would be barred from docking at Gaza, but that the vessels would be allowed to dock in the port of Ashdod, where after a search its contents delivered to Gaza.

- The flotilla was organized by an extremist Islamic Turkish organization that promotes an extreme anti-Western agenda which has been implicated in the recruitment and financing of Jihadist terrorists worldwide, including al Qaeda.

- Israel repeatedly offered the port of Ashdod Harbor as a place to unload all humanitarian goods that would then be sent to Gaza by Israel as well as by the Red Cross, the United Nations or other recognized peace agencies. Israel has been sending tons of genuine humanitarian aid to Gaza. Israel transfers about 15,000 tons of supplies and humanitarian aid weekly to the people of Gaza. The flotilla cargo had on-board 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies. Israel also provides medical treatment to residents of Gaza at Israeli hospitals.

- It was reported that members of the Turkish ship Mavi Marara were armed and aggressively attacked the Israelis boarding the ship. The Israelis found themselves in a situation where their lives were in imminent and immediate danger from the protesters who attacked them with gunfire, steel clubs, bats and knives. The demonstrators prepared these weapons in advance with the expectation that Israeli forces would have no alternative to boarding the vessel in order to guide it away from Gaza. The other five ships offered no resistance and therefore no casualties and were peacefully escorted to Ashdod where the goods were unloaded and will soon be transported to Gaza.

- The flotilla's primary aim was not humanitarian relief; it was to

cause a provocation. Its top organizers and other participants are radicals with well-documented ties to Hamas and links to other terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda. One of the flotilla's leaders, Greta Berlin, stated that "this mission is not about delivering humanitarian supplies, it is about breaking Israel's siege of 1.5 million Palestinians," the AFP reported on May 27.

- As a result of the assault, the IDF, who were instructed not to use force unless it was for self-defense, were forced to use handguns as their lives were determined to be in immediate danger.

- A number of Israeli naval personnel were injured, some from gun fire and others from knife and crowbar attacks. All of the injured parties, Israeli and foreigners, were evacuated by a fleet of IDF helicopters to hospitals in Israel for prompt attention.

- According to international legal experts, it is legitimate for a state to impose and enforce an embargo on international waters during wartime. Israel's detention of the Flotilla ships – and its use of force to defend its soldiers when attacked by some of the radicals – is acceptable under international law.

- Israel has announced the establishment of a commission, including two foreign observers, one from Canada and the other from Ireland, which will investigate the Gaza flotilla incident. The United States should oppose any international effort to initiate a separate investigation.

The purpose of the blockade is to protect the citizens of Israel as well as the innocent residents of Gaza who are being used as a shield by Hamas.

It is our hope that peaceful coexistence between Israel and all of its neighbors can be achieved.

For more information about this issue or to learn how to contact your senators or congressman, please contact Marty Cooper at 421-4111, ext. 171 or mcooper@JFRI.org.



A free documentary, 'Crossing the Line,' at the JCCRI

PROVIDENCE – The community is invited to a free showing of "Crossing the Line," a documentary about anti-Israel and anti-Zionist demonstrations on college campuses.

The film will be aired at the Jewish Community Center of

Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., in Providence, at 7:30 p.m. on the evening of Monday, June 28.

For more information, contact Sy Dill at 447-9568 or Nizva Attali at 453-6347.



BECKY EISEN, POVERTY campaign coordinator, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, facilitated a grassroots boot camp on June 17 in Providence.

Grassroots boot camp teaches advocacy

By MARTY COOPER
mcooper@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – Perhaps you saw information in *The Voice & Herald*, or maybe you received an email. The Jewish community is looking for a few good advocates to fight poverty and other social justice and action issues, and to support Israel. That's why some 20 people attended the grassroots boot camp on June 17 at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI). The JFRI's Community Relations Council (CRC) sponsored the program.

Becky Eisen, poverty campaign coordinator for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) led the four-hour program aimed at bringing together synagogues, agencies and the CRC in issues of advocacy. "If we are all trying to fight poverty," asked Marty Cooper, the CRC director, "why

not pool our energy together so that each entity can become more effective and productive?"

Linda Katz, the policy director of Rhode Island's Poverty Institute, presented compelling information about poverty here – with 13 percent of its population living in poverty, Rhode Island ranks third highest in poverty per capita in the U.S.

Karen Jeffreys, the assistant executive director for the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, explained how to effectively organize an advocacy campaign. She used the Neighborhood Opportunities Program, a program that provides low-income housing for individuals and families, as an example of effective advocacy.

Marty Cooper is the community relations director at the JFRI. Contact him at 421-4111, ext. 171.



(Mike Skorski)

TOURO LEADERS from left, front row, Lester Nathan, Ed Deluty, Michael Smith, Milton Bronstein, Nathan Lury, Steven Waldman, Barry Schiff and Judah Rosen; middle row, from left, Manochehr Norparvar, Ried Redlich, Adam Halpern, Adam Smith, Robert Miller, Andrew Lamchick, Jed Brandes, Rodney Locke and Benjamin Kaplan; back row, from left, Marc Gertsacov, Barry Rotenberg, Steven White, Alan Lury, Stevan Labush, Jeffrey Davis, Bruce Weisman, Norman Dinerman, Barry Shaw and Howie Wasser. Arthur Poulten, Andrew Liss, Jeffrey Padwa and Alan Gerstein are not pictured.

Touro Fraternal Association elects leadership for the year ahead

Independent Jewish fraternal order looks to the future

CRANSTON – With two recent meetings, Touro Fraternal Association ("Association") has established its leadership for the year ahead, and perhaps, many years beyond that. Both meetings were held at the Cranston headquarters of the Association, New England's largest independent Jewish fraternal order.

At the May 26 annual Association meeting, newly elected officers and board members were

installed. Alan Lury and Jed Brandes, both past presidents and current board members, served as installing officer and master of ceremonies, respectively.

Harmony Lodge's Adam Halpern begins his second term as president; Norman Dinerman, last year's treasurer, is the vice president; Manocher Norparvar is the treasurer and Adam Smith remains as secretary.

Ried Redlich begins his first full term as Friendship Lodge president, after ascending to the post midterm. Lester Nathan, a former board member, is the new vice president. Marc Gertsacov

and Benjamin Kaplan return as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Five board members were installed for three-year terms: Stevan Labush, Howie Wasser and Barry Shaw are all incumbents, Steven White and Steven Waldman begin their first terms and Ed Deluty will serve a one-year board term.

Then, on June 9, the Association held the annual organizational meeting of its board of directors.

The board re-elected all officers for one-year terms: Robert Miller as chairman, Andrew Lamchick as vice chairman, Marc Gertsacov as secretary and Steven Waldman as treasurer. Chairman Miller re-appointed for one-year terms Association Chaplain Judah Rosen and Association Inside Guard Barry Shaw.

Also appointed by Chairman Miller were Harmony Lodge Faithful Guide Andrew Liss, Inside Guard Barry Schiff, Friendship Lodge Faithful Guide Jeffrey Padwa and Inside Guard Alan Gerstein.

The Association is looking to the future – as its milestone 100th anniversary is only eight elections away. As a result, the Association has formed a committee to plan events for the Touro Fraternal Centennial.

For more information about Touro Fraternal Association, call 785-0066 or tourofrat@aol.com.

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Meet Samantha Lewis of the JCCRI

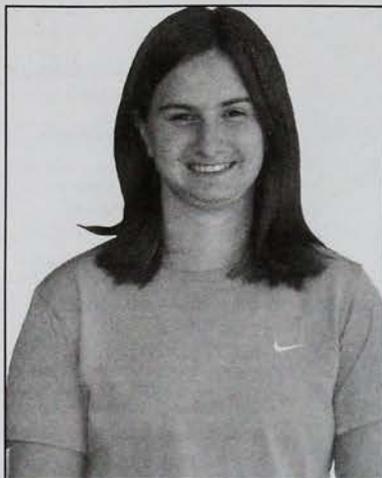
A passion for sports and life

By BRIAN SULLIVAN
bsullivan@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE — Samantha "Sam" Lewis has joined the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCCRI) team as the new sports programming director. In her new position at the JCCRI, Lewis will be responsible for kids' programs, PeeWee sports, youth basketball, adult leagues and more.

Lewis, a 2008 cum laude graduate of the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with a degree in sports management, said, "I've been really lucky to have had some really cool jobs." Lewis, newly relocated to Providence, has spent the past two years living and working in New York City. Her cool jobs include a stint in marketing and event management for the New York Mets, and a marketing position with the Lead Dog Marketing Group.

Lewis is no stranger to the world of Jewish Community Centers, as she worked in sports programming at the Greater Hartford (Conn.) JCC, "I was brought up around the JCC," explains Lewis, whose mother is the Greater Hartford JCC's health and fitness



SAMANTHA "SAM" LEWIS

director. "The JCC is more than just a gym; it's a community," said Lewis. "It's a place to bring your family; it's a positive environment where you can work out, play and have fun."

Lewis shared with *The Voice & Herald* some of her ideas for the JCCRI, including one for parent/child watch-and-play games. She's also eager to introduce more options for kids, teens and adults, including an adult volleyball league.

Always athletic, Lewis plays, coaches and referees several sports including basketball, soccer, soft-

ball and volleyball. Now, she's gearing up for the Maccabi Games, in August in Baltimore, Md., that provide Jewish youth with a supportive environment fostering mutual respect and sportsmanship, while encouraging physical fitness in an atmosphere of fun, democracy and peace. Lewis, a three-time participant in the Maccabi Games in her youth, proudly points out her third place medal on her office wall. "The Maccabi Games were a great experience for me," said Lewis. "I can't wait to return, but this time as a delegation head."

"I haven't been in Rhode Island long, but I'm thrilled to be at a JCC again," said Lewis. "I'm excited to bring my passion for sports and life to the families and community at the JCCRI."

Brian Sullivan is a marketing associate at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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

Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!

The Alef List: Happenings for Hip Jews

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next Alef List function is:
Thursday, July 22
7-9 p.m.

India Restaurant
1060 Hope Street, Providence



Rabbi Seltzer will be our guest speaker to spark interesting conversation with Young Jewish Professionals in their 20-30s. Come enjoy complimentary appetizers, cash bar and schmoozing. It'll be fun!

RSVP to Wendy Joering by July 15
Wjoering@jfri.org or 401-421-4111 x 169



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the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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Trolley Shelter

Blackstone Boulevard at Elmgrove Avenue

June 30.....Mike Miller Swingtet

July 14.....Aurea & Chris Turner*

July 28.....Latin Jazz

August 11Gnomes ~ Folk

August 29Duke Ellington Tribute

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Friday

June 25

Yiddish Shmoozers

Year-end breakfast and entertainment by Stanley Freedman

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

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

More info: 861-8800

Torat Yisrael Senior Café "Know Your Candidate"

Betsy Dennigan, Second Congressional District candidate for the Democratic nomination, will answer questions.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

11:15 a.m. - Program; Noon - Lunch

\$3 lunch donation for 60+ and under 60 disabled

More info: Neal or Steve at 781-1771

Torat Yisrael hosts Senior Café Mondays through Fridays

Senior Café at JCCRI

Jerry Columbo performs his big band "Vocalist Show."

JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence

Noon - Lunch; 12:45 p.m. - Program

\$3 lunch donation for 60+ and under 60 disabled

More info: Neal Drobnis or Lucy Flam at 861-8800, ext. 107

The JCCRI hosts Senior Café on Wednesdays and Fridays

S'more Shabbat

Bring picnic dinner, blanket, chairs, and bug spray and join us on the Temple lawn. Drinks and the makings for s'mores will be provided. Soccer balls, Hula Hoops, and outdoor toys are welcome.

Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston

6 p.m.

More info: 942-8350

"Hello Dolly" opens at Theatre by the Sea

Come see this old favorite with award-winning actress, Cady

Huffman, as Dolly Levi.

Theatre by The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Matunuck

8 p.m.

Show closes on July 11.

Ticket prices: \$49/\$44/39

For more info/ticket purchases: Call 782-8587, stop by the box office or email boxoffice@theatrebythesea.com

See story on page 21.

Award at Beth David

Amanda LeDonne will receive the Wendy Adler Scholarship Award.

Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingstown Rd., Narragansett

7:30 p.m.

More info: Ethan Adler at 486-0110 or eadler3@cox.net

Sunday

June 27

Congregation Beth David Annual Meeting

A light breakfast will be served at the annual meeting which is

Dear Meredith and Bethany and the extremely dedicated volunteers behind the First Annual Rhode Island Kosher Chili Cook-Off:

The First Annual Rhode Island Kosher Chili Cook-Off has come and gone. Two things linger, however. One is the taste of chili in the mouths of the hundreds of people that attended. But the other has far more lasting implications (although far less gastrointestinal ones).

You brought our sometimes diasporic community together.

Think about it. Think of all the great causes and all the great events that happen in the Rhode Island Jewish community and think about who attends them. The "JCC Crowd." The "Day School Crowd." The "Federation Crowd." Now take a look at the list of your cook-off teams and see how the crowds came together at one time with one purpose. At a time where three major agencies in this community are working around the clock to become one, you have shown us the possible results through your vision and hard work. The fact that you earmarked the proceeds of this wonderful event for the benefit of the JCC is almost secondary - the fact that you had the event is paramount.

On behalf of the JCC and those it serves - and I dare say on behalf of our Jewish community - thank you to an incredible volunteer committee who reached out to the various segments of Rhode Island Jewry to make the RIKCCO possible. Your inclusion of Jews of all observances and your attention to the details that would allow them to be included made it all possible.

Your participating teams - and their inventive themes and decorations - made the event unique. And your recruitment of sponsors, including lead sponsors **Accounting for Taste, Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Berger Recycling, and Epoch of Providence**, made your event possible. Thank you to all of them as well.

Congratulations to the winners, they who wear the crown(s) until the Second Annual Rhode Island Kosher Chili Cook-Off:



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Second Place Newport Touro Synagogue (the "Tourownators")
Third Place New England Rabbinical College

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Jewish Center, 375 Kingstown Rd., Narragansett

10 a.m.

More info: Ethan Adler at 486-0110 or eadler3@cox.net

Led Shleppelin - Stairway to Leaven Tour

Benefit dance and concert by Purim *shpiel* band, Led Shleppelin.

Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence

7 - 10 p.m.

\$25

More info: Gershon Levine at 331-1616 or glvine@teprov.org

Monday

June 28

JERI Satellite Office Hours

"The Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry - One Year Later." JERI Director, Susan Adler and Assistant Director, Ethan Adler will counsel seniors and their families. Ethan is available for pastoral counseling.

Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Road, Tiverton

10 - 11:30 a.m.

More info: Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

Thursday

July 1

Hug N'hamah: Circle of Consolation

Dr. Judith Lubiner, a licensed psychologist, and Rabbi Amy Levin facilitate a bereavement discussion group.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

Friday

July 9

Shalom to Shabbat

Unwind and *nash* before Shabbat services.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

7 p.m. - Wine and cheese; 7:30 p.m. - Service

More info: 785-1800

Monday

July 12

JERI Satellite Office Hours

Topic: "Celebrating Our Independence." JERI Director, Susan Adler and Assistant Director, Ethan Adler will be available to counsel seniors and

their families. Ethan will also be available for pastoral counseling.

Brightview Commons, 57 Grandville Court, Wakefield

1 - 2:30 p.m.

More info: Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

Thursday

July 15

JERI Satellite Office Hours

See July 12 entry.

Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

More info: Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

Hug N'hamah: Circle of Consolation

See July 1 entry.

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston

7:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

Friday

July 16

Temple Torat Yisrael Beach Shabbat at Goddard Park

Experience *kabbalat Shabbat* with the tranquil sounds of the water. Bring your blankets, beach chairs and pets.

Goddard Memorial State Park, 1095 Ives Rd., Warwick

5:30 p.m.

More info: 785-1800

Shabbat Under the Stars

Enjoy Shabbat services under the stars on the Julie Claire Gutterman Patio. Services include singing, stories, and summertime *oneg Shabbat* treats. Children with July birthdays will also be honored. Open to the community,

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence

7 p.m.

More info: Rob Massi, 331-6070 or rmassi@temple-beth-el.org

Calendar Submissions

Please note: Our next issue of *The Voice & Herald* will be published on July 23 (only one issue in July). Please send calendar items for the July 23 issue to voiceherald@JFRI.org by July 12 with the subject line of "CALENDAR." If you have a "must attend event" between July 16 and our next issue, please email it to lcamara@JFRI.org and mark it "CALENDAR." We will, as appropriate, post those calendar entries on our Web site, www.jvhri.org.

Volunteering at the ACI pays off

Brown grad receives \$25,000 to pursue social justice

BY TORI HITCHINER
Special to The Voice & Herald

WORKING WITH inmates at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) may be daunting for some, but it gave Rebecca Mer a sense of community. The 22-year-old Mer, the daughter of Benjamin and Barbara Mer of Lincoln, graduated from Brown University on May 30, and was awarded the David J. Zucconi Fellowship for International Study. The fellowship provides her with \$25,000 to work on a project of her choosing. After receiving her B.A. in Middle Eastern studies, the Lincoln resident plans to head to the United Kingdom (U.K.) to study prison arts programs. She will interview various people involved with the programs, including prison staff, inmates and former participants, to build a model of what an effective and sustainable prison arts program needs.

As an undergraduate at Brown she developed an interest in these types of programs. Through the school, she became involved as

a volunteer in a program called Space in Prison for the Arts and Creative Expression (SPACE). With the help of volunteers, SPACE allows ACI inmates to participate in creative writing, visual arts, dance and other kinds of programs. Mer enjoyed participating, and began to get a sense of what purpose these programs hold. "I understand that this program has power in many different ways, including potentially therapeutic and potentially rehabilitative, but also, in terms of access...some of these women that I worked with maybe wouldn't hear music, other than in our workshop."

Mer explains that she also received a great deal by being involved, even in her role as an instructor. "It wasn't just me as teacher," she said. "I was facilitating a conversation, a workshop, an activity that I participated in just as they did." She adds that though she was able to come and go from the prison, she connected with those involved with the program.

"In the end, I developed friends. I developed a sense of community with these women," Mer said. Her sense of community has also kept her involved with other projects. She was a member of the United Synagogue Youth, or USY, a conservative Jewish youth movement that has local, regional



REBECCA MER

and global chapters. Mer served as the regional vice president during her junior year of high school, which she spent at Gann Academy in Waltham, Mass.

Staying close to her Jewish heritage is important to Mer, who worked as a substitute teacher for Hebrew school, taught at the

Harry Elkin Midrasha Community Hebrew High School, and also served as the youth advisor for USY while at Brown. Mer also feels connected to her roots in Israel, where she has family. To date, she's made six trips to Israel.

She explains that the way she was brought up and the people

"Mer will bring her Jewish values to the U.K., as she spends time in other prison arts facilities."

she grew up with affected her choice of studies. In the Providence Jewish community, "I was raised with, but also influenced by, a concern for social justice," she said. Mer says that, for her, Judaism is about teaching, volunteerism, and giving back to the community.

After her year of research is finished, Mer says that she eventually plans to further her education, though this particular project is not part of a masters program.

Mer will bring her Jewish values to the U.K. starting in September, as she spends time in other prison arts facilities. She says, "It is with a sense of community that I [will] go into these prison arts workshops."

Tori Hitchiner, a freelance writer for The Voice & Herald, is majoring in journalism at the University of Rhode Island. Contact her at tori.hitchiner@gmail.com.



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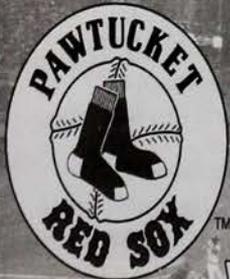
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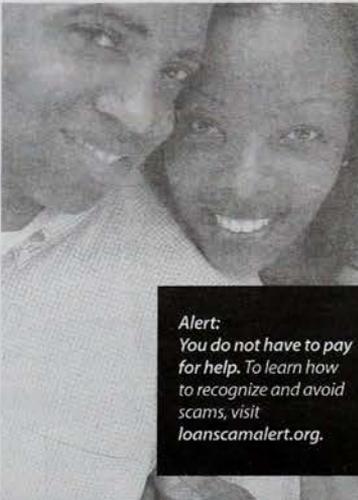
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3

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RhodeIslandHousing
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a safe place for home help
www.rhodeislandhousing.org

URI Hillel celebrates annual meeting

Hillel's leaders lauded

KINGSTON – The URI Hillel held its annual meeting on June 7 – the first such meeting in its new Norman M. Fain Hillel Center. URI Hillel board members, staff and guests, including Rosalie and Jonathan Fain and JFRI President Doris Feinberg, gathered for a celebratory barbecue on the Arthur and Sandy Bobrow Patio. Feinberg reiterated the Rhode Island Jewish community's support for Hillel which plays a critical role in keeping young Jews connected to their heritage.

Board President Barbara Sokoloff presented the Rabbi Benjamin Marcus Award to Jhodi Redlich for her work to promote and publicize Hillel activities and events. Martin Waldman received the Joseph Block Award for his many years of dedicated board service.

Sokoloff was elected for another year as Hillel president, Susan Leach DeBlasio was elected vice president, Ron Freeman continues as treasurer and Leslie Marks Hershey continues as secretary. Michael Roberts and Eric Shorr are new Hillel board members, and Michael Schuster, completing his term on the board, was named an honorary trustee.

Executive Director Amy Olson spoke about the positive impact the new building has



THE URI HILLEL Board, staff and honored guests gather for the June 7 annual meeting. Front row, from left, Amy Olson, Barbara Schwartz, Anna Prager, Barbara Sokoloff, Rosalie Fain; middle, Michael Roberts, Henry Winkleman, Arlene Winkleman, Jonathan Fain, Susan Kirschenbaum, Louis Kirschenbaum, Leslie Marks Hershey, Ruth Jarrett, Martin Waldman, Melvin Alperin, Paula Waldman; back, Doris Feinberg, Susan Leach DeBlasio, Joie Schwartz, Jhodi Redlich, David Talan and Jerry Kritz.

had on student involvement, including such key events as the alternative spring break to New Orleans, prominent involvement in URI diver-

sity initiatives and programs to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and Israel Independence Day.

Sokoloff thanked the board

and, especially, Mel Alperin and the Fain Family for the capital campaign's success.

New England Academy of Torah graduation



TICHYEH SCHOCHET, THE director of Judaic studies at New England Academy of Torah, left, and Sonia Felder at the June 14 graduation ceremonies held at the school. Felder will attend Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim Seminary in Jerusalem.

AT THE JUNE 14 New England Academy of Torah (NEAT) commencement ceremonies, NEAT named Tova Gerber as valedictorian, and Esty Saklad as salutatorian.

Both young women will attend a seminary in Israel for one year. Upon their return, Gerber will study at Brandeis University and Saklad will attend Touro College.

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An eye-opening trip to Kiev

JINSA board member visits Babi Yar, Chernobyl

By JAY STRAUSS
Special to *The Voice & Herald*

KIEV – As a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs (JINSA), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that focuses on issues of U.S. and Israeli national security, I was invited to travel to Ukraine and the country of Georgia.

Coming from several different U.S. cities, we all arrived in Kiev on May 1 – a major holiday in Russia and the former Soviet Union. At this year's May Day, typically a holiday celebrated with great military parades and displays of equipment, a battalion of U.S. soldiers marched in Moscow's Red Square. In Ukraine this year, May Day was celebrated as a four-day holiday with plenty of drinking!

Our group visited vast areas of the beautiful city of Kiev, where we saw museums, churches, schools, Parliament buildings and Babi Yar. Burned to the ground by Ukrainian partisans in 1941, today Kiev is home to some 5 million people.

Our travels took us to the Jewish areas of Kiev, including visits to two synagogues and a museum. Today, about 2,000 Jews live in Kiev, but at the beginning of World War II, more than 300,000 Jews lived there. Babi Yar, where so many Jews were slaughtered, is a compelling story of history that must be told.

The hatred that Ukrainians, historically, felt for the Jews was at least partly rooted in pre-World War II Russia. In 1931 and 1932, Josef Stalin and leaders of the Communist Party (which, it was believed, included many Jewish individuals) developed a plan to gain ownership of Ukrainian farms; as part of that plan, some

8 to 10 million Ukrainian farmers starved to death. This event or program was called "the Holdidador" or "the Ukrainian Genocide."

Given their identification of Jews with Communists, many of the non-Jewish citizens of Kiev willingly turned the Jews in to the Nazis when they arrived in Kiev. Babi Yar, the site of the mass slaughter of so many Jews, was not, as many say, 40 kilometers outside of Kiev, but right in the middle of the city. In fact, until world Jewry screamed in opposition, Kiev's leaders were building a sports palace on that very site. Today, the rusting remains of the building still stand. I asked my tour guide at the Ukrainian World War II Museum to explain how only a few Nazis could have murdered more than 300,000 people. She suggested I wait to see the pictures in the museum. One large photo shows two Nazi soldiers on the high bank of the ravine, with hundreds of soldiers in the pit with shovels, burying the bodies of Jewish men, women and children. The soldiers, who didn't appear unhappy in the photo, were, the tour guide said, members of the Ukrainian Army. I was pleased that a well-educated Ukrainian citizen was giving us these facts.

Visits to government offices to talk with bureaucrats, ambassadors and others were equally enlightening. We asked the Department of the Interior if it was considering reparations to the Jews for the property taken from former Jewish owners. The answer: "No." If they discover any Jewish artifacts, they will, they said, turn them over to Kiev's small Jewish museum.

Another museum depicts the history of the Chernobyl atomic disaster; the atomic plants are in the Ukraine, not in Russia. Three plants are still operating and use systems that have never been approved by the World Atomic Energy Commission; the fourth plant blew up! The concrete that was poured to



Jim Colbert/JINSA

THIS MONUMENT COMMEMORATES the children who were killed at Babi Yar.

seal the disaster is now cracking and radiation is still leaking out. Workers in shirts and shorts dig under the reactor to pour concrete and place a foot-thick lead pad to prevent the radiation from getting into the groundwater! You can only imagine the life expectancy of these workers. These plants are only 57 kilometers from downtown Kiev. Putin, we learned, wants to build modern plants in the Ukraine, but not in Russia.

Our visit concluded with a two-hour interview with John Tefft, the U.S. ambassador to the Ukraine. We learned that the country is a cash society with a few extremely wealthy people and many more poor individuals. Three of the country's richest eight individuals are Jewish, and Yulia Tymoshenko, a former prime minister, has assets totaling more than \$2 billion, allegedly earned while she was in public office.

The Ukraine has a great future, I believe, if it educates its population and becomes a country with democratic laws. Time will tell.

A member of the editorial board of The Voice & Herald, Jay Strauss also serves as chair of the business committee for the newspaper. Contact him at strauffy@aol.com.

Read about Strauss' trip with JINSA to Georgia in an upcoming issue of The Voice & Herald.



Jim Colbert/JINSA

THIS IS ONE of two synagogues left in Kiev today.

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A night of reflection and hope



STUDENTS FROM WOONSOCKET'S Beacon Charter School for the Arts present excerpts from the play, "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Meeting filled with meaning and memories

By BRIAN SULLIVAN
bsullivan@JFRI.org

PROVIDENCE – The Holocaust Education and Resource Center of RI (HERC) held its annual meeting and installed its officers and board of directors on the evening of Monday, June 14, at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

The evening's program was a unique one, as students from Woonsocket's Beacon Charter School for the Arts presented excerpts from the play, "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Gabby McCauley, a freshman, portrayed Margot Frank, Anne's older sister. "I learned about the Holocaust in middle school, but being a part of this play has given me a completely different perspective," she said.

Aurora Lefebvre, a junior, played Mrs. Van Daan. "I had been to the Holocaust Museum [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum] in Washington, D.C. when I was younger, but I didn't get it," she said. "Now, after portraying the role of Mrs. Van Daan, it's something I won't forget. Being a part of this was both incredible and sad."

After the moving performance, May-Ronny Zeidman, the executive director of HERC, presented

each student with a copy of *Ordinary People, Turbulent Times*, Alice Dreifuss Goldstein's book about her Holocaust experiences. Elected as second vice president of HERC at the meeting, Goldstein offered to autograph the books for the students after the meeting.

Other highlights of the evening included presentations of several awards. Stan Abrams received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Edward Aronson, a member of the HERC board. Upon accepting the award, Abrams said, "I'm proud to receive this award, but I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge all the other volunteers. I'd like to share this award with them. We speak to stu-



ARTHUR ROBBINS, LEFT, and Peter Mezei, share a moment at the HERC annual meeting on Monday, June 14.

dents and the general public about the atrocities of the Holocaust to keep them educated in the hopes of preventing this from ever happening again." Abrams has served on the board and chairs the Program Committee, which is responsible for The Holocaust Through the Arts, The Art & Writing Contest and other Holocaust educational programs.

Aronson also presented Claire Roche, the director of operations for the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE) and the senior planning associate for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), with the Teacher of the Year Award. In addition to her administrative and planning work for the BJE and the JFRI, Roche has been an educator for 13 years and has served as the New England regional director of the March for the Living since 2006.

This year's Jay & Andrea Schachne Award, created to honor Schachne's father, was presented to Mike Teitelbaum, "an extraordinary young man... far beyond his years in maturity and enthusiasm. I couldn't be happier that [he] has won this award," said Jay Schachne.

Teitelbaum graciously accepted the award and shared experiences from this year's March of the Living, a two-week trip for Jewish teenagers to Poland and Israel coinciding with Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, and Yom Ha'Zikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Memorial and Independence days, respectively.

Teitelbaum's trip was especially remarkable as he was reunited with his brother, a soldier in Israel. "After spending the first week of the trip in a place of sheer terror, I realized on the second leg of the trip [in Israel] that I felt at home; it was a beautiful place to be. I was praying and thinking of my brother; good, powerful, safe thoughts, when someone – a soldier – sat down next to me. As I looked up to see who the soldier was, my brother was looking back at me. I never cried with joy the way I cried in that moment," said Teitelbaum. "I was in Poland for a week where people had lost their families, and then I was in Jerusalem where I was reunited with my brother. My trip had come full circle; I found my family."

Arthur Robbins presented the final award of the night to Peter Mezei, who was stepping down as president of the HERC board. Robbins said, "We, in Providence, are blessed that your odyssey has brought you here. The strength of our [Holocaust Education & Resource] Center today is, in large part, because of you." During an emotional presentation, Robbins presented Mezei with a plaque to be hung in HERC's lobby in memory of his father who was killed during the Holocaust.

During his remarks, Justin "Jay" Strauss, the incoming president of HERC's board, referenced a recent trip to the Ukraine. "I have been welcomed all over the world as an ambassador of our people," he said. "While in the Ukraine, visiting Babi Yar, I found the reason I want to lead this organization." (See page 13 for "An eye-opening trip to Kiev" by Strauss.)

In his closing comments, Aronson urged the audience to "pay attention to what is going on in the world around us at this moment, because knowledge and education will set us free."

The new officers and board of directors for 2010–2011 were announced: Justin "Jay" was elected president, Susan Odessa as first vice president, Alice Goldstein as second vice president, Donna Frank as third vice president, Myrna Aronson as secretary and Toby London as treasurer. Board members whose terms end in 2011 are Stanley Abrams, Rebecca Brenner, Sherry Cohen, William Kolb, Rev. James Miller and Maxine Richman; those whose terms end in 2012 are Patricia Blake, Edward Aronson, Judith Jamieson and Donald Hogue; and those whose terms end in 2013 are Valerie Lomus, Linda Fain, Carl Feldman, Susan Froehlich, Al Silverstein and Miriam Shana.

For more about HERC, visit www.berc.org or call 453-7860. For more about the Beacon Charter School for the Arts, visit www.beaconart.org.

HERC is a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Brian Sullivan is a marketing associate at JFRI.

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GOT CHILI? GOT a lot of chili!

J.E. Bresler



THE NEWPORT TOURO synagogue "Tourenators" team, the second place judges' choice and third place audience choice, with Deb Blazer of Accounting for Taste, a major sponsor.

J.E. Bresler

MORE CHILI COOKOFF PICTURES, 16

From Page 1

At 7 a.m., teams arrived and began to cook at 8 a.m.

What a day! For those who were here, you know what we're talking about. For those who could not make it, let's do "chili by the numbers!"

More than 500 people from all parts of our community attended.

The 20+ members of the volunteer RIKCCO committee, led by co-chairs Meredith Sinel and Bethany Sutton, plus many additional volunteers for the day, were everywhere, making sure everything went just right.

Twenty very competitive makers of very delicious chili did their thing, and many were in costume!

Three different bands played live music, including G20's Trio; Coda; and Tex, Lex and Rex, the Happy Valley Boys (Fishel Bresler - is that you under that ten-gallon hat?)

One thousand little kids bounced in three bounce houses and ran around with painted faces. OK, maybe it wasn't 1,000 - they just moved so fast and so far, it seemed like that many!

More than \$5,000 in revenue was earned for the JCCRI, mostly from ticket sales. What a great accomplishment - that the cook-off was a money-maker in its very first year.

We drank 14 cases of beer. (Well, I didn't, I was working; but that is how much was gone at the end of the day.)

We swabbed the cheeks of 122 people (a record-breaker, the bone marrow coordinators told us) for a bone marrow test that could

save a life.

We bagged 50+ bags of trash! What can I say - chili is messy!

CHILI BY THE WINNERS

We announced the audience choice winners for the first annual RIKCCO: First place went to the Chabad Lubavitch team, A Chili Chai; second place to the Epoch of Providence team, Hebrew Habaneros; and the third place went to the Newport Touro Synagogue team, the Tourenators.

The judges awarded first place to Chazak Emanu-El (a havurah from Temple Emanu-El); second place to Newport Tourenators; and third place to the New England Rabbinical College team, NERC. Many thanks to our volunteer chili judges Mark Feinstein, Claude Goldstein, Amy McCoy and Wendy Joering.

Every event has sponsors deserving of thanks. The largest sponsors were Deb Blazer, who generously donated the glatt kosher meat and foods for concession; the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Berger Recycling and Epoch of Providence (each of whom donated \$1,000). As for those at the \$500 sponsorship level, we thank Richard Suls Consulting (for the Web site design), Dan Gamm and Ameriprise Financial, Adler Pollock and Shechan, Buy-Rite, McLaughlin and Moran (their donations came in the form of beer, of course!), Tamarisk Assisted Living Facility and Jeff Calista's store, A Little Bit of Everything. And thanks, too, to *The Jewish Voice & Herald* for its media sponsorship.

CHILI...

We have no idea how many bottles of antacid were ingested or how many pounds were gained! But based on the tremendous feedback from everyone who attended, we are already planning the second annual RIKCCO for Sunday, June 5, 2011

-so mark your calendars! Y'all come back now, hear?

Chris Parker is the director of marketing and communications for the JFRI, and director of marketing and membership for the JCCRI. She was

the staff coordinator for this event and is very, very tired, but happy.

The JCCRI is a partner agency of the JFRI.

To see more photos, visit www.rikosherchilicookoff.com

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JUDGE MARK FEINSTEIN takes his job seriously. /Leah Cooper



AUDIENCE CHOICE FIRST place winner is the Chabad Lubavitch team, "A Chili Chai." /Tom Marchand



JFITNESS "CHILI CHICAS" offer samples of their chili. /David Harrison



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MEDICAL PERSONNEL FROM Ha' Emek Medical Center in Afula visited The Miriam Hospital. Left, Marsha Haverly, Israeli nurses Henya Tirosh, Carolyn Moalem and Ahuva Tal, and Dr. Genady Zelichenko, rear. At right is Jessica Brier and in front, Mary Ellen Januario, both from The Miriam.

Miriam-Emek exchange offers clinical, cultural benefits

Israeli nurses, physician praise program

BY MARY KORR
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - The Miriam Hospital welcomed four medical professionals from Israel this month, in its ongoing international medical exchange program with Ha' Emek Medical Center, a teaching hospital in Afula, Israel.

For Israeli urologist Dr. Genady Zelichenko, who will soon begin his fellowship in robotic surgery at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, this visit was a series of firsts: His first trip to the United States and seeing firsthand the robotic-assisted surgery program at The Miriam, which he found "impressive [and] incredible."

In addition, Zelichenko observed procedures at the Rhode Island and Memorial hospitals.

"I want to thank The Miriam physicians - Drs. Mark Sigman, Martin Miner and William Corwin, for this opportunity," he said through an interpreter.

He and the nursing professionals noted the hospitality of so many in the community. Dr. Bobby Chang, who took the group to Boston, was one of The Miriam physicians to go to Afula and work in Emek. Ellie Elbaum escorted them to Newport, and many community members hosted dinners.

The program had its seed in 2005, when Dr. Kathleen Hittner, former Miriam CEO, visited the "hospital of peace and co-exis-

tence" on a Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI)-sponsored visit to Israel to educate non-Jewish leaders in Rhode Island about the country.

Jeffrey Brier, chairman of The Miriam Hospital Foundation, was instrumental in establishing this exchange.

"The program will receive a Bernhardt Foundation grant."

"The program offers international opportunities for medical research and education, [and] is also a reflection of The Miriam's heritage as a Jewish hospital," he said. "It was exciting to see our international exchange program with Ha' Emek pass its fifth year. It's amazing to see how much the two hospitals have in common."

He noted the hospital also has a successful international program with Moi University in Kenya.

Earlier this month, he announced the program would receive a \$25,000 Bernhardt Foundation grant over a five-year period.

Carolyn Moalem, supervisor of pediatric medicine at Emek, noted the achievements of the collaboration. As a result of working with quality management at Miriam, Emek became the first hospital in Israel to attain international accreditation through the Joint Commission on International Accreditation for Hospitals in 2008, she said.

Their next goal is to achieve the Magnet nursing status which The Miriam holds. The Magnet Recognition Program is an award for nursing excellence and outstanding patient care and is considered the gold standard of nursing.

During their present visit, the nurses have been engaged in a joint research project with their Miriam counterparts, Jessica Brier, Marsha Haverly and Mary Ellen Januario. "We are working on establishing a step-by step process to quickly identify and treat patients post-surgically that goes beyond just measuring vital signs," said Moalem. "It is identifying physical signs and symptoms of the patient and establishing and documenting them."

Taking vital signs is a core nursing activity, said Jessica Brier, a principal research co-investigator at The Miriam. "We want to define through patient observations the things an expert nurse knows before vital signs change, a body of knowledge gained through experience to achieve better clinical judgment and better patient outcomes," she said.

Henya Tirosh shared her observations of her time on the surgical floor. "The nurses are more relaxed here; they communicate with the patients and work as a team."

The research project will be implemented and evaluated in the fall and winter, with the intent, said Jessica Brier, to present the research results at the 2011 Magnet nursing conference.

Mary Korr is a freelance writer for The Voice & Herald. Contact her at mkorr@verizon.net.

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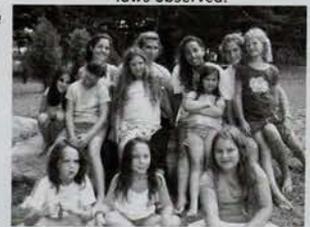


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ALLOCATIONS

From Page 1

fied communal priorities. Historically, JFRI, like most federations, granted annual allocations for general agency support. The new process has shifted that focus and allowed JFRI, as steward of the community's resources, to be more responsive to current needs on the ground and to target funds to priorities.

Jamie Pious, a JFRI vice president and the current chair of the Community Development Committee (CDC), explains that this shift in approach "allows the community to more closely align resources with needs, which is more crucial than ever, given our community's general economic picture."

This year, the CDC moved the process into phase two of the plan. Local partner agencies were guaranteed only 25 percent of the funding received in the fiscal year ending in June 2009, and the request for funding proposals was made available to synagogues and more organizations, both locally and internationally.

The CDC, which evaluates the Jewish community's needs relative to identified priorities and organizational funding request through an open, community-involved process, is comprised of dozens of diverse Jewish community members and leaders from the greater Rhode Island area. The CDC uses specific criteria to evaluate proposals and needs; by creating objectivity and transpar-



A TEACHER WORKS on a Hebrew lesson with a student who has special needs.

ency, the criteria lend even greater credibility and transparency to the allocations process. In addition, organizations that receive funding must submit program outcomes and evaluation information twice each year to the CDC.

Vincent Mor chairs CDC's Caring and Social Responsibility Subcommittee. "Monitoring outcomes allow us to determine whether a particular program is meeting the needs of an identified population and an identified priority," said Mor.

"[We] learn what needs aren't being met, even when particu-

the generation of new programs and services where gaps exist."

"Our shared resources are supporting those community members who are truly in need. That just makes good sense."

Vincent Mor

lar programs are succeeding. The community needs the flexibility to be responsive to unmet and emerging needs and to stimulate

More specifically, the CDC has identified vulnerable community members as the highest priority group; funding for direct service

programs is now limited to serving those community members who can't pay for vital services themselves. Because the CDC is no longer obligated to allocate funding based on history, it now works with service providers to identify how many community-member clients need support, and funds those programs and services at appropriate levels.

"We would love to be able to fund 100 percent of the cost of all programs that serve a community need, but that just isn't possible," said Mor. "Funding identified priorities has helped us focus community resources for greater impact. Establishing criteria for which clients or client groups are served with community resources means we can be sure that our shared resources are supporting those community members who are truly in need. That just makes good sense."

NEW PROCESS MEANS GREATER EFFICIENCIES

After the request for proposals was issued last fall, the Jewish Life and Learning Subcommittee received three similar proposals: The Bureau of Jewish Education of RI (BJE), which has operated a direct-service special education program in area religious school for decades, Temple Emanu-El in Providence and Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro, Mass., sought funding to serve religious school students with learning disabilities and special educational needs.

"The proposals weren't identi-

COLLABORATIONS, 19

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The 40+ Singles to meet in Newport

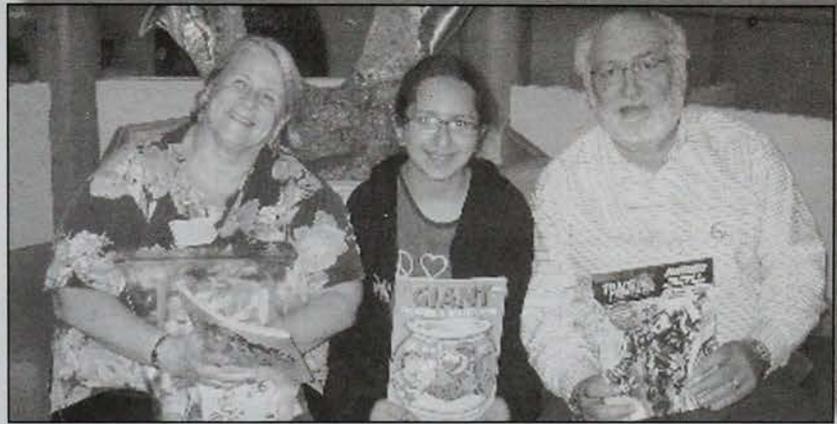
NEWPORT - Enjoy Newport with good friends, wonderful food and music at the 40+ Singles meeting on Sunday, June 27, beginning at 1p.m. at the Ocean Cliff Hotel for Sunday Jazz & Brunch.

A selection of breakfast or lunch items will be served and the group will enjoy the tradition of "Jazz on Sunday" at this Newport landmark hotel. After brunch, attendees are free to stay for the day, lounging in the Safari Room or under the tented patio area. Adirondack chairs

on the lawn encourage people to linger to watch boats sail under the Newport Bridge. The event, for those reserving after June 20, is \$35 per person.

Each 40+ Singles event helps support a different Rhode Island charity, and partial proceeds from this June event will be contributed to The Touro Synagogue Foundation.

For more information, contact Nancy Thomas Slack at 447-8182 or at www.ntgrouptalent.com and click on Special Projects.



FROM LEFT, KAREN Hodges, who initiated the "Smile in a Bag" idea at SCHS, her daughter, Jessie Hodges, a SCHS student, and Ethan Adler, the education director at SCHS, are at Hasbro Hospital.

South County students bring smiles to Hasbro Hospital patients

PROVIDENCE - On May 18, South County Hebrew School (SCHS) students presented Hasbro Children's Hospital with some 30 bags that children use in

the hospital waiting rooms or while they are patients in the hospital. For this annual program, "Smile in a Bag," SCHS families gather small games or activity items to be

put in the bags, which also include student-made cards. The "Smile in a Bag" is part of the SCHS *tikkun olam* curriculum.

COLLABORATIONS

From Page 18

cal," says Linn Freedman, the subcommittee chair, "but they were complementary enough that we saw an opportunity for collaboration that might allow the identified needs to be met at a lower cost in a coordinated approach. We asked them to submit a joint proposal, which they willingly did." The new

proposal, which was accepted, will allow BJE to continue to deliver its direct service program and meet the two synagogues' additional needs. It also includes a professional development component for all religious school educators who want to participate.

In the coming months, the CDC will report on specific

programs and their impact, both local and international, in *The Jewish Voice & Herald* and on www.JFRI.org.

For a detailed list of programs and services funded for the upcoming fiscal year, visit www.JFRI.org.

Claire Roche is director of operations at the BJE of RI and senior planning associate at the JFRI.

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The Mothers Circle is just one of the many programs supported by your generous donation to the 2010 Annual Community Campaign. To learn more, contact Kit Haspel at 401.331.0956 ext. 184 or khaspel@bjeri.org.

"I'm so glad I did this. It helped me to feel accepted by everyone in the Jewish community." Lucy Freedman, a Mothers Circle member

8 number of families enrolled this year 10 children of non-Jewish moms learning Jewish traditions 1 welcoming and embracing community

www.JFRI.org

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Block Island Ferry transports visitors to island adventures

Coastal beauty's offerings are a short ride away

BY TORI HITCHINER
Special to The Voice & Herald

BLOCK ISLAND – Summers in Rhode Island usually mean beaches, barbecues Del's Lemonade, and that unforgettable jingle: "Sail away on the Block Island Ferry." Now that summer is here, traffic to Block Island is picking up as visitors head to shop, soak up the sun, visit historic landmarks and take in the sights the island has to offer.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Short of flying to Block Island, the only other commercial source of transportation from Rhode Island is the Block Island Ferry, which has been running for more than 75 years. The Interstate Navigation Company owns the Block Island Ferry that actually includes five ships in the fleet. There's one high-speed ferry, Athena, and four traditional ferries, Block Island, Carol Jean, Anna C, and Manitou.

When you're in a "beach state of mind," the Block Island Ferry departs from two different locations in Rhode Island. Departures occur on a regular basis from State Pier in Point Judith, Narragansett, and Fort Adams State Park in Newport; the ferries all dock at Block Island's picturesque Old Harbor.

Travel times vary; on the regular ferry, the Point Judith to Block



Island is bicycling around the island and, while bicycle and moped rentals there are available, many people prefer to bring their own. Both the high-speed and regular ferries permit passengers to bring bicycles; those who want to bring their cars to the island must reserve space ahead of time and only on the regular ferries. Whether you bring a car or a bicycle, rent a bicycle or moped or decide to rely on your own two feet, there's plenty to see and do once you're on the island.

The island offers many activities to interest the whole family. For those who want to observe the local wildlife and unspoiled terrain, there are bird sanctuaries, nature preserves, large sand dunes and ancient stone walls. More than 50 shops sell trinkets, souvenirs and high-end clothing, arts and crafts and antique goods. Dining on Block Island also features a wide array of options; there are offerings ranging from gourmet restaurants to dockside fish-and-chips, along with plenty of ice cream and lemonade.

Some outdoor dining sites are "pet-friendly," so ask the restaurant staff if Fluffy or Fido can join you. Although the island is a popular destination for many as a day trip, it is also home to hotels and bed-and-breakfast inns for those who want more than a day away.

From families seeking a low-key and quiet beach vacation to couples searching out a romantic get-away and everyone in between, Block Island has something to offer.

There's something magical about this place that is actually closer to Long Island than Rhode Island. It's little wonder that some of the Block Island residents refer to leaving the island – even for a few hours or a day or two – as "Going to America!"

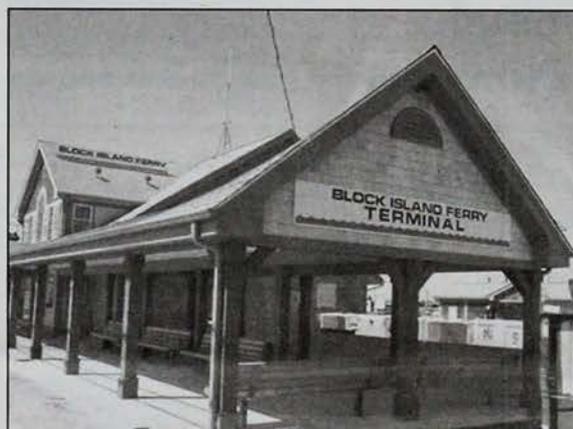
For information about the ferries or to schedule your reservation, www.blockislandferry.com or call 783-4613 or toll free at 866-783-7996.

Tori Hitchiner is a journalism major at the University of Rhode Island. Contact her at tori.hitchiner@gmail.com.

Island trip is 55 minutes, while it's two hours from Fort Adams to Block Island. In a hurry? The trip only takes 30 minutes using the high-speed ferry, which is only available out of Point Judith. Finally, for those who might have creative travel arrangements, a Point Judith to Newport (and Newport to Point Judith) ferry is a one-hour trip.

While on the ferry, visitors can enjoy the cocktail bar, a galley that offers snacks, and plenty of comfortable indoor and on deck seating. Traditional ferries permit pets that are leashed or kept in pet carriers, while the high-speed ferry requires pets be confined to carriers.

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SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Can deception ever be benevolent?

Placebos may have their useful place

ULTIMATELY, marketplace rules will prevail whether the setting is 21st-century Wall Street or some country lane in 14th-century Poland. Fraudulent goods or quackery



Dr. Stanley Aronson

may sell for a while, but sooner or later their true market value will become apparent and deceit will then be replaced by something of more enduring value - or something even more fraudulent. The marketplace rules seem to work well with conventional items such as harvested wheat or hen's eggs, but medical nostrums abide by rules that no macroeconomist would consider even remotely rational.

By customary logic, a lengthy assemblage of useless - even poi-

sonous - substances should have been discarded by the public centuries ago; yet many medicinal compounds of mercury and arsenic, for example, had been purveyed, through the last century, to generations of credulous folk seeking cures; and in many remote places, are still peddled.

Part of the explanation, of course, lies in that uniquely human emotion called hope, particularly when the hope is for a life-preserving intervention. When there is little to cling to, hope and credulity will then clasp hands and forego any skeptical questioning. Hope, too, contributes to the protective aura that surrounds the healer whether he/she had been anointed with a university diploma or those, such as countless generations of anonymous Jewish grandmothers, whose medical education had been tempered by nursing the sick and dying in the family.

The bearer of health resources, then, comes to the bedside with the advanced benefit of a reputation - earned or not - as an

authentic healer. And if he is persuasive enough, confident enough in himself, sometimes a healing emerges where no healing might have arisen without the assuring hand of the healer.

This invisible force aids both

"Might not placebos be an act of serendipity, a bit of enchantment to hasten the healing process?"

authentic healers and charlatans, faith healers and persuasive frauds, witch doctors and earnest grandmothers. And this is not to deny the reality that some herbs employed by village grandmothers (and university physicians) are marginally effective. Long before the rational pharmacology of the 20th century, there were crude substances, quite effective, such as herbal laxatives, botanical sedatives, narcotics, hallucinogens, and even herbal extracts to strengthen heart muscle. But

there is little doubt that the greatest healing power of the medieval physician rested in his spirit of confident authority and self-esteem.

And so, when this medieval physician prescribes a medication and - for no tangible reason - the pill works, we sometimes call it a placebo. To a cynic, this is little more than an example of gross deception, but to a psychologist it represents the happy synergy between the self-assured healer's spirit of confident enthusiasm and the patient's inner - and often subconscious - will to get better.

From what source did the word "placebo" arise? In the scriptural writings (Psalm 116: 9) the following is found: "I shall walk before the Lord in the lands of the living." Jerome (341 - 420), ascetic and ecclesiastic church scholar, chose to translate "I shall walk" to "I shall please" and thus the sentence in Latin became "Placebo Domino in regione vivorum." The phrase had often been mechanically uttered in church services for the dead, more often than not motivated by a desire for a fee than as an expression of pious grief. And so, over the centuries, placebo came to signify indifference, a sense of cal-

lous deceitfulness, even duplicity. And only belatedly were medicines of doubtful authenticity then called placebos.

Placebos, in this age of statistical certainties, can only be thought of as cunning frauds, as something foisted solely by cynical imposters and fake healers. But might not placebos also be an act of serendipity, a bit of enchantment to hasten the healing process?

The essayist, Henri de Mondeville, once suggested: "Keep up the spirits of your patient ... by forging letters telling of the death of his enemies, or if he be a cleric, by informing him that he has been made a bishop."

Until the day when the art of medicine is converted to a complex technological process of molecular appraisal and computer-driven pharmacological or surgical intervention, let medicine prosper with its modest tools, including the act of conveying quiet assurance - a phenomenon sometimes called the placebo effect.

Stanley M. Aronson, M.D., is dean of medicine emeritus, Brown University. Contact him at smamd@cox.net.

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/Irving Schild

AT THE JUNE 8 Statehouse reception, Rony Yedida displays the T-shirt she received from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, one of several farewell gifts. The T-shirt's Hebrew letters read, "Rhode Island." Providence Mayor David Cicilline is at right.

ISRAELIS

From Page 2

and lieutenant governor coming from different political parties, he feels right at home here. "We leave, but our partnerships stay," he said. "Avi is a force of nature—he never lets anyone forget that Israel is central to all we do." Tamir thanked staff members, Kelly Smith, Adi Golani, Jamie David and Ilana Snapstailer, all of whom attended the event and, along with other staff, will remain at the consulate's office. "My management style is that I choose the best people and stay out of their way," he said. "They make me look good."

Tamir encourage everyone to visit Israel, whether as a first-timer or a returning visitor. "Israel will change your life. It's complex but wonderful. Come on your own or come on a mission."

Before the formal reception ended, the two diplomats received proclamations from the City of Providence, the State of Rhode Island and other gifts from the JFRI, including an autographed PawSox cap and an autographed Providence Bruins cap for Nadav and a Jewish War Veterans' cap for Yedida.

After the formalities, participants gathered in the lobby to enjoy refreshments provided by Accounting for Taste. Offering a Shalom to Tamir and Yedida was made all the more poignant with the presence of a handful of individuals who came to the reception to protest Israel's actions with the Gaza flotilla. Most

of the individuals present chose not to engage with the protesters.

INFLUENCE FELT THROUGHOUT STATE

"Both Nadav and Rony have been influential in the Rhode Island community. Nadav has met with several university and college presidents to discuss building relation-

"We leave, but our partnerships stay."
Nadav Tamir

ships between academic institutions in Rhode Island and Israel, said Marty Cooper, in an interview at the reception. "Nadav has also met with our elected officials and other community and business leaders on issues ranging from foreign policy to building business relationships."

Cooper said, "Rony has met with several Jewish organizations and was a keynote speaker at an Evening of Jewish Renaissance (a Bureau of Jewish Education annual event) and at JFRI's Israel at 60 celebration."

And, although New England has been home to Tamir only for the past few years, he quickly embraced the New England sports' teams and is, said Cooper, and he is delighted to have received autographed caps from two additional New England sports teams – the PawSox and the Bruins – to take back to Israel.

From Page 1

to the federal guidelines, that earns him a sentence of 324 months to 405 months. The judge handed down the former – 27 years – plus another five years probation. Rubashkin also will be required to make nearly \$27 million in restitution.

Convicted of defrauding two banks that had extended lines of credit to the slaughterhouse, Rubashkin contended he was desperate to keep the business afloat and would have repaid the advances if he had the opportunity. Reade assessed the fraud at close to \$27 million.

Rubashkin's lawyers said the 27-year term amounted to a life sentence for the 51-year-old father of 10; they plan to appeal the sentence – on top of an appeal of the conviction.

Defense lawyers dismissed claims that anti-Semitism underpinned the case.

"Nobody responsible has made that allegation," Nathan Lewin, a defense attorney, said.

The lawyers said the "overzealousness" of the prosecution had more to do with the profoundly negative publicity before the May 2008 federal raid on the Agriprocessors plant.

Lewin cited media stories as "defamatory" that described alleged abuses of the immigrants who worked at the Agriprocessors plant, claims that the cattle suffered immensely and opposition from local unions because the shop was not organized.

"This is a man who did a lot more good for the Jewish community than not," Lewin said. "He made kosher meat available for Jews in far-flung places."

RUBASHKIN

Lewin plans to appeal the sentence based on what he described as Reade's adherence to mandatory sentencing guidelines, which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional in 2005.

However, Reade, in her ruling, appeared to say that she treated the guidelines as advisory, which the Supreme Court said was permissible.

Before the sentencing hearing last month, six former U.S. attorneys general and 17 other Justice Department veterans wrote to the judge criticizing prosecutors' recommendation that Rubashkin receive life in prison. They noted the "potential absurdity" in prosecutors using the federal sentencing guidelines to calculate a recommendation of life in prison for Rubashkin, saying the guidelines can produce sentencing ranges that are greater than necessary and "lack any common sentencing wisdom."

Lewin said he would show on appeal that Reade did not apply an "individualized process" in sentencing. She did not address motive, he said, nor consider family issues or sentences for similar crimes.

Reade dismissed motive outright in rejecting defense requests for "downwards adjustment" of the sentence. She acknowledged that the defense presented "substantial" evidence that Rubashkin was not motivated by greed but by "duty to maintain his family business for religious purposes" – i.e., to maintain the supply of kosher meat.

"No matter defendant's motive, he defrauded banks out of millions of dollars," Reade wrote. "He placed his family business' interest above

the victim banks' interest."

Another factor likely to be critical to the appeal of the sentencing is also central to the appeal of the conviction, the lawyers said: The judge allowed allegations of immigration law violations to be introduced both in the trial and sentencing stages, although she had earlier dismissed the immigration charges. Rubashkin was separately acquitted earlier this month of state charges of labor violations related to the alleged employment of immigrant children.

"Here's the fallacy – he was never convicted in any immigration charges," said Guy Cook, another defense attorney.

Bob Teig, a prosecution spokesman, said that the jurors considered the alleged immigration violations only as it pertained to the bank fraud charges. "He knew illegal aliens were being harbored at the plant and he lied about that to the bank," Teig said.

Reade cited the immigration law violations in making the case that Rubashkin knowingly defrauded the bank, but declined a prosecution request to add to the sentence because of the violations. However, the judge might change her mind if she is ordered to re-sentence on appeal.

"In the event the court is required to re-sentence [Rubashkin], it reserves the right to revisit these upward departure provisions to determine whether their application would be appropriate," she wrote.

Bring it on, Lewin said.

"If she's warning us, it's an empty warning," he said. "We're appealing it and we'll get it reversed."



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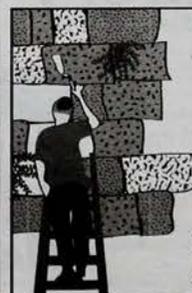
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OBITUARIES

Richard M. Borod, 77

EAST GREENWICH – Richard M. Borod, of East Greenwich, died on June 9 after a brief illness. He was the husband of A. Gail (Cohen) Borod for 50 years. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Esmond and Lena (Levin) Borod.

A 1950 graduate of Hope High School and a 1954 graduate of Brown University, he earned a law degree from Yale University in 1962. A member of Edwards & Angell law firm for 31 years, he was involved with the Legal Aid Society in Rhode Island and was a former Temple Beth-El board member and congregant.

He enjoyed mountain climbing, tennis, biking, running and playing duplicate bridge.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his nieces and nephews, Linda and Joan Wattman, and Howie, Steve, and Stu Cohen. He was the brother of the late Ruth Bromberg and Frances Cohen.

Donations may be made to the East Greenwich Animal Protection League, P.O. Box 184, East Greenwich, RI 02818 or your favorite charity.

Stanley S. Epstein, 61

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. – Stanley S. Epstein, a lifelong resident of New Bedford, Mass., died on June 20, after courageously battling several different kinds of cancer for more than 40 years. He was the son of the late Oscar and Beatrice (Shafer) Epstein, both of New Bedford, Mass.

A 1966 graduate of New Bedford High School and of the University of Pennsylvania, he was a witty and talented writer and entrepreneur of several small businesses, including, at one time, a book-selling business and a resume-writing service. He also taught creative writing. Most recently, he was author of various articles of local interest. He was an avid sports fan and possessed the knowledge of baseball

almost like that of a savant.

He is survived by his close cousins, Lauren Friedman, Dr. Harold Gever and Hank and Linda Glickman, and many friends.

Donations may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute or Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Molly Levine Gross, 91

WARWICK – Molly Levine Gross of Greenwich Farms, Warwick, and formerly of West Hartford, Conn., died on June 6. Born in Ellington, Conn., she was the daughter of Samuel and Annie (Norman) Levine. She was a graduate of the Teachers College of Connecticut.

She was an assistant buyer for the former G. Fox & Co., before working as a teacher, and serving as the director of the Emanuel Synagogue Nursery School for 20 years.

After retiring, she worked for Neighborcare at the Bugbee School, serving local children. She was the president of the Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood for three terms, and co-president of the PTO for three years. She was a Chaya O'Lum award winner and cited as a Teacher of the Year.

She was the wife of the late George Leonard Gross, and the mother of the late Daniel C. Gross, and Sharon Gross Hoffman of East Greenwich and her fiancé, Robert Miles.

She was the grandmother of five, Aaron and Benjamin Hoffman of East Greenwich, and Adam Gross, Emily Bessey and Karen Gross, all of Texas. She leaves two great-grandchildren, Skylar Gross and Dora Bessey of Texas, and many caring friends.

Contributions may be made to Mazon, www.mazon.org.

Miriam Handler, 85

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. – Miriam Handler, a resident of New Bedford, Mass. and North Dartmouth,

Mass. before moving to Lauderdale by the Sea, Fla. in 1973, died at home on June 20.

She was the wife of the late Sheldon Handler. Born in New Bedford, Mass., she was a daughter of the late Isaac and Ann (Winnegrad) Marder.

She is survived by her son Mark Handler, her brother Myron Marder and her grandsons, Sam and Nathan. She was the sister of the late June Barroll.

A graveside service will be held Friday at 1 p.m. in Plainville Cemetery, Old Plainville Rd., in New Bedford, Mass.

Dr. Aaron R. Nemtzw

PAWTUCKET – Dr. Aaron R. Nemtzw, of Pawtucket and Boynton Beach, Fla., died on June 9. He was the husband of Helene (Rottenberg) Nemtzw. Born in Newport in 1921, he was a son of the late Morris and Sadie Nemtzw.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Ted, of East Boston, Mass.; daughter, Tema, and son-in-law, Kraig Steffen, of Bridgeport, Conn.; and daughter, Marci, U.S. Army Ft. Rucker in Alabama. He is also survived by his sister, Shirley, and her husband, Philip Mintz, and

his brother, Irving, and his wife, Esther.

He was a long-time member of Temple Emanu-El, Providence. He received his degree in optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, and also attended Brown University. A vision care specialist for many years with offices in Providence and Newport, he also served a term as the vice president of the Rhode Island Optometric Association. He created artwork using pastels, watercolors and oils.

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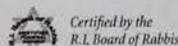
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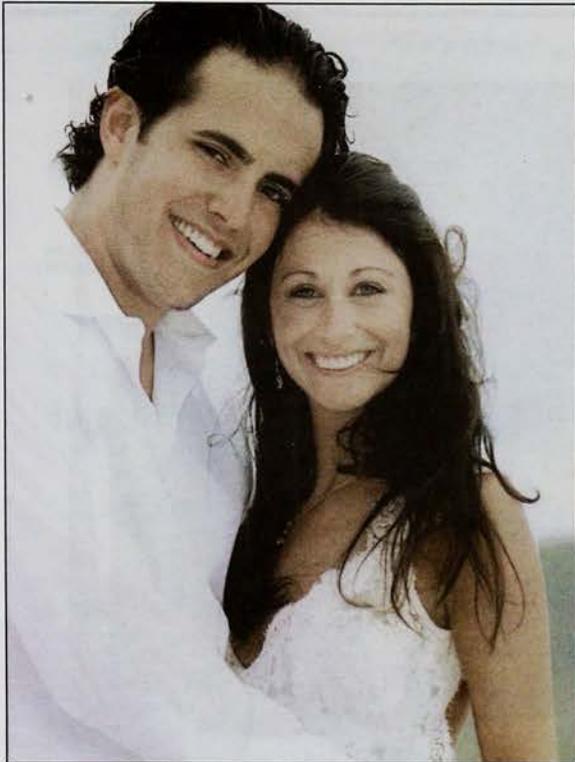


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Weddings



BRADLEY AND ALIZA Gross

Aliza Nicole Sock, the daughter of Gayle and Phillip Sock of Narragansett, and Bradley David Gross, the son of Diane and Michael Gross of Woodbury, N.Y., were married on April 24 at The Ritz Carlton in St. Thomas, the U.S. Virgin Islands. Rabbi Steven Moch officiated.

The bride and groom both received their undergraduate degrees from Arizona State University. Aliza graduated from The Walter Cronkite School of Communications with a degree in communications. Bradley graduated *cum laude* from the Business Honors

College with a degree in finance.

Aliza is employed as the director of sales at Alice and Olivia, a contemporary clothing company.

Bradley is a vice president of Since1910.com, a luxury e-commerce Web site selling fine jewelry and watches.

Aliza is the granddaughter of Leila and Sheldon Sock of Cranston, and the late Eva and Reuben Myers of Providence.

Bradley is the grandson of Helene Gross of Floral Park, N.Y.

The couple, who honeymooned in the Maldives, reside in New York City.



AMANDA AND JEREMY Stein

Josh and Penney Stein of Pawtucket are very happy to announce the June 13 marriage of their son Jeremy to Amanda Ruppenthal of Milwaukee, Wis. Jeremy is the *bazzan*

of Congregation Beth Israel in Glendale, Wis., and Amanda works at the Milwaukee Bureau of Jewish Education and is a clarinetist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

For the father's feelings on the occasion, see his column, "From the Old Olivetti" on page 5 of this issue of *The Voice & Herald*.

We Are Read Where in the world will we go next?



A wedding celebration in Puebla, Mexico

The Voice & Herald made it into the suitcase of Providence resident Marilyn Kagan. She was in Puebla, Mexico to attend a wedding.

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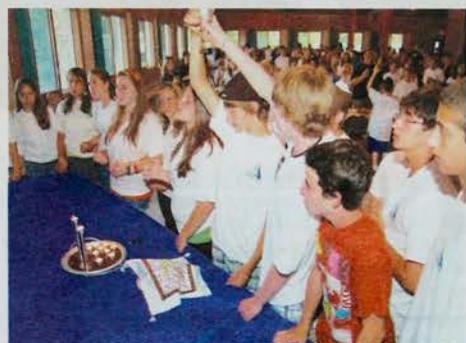
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