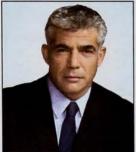
The Jewish Voice Herald

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21 Shevat 5773

February 1, 2013





Yair Lapid

Ruth Calderon

Meet some of Israel's new Knesset members

Wide array of expertise among new politicians

BY BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Last week's Israeli election saw a major shakeup in the country's government, with 53 new members elected to its parliament, the Knesset.

Some already have received wide attention, including Yair Lapid, the middle class-focused chairman of Yesh Atid; Naftali Bennett, the high-tech entrepreneur who chairs the new Jewish Home party; technocrat Yair Shamir, Yisrael Beiteinu's No. 2 and Moshe Feiglin, the nationalist settler with the ruling Likud Party.

Though lesser known, many other new faces in the Knesset are

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NANCY KIRSCH

This sign at Ben Gurion International Airport welcomes visitors and returning Israelis alike to Israel.

Alliance mission to Israel is the trip of a lifetime

Seven-day mission offers an abundance of blessings

By LARRY HERSHOFF Special to The Voice & Herald

TEL AVIV - Why on earth would anyone spend three hours on a bus, three hours in

an airport, 10 hours on an air-

plane, another hour in an airport and one hour on a bus?

Thirty-one intrepid individuals, mostly members of the greater Rhode Island Jewish community, did just that, once at the beginning and again at

the end of the Jan. 20-28 trip. We were rewarded with the trip of a lifetime to *Eretz Yisra'el*.

Numerologists might wonder if it is coincidence that the 18 hours of travel required to

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A "Q-and-A" with R.I. Senator Joshua Miller

Taxes, tikkun olam on the table

By ARTHUR C. NORMAN Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Josh Miller, re-elected to his fourth term as Rhode Island state senator, represents constituents in parts of Cranston and Warwick. A successful restaurateur and longtime community activist, he can often be spotted riding his motor

scooter around town, a testament to his commitment to a cleaner environment.

cleaner environment.

Sen. Miller spoke with The
Jewish Voice & Herald on a
wide range of issues, from balancing the demands of family, career and politics (his
iPhone is key) to the inner
workings of the Rhode Island
Senate to prospects of passage
of proposed legislation. Ex-

cerpts from that conversation follow.

Q: Sen. Miller, you're one of two Jewish senators in the Rhode Island General Assembly, the other being Gayle Goldin. In thinking of two Jewish guiding principles – tikkun olam, repairing the world, and tzedakah, charity – how does your Jewish background inform your acts and duties as a

legislator?

A: When I was first sworn in, in 2007, then-Senate President Joseph Montalbano gave a speech on the first day of the session and used the quote of [the late United States Senator] Hubert Humphrey where [Humphrey] talks of how a society or a country is defined

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RI Sen. Joshua Miller

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Larry Hershoff finds a 'fine Israeli feline' early in the trip.





NANCY KIRSCH

FIRST visit to Israel inspires Alliance officer to write and reflect

From Page 1

reach Israeli soil constitute chai, life.

Things that aren't easy are frequently the most rewarding; and so it was for the first Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island-sponsored mission to Israel, which was blessed by spectacular weather, amazing and bountiful food, a remarkable and awe-inspiring itinerary and an eclectic assortment of personalities

Add to this the best tour guide in Israel, who knows more about the Jewish state than most people know about their hometown, and it's no surprise that this January trip will be remembered by our contingent as a superb way to start this, or any, year.

Cleverly scheduled to leave Rhode Island on Sunday, Jan. 20 – to spare us the pain of Route 95 traffic (and, it turns out,

the agony of the Patriots' loss to the Baltimore Ravens) – our mission started inauspiciously with a bus that would have

"THINGS THAT AREN'T easy are frequently the most rewarding."

been great for Aerosmith, but not for us. Some deft rearrangement by "Chief Logistics Officer" Gail Putnam got us on a more appropriate, larger vehicle, and we were off to JFK Airport. Amazingly, this was the last problem the group experienced during our entire trip.

Future issues of The Jewish Voice & Herald will have stories and photos that will chronicle different aspects of our journey, but to whet readers' appetites, they may include the enterprising manner in which Israelis fooled their enemies, the haunting memories of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem, and heart-rending vignettes from programs that the Alliance supports in Afula, our sister city in Israel.

LARRY HERSHOFF (larrysh@atmc. net) is the current assistant treasurer of the Alliance. This was his first trip to Israel.

January 2012 Mission Participants:

Betty Adler, Janice and Marc Adler, Patricia and Mel Blake, Lisa Dinerman, Susan and Marc Gertsacov, Larry Hershoff, Michael Nulman, Ted Orson, Sherry Royall, Emily Torgan-Shalansky and Steve Shalansky, Alan Sharaf, Barbara Sokoloff and Herbert Rakatansky, Bernice and Howard Stone, Alan Temkin, Richard Wimberly, Esta and David Yavner, Carol and Robert Zurier, Janet and Melvin Zurier, and Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island staff members Michelle Cicchitelli, Nancy Kirsch, Gail Putnam and Jeffrey Savit.

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"The two-state solution is absurd"

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Members of Shir Emanu-El, from Temple Emanu-El, sing "Sim Shalom" with soloist Cantor Dr. Brian J. Mayer, at left, in a dark jacket, and guest conductor Dr. Clarice LaVerne Thompson.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin delivers keynote at 'Singing the Dream'

Providence church holds a musical tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By KENDRA LOLIO Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE -More than two hundred Rhode Islanders gathered at the Beneficent Congregational Church to take part in "Singing the Dream," a musical tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his powerful legacy of equality. Six Rhode Island choirs participated in the Sunday, Jan, 27 musical festivities: the Beneficent Congregational Church Choir, the Central Congregational Church Choir, Kol Kesem HaZamir Providence, the Providence Gay Men's Chorus, RPM Voices of Rhode Island and Shir Emanu-El of Temple Emanu-El.

Designed to help promote equality among all races, religions and sexual ori-entations, the tribute was coordinated by members of Beneficent Congregational Church and leaders from other religious communities, including Rabbi Wayne Franklin of Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, who delivered the evening's key-

The festivities opened with choral pre-sentations, including captivating per-formances by Shir Emanu-El and Kol Kesem HaZamir powerfully representing the Jewish community, led by Temple

Emanu-El's Cantor Dr. Brian J. Mayer and guest conductor Dr. Clarice LaVerne Thompson.

Following the initial choir performances, Rabbi Franklin delivered a positive and inspiring address emphasizing the value and importance of acceptance and equality of all types of people. He began his address by recounting a personal experience during a visit to Texas, where he grew up. "One night, I noticed three teenagers walking down the street, playfully enjoying each other's company. One boy was Asian, one was black and one was white. I was struck by the normalcy of the group, but I was happy to see it," Rabbi Franklin said. "In the '50s and '60s, no such group would have existed, not then," he paused, "and not in Texas." He connected the significance of those three boys with King's dream of a world where racial differences would not be a negative factor in the relationships people build with one another.

Rabbi Franklin referenced one of his favorite quotes in the Book of Exodus, when Moses said to Pharaoh, "With our young and our old we will go, with our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord."

The rabbi stated that, just as Moses refused to leave anybody behind, so must we, as God's people, include everyone in our endeavors and not discriminate against one another because of our differences. We should, instead, embrace these differences and consider them blessings bestowed upon us as gifts from God.

"Dr. King taught us many lessons," said Rabbi Franklin. "One of the primary lessons he conveyed is that we are a healthier, stronger and moral society when we include everyone among us equally." Noting that King dreamed of an America which values and unites all citizens, the rabbi said that the words "created equal" have acquired richer meaning. "And every person who is created should be able to say, 'The world was created for my sake.'"

After additional performances by the six choirs, the event ended with everyone in the congregation joining hands as they sang "We Shall Overcome.

KENDRA LOLIO (klolio_8996@email. ric.edu), a senior at Rhode Island College, is an intern this semester with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

The Jewish Voice Herald

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Nancy Kirsch • nkirsch@shalomri.org 421-4111, ext. 168

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Leah Camara • Icamara@shalomri.org

ADVERTISING

Tricia Stearly • tstearly@shalomri.org 441-1865 or 421-4111, ext. 160 Karen Borger - ksborger@gmail.com

COLUMNISTS

Dr. Stanley Aronson, Michael Fink, Tema Gouse, m Lehman-Wilzig, Alison Stern Perez and Rabbi James Rosenberg

EDITORIAL BOARD

Toby London, chair; John Landry, vice chair; Susan Leach DeBlasio, (Alliance vice chair); M. Charles Bakst, Brian Evans, Jonathan Friesem, Rabbi Andrea Gouze, Steve Jacobson, Eleanor Lewis, Richard Shein, Jonathan Stanzler, Susan Youngwood and Faye Zuckerman

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Judith Romney Wegner Arthur C. Norman

CALENDAR COORDINATOR Toby London

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Nancy Abeshaus, Philip Eil

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Team steps in for absent editor

Worrying ... an exercise in futility

By NANCY KIRSCH nkirsch@shalomri.org

hen my children were younger and I traveled W alone for business or pleasure, I sometimes worried what might happen when our baby-sitter was off-duty and my husband was "in charge."



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

NANCY KIRSCH

Would the kids get bedtime stories? Would they get delivered to the birthday parties, the soccer games and other commitments carefully memorialized in my brain and, occasionally, on the kitchen bulletin board? Don't get me wrong; my husband is a wonderful father, but when he left town for work or play, he didn't look back. On the other hand, when I traveled, my detailed instructions were the norm.

So, it's little wonder that I worried about my "work baby" - this newspaper - both before and during my trip to Israel. For those who may not know, I was blessed to be one of four Alliance staff members who participated in the recent mis-

sion to Israel - one that I will write about often in future issues of the paper.

As executive editor, I wear many hats here: the only staff member who writes and edits; the supervisor of staff, interns and volunteers; the individual ultimately responsible to the Alliance and our readers to ensure that a high-quality paper comes out on time and on budget. Given that such a task can be challenging even when I am in town and at work every day (That's why they call it work, Nancy!) and my inherent tendency to worry, it may surprise no one that I worried about my "work baby" during this exceptional and extraordinary trip!

Before the trip, I tried to anticipate every problem that might arise so I could develop strategies to fend each one off. During the trip, I tried to stay in touch via email to see how I could help. Neither approach was especially valuable. The first was an exercise in futility, as it's impossible to predict all the glitches that might happen in the course of a newspaper's production. The latter – trying to help remotely – was neither productive nor necessary. Given the seven-hour time difference and spotty Internet service, my "helpful" emails were neither timely nor helpful.

So, where's the good news in all this? There's excellent news, in fact. It's not that my worrying helped ensure that we produced a high-quality newspaper on time and on budget, even while I was away for most of

Our team - Karen Borger, Leah Camara and Tricia Stearly - did the work they always do, without me there to worry or wonder. And our volunteers Arthur Norman and Susan Youngwood, who graciously agreed to serve in my stead, were the team who wrote and edited

stories and fielded emails and telephone calls.

Did the paper come out? Yes. Did I needlessly worry? Yes. Will this experience cure me of my worrying nature? Perhaps, but knowing myself as well as I do, it's not likely. After all, aren't Jews genetically programmed to worry? In any case, I am grateful for the experience to visit Israel again after a too-long hiatus between trips, and grateful to be back home, where chores await me!

Who was Cleopatra?

The inscrutable, unknowable queen of Egypt

ollowing World War II, the Army brass assigned my older cousin Larry the task of overseeing all the PXs (military stores) in Western Europe. As a result of this position, he came to meet a number of U.S. celebrities - among them the popular comedian, Jack Benny, who had crossed the Atlantic to entertain the troops. Before returning to the States, Benny asked my cousin if he could do him any favors once he returned to New York City.

IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG Larry asked him to call his mother, Berg, who lived in the Bronx.

A few days later. my Aunt Ann was ting in her Bronx apartment when the phone rang. Pick ing up the receiver, my aunt heard a man's voice:

"Hello, this is Jack Benny." To which she replied, "And

I'm Cleopatra!"

Clearly, my Aunt Ann was no Cleopatra; nor was Elizabeth Taylor, who starred in the 1963 film classic along with Rex Harrison as Julius Caesar and Richard Burton as Mark Ant-ony. Although Shakespeare comes close to capturing the complexity of the character of the Egyptian queen, he drew his material almost entirely from the Greek historian Plutarch (46-120 C.E.), who shared the Greek bias that Cleopa tra was essentially a very wealthy

In her Pulitzer Prize-winning "Cleopatra: A Life" (Little, Brown and Company, 2010), Stacy Schiff tries to uncover the woman behind the veils of legend and historical prejudice. Most writers on the subject agree with these essential facts concerning the life of Cleopatra VII: She was born in 69 B.C.E. and became queen of Egypt in 51 B.C.E. at age 18. To solidify her political power, she saw to the murder of her three siblings. She continued to rule until 30 B.C.E., when she committed suicide rather than be taken captive by the Roman Triumvir Octavian.

Cleopatra was the mother of four children: Caesarion, fathered by Julius Caesar, and twins Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene, as well as Ptolemy Philadelphus, all fathered by Mark Antony.

Where Schiff seeks to break

new ground is in her attempt to clarify the many dimensions of Cleopatra's leadership and the nature of her relationships with both Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. Schiff works hard to puncture the myths perpetuated by the classical Greek and Latin writers, who defamed Cleopatra as a woman "so frivolous so wanton so ready to enchant a man that she

magistrate, high priest, queen, and goddess. She was also ... executive officer. She headed both the secular and the religious bureaucracies. She was Egypt's merchant in chief."

To emphasize the burden of all her responsibilities, Cleopatra declared herself in 37 B.C.E. "Queen Cleopatra, the Goddess, the Younger, Father-Loving and Fatherland-Loving"; by that year, "she had nearly reconstituted the Ptolemaic Empire in its third-cen-

tury glory."

At the core of Cleopatra's per-sonality, from Schiff's perspec-tive, was her multifaceted role as queen of Egypt. Even in her most intimate relations with Julius Caesar and then Mark Antony, matters of state could never have been far from her mind and her heart. Peering into the darkness of events that unfolded more than 2,000 years ago, we cannot know what motivated Cleopatra to enter into sexual relationships with two of the most powerful Romans of all time, both of them married men. However, it does seem to me that Schiff's unromantic - even anti-romantic - view of Cleopatra's "involvements" with both Caesar and Antony is essentially on target; that is to say, for Cleopatra, Egypt always

came first. Schiff points out in passing that, for the Jews of Alexandria, Cleopatra's rule was something of a "Golden Age." Dur-

ing her reign, the Jewish Quarter in the northeastern section of the city constituted about one-third of its very large population. Schiff's descriptions of Alexandria in the first century B.C.E. present a vivid picture of the city that housed the most significant diaspora Jewish commu-nity in the Hellenistic world.

The front cover of Schiff's book depicts a head-and-shoulders portrait of Cleopatra with her face turned from the viewer. While the author has offered us a more balanced, more complete, picture of Cleopatra than we have had before, the book's cover suggests that there is much about the queen of Egypt that will forever remain

As Schiff states on the very last page, "She remains largely incom-

ROSENBERG (rabbiemeritus@templehabonim. org) is rabbi emeritus of Temple Habonim in Barrington.



"SHE REMAINS LARGELY incomparable."

would pluck a pearl from her lobe, dissolve it in vinegar, and swallow it, to beguile a man with magic

In contrast to the Roman perception of the queen of Egypt as "a courtesan with means," Schiff portrays her as a woman with extraordinary gifts - intelligent, well educated, fluent in several languages - including Hebrew! politically savvy, fiercely competitive; she was a remarkable administrator - in short, the CEO to end all CEOs. "Cleopatra's responsi-bilities very nearly rivaled those of [the goddess] Isis ... She was

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Jewish Voice & Herald is to communicate Jewish news, ideas and ideals by connecting and giving voice to the diverse views of the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, while adhering to Jewish values and the professional standards of journalism.

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

The Jewish Voice & Herald publishes thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds of 500 - 800 words) and letters to the editor (250 words, maximum) on issues of interest to our Jewish community. At our discretion, we may edit pieces for publication or refuse publication. Letters and columns, whether from our regular contributors or from guest columnists, represent the views of the authors; they do not represent the views of The Jewish Voice & Herald or the Alliance.

Send letters and op-eds to nkirsch@shalomri.org or Nancy Kirsch, The Voice & Herald, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Include name, city of residence and (not for publication) a contact phone number or email.

Jumping off the platform

New campaining ad new alliances in Israel

The Israeli election results of 2013 might well prove to be a watershed – but not in the way that anyone expected (or hoped).

pected (or hoped).

The overall balance between
Israel's "right" and "left" didn't
change very much, although it

is now clear that "center" has to be added to the mix. Yair Lapid's victory with the Yesh Atid party that he established will not automatically revive peace talks with the Palestinians, for two reasons. First, he is not a "leftist"; second, the peace process is quite far down on his list of national priorities. So don't expect any quick or significant movement on that front.

What, then, did change in this election? To understand the answer, one has to return to Israel's campaign history. From 1949 (the country's first election campaign), until and through the elections of 1992, elections were marked by fierce ideological debates of substance socialism vs. free market; peace with our neighbors vs. greater Israel; Ashkenazi dominance or inclusion of "Second Israel" (Jews from Arab countries who immigrated after the State's es-

tablishment) and the degree to which religion and state should be combined.

Then in 1996, the young, brash, U.S.-educated Benjamin Netanyahu entered the fray, bringing sophisticated, professional "political marketing"

into Israel's heretofore tra-ditional election campaigns. this However. was no mere whim - it madé eminent sense, given two new phenomena on the Israeli scene. First, dielections rect for the prime minister, in addition to the usual party-list

ballot. Second, commercial television was introduced after decades of **public** Channel One monopoly. The personalization of Israeli campaigning had begun, increasing and broadening with every subsequent campaign (Ehud Barak the decorated war hero and Ariel Sharon, ditto; etc).

OF | IN ISRAEL

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG

What happened in 2013? In the Likud/Yisrael Beitenu campaign, no one other than Netanyahu appeared on its TV and outdoor election propaganda (Avigdor Lieberman "disappeared" from view after his indictment by Israel's state attorney general)

It was as if the electorate wasn't choosing a party but rather a "chief" with unknown soldiers behind him. Even more amazing, the party did not even publish a political platform! This would have been unthinkable in the days of David Ben-

"THE ELECTORATE WAS ... choosing a 'chief' with unknown soldiers behind him."

Gurion and Menachem Begin – after all, Zionist political parties and their supporters cared deeply for something, even if they were deeply divided on precisely what that "something" was. Not even the "two states for two peoples" policy that Netanyahu announced in

his famous 2009 Bar-Ilan University speech was mentioned during this campaign. When the party spokesman was asked if the Likud still adhered to his proclamation, the response was, "The Likud includes a diversity of opinions..."

As a result of Likud's "pareve" stance on issues and over-reliance on its leader, the list crashed – from 42 seats in the outgoing Knesset (both parties separately) to a mere 31 for the unified list in 2013.

And the clear winners? Yesh Atid (19 seats) and Ha'Bayit Ha'Yehudi (12). On the face of it, these might seem to be new versions of the hyper-personalization syndrome, with both Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett, respectively, very attractive – even charismatic – party leaders. But that isn't what did the trick for them; rather, they had a laser-like focus on their core issues. Lapid's party emphasized the need to draft haredim into the army, to change the election system, and to lower the economic burden on the middle class; Bennett's party also stressed the army draft issue, as well as no compromising on the settlements issue.

Moreover, their election campaigns highlighted the heterogeneity of their party list candidates: religious and secular (in the past, one never found secular candidates on a religious party list as is now the case with Bayit Yehudi; conversely, a rabbi was number 2 in Lapid's secular party list); a good number of women in both and other impressive types of socio-demographic diversity. In short, these two parties' candidates as well as their clearly stakedout ideological positions made them stand out – and they were rewarded by the voters.

In the 1984 Democratic presidential primaries, Vice President Walter Mondale devastated U.S. Senator Gary Hart's campaign with the famous line, "Where's the beef?" In 2013, Netanyahu "lost" the election because he refused to provide any beef to the Israeli electorate, something that Lapid and Bennett were very eager to do. From the standpoint of political "marketing" in Israel, this could well augur in the future a return to substance at the expense of style and personality.

PROF. SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG (profslw.com), deputy director of School of Communications at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, is now a visiting professor at the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies, University of Maryland.

The land of Israel belongs to the children of Israel

Taking issue with Rabbi James Rosenberg's columns

BY ANNE SCHWARTZ Special to The Voice & Herald

Rabbi James Rosenberg's columns (in the Dec. 7 and Dec. 21 issues) evoke both sadness and outrage. Rabi Rosenberg extols the Obama presidency, while rebuking the reaction of Prime Minister Netanyahu's response to the U.N. resolution, accepting non-member observer status to the Palestinian Authority and repudiates legitimate settlements.

The U.N. resolution clearly violates the Oslo Accords, which embrace direct negotiations and foster peaceful coexistence with secure defensible borders. Obama's hostile petulant "pique" is revealed when he deliberately snubbed crucial meetings with Netanyahu, (labeling them "inappropriate"), bypassed a trip to Israel after concluding a Cairo conference and condemns settlements.

Legally, historically, morally, the land of Israel belongs to the children of Israel, not to blood-thirsty, implacable, uncompromising radical terrorists under the reign of Hezbollah, Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, Iran, et al. Rabbi Rosenberg would do well to insightfully read the Hamas Charter, an oppressive

doctrine that promotes terrorism.

Here is an excerpt: "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors."

The founding documents of Fatah, the PLO and Hezbollah also declare that their mission is the total destruction of Israel. After the Israeli army withdrew from Gush Katif (Gaza area), Israel was answered with the relentless rain of rockets.

Until Quassam rockets stop firing into Israeli schools, nurseries, homes, hospitals and population centers, there will never be peace. Until the fanatic Muslim world renounces terrorism against Israel, there will never be peace. Until world anti-Semitism is eradicated, there will never be peace. Until the P.A. stops teaching three-year-old bullet-belted kids "Hitlerian" hatred, there will never be peace.

The fanatic Muslim world knows, like Adolph Hitler, it can get away with murdering Jews, using the historical, racist weapon of anti-Semitism; they are the many and Israel To quote the French philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre: "It's so easy to be an anti-Semite."

During Bibi Netanyahu's most recent address to the U.S. Congress, he received a standing ovation for his moral clarity.

ity.

In the words of Nancy Falchuk, Hadassah Medical Organization's 24th national president, after presenting Benjamin Netanyahu with a lifetime award: "Rarely in history has one person's life so embodied the values, the intelligence of the Jewish people."

To paraphrase Col. Richard Kemp, commander of British forces in Afghanistan, "In the history of warfare, the Israel Defense Force is the only army who painstakingly strives to avoid willian geaveties".

avoid civilian casualties."
In direct contrast, radical Hamas/Hezbollah brutally place human shields while engaged in their initiated warfare upon Israel. It is heartening to know that good people and organizations share my values, empathize and support Israel's struggle for true justice and

"Living side-by-side in peace" has but one meaning: If two peoples revere the same land, the children of Israel, both Muslim and Jewish, have the moral right to dwell in Samaria, Judea and the entire State of Israel in peace and security, but not as radical Hezbollah/Hamas dictates: "to make Palestine Judenrein (free of Jews)," which is a true example of racist, radical, Islamic apartheid.

God bless the tiny state of Isra-

el imbued with intrepid courage and miraculous achievements. We truly stand with Israel!

ANNE SCHWARTZ, of Providence (anneschwrtz@aol.com) has grandchildren and greatgrandchildren who are sabras in Israel

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Errata:

The Jan. 18 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald incorrectly identified the proposed purchase price of the *rimonim*, finial bells, as \$4.7 million. In fact, the proposed correct price, as noted in the Jan. 4 issue. is \$7.4 million.

Nowhere to go and nowhere to stay: Part 2

Utterly lost between two worlds

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a two-part series about Alison's experience in Southern Israel during Operation Pillar of Defense in

o there we sat, in our little Scell, scared to move and scared not to move ...

Then we got a call from friends in Arad, a small city 30 miles east of Be'er Sheva,

ALISON ON ALIYAH REDUX

ALISON STERN PEREZ



offering to host us. Because the route to Arad involved only 10 minutes of unprotected driving within rocket range, we jumped at the offer. We gathered our strength, promised the kids we would be out of danger soon and ran to the car for our second escape attempt.

The drive was tense and scary. No one spoke, all of us straining our ears for the siren sound. Upon reaching the city limits, we breathed a collective sigh of relief and the atmosphere in the car shifted palpably. We turned on music and the kids promptly fell asleep. Then Michael and I started to discuss what in the world we were going to do.

We spent three days recuperating with our friends in Arad. The kids played, but were constantly on edge and seeking reassurance. Amit, 21/2-years-old, reminded me hourly what to do if a siren sounded. Michael and

I were glued to the news and the Tzeva Adom ("Code Red") iPhone app, which incessantly warned of sirens across the country.

Our every waking moment was filled with speculation about the current operation. Would it really last three weeks, as the news was predict-Would the rockets reach Tel Aviv? Was this just a front something bigger; could

this turn into a serious region-wide war? By the time I saw "Code Red in Jerusalem" on my phone and heard that 75,000 reservists were being called up (10 times the number during the 2008-09 Operation Cast Lead), just as our friends told us the house would no longer be available to us in two days, we

realized tough decisions were at hand.

Michael and I deliberated relentlessly. What would our friends think if we left? What would our kids do if we stayed? Our respective families in Paris and Seattle were urging us to get out; our hearts were telling us to stay; our guts were entirely tied up in knots.

When we begged my surrogate father in Haifa for guidance, his response lanced my heart in two: "You need to de-cide now whether you want to be an American who is hanging out in Israel or an Israeli who just happens to have an American passport."

Torn between our instinct to protect our kids and our desire to be in and with our homeland in her time of need, we were lost. And most of all, solidarity or not, we had nowhere to go in Israel that felt truly safe.

So with heavy hearts and exhausted bodies, we booked our flights. arriving bedraggled and shell-shocked at my mother's home in Seattle. We looked and felt like war refugees, and were. For the next two weeks. the kids didn't sleep for more than two hours at a time, and roundly refused to sleep at all if they weren't in our arms. Amit continued to talk incessantly about sirens and didn't seem to believe our assurances that Seattle was safe. Ambu-

> "WE HAD **NOWHERE** to go in Israel that felt truly safe."

lance sirens made us all jump; when the house alarm went off accidentally, Assaf, jumped in fright and cried inconsolably for 20 minutes

Michael and I had hoped that getting away from it all" would be healing for all of us, but we were terribly wrong. We both felt like traitors and deserters, and the kids were so out-ofsorts that I wondered if they would have preferred the sirens if it meant they could stay in their home.

Worst of all, no one around is seemed to understand us. While we were traumatized and hollow-eyed, they were going through their lives totally normally. We felt like we had va-

cated our lives completely; my family and friends had no idea what we were going through and, even worse, didn't seem to want to know. We were in a parallel universe; our friends back home were terrified and stuck at home suffering through hourly rockets, while we, in Seattle, were being chastised for not being "up" to attending family Thanksgiving dinner. Everywhere we went, we Christmas decorations, and Amit quickly memorized "Jingle Bells." Sirens or not, this was simply not where we needed to be.

Since making aliyah, I have always felt that I live between two worlds, but this was the first time that I felt utterly lost in both. I lacked the courage and resilience to stay in my homeland when "the going got rough," and, although I justified our decision to leave with talk about the kids' wellbeing, I felt like a coward. But just a few days in Seattle had made it abundantly clear that I didn't belong there, either. While Michael and I have no close family in Israel, we have friends who have offered their homes. themselves and their unwavering support at almost every turn. In Seattle, where my entire nuclear and extended family is, the kind of support we had grown accustomed to was decidedly absent.

Ultimately, I made the decision that I felt was best for my children at the time. I am indeed American, and Israeli, a mother, and a wife, and a psychologist, among other things. I had to weigh all the options and outcomes, along with the knowledge that my family's American passports afford us an opportunity that most Israelis are not fortunate enough to

I thought about some of my friends, who told us that they would do anything to get their kids out of danger, but had nowhere to go. I thought about my own kids, who were so traumatized by the events at hand that they might grow up in Israel only to flee as soon as they are able. And I realized that this time, while they are so young and so impressionable, I would make the choice to shield them from this trauma, in hopes that I could bring these two sabras back to Israel after this war, stronger and more resilient and more capable of staying the next time.

But what Michael and I learned through this experience is that we truly have nowhere to go. And so, the only thing left to do is stay. Stay in Israel and finally, fully internalize that my American citizenship defines me no longer, and his European citizenship only provides us with an occasional vacation destination.

Stay in Be'er Sheva and continue to grow our support sys-tem so that next time, we will have people with us; build a real home so that we will have a safe place of our own; and nourish and grow our own family so that we will have strong roots here and reason to keep them that way. We know that there will, indeed, be a "next time," but we will be ready, and we won't be going anywhere.

ALISON STERN PEREZ

(alisonsternperez@gmail. com or alisonsterngolub.com) is a native of Seattle, is a 2000 Brown University graduate.

Politicians from both parties, Jewish leaders oppose Hagel nomination in RJC

Is President Obama's nomination of Hegel threatening for cooperative U.S.-Israeli relations?

(JointMedia News Service/ JNS) - Politicians from both sides of the aisle, as well as Jewish leaders, criticize President Barack Obama's nomination of Chuck Hagel, a former U.S. Republican Senator from Nebraska, for Secretary of Defense in a new video advertisement released Jan. 24 by the Republican Jewish Coalition. "It seems that there is some

kind of an endemic hostility toward Israel, and I think in the sensitive post of Secretary of Defense, those are warning bells, those are red lights," U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) said in the ad, which asks viewers to contact their U.S. senators and request that they vote against

Hagel's confirmation.

Recently retired U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (Independent-CT) notes that Hagel has consistently been against sey Graham (R-SC), and Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center are among the other Hagel critics featured

"IT SEEMS THAT there is some kind of an endemic hostility toward Israel..."

economic sanctions to try to change the radical regime in

The Washington Post editoral board, U.S. Senator Lind-

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Director Abe Foxman said, "The sentiments [Hagel has] expressed about the 'Jewish lobby' bor-

der on anti-Semi-

In 2008, Hagel took a direct shot at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, telling former Middle East negotiator Aaron David Miller in a quote that appeared

tism."

in Miller's book. "The Much Too Promised Land," that "the Jewish lobby intimidates a lot of people" in Washington. "Chuck Hagel's record on

Israel, on Iran, and on other vital defense issues is cause for real concern," RJC Executive Director Matt Brooks said in a press release. "President Obama's choice of Chuck Hagel for Secretary of Defense signals a weakening commitment by the President toward Israel in his second term. We strongly oppose this nomination and we urge members of the Senate to do the same."



Former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel

IF WE DON'T TEACH OUR CHILDREN WHO THEY ARE

OTHERS WILL

As they grow up, young Jews will face challenges to their beliefs and identity. From the pride of a preschooler learning his first Hebrew words to the confidence of a college student prepared to grapple with anti-Israel sentiment on campus, we're strengthening Jewish identity and inspiring a life-long connection to Jewish values. We need your help.

Support the 2013 Alliance Annual Campaign. Visit www.shalomri.org today.

The strength of a people. The power of community.



Women's Alliance Endowment Fund celebrates its second decade

Fund supports women and children in need locally and internationally

BY TRINE LUSTIG Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - The Women's Alliance Endowment Fund, comprised of almost 100 members, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Founded in 1993 by Gloria Feibish, Selma Stanzler and Janet Zurier, the WAEF was created to engage members in a more hands-on process that would support programs and services that interested Jewish women.

'It has been rewarding to see how the fund has grown over the years," said Stanzler, "and how seriously the members take the selection process. The WAEF has resonated deeply in the community."

Among the nine grants that were funded by the WAEF last year was an Empowerment and Leadership Program for abused women run by ELI, the Israel Association for Child Protection. Nelli is one of the 30 women selected to participate; ELI shares her story with entities that fund their programs

ELI tells Nelli's story

Nelli, 35, the child of a prostitute and a drug addict, was raised in a slum. At age 9, she was removed from her home and taken to a foster family where she was sexually abused and locked in a room for years. At age 12, she was returned to her mother; at 15, she was raped by one of her mother's clients. At 18, Nelli married; unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the abuse continued as her husband beat her. She and her husband had three children. Nelli tried her best to be a good mother and give her

PHOTO COURTESY OF SELMA STANZLER

Janet Zurier, seated from left, Judy Mann, Selma Stanzler, Gloria Feibish; and Carol Brooklyn, standing from left, Maxine Marks, Gladys Kapstein, Alice Goldstein and Esther Resnik. Some of these women are members of the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund.

children a better future. But four years ago, her mother's boyfriend molested one of her children.

Upon learning of her son's abuse, she initially chose to ignore him, as he represented her painful childhood; eventually, she became violent toward her children. At this point, Nelli decided she needed help and turned to ELI for assistance. ELI immediately recognized that Nelli was capable of doing better and brought her to its Safe House, where Nelli received therapy, guidance and instruction on parenting; there, she learned to read.

This intensive combination of treatment and support allowed Nelli to provide a safer, healthier home for her chil-dren. Last year she entered the brand new Empowerment Leadership Program, which offers women a two-year program of therapy, esteembuilding activities, building life skills, peer- and career-counseling and volunteering.

The ultimate goal is to teach these women to be confident and self-reliant and live meaningful lives

Nelli is thriving in the program; she received a scholarship from the Ministry of Labor, which allowed her to enroll in a professional training course for hairdressers. After she graduates, she intends to

open a hairdresser's salon in her apartment, which would allow her to earn some money and still care for her children. Not only has she been able to break a three-generation cycle of abuse, she has found new value in her life.

Local support available
The WAEF also funded a child behavior management workshop led by Jewish Family Service for single mothers. The program is designed to help parents learn to improve communication with children, discipline effectively and reduce yelling and power struggles at home.

JFS' Meghan Cavanaugh,

LICSW, who facilitated the workshop, said, "These single mothers have lost custody of their children for a period of time and are now being reunified. It is a difficult transitional time, and we help empower

> "THE WOMEN'S **ALLIANCE**

Endowment Fundl has resonated deeply in the community."...

them by teaching them better parenting skills."

These women, like Nelli, often come from families of abuse and are trying to break the intergenerational cycle of neglect and despair.

"I was struck by how eager these mothers are to learn and how invested they are in their children's future," said Cavanaugh. "They want to keep their family together.'

TRINE LUSTIG (421-4111 or trinelustig@comcast.net) is senior development officer for the Alliance.

Women's Alliance Endowment Fund invites grant applications

Fund seeks to support innovative programs for Jewish women and girls

By TRINE LUSTIG Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - The Wom-en's Alliance Endowment Fund (WAEF) of the Jewish **Federation Foundation invites** grant proposals for the up-coming fiscal year, July 2013 - June 1014.

"We are particularly interested in programs that focus on Jewish women and girls," said Deborah Skolnick Ein-horn, WAEF co-chair. "This year, we will be more proactive about connecting with grant applicants to make sure

the programs fit our core mis-

The WAEF has approximately \$5,500 to distribute in grants this year. Since 1997, it has distributed nearly \$58,000 in grants locally and in Israel to a wide array of programs and service providers.

Past grants have enabled the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island to train its staff members in Responsive Classroom Technique and the Haifa Rape Crisis Center to establish and run a support

WAEF members, nearly 100 at present, are entitled to par-ticipate in the annual allocations process. WAEF membership requires a minimum contribution of \$1,000, payable over three years

"We hope more women will join the WAEF this year so we can have an even greater impact," said Barbara Feldstein, WAEF co-chair. "Every year as the fund grows, we are able to allocate more funds."

WAEF's request for proposals will be sent to area synagogues, agencies and organizations; grant requests must be received by Friday, March 15. Grant recipients will be notified in May 2013.

MORE INFORMA-TION about WAEF grants or to become a WAEF member, contact Trine Lustig (421-4111 or trinelustig@comcast.net), senior development officer for the Alliance.



DANIELLE GERMANOWSKI

Barbara Feldstein, left, and Deborah Skolnick Einhorn are WAEF co-chairs



Daniel Barenboim



Miko Peled and Izzeldin Abuelaish

PHOTOS | SUSAN YOUNGWOOD

Giving peace a chance

Weeklong residency at Brown examines Middle East conflict

By Susan Youngwood Special to the Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Examining the conflict in the Middle East was front and center in Providence last week, thanks to a weeklong residency of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at Brown University.

The orchestra, founded in 1999 by Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian-born literary scholar Edward Said, brings together musicians from Israel, Palestine and other Middle Eastern nations to perform music and promote reflection and mutual understanding. This is its second visit to Providence.

Events included two concerts

Events included two concerts at Veterans Memorial Auditorium open to the community, two campus discussions about the Middle East conflict and a performance by Najla Said, Said's daughter

"Since their first visit to Brown in 2006, Brown students and faculty have supported and participated in numerous programs of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and their satellite educational programs, traveling to such places as Berlin, Seville, Nazareth and Ramallah," Michael Steinberg, director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities, which is sponsoring the events, said in a press release. "We are thrilled to welcome the full ensemble and Maestro Barenboim back to Brown and to Providence for a week of music and discussion, listening and learning."

Brown hosted "Dissonance and Harmony: A Conversation," a discussion about the peace process, on Thursday, Jan. 24. Speakers Izzeldin Abuelaish, founder of The Daughters for Life Foundation and author of "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity," and Miko Peled, peace activist and author of "The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Pales-

tine," gave their perspectives on the conflict.

Both speakers were optimistic about the future of the peace process

"Peace is not only possible but inevitable in our lifetime," said Peled.
"This conflict can be defeat-

"This conflict can be defeat ed," concurred Abuelaish.

Peled is very critical of the Israeli government, saying that, "For Israelis, my presentation is very hard to hear." He describes Israel as the aggressor, accusing the Israeli government of operating a "systematic campaign of terrorism and ethnic cleansing." Dozens of laws discriminate against Israeli Arabs, a situation Peled feels is intolerable.

"I do blame and accuse the Israeli government for this mess," Peled said, pointing to Palestinians living in poverty, barred from their own homes. The Israeli government is not really interested in a peaceful solution, he said.

"The two-state solution is absurd," Peled said. It is a solution that Israel will never accept, Peled said, because its goals are to reclaim land and turn it all into a Jewish state. Its goal is the "de-Arabizing" of the land, he said.

Peled's answer: To dismantle the current Israeli state entirely. "It's not a democracy. Not everyone is equal under the law," he said. "We need to put our efforts into creating a real democracy and give everyone equal rights."

Abuelaish, born and raised in Palestinian refugee camps, accomplished his dream of becoming a doctor only to see his world crash around him in 2008 and 2009. His wife died of an illness in 2008 and, in 2009, three of his daughters were killed in an Israeli attack, his home shelled.

"There is nothing they did," he said.

Abuelaish decided to turn this tragedy into something positive.

"To meet violence with violence doesn't solve any problems," he said. "I may have the right to hate. But we are human. We have choices. If I want to bring my daughters justice, I shall not hate."

And so he devotes his energy to his foundation, which advances the education and health of girls and women in the Middle East.

the Middle East.

"Peace is not a word, it is a way of life," he said. "It is time to wake up and see peace as action."

Barenboim thanked the two speakers for their perspectives.

"It is the human side of your story that leaves us openmouthed on how you can keep living," he said.

Both Jews and Palestinians have been victimized, Barenboim said. "For good, for bad, we are blessed or cursed to live side by side," he said. "We cannot live back to back."

Barenboim stressed the importance of using music as a way to break down walls and increase understanding. Music needs to be more than an es-

cape, a way to heal or forget. He told of a concert the orchestra recently played in Gaza; afterwards a listener thanked him.

"We in Gaza think the world has forgotten us," said this Palestinian. That concert, that music, is a signal that, "You remind us that we are human beings."

SUSAN YOUNGWOOD

(susanyoungwood@gmail.com) is an editorial board member of The Jewish Voice & Herald.

AService Celebration & Thanksgiving

Professor Joshua Stein

Please join President Donald Farish and members of the Stein Family

Sunday, February 10, 2013 2:00 p.m.

Global Heritage Hall Atrium Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I.

This service will celebrate the life and work of Professor Joshua Stein, who passed away on September 8, 2012. Professor Stein served in the Roger Williams University History Department for forty-three years. The service will be an opportunity to honor and remember a beloved colleague, professor and friend. All are invited.

For more information call Eileen Graham 401.254.3404 or email egraham@rwu.edu

Roger Williams University One Old Ferry Road Bristol, Rhode Island 02809 www.rwu.edu

CALENDAR

Ongoing

Through March 7

Art Show at Gallery (401). "Fun Guys: Exploring Jewish Stereotypes" by Leslie Friedman. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Erin Moseley 421-4111. ext. 108 or emoseley@shalomri.

Ongoing

Living with Integrity: Navigating Everyday

Ethical Dilemmas. My Jewish Learnin course provides tools to make the right decision and enhance interaction with family and friends. \$60. 884-7888 or www.myJLl.com. Mondays, 7:30 - 9 p.m., at Chabad of West Bay, in Warwick; Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Tamarisk Assisted Living, in Warwick: Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Gilstein, Kinder & Levin, in Warwick; Fridays, 12:30 - 2 p.m., Feinstein & Gabrilowitz, in Cranston; Wednesdays, 8 - 9 a.m., Partridge Snow and Hahn in Providence; Thursdays, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Eliot Rose, in Cranston.

Friday | Feb. 1

Shabbat Alive/Shabbat Chai Service.

Interactive Shabbat service combines musical instruments with traditional and new melodies. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 5:45 p.m. - Pre-oneg; 6 p.m. - service followed by dinner.

Saturday | Feb. 2

2nd Annual Adults-Only Winter Bash.

Appetizers, cocktails and dancing. Congregation Agudas Achim Social Hall, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass. 7 - 10 p.m. \$20. Bruce Ganek at 658-1640 or bganek@gmail.com.

Sunday | Feb. 3

PJ Library in South County. Congregation Beth David and South County Hebrew School partner with PJ Library. Toddlers (2-4) and their families enjoy a special book. Center, 375 Kingstown Rd., Narragansett. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Stephanie

Monday | Feb. 4

at simalinow@gmail.com.

Hebrew Play. Six-week program for parents and children exposes families to Hebrew language and Israeli culture. Ages 0 - 3. Jewish Community Day School of RI, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. 10:30 -11:15 a.m. \$50. www.hebrewplay.net or infohebrewplay@gmail.com.

Jewish Disability Awareness Program.

Tom Fields-Meyer, author of "Following Ezra: What One Father Learned About Gumby, Otters, Autism, and Love From His Extraordinary Son." Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. Lynne Bell at 421-4111 or LBell@ShalomRl.org.

Tuesday | Feb. 5

CHAVER College. Training for Jewish Seniors Agency and Jewish Family Service volunteers. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, 9 a.m. Ethan Adler at 621-5374 or eadler3@cox.net.

92nd Street Y "Live" Simulcast Series.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomavor with Thane Rosenbaum. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 8 p.m. \$5/ Temple Beth-El member; \$10/non-member. Rob Massi at 331-6070 or Rmassi@ temple-beth-el.org.

Wednesday | Feb. 6

Cafe JORI. Join JORI Director Ronni Guttin and Assistant Director Rachel Mersky Woda to learn about JORI, Camp JORI Winter Office, 401 Elmgrove Ave. Providence. 8:30 a.m. 463-3170.

Cranston Senior Guild Welcomes Susan Adler, Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive, War wick. 1 p.m. 351-4750.

Hebrew Coffee. Israeli emissary Matan Graff leads program for people who know basic Hebrew. Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. Matan Graff at 421-4111, ext. 121.

Thursday | Feb 7

Jewish Disability Awareness Program.



Alliance Early Childhood Center Director Nicole Katzman reads from "Nathan Blows Out the Hanukkah Candles" and conducts children's activities. Alliance, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Lynne Bell at 421-4111 or Ibell@shalomri.org.

CAMPAIGN DOLLARS

2740

Israeli Culture through

Film. Israeli emissary Matan Graff hosts "A Matter of Size" about four guys who learn to

love themselves through sumo wrestling. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Provi dence. 7 p.m. Erin Moseley at 421-4111 ext. 108 or emoseley@shalomri.org.

Stand Up For Peace Comedy Show. Scott Blakeman and Dean Obeidallah bring people together and encourage a dialogue in support of a peaceful, political resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Memorial Union Ballroom, URI, 50 Lower College Rd., Kingston, 7:30 p.m. Amy Olson, amyolson@mail.uri.edu or 874-

Friday | Feb. 8

Yiddish Shmooz. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Phyllis, 738-8468.

Temple Torat Visrael's Shalom to Shabbat. Wine and cheese before Shabbat service. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 7 p.m. 885-6600,

www.toratyisrael.org.

CALENDAR | 11

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Please note: Calendar items for our Feb. 15 Finance/Philanthropy issue must be received by Feb. 6. Items for our March 1 Passover Planning/Pets issue must be received by March 1. Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR.'

Birthright registration opens soon

Alliance helps support Birthright Israel program

PROVIDENCE - Birthright Israel, now in its 13th year, provides the gift of a free, first-time, educational 10-day trip to Israel for young Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 26. "First-time" is defined as someone who has neither traveled to Israel before on a peer educational trip or study program nor lived in Israel

past the age of 12. Former March of the Living participants are eligible.

A menu of several different trip options is available. including general, interest-based, community-based and special needs trips. However. DIFFERENCE each trip includes a number of core

The primary experiences. one is the Mifgash (encounter), where Israeli soldiers and university students join each group as active participants in the trip.

DOLLARS

MAKEA

The Birthright Israel program's success is unparal-leled: In North America, more people in this generation will



Brown Hillel students on a previous Birthright Israel trip

have gone to Israel than their parents. In 2011, more than 54,000 young Jewish adults applied for only 26,000 available North American trip slots. Most were put on waiting lists,

so applying early is essential.

Trips run in two sessions each year; with winter registration typically opening in September, and summer registration in February. For this summer, pre-registration (for those who have already applied once) opens Monday, Feb. 11 at noon. General registration for those applying for the first time opens Wednes-

day, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.

Though the trips are free to participants, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island provides a considerable allocation towards funding Birth-

VISIT birthrightisrael.org/ trip to learn more.

LAWRENCE KATZ (lkatz@ shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 179), the Alliance's director of educational services, can answer questions about Birthright and help individuals plan an extended trip.

'Autism: The Musical' at Temple Emanu-El

Elaine Hall builds from her family story

BY BARRY M. PRIZANT Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - In recognition of the month of February as Jewish Disability Awareness Month, Temple Emanu-El will host a screening of the film "Autism: The Musical" on Feb. 12 at 6 pm.

The film chronicles a theater and musical arts program developed by Elaine Hall, author, international speaker, professional acting coach and founder of "The Miracle Project" a theater and musical arts program for chil-

dren with special needs. Hall, a Jewish educator who has developed innovative programs in the Los Angeles synagogue community to support and include families who have members with special needs, is the mother of a teenage son with autism she had adopted as an infant from Siberia.

The event, at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Provi-dence, is free and open to the community. Light refreshments will be served.

"Autism: The Musical" is a two-time Emmy award-winning documentary that has been the catalyst to develop "Miracle Projects" interna-tionally. The film follows Hall and five children with autism and their parents over many months as they create an original stage production. Through trial and error and tears and laughter, parents learn to communicate their feelings, hopes and dreams as they observe their children participate in song and theater performances.



After the film, Hall will facilitate a discussion among a panel of parents who have children of different ages who have a variety of special

film's universal The themes, relevant for any family that includes an individual with special needs, celebrates the power of the human spirit

in all individuals. The film and panel discussion is intended for families as well as educators, doctors and other professionals working with individuals with disabilities.

Hall is also the author of a memoir, "Now I See the Moon: A Mother, a Son, a Miracle," (Harper Perennial, reprinted March 2011), chosen by the Jewish Federations of North America as recommended reading for Jewish Disability Awareness Month, and "Seven Keys to Unlock Autism: Making Miracles in the Classroom," (Jossey-Bass, November 2011).

Hall twice addressed the United Nations as a disabilities advocate.

Hall will sign books beginning at 5:30 p.m., before the 6 p.m. movie screening. This event is sponsored by Bailey's Team for Autism.

TO ARRANGE CHILD-CARE or RSVP: Laurie Beck: LBeck@teprov.org.

BARRY PRIZANT, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (bprizant@gmail. com), an adjunct professor in the Center for the Study of Human Development, is director of Childhood Communication Services in Cranston.

From Page 10

Saturday | Feb. 9

Annual Scout Shabbat. Havdalah service and presentation of Shofar Awards. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 5:30 p.m.

K'Tantan Pajama Havdalah. Children birth - 5 come in pajamas, create a spice box and sing in the service. Includes dinner and PJ Library story time. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 5:30 p.m. Rob Massi at 331-6070 or Rmassi@temple-beth-el.

Hollywood Havdalah: Dinner and Movie. Mishpachah Rishonah showing of "Ice Age 4." Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 6 p.m. 331-1616

Sunday | Feb. 10

Purim Mitzvah Day. Hamentashen making, costume parade, storytime, crafts. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. 1:30 – 4 p.m. Michelle Cicchitelli at 421-4111 ext. 178 or mcicchitelli@shalomri.org.

Purim Mitzvah Day Alternate Location. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. 1:30 – 3 p.m. urihillel.org or 874-2740.

Roger Williams University Memorial Service for Professor Joshua Stein. Atrium of Global Heritage Hall, Roger Williams University, 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol. 2 p.m.

Interfaith Community Concert. Congregation Agudas Achim joins with Evangelical Covenant Church. 841 North Main Street Attleboro, Mass. 3 – 5 p.m. 508-922-9243

Girls Bake Hamantashen. Make

hamantashen and discuss the story of Esther. Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick. 4 – 5 p.m. \$5. Shoshanah at 884-4071.

A Taste of Hadassah at Trinity Brewhouse. Ronit Nudelman Perl, deputy consul general, the Israeli Consulate, speaks about current topics in Israel. Trinity Brewhouse, 186 Fountain St., Providence. 4 – 6 p.m. \$18. rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org or 463-

New England Rabbinical College Annual Dinner. Rabbi Dovid and Shani Schwartz to be honored. Providence Hebrew Day School. 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 4 p.m. \$65, 274-1361 or cftwersky.nerc@gmail.com.

Haydn's Creation Concert at Emanu-El.

The Providence Singers with the New Bedford Symphony in concert performing "Haydn's Creation." Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 4:30 p.m. Providencesingers.org.

Pinot & Printmaking. Learn the basics of print making from artist-in-residence, Leslie Friedman. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence. 6 p.m. \$15 includes supplies, wine, snacks. Erin. 421-4111, ext. 108 or emoseley@shalomri.org.

Green Reel Film Series. "Split Estate."

Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. 508-222-2243

Monday | Feb. 11

JERI Satellite Office Hours. JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant Director Ethan Adler are available to counsel seniors and their families. Ethan is also available for pastoral counseling. Brightview Commons, 57 Grandville Court, Wakefield. 1 – 2 p.m. Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

Tuesday | Feb. 12

Temple Torat Yisrael's East Greenwich Lunch & Learn. Topic: "Annual Jewish Joke Fest in Honor of Purim." Participants order from the menu and Rabbi Amy Levin leads the discussion. T's Restaurant, 5600 Post Road, East Greenwich. Noon – 1:30 p.m. 885-6600

Jewish Disability Awareness Program.

"Autism: The Musical," Emmy award winning documentary, and Elaine Hall, founder of The Miracle Project. 5:30 p.m. - book signing, 6 p.m. - film. Lynne Bell at 421-4111 or LBell@ShalomRl. org. See story on page 10.

Bake Hamantashen at Chabad. Discuss the story of Purim. Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick 7:30 p.m. \$10. Shoshana Laufer at 884-4071 or Mrslaufer@mail.com.

Wednesday | Feb. 13

JCC Senior Café. Stretch and Tone with J-Fitness professional Jodie Thompson Jewish Alliance of Greater RI, 401 Elm grove Ave., Providence. Noon – Lunch; 12:45 p.m. – Program. \$3 lunch donation for 60+ and under 60 disabled. Neal or Elaine at 861-8800, ext. 107. This location hosts a meal site every Wednesday and Friday.

Thursday | Feb. 14

Temple Torat Yisrael's Cranston/ Warwick Lunch & Learn, See Feb. 12 entry, Cozy Grill Restaurant, 440 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Noon - 1:30 p.m. 885-6600.

Friday | Feb. 15

Am David Senior Café. Birthday Celebrations with live music by Vini Ames Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. 11:15 a.m. – Program; Noon – Lunch. \$3 lunch donation for 60+ and under 60 disabled. Elaine or Steve at 732-0047. This location hosts a meal site every weekday.

The RING Holds Community Shabbat Dinner. Performance by comedian Aaron Friedman. Alliance JCC Social Hall, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 6:30 p.m. 421-4111.

Shabbat Hallelu - Service in Song.

Musical Shabbat with Cantor Septowin and Temple Beth-El musicians. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 6:30 p.m. - refreshments; 7 p.m. - service. Rob Massi at 331-6070 or Rmassi@temple-beth-el.org.

Alliance Shalom Family's PJ Library turns 6

A gift to children, parents and the entire community

By MICHELLE CICCHITELLI

mcicchitelli@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE - PJ Library Rhode Island marked its 6th year in our community with a celebration at the Alliance JCC on Sunday, Jan. 13. More than 50 families joined the party festivities, which included a celebration for the upcoming holiday of Tu Bi-Sh'vat. Children in attendance enjoyed Sparky's Puppets and her interactive About Trees" puppet show and planted parsley for this year's Passover Seder. They sang and danced to the music of Shalom Friends and were treated to cupcakes by the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

Over the past six years, many similar events have

> "IT IS OUR hope that Shalom Family becomes your Jewish resource..."

taken place with more than 1,300 local children receiving the monthly gift of high-quality Jewish books and music. My children, Dylan, 6, and Maya, 4, run to the mailbox, ready to tear open the PJ Library envelope and see the selection specifically chosen for their age range. They are not the only ones excited to see the big white envelope in the mailbox every month. I'm more than happy to know my kids are getting the one thing they need more of – exposure to high-quality Jewish books

that entertain, teach and impart lessons and values.

PJ Library is a gift for parents as well, as it is another tool, another "excuse," to spend quality family time with our children. Bonding through rich words and beautiful illustrations helps a family truly begin to examine the role of Judaism in their lives while at the same time simply enjoying a story.

Thanks to the Alliance, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the support of our community, we have been able to sustain and grow this program. We recently expanded the age range to now include children, ages 6-months to 8-years-old, in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community.

PJ Library is only one program offered through the Alliance Shalom Family, a constellation of programs and services for the greater Rhode Island community, dedicated to providing families with

the resources to enhance their quality of life and to strengthen and foster their Jewish identity.

Shalom Family includes: Shalom RI/Community Concierge, Mothers Circle, Jewish Volunteer Connection, Shalom Baby and, of course, PJ Library. It is our hope that Shalom Family becomes your Jewish resource for creating family traditions and connections, drawing you closer to your community and meeting like-minded people with whom to share and celebrate.

The current components of Shalom Family will continue to exist, but we are hard at work to expand them. New, holistic elements will cater to the entire family and include a variety of opportunities for education, recreation, social action and more. We have several events scheduled: Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month; Purim Mitzvah Day, Feb. 10; Family Day at the Bruins' hockey game, March 3; and Family Shabbat Dinner, March 22.

FOR SHALOM FAMILY, Michelle Cicchitelli (421-4111, ext. 178 or mcicchitelli@shalomri.org).



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A SON'S PERSPECTIVE

To Life Center offers Edward Adler a 'second home'

After his wife's death, an elderly Jewish community member finds new support

By ETHAN ADLER Special to The Voice & Herald

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ethan Adler is an employee of Jewish Seniors Agency, about which he writes

PROVIDENCE — Several months ago, my mom passed away unexpectedly from various medical complications. My sister, who has been living with my parents, needed to place my dad in an environment that would provide an embracing environment, excellent programming and professional care. She found these qualities, and more, at the To Life Center Adult Day Services, a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency in Providence.

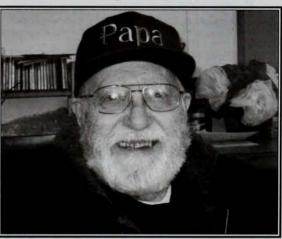
From his first day as a new client, he was surrounded by healthcare workers who welcomed him with very open arms and made sure he was comfortable as "the new kid on the block." They were attentive to his specific needs and gave him the time and space to become accustomed to the newness of his days.

My dad enjoyed his first day, and looked forward to returning the following morning. Since then, the TLC has become an important ingredient in his daily regimen. Although it took him some time, he eventually began to become increasingly involved in the various activities and programs lovingly provided by the TLC staff. From breakfast and morning exercises to planned programs, lunch and more programs and snacks, he has found a new "home" in which to spend his weekday hours. And on Sunday night, he makes sure my sister knows that it's time to go back to the To Life Center the next day.

In time, my dad found his way to those activities that most interested him, and is now very involved in some "heated" domino games.

"... HE HAS found a new 'home' in which to spend his weekday hours."

The TLC program provides its clients with respite care, which is so vital for caregivers – my sister among them – who need to work and get chores done while their loved ones are



RACHEL ROLLINS

Edward Adler at the To Life Center

cared for in a very meaningful way. He benefits so much from the social aspects of the TLC and relates to a diverse population that is warm and accepting. He also keeps cognitively sharp by participating in activities that rely on mental exercises, discussions and presentations.

TLC has been a terrific boon to our family by ensuring that our dad continues to be socially connected and participates in mentally and physically challenging activities while spending his days in a safe and secure environment. I know it would meet with my mom's approval!

ETHAN ADLER (eadler3@ cox.net) is assistant director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency.

SUSAN ADLER (621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org), not related to either Ethan or Edward Adler, is director of To Life Center Adult Day Services, a Jewish Seniors Agency program.



Shai Bazak

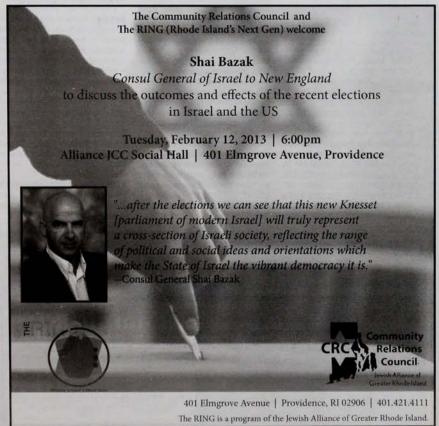
Shai Bazak to speak in Providence

Israeli consul general will discuss elections, here and in Israel

PROVIDENCE – Shai Bazak, consul general of Israel to New England, will speak to the Jewish community, about the recent elections – in Israel as well as the United States – and how they will impact Middle East policy.

He will speak at the Alliance JCC Social Hall, 401 Elmgrove Ave., in Providence, at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12. The program, free and open to the community, is sponsored by the Community Relations Council of the Alliance.

FOR INFORMATION, Marty Cooper (mcooper@shalomri. org or 421-4111, ext. 171).





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FEBRUARY 1, 2013 13

'Recharge Your Batteries' is the theme for Providence Kollel's women's conference

Therapist Chani Juravel speaks at program for women's learning, socializing

By NAOMI LIPSKY Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - Ninety women from throughout New England - and from different Jewish movements - participated in "The Southern New England Conference for Jewish Women," a day of lectures and socializing that was sponsored by the Provi-

dence Community Kollel. The organizers of this annual event are Rabbi Raphie Scho-chet, founder of the Providence Kollel, and his wife, Tichyeh Schochet. This year, the conference theme was "Recharge Your Batteries.'

Tichyeh said that she was "gratified" by the higher-thanusual turnout for this, the seventh annual program. Brown RISD Hillel was the site of the Jan. 13 program.

Rona Trachtenberg, of Dart-nouth, Mass., a freelance mouth, Mass., a writer, and Rachel Levinson, of Fairhaven, Mass., president of the New Bedford section of the National Council of Jewish Women, were two "veteran conference goers.'

Trachtenberg said, 'We keep coming back again and again . [the programs] touch your soul."

Both women described the annual event as "inspiring" and a wonderful opportunity for Jewish women to experience a day of

"We always feel very welcome when we come here," said Levin-

Chani Juravel gave the keynote address, "Coping with the Unexpected: Living through the parts of life you never would have asked for." A social worker and therapist in New York, Juravel offered a thought-provoking presentation about accepting and celebrating one's own place in life, even in the face of deprivation and tragedy. Her talk was sprinkled with contemporary secular references, humorous examples from her own life and her work as a counselor and many scholarly quotations from Torah and rabbinic litera-

"How," she asked, "does a Jew define life?" Answering her own rhetorical question, she explained that it is defined through growing closer to God and making choices to strengthen that connection. A "failed life," she said, is not one in which there is loss or the commercial definition of failure, but it is one in which there is a disconnection from God.

While there are many things in life we cannot control, she emphasized that having a relationship with God is a choice that we can make. Furthermore, Juravel stressed that she believes



Rabbi Raphie and Tichyeh Schochet at Providence Kollel's annual women's conference.

that God wants this relationship more than anything; it is our decision whether to support our side of it. She gave the example of King David with his Psalms whether he was in a position of despair or joy, he extolled his relationship to God.

We are each unique, she said; if we focus on our unique connection to God, then there is no need to envy others' lives. Much unhappiness would be eliminated if we could see our lives from this perspective, she said. Although the story of Queen Esther is considered a miracle,

in the end, Esther is "living in a monster's palace and mothering his children," said Juravel.
When Esther's perspective changed from being a hopeless victim to knowing God supported her, that was the miracle, she said.

God sets us up for success, she said, and gives us second chances: He not only gave us the first set of the Ten Commandments but after those had been broken. God gave us a second set. And, every Yom Kippur offers Jews another chance for a "clean slate." She translated the last

words of the daily "Modeh Ani" prayer as "How great is your belief in me" to support this idea. She closed her comments by emphasizing that a life disconnected from God is simply not an option.

Two sets of one-hour workshops followed Juravel's speech with a break between sessions for a kosher buffet lunch catered by Divine Providence. Workshops included "Tolerating Others, Tolerating Ourselves" by Juravel, "Off Route? Recalculating" by Tichyeh Schochet, "The Science of Creation" by Dr. Sigal Gottlieb, "In Search of Daniel" by Elisheva Bielory, "Delectable Delights" by Gittie Leff, "Be Your Own Doctor II" by Nitza Katzoff, "Women of Valor in Midrashic Literature" by Miriam Lipson and "Lessons in Connection" by Marsha Gibber

Juravel described the conference as "a breath of fresh air" that allowed her to meet "women who are anxious to grow spiritually and emotionally.

NAOMI LIPSKY (lipskyart@ gmail.com) is an artist who lives in Johnston.

PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY KOLLEL: providencekollel.org or 383-2786

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Jewish Disability Awareness Month

February 2013

Monday, February 4, 2013 | 7:00pm

Jewish Alliance | 401 Elmgrove Avenue | Providence

Meet Tom Fields-Meyer, author of Following Ezra: What One Father Learned About Gumby, Otters, Autism, and Love From His Extraordinary Son.

Full of tender moments and unexpected humor, the book tells the story of a father and son on a ten-year journey from Ezra's diagnosis to the dawn of his adolescence. Fields-Meyer's presentation will be followed by a question and answer period as well as a book signing. Tom Fields-Meyer will also be available at 6:40pm to sign books.

Thursday, February 7, 2013 | 5:30-6:30pm

Jewish Alliance | 401 Elmgrove Avenue | Providence

Nathan Blows Out the Hanukkah Candles is the story of a child with autism whose behavior interferes with the celebration of Hanukkah. Nicole Katzman, director of the Alliance ICC Early Childhood Center, will read from the book she co-authored and will conduct activities for the children attending.

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 | 6:00pm

Temple Emanu-El | 99 Taft Street | Providence

Elaine Hall is the founder and president of The Miracle Project, a music and theatre arts program, profiled in Autism: The Musical. This Emmy award-winning documentary follows Hall, five children with autism, and their parents as they create an original stage production. After the audience views the film, Hall-along with other parents and experts on various disabilities-will be part of a panel discussion. Book signing at 5:30pm before presentation.

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Lynne Bell at 401.421.4111 or LBell@ShalomRl.org.

Childcare and aides are available for all programs. RSVP in advance to Laurie Beck at LBeck@teprov.org.



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Beth-El students lobby in a 'working weekend' in D.C.

Seven students learn to lobby

BY RABBI SARAH MACK Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - Seven Temple Beth-El teens traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Religious Action Center's L'Taken Social Justice Seminar,. The seminiar is a program designed to expose students to a variety of public policy is-sues, explore the Jewish values surrounding these issues and teach the skills of an effective advocate.

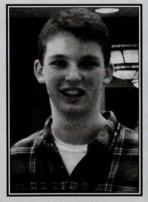
Throughout the Jan. 11-14 weekend, students were given the knowledge and tools to write effective, persuasive and passionate speeches on a topic of their choice to present when they visited the offices of their senators and representatives on Monday, Jan. 14.

Lobbying a member of congress is an experience that very few Americans take advantage of and one that can have a significant impact on the course of

The students attended programs on a range of topics: Israel, gun control, the environment, reproductive rights, clean energy, embryonic stem cell research, LGBT equality,

religion and politics and more. Rachel Turner, Emma Caslowitz, Henry Mayer, Nathaniel Bresnick, Matthew De-Quattro, Alex Goldstein and Samantha Kaufman attended this event.

Following are two students'



Politics has always interested me, as I believe that we



Temple Beth-El Religious School students and faculty in Washington, D.C.

all have a responsibility to work for change where we see it necessary - a belief my Jewish education has done nothing but strengthen - and political action is an effective outlet to work for this change. On the RAC trip, we attended policy seminars and had engaging discussions, but the lobbying visits we had on Capitol Hill were by far the most exciting and empowering part.

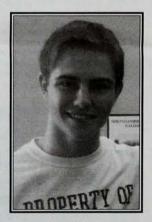
Oftentimes, the political ma-chine can seem a bit like the factory from Willy Wonka: "nobody ever goes in, and nobody ever comes out" - painfully inaccessible and mysterious to the outsider without a law degree and a boatload of cash.

Our discussions and presentations with Senate and House staffers, people on a first-name basis with our elected representatives, made me realize that there are real and concrete steps that we can take to effect change in the issues we are passionate about, besides just sitting around whining about the dysfunction (however real it

may be). We saw, in three short days in our nation's capital, the impact a group of teenagers can have with a little information, some Jewish teachings and a lot of caffeine; it amazed me

I can't wait to keep working to

make a difference and convince others to do the same.



Henry Mayer

The RAC trip was a great experience. I had the opportunity to meet Jewish teens from across the country and learn useful skills that I would not have acquired otherwise.

We visited many interesting destinations like the National Mall and the [United States] Ho-

locaust [Memorial] Museum.

The highlight of the trip was the actual lobbying experience. It was eye-opening to meet with the staff of our senators and representatives and see that they listened to us and cared about the issues we brought up. This was a powerful way to end this amazing experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Temple Beth-El's programs with the Religious Action Cen-ter, Rabbi Sarah Mack (331-6070, RabbiMack@temple-bethel.org); contact the Center at



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Consumers may vote for favorite contest entries

NEWARK, N.J. - Here's a recipe for success: cook up a winning kosher product and get a chance to win \$25,000 and other

According to a Manischewitz press statement, the deadline for the seventh an-Manischewitz Manischewitz Cook-off" is Feb. The competition encourages at-home chefs to experiment with kosher products while preparing delicious recipes that could be a new family favorite or one that has been shared from generation to generation.

Recipes must include one of Manischewitz All-Natural broth flavors (turkey, chicken, reduced sodium chicken, beef or vegetable) as well as one other Manischewitz product,



with no more than nine ingre-

Celebrity Chef Jamie Geller will be the head judge and guest of honor for the contest. Five finalists will compete at the Manischewitz headquarters in Newark, N.J., for the \$25,000 grand prize, which includes a series of Maytag appliances, cash and a crystal trophy.

The competition takes place in front of an panel of judges led "Joy of Kosher with Jamie Geller" magazine and website founder, Jamie Geller and includes other food media and experts. Four finalists will be chosen by the judging panel and five other semi-finalists will be posted on www.manischewitz. com to select the fifth finalist.

From Feb. 21 through Feb. 28, consumers can vote, online and via Facebook and Twitter, to select the fifth finalist. To get people inspired, try Geller's recipes for chicken with Braised Red Cabbage and Fennel and Steak with Pan Sauce, which are featured be-

Chicken with Braised Red Cabbage and Fennel

Makes four servings.

Ingredients

3 tablespoons olive oil

1 medium onion, coarsely chopped

1 (3-pound) chicken, cut in eighths

tablespoon Manischewitz kosher salt

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1 (10-ounce) bag shredded red cabbage

1/2 head fennel, shredded 2 cups Manischewitz All-Nat-

ural Chicken Broth

teaspoon dried thyme 1 (12-ounce) package Manisce-



Celebrity chef Jamie Geller and some of her creations

witz Medium Egg Noodles Applesauce (optional)

Method

Heat oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add onions and sauté them for 5 minutes or until soft.

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Add chicken to the pan and brown for about 8 minutes on each side. Transfer ingredients to a bowl.

Add cabbage, fennel, broth,

and thyme to the pan, mixing well. Bring to a boil. Return chicken to the pan, reduce the heat to a high simmer. Cover and cook for 15 minutes.

Transfer to a serving platter. Serve over noodles and with applesauce, if desired.

> Steak with Pan Sauce Makes two servings.

This type of preparation is called "à la minute," meaning right away when you order it.

Ingredients

2 (8-ounce) bone-in or 2 (6-ounce) boneless rib-eye

2 teaspoons Manischewitz kosher salt

1 teaspoon cracked black pep-

4 tablespoons olive oil

2 medium shallots, minced

4 tablespoons dry red wine (such as Cabernet Sauvignon)

1/2 cup Manischewitz All -Natural Beef Broth

Method

Season steaks with salt and pepper.

In a large sauté pan, heat oil over high heat. Place steaks in the pan and sear for 1 minute. Reduce heat to medium-high and cook for 3 minutes on each side for medium-rare doneness. Transfer steaks to 2 dinner plates and cover with foil to keep warm

Add shallots and red wine to the pan; cook for 1 minute. Stir in broth and continue cooking for about 4 minutes or until sauce is reduced by half.

Pour sauce over steaks.

RECIPES AND PHOTOS from Quick & Kosher: Meals in Min-utes by Jamie Geller (Feldheim,

CONTEST DETAILS manischewitz.com.



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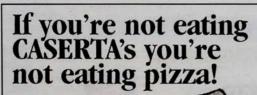


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Deadline for submissions is **April 15, 2013**We respectfully request that all nominees are members of the RI Jewish community.

The winner will be announced in the

April 26 Mother's Day issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald.

A feature story in a future issue will include photos capturing each of the four indulgences.

(Don't worry, all the activities don't have to happen in one day!)

Mail nomination to:

Day of Decadence The Jewish Voice & Herald 401 Elmgrove Avenue Providence, RI 02906

or email to: Nancy Kirsch, Editor at nkirsch@shalomri.org







FREEDOM FITNESS RI

REMEMBER THE PAST

Celebrating Purim

'Queen Esther' presided over many a Purim Ball

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER Special to The Voice & Herald

"Mi-she-nikhnas Adar marbim b'simhah." "When Adar begins, joy increases [because Purim is near]." That talmudic statement (tractate Ta'anit 29a) sets the tone for the holiday. Purim is the time to make merry and celebrate.

To observe the holiday properly we make hamantashen (literally, "Haman's pockets," prepare "shalah manot" (gift baskets), give tzedakah, read the Megillah with the lusty accompaniment of the "grogger," the noisemaker to blot out Haman's name, eat hamantashen, attend the Purim shpiel, take children to the Purim carnival, get dressed up for the Purim Ball ... The Purim Ball?

The Purim Ball was a very important event in the social life of the Providence Jewish com-munity. It also served as a fundraiser for many an organization. The first such gala was probably held in 1869, sponsored by the Haggai Lodge, Independent Or-der of B'nai B'rith, the first fraternal lodge in Providence. (It was closely associated with the city's first congregation, Sons of Israel (later Sons of Israel and David, and now known as Temple Beth-El.)

We know a little more about two later Purim Balls sponsored by the same lodge, thanks to an article written by my dear friend Eleanor Horvitz, who was RIJHA librarian/archivist until her untimely death.

According to two dance programs viewed by Mrs. Horvitz, Haggai Lodge's third annual Purim Ball was held on Monday evening, March 25, 1872, in the North American Hall. Herrick's Quadrille Band provided the music, while Newman Pincus served as the floor manager.

Five years later, the Lodge held their Purim Ball at the Slocum Light Guards' Armory. The same band played, but this time Isaac Hahn replaced Pincus as floor director.

At their congregational meeting Feb. 8, 1885, the trustees of Sons of Israel and David requested that the Committee on Amusements plan a Purim Ball in conjunction with the Ladies Auxiliary. According to the congregation's minutes, the event netted \$46. Two years later, the Ladies Auxiliary held a Purim Social, which raised \$120.15 for the building fund.

The Purim Ball (or Purim Party) became an accepted feature of the growing Jewish communities in Rhode Island. Synagogues and organizations used the occasion to plan entertainments of various sorts, some purely social, others add-ing fundraising features. The Affiliated Zionist Organizations

of Providence held their first Purim Dance on March 6, 1928 in the Narragansett Hotel ballroom. The souvenir ad book featured articles stressing the various projects that each of the six sponsoring organizations supported in Palestine, their hopes for the fulfillment of the Zionist dream of a Jewish homeland and their need for new members.

For the younger set during the 1930s, the highlight of the social season was the Jewish Community Center's Purim Ball, originally called the Queen Esther Purim Masquerade. It was a beauty/popularity contest as well as a fundraiser.

The Purim Ball was held for many years at well-known venues like the Arcadia Ballroom and the Elks Auditorium. Costumes and masks, while not an actual requirement for those attending, were nevertheless encouraged. The contest was open to any Jewish woman 18-yearsold or older, from Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Newport or Fall River, Mass. Each entrant received a sample letter with a ballot to send to her friends and relatives. Whoever garnered the most votes and attendees was named Queen Esther. The next 10 runners-up became her court.

The queen received an assortment of prizes, including a week's vacation at a resort, a loving cup donated by the Jewish Herald, dental and podiatric services and a dinner for two at the Narragansett Hotel.

During World War II, the event continued, but in a less extravagant fashion. A flyer from the Hill Top Club at the JCC announced the Queen Esther Popularity Contest. "GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!" it read. "Attend and you may win!! FELLOWS! FELLOWS! Come vote for your favorite!!" Admission was 25 cents for JCC members, 35 cents for others.

The evening began with a basketball game at the JCC on Benefit Street, between the Providence JCC Varsity and the Lynn, Mass., JCC, both members of the New England Basketball League of JCCs.

The Purim Ball, as a social event, fell out of fashion after World War II. The Queen Esther Purim Ball of the JCC, which began in 1934 as a gala event, continued in attenuated form as a popularity contest for two decades until it, too, ultimately fell victim to changing times and changing tastes.

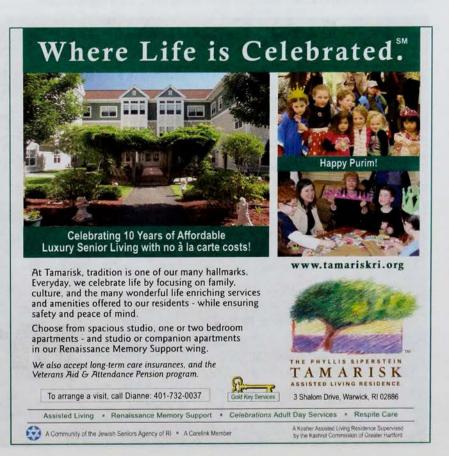
GERALDINE FOSTER is a past president of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Associa-

COMMENT ABOUT THIS or any Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association article (info@ riiha.org).



COURTESY | R.I. JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

"Queen Esther" receives her crown at a Purim Ball.



Snagging bargains for shalah manot

Finding Purim success in a dollar store

BY EDMON J. RODMAN

LOS ANGELES (JTA) - Falling between the giving season of Hanukkah and the getting season of tax refunds, Purim time finds households like mine searching for ways to keep holiday expenses down to earth without losing the mirth.

What with the cost of fancy, professionally-made kosher shalah manot (from mishlo'ah manot, "sending of portions," Esther 9:19) baskets going for \$50 and up, I wanted to find a less expensive way to share the joy with more people.

I wanted to make my own bas-

ket of goodies, but what were the basic requirements? I mean, very basic. On Purim, Jewish ordains that you should send at least two food items to at least one person, both to ensure that they have food for a Purim feast and to promote friendship between Jew

What kind of friendship could I promote for, let's say, 10 bucks or less? I wanted variety, abundance, novelty and kashrut. I wondered, could I fill my basket at a dollar store?

I really didn't want to give a basket filled with clearance cookies, weird candy and obscure snacks.

Admittedly, I had my doubts. That is, until, while searching the Valentine's Day aisles for some kind of box to hold my discoveries - once they put out the



Easter baskets, the pickings are easier - I saw a kippah-wearing man also eyeing the stuff.

"Do you ever shop in here for Purim?" I finally asked, desperately wanting a co-conspirator.

'Yes, for shalah manot, they have all kinds of stuff, some times even close-out Jewish things," he replied.

'There's kosher apple juice, food, and you get so much more

When he gave me his phone number, in case I needed more

details. I discovered he was a rabbi. I felt so relieved.

The rabbi was right. Walking the aisles. I easily found packages of nuts, cookies, candies and pretzels, all certified kosher. But that wasn't enough; I also wanted a theme.

The best Purim baskets have some clever connecting idea, like "A night at the movies," the theme of a plastic movie popcorn box filled with candy gogue sent me one year

cret Jewish maiden who is also Ahasuerus' queen. For Mordecai, who saves the king from an assassination plot, and ultimately emerges as victor in a power struggle with

ization (played by Miley Cyrus on the Disney show) reminded

me of Esther's double life as a se-

Haman, I thought some bling would show off his new status. In the candy aisle, I found a package of Ring Pops, the "wearable candy." I imagined

the sunlight glinting off them as

Mordecai sat by the gate. But first he would need to es-

cape the shadow of Haman. "After these things did King Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite And all the king's servants bowed and reverenced Haman

But Mordecai bowed not . For Haman, by tradition, I needed something like a grogger

to properly blot out his name. On the toy rack, I found just the thing: a hand-shaped clapper that even had a large sticker that read "Make some noise!"

Thinking about Haman makes me hungry for hamantashen. Suspecting that the store would be short on three-cornered pastries, I searched the cookie aisle until I found a fill-in: Knott's Berry Farms round raspberry shortbreads, each with a dollop of red showing in the center. I imagined if you trimmed them to a triangle, they would look close. I did say flexibility would

be key.

Now to add the final touch to my shalah manot, and to fulfill the Purim tradition that one should drink on Purim until one doesn't know the difference between Mordecai and Haman, I found an unlikely solution: Larry the Cable Guy Beer Bread. Just add Beer and Butter.

According to Larry, who is featured on the package wearing his trademark sleeveless plaid shirt, "This recipe calls for a can of beer ... just be sure to use the beer and not drink it!" It's Purim. Of course you can

drink the beer. But my Purim basket will carry this warning: When you can't tell the difference between Larry and Miley Cyrus, it's time to stop.

EDMON RODMAN is a JTA columnist who writes on Jewish life from Los Angeles, Calif.

carry a Megillat Esther, I would need to be flexible. Luckily, in the book aisle, I found a soft-cov-er King James version of the Biand popping corn that my synable that had the Book of Esther.

> What could I find to represent the king, ruler of 127 provinces and by royal decree the instigator of a search for "fair young virgins" In the drink aisle, I found a bluish plastic bottle of G2, Gato-

rade Perform, which the packaging said would "replenish vital nutrients and energy" - just the thing to represent an active ruler with a "second house" just for his women. 'Now in Shushan the palace

I brainstormed for a minute,

and, after tossing aside a theme

of Shushan nightlife (I didn't

want to give a basket of 99-cent

booze), I settled on a more sober

theme (or so I thought) of the Me-

An accompanying text would

help explain my theme, but

since a dollar store is unlikely to

"Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus," the text be-

gillah's four main characters.

there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai," the text continued, going on to say, "And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter ... "
To represent Esther, I found

package of Hannah Montana Milk Chocolate Sticker coins. The Hannah Montana/Miley Stewart double-life character



Why I read The Voice & Herald



She has a keen eye for a useful, relevant, compelling story and the ability to articulate complex issues clearly, succinctly and accurately.

The layout of the paper is both eye-catching and reader-friendly. It's clear that the editor is working around the clock, shouldering multiple tasks with extraordinary competence. Her attention to detail and follow-through are remarkable, especially in light of the constrained resources under which she labors. I am grateful to her for her role in building a stronger, more cohesive nity in Rhode Island. Deborah Siegel, Ph.D.

An Israeli oasis in a South Boston garage

Original Party Trolley of Boston is the successful creation of Gideon Oknin

BY SUSIE DAVIDSON JointMedia News Service

BOSTON - Long a bastion of working-class Irish Americans, hometown of organized crime mobster James "Whitey" Bulger and several of his cronies and known for taverns and some of the oldest housing projects in America, the rough-andtumble area of South Boston was popularized in such films as "Mystic River," "Good Will Hunting" and "The Departed."

And it's here, improbably, that you'll find Israeli-born Gideon Oknin and his South Boston Auto & Heavy Truck Repair emporium. Within its confines, a fleet of the Original Party Trolley of Boston buses also reside, awaiting the next

In 1995, Oknin founded and began operating Discover Boston Multilingual Trolley on Boston's Long Wharf, which utilized translation software from Espro Acoustiguide, an Israeli company that manufactures multi-lingual audio, multi-media content and interpretive systems utilized by museums, historic sites, the tourism industry and trade shows.

Oknin sold the business in 2006 and started up his "nightclub on wheels" party buses, complete with wall-to-wall plasma TVs, DJs, dancing poles and strobe lights. The Original Party Trolley offers seven different options, including limo party buses and varied, retrolook party trollies.

"It's the first, and the only, Party Trolley and Party Bus service in Boston and New England that runs the vehicles all year long and throughout all six New England states," Oknin told JointMedia News Service.

Though it may sound a bit cringe-worthy, think again: We're talking 82-passenger capacity, hardwood dance floor, six mirror balls, laser lights, 360-degree panoramic view, bubble machine, fog machine, two floors, iPod hook-ups and, ves, lavatories. Oknin's buses can serve two purposes: Either



The Oknin family

a site for the actual party or an ley were definitely jealous," she entertaining mode of transportation to a party at a different location.

Oknin's business partners are his family members - his wife Beth and their children Jessica, Shira, Danielle and Jacob. They do weddings, bar and bat mitzvah celebrations, bachelor and bachelorette parties, corporate functions, children's parties and the quintessential college bar hops. Judging by myriad glowing Yelp reviews and an A+ Better Business Bureau rating, they do them well.

'The Original Party Trolley was the best form of transportation for the kids to attend their prom, not to mention the most economical," said one client, Elisa S., of Newton, Mass.

"They had a blast, and the kids that were not on the trol-

Another customer, Nahomi C., said, "We greatly enjoyed The Original Party Trolley and the team. Our driver was excellent - he was on time, courteous and very professional. I'll be

But perhaps the best endorsement comes from the most discerning clientele, Oknin's own children. "We had both our daughters use the trollevs for their bat mitzvah [celebrations]," said Beth Oknin. "One was a havdalah, and the other was a Sunday Rosh Hodesh."

The groups went straight from the synagogue to the re-ception via the party bus. "The kids said that the ride was as fun as the party itself!" Beth

Gideon Oknin emigrated to



the U.S. 26 years ago and maintains a strong connection to his native Haifa, where his relatives still live. "We travel to Israel three times a year," he said, recalling that he met his wife, a Brockton, Mass. native, at a JCC gym in Newton.

The couple, said Beth, met and married in six months. "We had an instant, strong connection, as we both wanted children, we [both observed the laws of] kosher, and had an 'enjoy the moment' type of mentality," Beth said.

Gideon had just finished his Israeli army service. Beth was attending Boston University School of Law, where she and Gideon would spend Shabbat, He volunteered there as well, setting up Hillel events.

Beth worked for many years as an attorney at the Massa-chusetts State Department of Children and Families before leaving to help Gideon in the business, and of course, to raise their four children.

A Likudnik and huge fan of Netanyahu, Gideon nonethe-less "absolutely believes in a two-state solution." The family lives in Sharon, Mass. Daughters Shira and Jessica attended Solomon Schechter Day School, while third daughter Danielle and son Jacob attend religious

The kids' tributes to their father fill the walls at the South-Boston site, which came about when Gideon began to garage and maintain the buses there. 'When Comcast moved across the street, they asked me if I would service their vehicles," he said. Soon, he was hiring mechanics to tend to the neighboring businesses' vehicles as well. Beth explained that the mechanic shop is a large portion of their business, but the party trolleys that operate out of the garage are the largest piece. "It is the part that Gideon is most proud of," she said. "He loves making people happy, and helping them celebrate life sim-

It wasn't always easy, as Gideon alluded to some problems in the past that may have been anti-Semitic in origin. But overall, he praised the neighborhood and his years there. "There has been no crime, no break-ins," he said. "And I'm here about 100 hours a week, at

Beth calls her husband "a remarkable individual.'

"It always amazes me that he came to this country without speaking a word of English, and was able to be so successful in both business and family," she



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My 1997 Suzuki X90

The four-wheel drive suits me well

By MIKE FINK

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - It's a 1997 Suzuki X90, a black truck, fourwheel drive, with no back seat at all. When I bought it, preowned, the salt air of Newport had eaten away at the rubber molding around the windows. The automatic window mechanisms weren't working or were unreliable and I never did figure out the gadgets on that panel or any of the other pushbut-

What prompted me to purchase this short, stout machine? My wife used to point out the charming, if rather silly-looking, wagon on the roadways we traveled doing our weekend errands or paying various visits and social calls.

"You might like that cute car!" she would declare.

They came in pretty pastel colors that appealed to her two-tone - turquoise and ivory or crimson and beige. It was the pure ebony version that won us: black gave cartoon-like dignity to the X90's shape and scale. The computer found the right one for me, at the turn of the millennium. This is the longest



Michael Fink's current car of choice

I have ever kept an automobile upon my cobbled alley driveway and on my familiar routine thoroughfares

Oh, I've had the usual troubles over the years, throughout the decade and beyond. That nasty little red light - I call it the evil eve-says, "Check engine soon," which drives me to distraction! It means I pay extra at inspection time and it's a pain! Nobody can quite figure out what to check for. "It may just mean you don't tighten the gas tank lid like the top of a jar!'

Nevertheless, I love my fluiddrive flivver. When I had my miniature dog - an Italian grey hound - sitting in the passenger seat, I cut a fine figure along streets that had sidewalk cafes. My two-seater also gave me a practical excuse for personal

All these aspects made my car and me a perfect pair. I lost my dog a couple of years ago, but her ghost still sits by my side. People remember us as a couple in a coupe.

Come spring, I may be in the market for a Fiat 500. They say "Fix It Again Tony" (FIAT) doesn't suit the company nickname anymore and they manufacture the current mini-sedan in various colors. Why wait until May? Well, the best virtue of my X90 is that the four-wheel drive means I can get out of a snowbank or deep

"WHAT PROMPTED ME to purchase this short, stout machine?"

mud puddle and get to school for an 8 a.m. class without anxiety!

Does my X90 have a soul, or at least a memory of our adventur-ous years together? Will it find a future in the world beyond my

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol. com) teaches English at Rhode Island School of Design and is a regular columnist with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

The wrong-way street

That new car smell doesn't go far when accidents happen

By Sylvia Tippe

Special to The Voice & Herald

CRANSTON - When my husband Samuel Tippe and I traded up our Buick four-door sedan every two or three years, we were thrilled to take possession. I loved the smell emanating from its interior and I often took it to do my weekly shopping. I didn't anticipate that one day I would mistake my street

for a one-way street going in the opposite direction.

I scraped through to the end and quickly got to my street. When I realized that our new Buick was ruined on the passenger side, I thought fast and decided to get home and, so Sam would not see the damage, parked on the other side of the

Why, Sylvia, are you way over on the opposite side of our street?"

I couldn't lie and keep a straight face.

When Sam saw the damage, he could not believe that I had ruined our new car so badly - but I had - and, as a result of that disaster, I didn't get behind the wheel of our car for many a

SYLVIA TIPPE is retired and



Might this 1950 Buick Special been like one of Sylvia Tippe's cars?



RI port saw record auto imports in 2012

KINGSTOWN - According to Associated Press reports, Rhode Island has reason to celebrate, as the state has a record year for auto imports at Quonset Point's Port of Davisville.

In 2012, the port handled more than 172,000 automobiles imported by ship, and another 43,000 vehicles came in by rail or truck.

The number of vehicles shipped to Davisville is 14 percent higher than in 2011, when the Port of Davisville was ranked the seventh largest auto-importer in North America.

The record numbers are "another success story" at Quonset, which has seen imports steadily increase in re-

Quonset Business Park is home to more than 175 companies that employ some 9,100 people



One of Izhar Gafni's cardboard bicycles

I want to ride my (cardboard) bicycle

Inventor uses auto parts to help build special bicycle

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Production is set to begin in Israel on a cardboard bicycle.

The \$20 bike made entirely from recycled materials is the brainchild of Izhar Gafni of Ahituv, a farming village near Hadera. Gafni, 50, is an inventor, amateur cyclist and expert in designing automated massproduction lines, according to Reuters.

The bike is waterproof and fireproof, and its tires are not inflated and thus cannot puncture. It will not have any metal parts, according to the website on Israel technology, NoCamels. The bike also uses a car-timing belt instead of a chain.

Gafni spent four years perfecting his design.

"When we started a year-anda-half or two years ago, people laughed at us, but now we are getting at least a dozen emails every day asking where they can buy such a bicycle," Gafni told Reuters.

A cardboard wheelchair also is set to be manufactured, Israel 21C reported. It will weigh about 20 pounds and be able to carry a person that weighs up to 400 pounds.



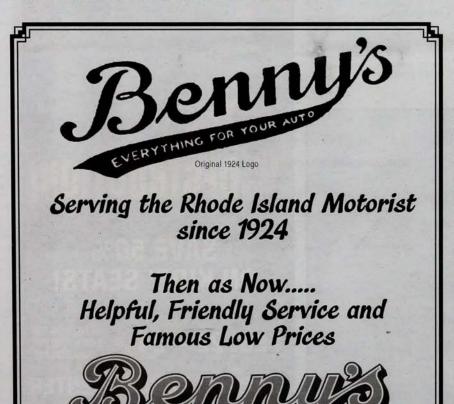






A car from an earlier era

Alan Halsband of Warwick submitted this photo - circa early 1940s - of his grandfather John L. Halsband, who stood with visiting cigar salesmen outside his business, Halsband Newsdealer & Tobacconist. The store was on Main Street in East Greenwich.







Remembering our father's car dealership

By MATTHEW, AL AND RON

GABRILOWITZ
Special to The Voice & Herald

CRANSTON - Some may recall our father, Irving Gabrilowitz, who was a new car dealer in Rhode Island for many years. He began in business after returning from World War II. Soon after the war, a pair of Jewish refugees came in to negotiate the purchase of a car. They picked one out, but could not agree on a one out, but could not agree on price. Finally, one refugee spoke to the other in Yiddish: "Sug dem goy: 'nein!' – unt morgen kum'n mir tsirik und koifen es far de ganze gelt." ("Tell the [gentile] we're not interested. If he won't sell, we can always come back tomorrow and buy it for the full

Well, Irving spoke fluent Yid-

dish and understood every word they said. He waited patiently until the next day, when the two men returned and purchased the car. Only after they paid for it and he gave them the key, to their surprise, Irving said in Yiddish "Sei g'zunt!" ("Goodbye and be well!"), and kindly reassured them in Yiddish that they would have no trouble with the

Irv laughed every time he told that story. As a side note, he enjoyed having many Jewish refugees in South Providence as customers for many years.

MATTHEW GABRILOW-ITZ (mp.gabrilowitz@verizon. net) lives in Cranston. His brothers Al and Ron live in Narragansett and Mansfield, Mass.,



Sam Kopel and his car, circa 1944

Sam Kopel in the mid-1940s

BY SANDRA KOPEL

My husband Sam Kopel was about 18 when this photo was taken, in the 1944. He bought He joined the Navy and reported for duty in late fall, 1944.

I believe the photo was taken outside his house at 31 Lydia St., off Orms Street in Providence.

Israel's Beresheet Hotel, luxury at the crater's edge

Don't leave your car behind to make this trek

BY BEN SALES

MITZPE RAMON, Israel (JTA) – Israel's Negev Desert is at once intimate and vast.

In a country where space is at a premium, it's easy to forget that nearly half the land is empty and rocky, unencumbered by houses, office buildings or people pushing past you. The only lights are the stars that crowd

But that emptiness can also be comforting, reminding urban visitors that the land is there, waiting to envelop them, to be explored.

Nowhere is this duality better exemplified than at Makhtesh Ramon, Israel's answer to the Grand Canyon, a crater roughly 25 miles long and nearly a third of a mile deep located about an hour south of Be'er Sheva. Visitors can easily get lost in the endless views from its lip or become absorbed by its hiking paths, steep walls and rock formations.

The Beresheet Hotel, a luxury getaway overlooking the crater, also captures the simultaneous intimacy and vastness of the desert. Guests can enjoy the limitless views of the crater from the pool's calming waters or the lobby bar. Or they can escape the arid surroundings altogether with a day at the spa.

Located in the small overlook city of Mitzpe Ramon, Beresheet, one of just five hotels in the Isrotel chain's Exclusive Collection, is itself a retreat from the country's more popular tourist spots. That's why it attracts Israelis as well as international tourists.

To get there from Israel's central region is a two-hour trek from Tel Aviv and two-anda-half from Jerusalem. And unless you're willing to pay a hefty taxi fare, take a five-hour ride on two buses or hire a driver, you'll need a car. For those



who travel in style, the hotel offers a one-hour helicopter ride from Tel Aviv.

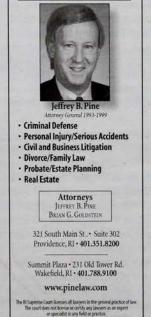
The roads leading to the crater are winding, the lighting spare and the stereotypes about Israeli drivers all too true. But overall the drive is relaxing, offering panoramic views of Israel's central farmlands and the Negev. If you can, slow down occasionally to catch a glimpse of the ibex, goats or even camels meandering along the road.

Unlike most hotels, Beresheet takes advantage of the open surroundings to spread out across a network of winding stone paths, all of which lead to the lobby and restaurant. The hotel offers free, on-demand golf cart service for those unable or unwilling to take the few minutes' walk to their room.

The lobby, dominated by a bowl-shaped fountain of black marble, leads to a kosher meat restaurant and a lounge area offering a full kosher dairy and drinks menu.

The hotel is nothing if not English friendly – as expected, the staff was proficient and there were plenty of English-language brochures – but our fellow guests conversed mostly in Hebrew (with some Arabic). They dressed in casual outerwear, propped their feet on stools and sunk into couches as if they were in someone's living

JEFFREY B. PINE, PC



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room

Beresheet shuts down at night; we began watching the movie "Take this Waltz" in a room with a projection screen until an employee came in 20 minutes later to lock up. Soon after, we found out that we'd missed the last golf cart at midnight.

During the day, Beresheet is full of activity. One day offered a yoga class, a photography workshop, movie screenings and a massage. Kids get a bright, colorful room of toys and games, and the hotel has an indoor and outdoor pool, both with views of the crater.

For guests who want to leave the hotel grounds, the crater offers no shortage of hikes, walks and rappelling. Sde Boker, where visitors can see David Ben-Gurion's house, is nearby. And Eilat, Israel's main resort and beachtown, is an hour-anda-half away.



LEGAL NOTICE

To merchants who have accepted Visa and MasterCard at any time since January 1, 2004: Notice of a 6+ billion dollar class action settlement.

Si desea leer este aviso en español, llámenos o visite nuestro sitio web.

Notice of a class action settlement authorized by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York.

This notice is authorized by the Court to inform you about an agreement to settle a class action lawsuit that may affect you. The lawsuit claims that Visa and MasterCard, separately, and together with banks, violated antitrust laws and caused merchants to pay excessive fees for accepting Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, including by:

- Agreeing to set, apply, and enforce rules about merchant fees (called default interchange fees);
- Limiting what merchants could do to encourage their customers to use other forms of payment through, for example, charging customers an extra fee or offering discounts; and
- Continuing that conduct after Visa and MasterCard changed their corporate structures.

The defendants say they have done nothing wrong. They say that their business practices are legal and the result of competition, and have benefitted merchants and consumers. The Court has not decided who is right because the parties agreed to a settlement. On November 27, 2012, the Court gave preliminary approval to this settlement.

THE SETTLEMENT

Under the settlement, Visa, MasterCard, and the bank defendants have agreed to make payments to two settlement funds:

- The first is a "Cash Fund" a \$6.05 billion fund that will pay valid claims of merchants that accepted Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards at any time between January 1, 2004 and November 28, 2012.
- The second is an "Interchange Fund" estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion – that will be based on a portion of the interchange fees attributable to certain merchants that accept Visa or MasterCard credit cards for an eight-month "Interchange Period."

Additionally, the settlement changes some of the Visa and MasterCard rules applicable to merchants who accept their cards.

This settlement creates two classes:

- A Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and other entities that accepted any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S. at any time from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012, and
- A Rule Changes Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and entities that as of November 28, 2012 or in the future accept any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S.

WHAT MERCHANTS WILL GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT

Every merchant in the Cash Settlement Class that files a valid claim will get money from the \$6.05 billion Cash Fund, subject to a deduction (not to exceed 25% of the fund) to account for merchants who exclude themselves from the Cash Settlement Class. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on the actual or estimated interchange fees attributable to the merchant's MasterCard and Visa payment card transactions from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Cash Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- · The total dollar value of all valid claims filed,
- The deduction described above not to exceed 25% of the Cash Settlement Fund, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, money awarded to the class representatives, and attorneys' fees and expenses all as approved by the Court.

In addition, merchants in the Cash Settlement Class that accept Visa and MasterCard during the eight-month Interchange Period and file a valid claim will get money from the separate Interchange Fund, estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on an estimate of one-tenth of 1% of the merchant's Visa and MasterCard credit card dollar sales volume during that period. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Interchange Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- · The total dollar value of all valid claims filed, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, and any attorneys' fees and expenses that may be approved by the Court.

Attorneys' fees and expenses and money awarded to the class representatives: For work done through final approval of the settlement by the district court, Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys' fees in an amount that is a reasonable proportion of the Cash Settlement Fund, not to exceed 11.5% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and 11.5% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on the class case. For additional work to administer the settlement, distribute both funds, and through any appeals, Class Counsel may seek reimbursement at their normal hourly rates, not to exceed an additional 1% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and an additional 1% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion. Class Counsel will also request reimbursement of their expenses (not including the administrative costs of settlement or notice), not to exceed \$40 million and up to \$200,000 per Class Plaintiff in service awards for their efforts on behalf of the classes.

How to Ask for Payment

To receive payment, merchants must fill out a claim form. If the Court finally approves the settlement, and you do not exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class, you will receive a claim form in the mail or by email. Or you may ask for one at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com, or call: 1-800-625-6440.

OTHER BENEFITS FOR MERCHANTS

Merchants will benefit from changes to certain MasterCard and Visa rules, which will allow merchants to, among other things:

- Charge customers an extra fee if they pay with Visa or MasterCard credit cards,
- Offer discounts to customers who do not pay with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards, and
- Form buying groups that meet certain criteria to negotiate with Visa and MasterCard.

Merchants that operate multiple businesses under different trade names or banners will also be able to accept Visa or MasterCard at fewer than all of the merchant's trade names and banners.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Merchants who are included in this lawsuit have the legal rights and options explained below. You may:

- File a claim to ask for payment. You will receive a claim form in the mail or email or file online at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.
- Exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class). If you exclude yourself, you can sue the Defendants for damages based on alleged conduct occurring on or before November 27, 2012 on your own at your own expense, if you want to. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from this settlement. If you are a merchant and wish to exclude yourself, you must make a written request, place it in an envelope, and mail it with postage prepaid and postmarked no later than May 28, 2013 to Class Administrator, Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement, P.O. Box 2530, Portland, OR 97208-2530. The written request must be signed by a person authorized to do so and provide all of the following information: (1) the words "In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation," (2) your full name, address, telephone number, and taxpayer identification number, (3) the merchant that wishes to be excluded from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), and what position or authority you have to exclude the merchant, and (4) the business names, brand names, and addresses of any stores or sales locations whose sales the merchant desires to be

Note: You cannot be excluded from the Rule Changes Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class).

 Object to the settlement. The deadline to object is: May 28, 2013. To learn how to object, see: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440.
 Note: If you exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class you cannot object to the terms of that portion of the settlement

For more information about these rights and options, visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

IF THE COURT APPROVES THE FINAL SETTLEMENT

Members of the Rule Changes Settlement Class are bound by the terms of this settlement. Members of the Cash Settlement Class, who do not exclude themselves by the deadline, are bound by the terms of this settlement whether or not they file a claim for payment. Members of both classes release all claims against all released parties listed in the Settlement Agreement. The settlement will resolve and release any claims by merchants against Visa, MasterCard or other defendants that were or could have been alleged in the lawsuit, including any claims based on interchange or other fees, no-surcharge rules, no-discounting rules, honor-all-cards rules and other rules. The settlement will also resolve any merchant claims based upon the future effect of any Visa or MasterCard rules, as of November 27, 2012 and not to be modified pursuant to the settlement, the modified rules provided for in the settlement, or any other rules substantially similar to any such rules. The releases will not bar claims involving certain specified standard commercial disputes arising in the ordinary course of business.

For more information on the release, see the settlement agreement at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

THE COURT HEARING ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT

On September 12, 2013, there will be a Court hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement, class counsels' requests for attorneys' fees and expenses, and awards for the class representatives. The hearing will take place at:

United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York 225 Cadman Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11201

You do not have to go to the court hearing or hire an attorney. But you can if you want to, at your own cost. The Court has appointed the law firms of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP, Berger & Montague, PC, and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to represent the Class ("Class Counsel").

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this case (In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation, MDL 1720), you may:

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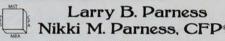
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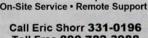
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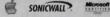


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John Kerry: A 'genie in a bottle'

Columnist brushes shoulders with a future secretary of state

served as the chauffeur for our newest secretary of state. It was a one-day job. I was the aide and assistant – and faculty advisor – for the VVAW, Vietnam Veterans Against the War. The leader of



SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

the pack was my student, Rob

We met among the pubs about town to lay out plans for protest meetings among influential people in the community. My task was to create contexts for speeches by the veterans testifying about the nature of combat in that far-off land. They set up headquarters on Waterman Street and wanted to tap into my familiarity with fancy homes on the East Side and beyond.

We needed somebody who had achieved celebrity status to confer dignity on the ragtag group and to shine the light of fame upon these events.

From the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, I had brought a series of old films dealing with issues that had become relevant in the decades of the 1960s and 1970s, which, on a grant, I could set up at the Unitarian Church on Benefit Street. So, they knew me at that grand and noble building; the minister, Thomas Alhburn, and members of the board would surely go along with my invitations and suggestions.

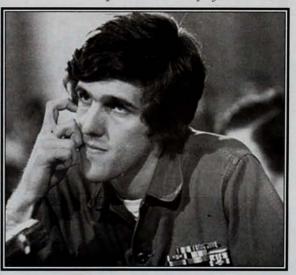
When I offered to drive to Lexington, Mass., to bring John Kerry, spokesman for the VVAW, to their pulpit in the spring of 1971, they said, "Yes,

"KERRY SPOKE WITH

both passion and reason, with restraint and with a military posture."

indeed."

Now, I am a myopic soul and I get lost if I have to follow directions other than just to cruise around by habit and familiarity. I could never cope with a GPS and, besides, that gadget didn't exist in those days. Nev-



A much younger John Kerry

ertheless, I found the Kerry home, fetched the elegant dude and competently escorted him to the freshly gentrified Benefit Street campus world. He arrived, safe and sound.

Wearing a dignified navy blazer, he cut a fine and youthful figure. He climbed up to the top balcony above the vast con gregation of pews lit by high pearlescent windows that made the view of old trees look like Impressionist paintings. Very "Unitarian" in its mixture of aristocratic atmosphere and a somehow liberal aura ... those puritanical, pale pastel colors avoided gem-like brilliance and struck me as subtly Emersonian in tone.

Kerry – who was confirmed Tuesday, Jan. 29 by the United States Senate as the secretary of state – spoke with both passion and reason, with restraint and with a military posture. His lofty speech combined support for the veterans and their needs, along with respect for their anti-war views – a difficult mix, which he handled with the grace that will surely be required for his new position. He looked good with his high hair and lean look, from forehead to chin.

Afterwards, I drove him back across the border of our "Rogues' Colony" to the Commonwealth. He seemed to me to embody his region, and I felt that I represented the heart and soul of historic Providence.

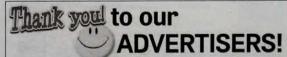
I'm really not a political person. But in that particular season of the VVAW, I had my day of service. My reward was that I marched in Bristol's iconic Fourth of July parade that summer as an honorary Vietnam vet. I attended Truitts wedding in Watch Hill. And I played the part of a Vietnam prisoner of war in costume and makeup in a street theater rally for support for the movement and for its chief symbolic figurehead, Kerry.

I wonder if he will remember me ... or even just the baby 4CV Renault into which he had to pour his long, lanky legs like the circus contortionist clown who dislocates his bones to fit into a jar like a genie in a bot-

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol. com) teaches English at the Rhode Island School of Design.







284 W. Exchange St. Providence, RI 02903

Zero Mostel: A life of song and mimicry

Representing a great theatrical tradition

he year 1964 was a good contentious many ways perhaps, but economically prosperous and, in terms of employment, a better year than most.

Lyndon Baines Johnson was president, the Cold War domi-



SCIENCE & SOCIETY

STANLEY ARONSON, M.D.

nated the news (as well as the national budget), St. Louis won the World Series and, on Sept. 22, a new play opened on Broadway. It was billed as a musical comedy of shtetl life in Tsarist Russia of 1905. It was based on Sholem Aleichem's tale, "Tevye the Milkman," with music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick. Its title, "Fiddler on the Roof," was derived from a surrealistic Marc Chagall painting. The show was a huge success, running for 3,242 consecutive performances.

In December 1964, I witnessed the show from an upper balcony seat. My attendance had been prompted by a love of the legitimate theater, by the poignantly gifted writings of Aleichem and, of course, by the singularly gifted star of the show and fellow citizen of Brownsville (a neighborhood in Brooklyn), Zero Mostel (1915-1977)

So who was Mostel? He was the last of seven children born to an immigrant Jewish couple living in Brooklyn's Brownsville section. Named Samuel Joel Mostel at birth, he was a gifted child with great talent in painting and in finding humor, through mimicry, within the poverty that surrounded him. However, his notable lack of skills beyond painting and mimicry inspired his mother to complain that his future was bleak. It was, in her repeated words, "gornisht von gornisht" "nothing for nothing").

Mostel heard this dire prediction so frequently that he finally adopted its loose English translation, zero, as his

Mostel attended City College of New York, graduating in 1935, in the depths of the Depression. In those days, CCNY was a tuitionfree municipal college, perhaps the largest of its kind

in the United States, with open enrollment to any male who met three criteria: proven citizenship within New York City, a high school diploma and an academic average of B or better,

"THE YEAR **1964** was a good year ... a better year than most."

and no criminal record. The undergraduate student body, about 5,000 in those days, consisted almost entirely of lowerclass, striving Jewish males intent on finding a secure place in society somewhat above the socioeconomic status of their immigrant parents.

It was a collegiate campus with few frills - no dances (young women had their collegiate equivalent in Manhattan's Hunter College) and few intercollegiate sports except for the ever-present basketball

A personal note: My brother attended CCNY during the



A "Fiddler on the Roof" playbill

years Mostel attended, but I doubt that they knew one other. In those days, students did not tarry on campus (no frat houses and certainly no neighboring taverns); after class, they rushed to the subways for lateafternoon jobs or home to undertake their studies. My attendance at CCNY began shortly after Mostel's graduation and hence, I, too, never met him on

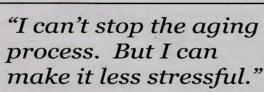
Mostel's mature interests wavered between a serious career in painting (after graduation, he worked full-time in a government-sponsored artists' studio) and, alternatively, as a come-dian and a clown. Following his time in the U.S. Army during World War II, he resumed his art studio activities but, by 1950, found an alternative, and lucrative, career in night club performances, occasional roles on television, movies and finally, Broadway.

The Tevye role in "Fiddler on the Roof" was the first of his many brilliant, uniquely stylized performances as a gentle, whimsical, yet incredibly sad, comic. A succession of Broad-way plays, including "Waiting for Godot," "The Producers," "Ulysses," "Rhinocerus" and 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," brought Mostel to the height of popular acclaim.

In "Fiddler on the Roof," Mostel sings a song, "Tradition," that has become a crowning event in his great career as a performer.

So what is tradition? The word, if not the concept, comes from the Latin, traditio, meaning a surrender, a handing down of consecrated ritual or a delivery of doctrine, whether religious or secular. And thus, through the centuries, we have traditions of infinite varieties: domestic, clan-related, ceremonial, professional, legal and, of course, religious traditions. But tradition had never been so rapturous, so articulate, so inspiring until Zero Mostel's Tevye told us all about it in song.

STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D. (smamd@cox.net), a re-tired dean of Brown Medical School, lives in Providence.



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D'VAR TORAH

Jethro, a priest of Midian, made connections with ancient Israelites

PARASHAT YITRO Exopus 18:1-20:23

BY RABBI SARAH MACK Special to The Voice & Herald

his week's Torah portion (Yitro) describes one of the pivotal moments of the Jewish people. After the Exodus from Egypt, the Israelites receive the Torah at Mt. Sinai. But before the commandments are given, before Moses sees God face-to-face on the mountain amid smoke and fire. he journeys to Midian to see his father-in-law Jethro, and the two men kibbitz about work.

By reading the text, we can almost imagine Jethro asking, "How are things at the office? The wife and kids? How about Aaron? What is it like leading the Israelites and serving

They talk about the redemption from Egypt and the future. Jethro reprimands his son-inlaw, telling him to work less and delegate more. Admittedly, Jethro has some stake in the happiness of his daughter Zipporah, but his general advice determines the leadership of the Israelites through many journeys to come.

Most surprisingly, Jethro utters words of blessing and amazement for the miracle of the Israelites' redemption from Egypt. "Barukh Adonai asher hitzil etkhem mi-yad Mitzrayim u-mi-yad Pharaoh. asher hitzil et ha-am mi-tahat yad Mitzray-"Blessed be Adonai, who delivered you from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians." (Exodus 19:10)

What do we make of the fact that our most particularis-tic Torah portion - the one in which we, as Jews, are "chosen" to receive the word of God - is named for a non-Jew? Mattan Torah, one our most important collective historical moments. is blessed by Jethro - using a formula that we have continued to use in prayer for many centuries. Jethro teaches Moses how to lead and teaches us how to pray!

The ancient rabbis suggest that on hearing of the parting of the Red Sea, Jethro allied himself with the Jewish people, converting and abandoning his pagan ways. I'm not sure that their view does justice to Jethro's contribution to our understanding of Torah and our reading of this parashah. Perhaps we can learn more from his actions without summarily converting him to Judaism. In fact, we know that Jethro, a priest of Midian, was a religious man of his own accord. One midrash (Midrash Rabbah on Exodus 27:8) notes that another name for Jethro is Reuel, "friend of God" suggesting that Jethro had his own relationship with the God of Israel. Nothing in the text tells us that he had to convert to achieve

"IT OFTEN TAKES

someone else to open us up to a potential relationship with God." ·

this relationship.

What a wonderful model for us – Moses' faith and relationship with God is deepened through his connection to his father-in-law!

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky writes, Through Jethro, Moses "Through learned a lesson that many of us have also come to understand in the spiritual journey of our own lives. It often takes someone else to open us up to a potential relationship with God." ("Learn Torah With...5755."



Stuart Kelman & Joel Lurie Grishaver, eds., Alef Design Group, 1996, p.129). Moses' relationship with Jethro suggests that our teachers may or may not be Jewish.

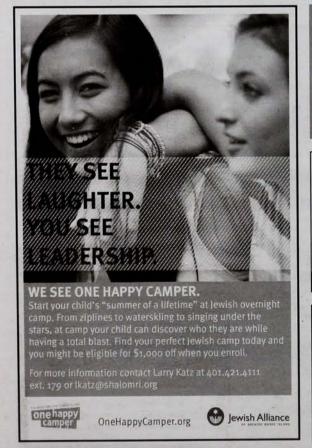
Throughout history, Jews have often drawn inspiration from surrounding cultures.

The rabbis of the Mishnah and Talmud drew upon the language and thought of their Babylonian, Greek and Roman neighbors. Rabbi Moses Maimonides studied and based much of his philosophy on Aristotle. Early Reform Judaism drew lessons from Protestant neighbors both in Germany and in America. As the midrash points out, it often takes an outsider to reveal the blessing that is contained within. (Mekhilta

As we prepare to recall mat-tan Torah, the giving of the Torah, let us consider all those outside our gates who have brought us closer to God. Revelation and blessing come from unexpected sources. Let us be open to these discoveries. The prophet Isaiah teaches us to enlarge the site of your tent, extend the size of your dwelling." (Isa. 54:2)

May our tents extend the world over, enabling us to welcome the stranger, encounter the divine, and renew our faith and love of Judaism.

RABBI SARAH MACK (RabbiMack@temple-beth-el.org), associate rabbi at Temple Beth-El in Providence, is a member of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.



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Poland's Jewish past comes to light

Cemetery moments leave lasting impressions

By Marty Cooper mcooper@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE - As the cantor recites the Kaddish, tears form in our eyes - tears of remembrance and tears for what could have been. We cried, even as we recognized the kindness of most people. We cried, even as we recognized the next generation of people who want to tear down the walls of hate, bigotry, prejudice and bias

The cantor recited this prayer at a cemetery, once overgrown and neglected, and now in the process of being restored. The cemetery is in the outskirts of a small town, Wadowice, in Poland. Today, more than 60 of the original 91 headstones are in-

As he chanted the Kaddish, the cantor stood before a memorial gravestone that commemorates local Jews who perished during the Holocaust. Ten Americans, including local Jewish artist Alan Metnick and me, went to Poland in December at the invitation of the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations, an entity subsidized by the Polish government. During the prayer, we looked first at the gravestone and then at the breathtaking view of the valley the cemetery overlooked.

Two elderly volunteers from the Polish town have taken on the responsibility of restoring the cemetery. Asked why they have chosen to volunteer, one volunteer said that they should never have allowed the horrors of the Holocaust to happen. "We should never have forgotten the people and their families who once lived here, in our commu-nity," she said, "We [and] our parents should have not allowed the atrocities to happen here in our town.'

Students and seniors volunteer

After we thanked her for her diligent dedication to the revitalization of the cemetery, she said, "This is our obligation, our calling."

Then, several of the town's high school students accompanying us offered their volunteer services to the cemetery restoration project

Earlier in the day, those students, from this small town where Pope John Paul II was born and raised, told us through an interpreter that they hadn't known Jews had once lived there. Through their research through the Forum for Dialogue, they learned that Jews had been fixtures in their town from the mid-18th century. Indeed, Pope John Paul II's best friend and lifelong confidant was a Jew who lived on the farm adjacent

to his family's property.

The students took us on a tour of the town. As we passed by storefronts, one student noted, "This is where the kosher butcher shop was.'

Another student said, "This is where the kosher bakery once stood

A third said that a Jewish man had owned the haberdashery.

And a fourth student said, "Here was the town's synaausonie

Soon, the town became Jewish

Tears of joy and connection

Several decades and three generations after World War II, the town has reacquired its Jewish roots and history. Other towns in Poland are experiencing a similar process, through the Forum for Dialogue, a nonprofit Polish organization whose mission is to foster Polish-Jewish dialogue, eradicate anti-Semitism and teach tolerance through education.

The final recitation of the Kaddish was at the warehouse at Auschwitz II-Birkenau, the concentration camp where more than 1.3 million people were murdered.

Today, that warehouse, which had housed the worldly possessions that concentration camp inmates had brought with them. is home to an exhibit of blackand-white photographs, reminiscent of early Kodak photos, of families and friends enjoying "better, happier times" - picnics, weddings and family gatherings that pre-dated the Holocaust.

As someone who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in the U.S., I knew that those photos could have been pictures of people like my family and friends. Those pictures brought the whole experience of life, relationships and death together to form one strong bond for all of us.

As the cantor chanted the Kaddish, I felt a deep connection to all those who had perished there, years earlier. About halfway through the prayer and overcome with emotion, the cantor found it difficult to continue: his son, 21-years-old, moved to his side and hugged him. The cantor found strength to continue and complete the Kaddish as we all wept

On the long walk from the warehouse to the exit of the concentration camp, father and son continued to hug one another tightly, at times appearing to be

Whenever I hear Kaddish again, I know that I will be drawn back to those days in Po-

MARTY COOPER (mcooper@ shalomri.org) is director of the Community Relations Council of the Alliance



American visitors, Polish students and Polish volunteers at the cemetery in Wadowice, Poland



Marty Cooper, center, and others view photos of family gatherings that predate the Holocaust. The individuals depicted in these photos were victims of the Holocaust.



Madeline Rose (Gerstenblatt) Cohen, 95

WARWICK - Madeline Cohen died Jan. 17. Wife of the late David Cohen, she was born in Oxford, Mass., a daughter of the late Hyman and Molly (Barber) Gerstenblatt.

She was the mother of Stanley Cohen (Beverly) of Paw-tucket, Gerald Cohen (Esta) of East Greenwich and Mindy Stafford (Robert) of West Warwick; grandmother of Jeffrey Cohen (Amy), Debra Lewis (Andrew), Susan Gastel (Jonathan), Rina Vertes (Roger), Amy Blustein (Howard), Daniel Cohen (Elizabeth), Marcy Cascone (John), Stuart Licker and Lauri O'Banion (Michael).

She was the great-grandmother of Jake and Zachary Cohen; Jamie, Jonathan and Scott Lewis; Dylan, Amanda and Dennis Gastel; Marissa and Joshua Vertes; Mitchell and Rachel Blustein; Milton and Nathaniel Cohen; John Robert Cascone; Kim Abotbul (Yaniv), Mary Beth Bergum (Erik) and Daniel O'Banion (Alison). She was the sister of the late Bev-erly Simmons, Dr. Seymour Gersten and Bertram Gersten, sister-in-law of Frances Levin and Florence Cohen and aunt to numerous nieces and nephews.

Retired from Allendale Insurance in 1980, she was honored for 20 years of volunteer service at Kent Hospital in Warwick. She had been involved in Temple Emanu-El's Leisure Club.

Donations may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI, 1085 North Main Street, Provi-dence, RI 02904 or the charity of one's choice.

Norma J. Goldberg, 82

PROVIDENCE - Norma J. Goldberg died Sept. 10, 2012.

Born June 4, 1930 in Worces ter, Mass., she was a daughter of the late Karl Lewis and Celia (Silverman) Goldberg and the former wife of the late psychologist Jay Marvin Kaplan

She is survived by her son

Samuel David Kaplan and her daughter Nicole zanne Kaplan: her Ruth sisters Shaffer of Israel and Sylvia Oro-Ph.D. denker.

and her husband Norman Orodenker, Esq.; nieces Dr. Judith Orodenker, Karen Koffink and Lisa Press; nephews Joshua and Daniel Orodenker, Esq., Rick Shaffer, Esq., Jimmy Kaplan and their spouses; many great-nieces and -nephews and

her friend Evelyn Katzman. In her childhood, she was involved in Camp Young Judea and later became a camp counselor, influencing her love of nature, teaching and strong sense of Judaism. She loved dancing, playing the piano, music, art, theatre, poetry and his-

In 1947, she graduated from Classical High School and studied early childhood education at Brandeis University and Clark University, earning her B.A. in

She graduated in 1952 with highest honors. She completed her graduate studies at Rhode Island College.

She was a preschool teacher for 30 years at the Jewish Community Center where she formed a teachers' union and then worked at Providence Head Start for 25 years

She was an active and committed board member of Childhood Lead Action Project and predated the organization, working hard to help pass the

1991 Lead Prevention Act.

A member of the ACLU, Amnesty International, NAACP, Women for a Non-Nuclear Future and supporter of Carriage House; she also donated to many other organizations and charities

A political, social and human rights activist and an advocate for children, she prevented the woods behind her family's home from being destroyed in the mid-1970s.

Donations may be made to Childhood Lead Action Project, 1192 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02909 or Children's Friend Head Start, 153 Summer St., Providence, RI 02903.

Martin Helfgott, 76

FOSTER - Martin Helf-gott died Jan. 24. He was the husband of Judith (Mirsky) Helfgott for 53 years. Born in New York, a son of the late Jack and Mildred (Stollman) Helfgott, he had lived in Foster and owned and operated Helfgott Farms for 50 years.

He was a Navy veteran who served in Korea during the Korean Conflict. He was a mem-

ber and treasurer of Temple Beth Israel in Danielson, Conn.; a member and past master of Hamilton Lodge #15

of the Masons; a member of the RI Shrine and past secretary and president of the Foster Lions Club. He sat on the Foster Zoning Board and was chairman for several years

He was the father of Jack Helfgott and his wife Jody of Plattsburg, N.Y. and Leslie Dinerman and her husband Norman of Scituate, brother of Evelyn Zierler of Boca Raton, Fla., and grandfather of Jennifer, Max, Isaac, Emma, Annie, Jojo, Jared and Sydney.

Contributions may be made to Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society, c/o Rosa Goldblatt, 63 Sherwood Lane, Norwich, CT 06360 or Shriner's Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

Benjamin Kanopky, 99

JOHNSTON - Benjamin Kanopky, formerly of Chepa-chet, died Jan. 29. He was the husband of the late Leonora

(Goclowski) Kanopky. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late David and Dora (Spiegel) Kanopkin.

He was a superintendent for Capitol Heel Lining Co. in Providence for more than 25 years before retiring in 1975. He was a former member of Temple Am David and Sons of Jacob Congregation

Survived by his brother Louis Kanopkin and several nieces and nephews, he was the brother of the late Bella Harriet, Mary Kanopky, Rose Dwares and William Kanopkin.

Donations may be made to Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, RI 02888

Beverly (Rotmer) Saffir, 79

WELLINGTON, Fla. - Beverly Saffir, of Wellington and for-merly of West Hartford, Conn., died Jan. 29. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Bessie (Bello) Rotmer.

She is survived by her husband of more than 58 years, Len, her daughter and son-inlaw Linda and Herbert Mendelsohn, her son and daughterin-law Kenneth and Julie Saffir, and her grandchildren, Jaimee Newman and her husband Matt, Lauren Zuboff and her fiancé Peter Sharkey, Gregory Zuboff, Robin Saffir and Alex Mendelsohn. She is also leaves her sister Sandra Rubin and companion Morris Lazar, her brother and sister-in-law Edward Rotmer and Lorraine, many nieces, nephews and life-long friends, including Karen

Shiva will be observed at the home of Ken and Julie Saffir, 3 Stillwood Chase, Weatogue, Conn., on Friday, Feb. 1 from 3 p.m. to sunset.

Donations may be made to The Jay Robert Lauer Hospice Care Unit, JFK Medical Center, 5301 South Congress Ave., Lake Worth, FL 33462 or the charity of one's choice.

Joel H. Sekeres, 72

BARRINGTON - Joel H. Sekeres died Jan. 23. He was the husband of Bonnie (Simon) Sekeres for 47 years. Born in New York, a son of the late George and Bessie (Goldshine) Sekeres, he had lived in Barrington for 17 years, previously residing in Providence. He was a political reporter, columnist and section editor for the Providence Journal for more than 32 years, retiring in 1996

After his retirement, he was an editor for the Rhode Island Supreme Court. An enthusiastic sports fan of the New York Yankees and the New York Giants, he was also an avid art enthusiast.

He was the father of Caleb Sekeres and his wife Young Kyoung Kim of South Korea and Mikkael Sekeres and his wife Jennifer of Shaker Heights, Ohio and the grandfather of Gabriel, Samantha and Silas.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

ADL's Shulman to step down

BOSTON - Derrek L. Shulman announced his resignation, effective Jan. 31, as regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, New England Region, a position he held for 1/2 years

In a phone conversation with The Jewish Voice & Herald, Shulman said that Robert Trestan, currently ADL's Eastern States Civil Rights counsel, will serve as interim regional director while a national search is underway. Although Trestan is not a candidate for the position, Shulman said, "He's well-positioned to serve [as the interim regional director] as he knows the office well."

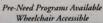
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A celebration of women by women

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood to host women's community Seder

By Karen Isenberg Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - On Tuesday, March 5, the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El will host a women's community Seder at 6 p.m. in the synagogue's Social Hall. The event is open to all women of any religious affiliation, including girls 8 and older, and includes a catered kosher-style diner. Rabbi Sarah Mack, Cantor Judith Seplowin and educator/musician Debbie Waldman will lead this service.

Women's Seders are an international tradition that first began in 1975 in Haifa. Jewish feminist writer Esther Broner led the first American women's Seder in 1976 in New York. Broner and co-author Naomi Nimrod then published The Wom-

en's Haggadah. Like a traditional Seder, a women's Seder celebrates free-dom and redemption but is unique in that it gives voices to the women of the Passover story - Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter and the midwives, Shifra and Puah. The Seder table also includes two symbols that celebrate women; an orange represents those women who have been marginalized in the past in our communities and contin-

ue to struggle for equality. And Miriam's cup, filled with water, and placed on the table with Elijah's cup, symbolizes the contributions of Jewish women, both past and present.

The Seder costs \$30 per person; a portion of the proceeds will be donated to two organizations that play important roles in the plight of women locally and religiously, the Rhode Is-land Community Food Bank and Women of the Wall. The Food Bank was selected, given Rhode Island's economic challenges and the growing need for food among low- and moderate-income families, many of which are headed by single mothers. Women of the Wall was chosen for its mission for women to achieve full social and legal recognition to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and aloud at the Western Wall.

Reservations must be received by Feb. 19.

FOR MORE INFORMATION/ RSVP, contact Temple Beth-El at 331-6070 by Feb. 19.

KAREN ISENBERG (kbandel@hotmail.com), a Provi-dence resident, is a Sisterhood board member.

BABY - Esther Koffler Kaplan, of Commack, Long Island, formerly of Pawtucket, is proud to an-nounce the Nov. 2 birth of her great-grandson Charles. He is the son of Jesse and Devra Kaplan of Toronto, Canada and the grandson of Dr. Allan S. Kaplan, formerly of Pawtucket and now of Toronto.

Charles is named for his greatgreat-grandfather, the late Charles Koffler of Providence. The baby's father carries the Hebrew name Yekusiel, of Charles

The baby's Hebrew name Pesach is for his late great-grandfather, Rabbi Philip Kaplan, formerly of Pawtucket.

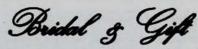


Charles Kaplan



George E. Lieberman, Esq.

RECOGNITION - Vetter & White. of Providence, ranked as a Tier I law firm for the State of Rhode Island in the 2013 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms," announced that George E. Lieberman, a partner with the firm, has been named for the ninth consecutive year as one of the nation's best lawyers in his field of commercial litigation. Lieberman, a Barrington resident, was also recognized as one of the best lawyers in America in the field of litigation-real estate.



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KNESSET welcomes diverse members and personalities

From Page 1

no less interesting; they include a woman with a doctorate in Talmud, an Ethiopian immigrant, a mother of 11 from Hebron, a socially conscious venture capitalist and an American-born rabbi.

Rabbi Dov Lipman (Yesh Atid)

Rabbi Lipman, a haredi rabbi in a party calling for haredi army service, has been an advocate for coexistence in a city fraught with interreligious conflict. Soon he'll be the first American-born member of Israel's Knesset since Meir Kahane.

Lipman, 41, originally from Silver Spring, Md., was a Jewish educator in Ohio and Maryland before moving to Israel with his family in 2004. They live in Beit Shemesh, a Jerusalem suburb that has been a flashpoint for conflict between *haredi* and modern Orthodox Israelis. As the city's conflicts have escalated in recent years, Lipman tried to serve as a bridge between the two sides.

He says he believes that there's no contradiction between working, serving the country and being haredi, and he wants to bring that ethic to Israel. It's a challenge: Many of Israel's haredim are unemployed, few serve in the Israeli military and many

are avowedly non-Zionist.

"In America, haredim have education, there are opportunities and they work," Lipman told JTA.

Lipman hopes his presence in Yesh Atid – the party campaigned for universal national service – will allow him to help integrate haredi Israelis into the rest of Israeli society.

Before Election Day, few expected Lipman, No. 17 on the Yesh Atid ticket, to land a Knesset seat. But Yesh Atid campaigned hard. Every night, it seemed, Lipman hosted a parlor meeting for English-speaking Israelis, participated in Englishlanguage debates or blogged on the English news site, the Times of Israel.

When Yesh Atid won 19 seats, Lipman was in.

Ruth Calderon (Yesh Atid)

Calderon, 51, is a Jewish scholar who, like Lipman, advocates interreligious understanding. But unlike Lipman and most Jewish scholars in Israel, Calderon earned her degree at a university, not a yeshiva.

But that didn't stop her from starting one. Calderon, who holds a doctorate in Talmud from Jerusalem's Hebrew University, founded Jerusalem's Elul Beit Midrash in 1989, one of the city's first Jewish study houses where secular and religious Israelis study and discuss Judaism together. More recently, Calderon founded Alma, a center for Hebrew culture in Tel Aviv, to combine Jewish, Israeli and universal culture.

Calderon calls herself a "non-



Erel Margalit

halakhic person," but that doesn't stop her from posting daily passages from the Mishnah on her Facebook page.

Erel Margalit (Labor)

The Labor Party's campaign this year, driven by party Chairwoman Shelly Yachimovich, was to strengthen middleclass and poor Israelis.

One of the campaign's central slogans declared that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "is good for rich people. Shelly is good for you," and one of the party's most public new faces was 2011 social protest leader Stav Shaffir.

Now one of the party's freshmen is one of Israel's wealthiest and most successful venture capitalists.

Margalit, 51, who founded Jerusalem Venture Partners, was declared "king of the exits" by The Marker, Haaretz's business magazine. From 2000 to 2010, he presided over seven \$100 million exits, or sales of stakes in companies – the most in Israel.

But Labor's social-democratic values speak to Margalit. He grew up on a kibbutz; in 2002, he founded JVP Community, a fund to address social issues in Jerusalem. One of its flagship programs is Bakehila (Hebrew for "in the community"), which organizes educational programs for disadvantaged Jewish and Arab children.

After Labor split and fell to a historic nadir of eight seats in 2011, Margalit founded the Labor Now organization to recruit new members and reinvigorate its values. He ran for the party chairmanship that year but dropped out of the race.

Margalit may still harbor leadership ambitions. After Labor won 15 seats last week, he criticized Yachimovich's campaign focus for the party's failure to do better.

"We should have expressed ... more clearly ... our foreign policy agenda," he said, according to the daily Israel Hayom.

As a child, Margalit lived briefly in Detroit; he holds a doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University.

Orit Struk (Jewish Home)

Struk, from one of the most ideological communities in the West Bank, will have to pass through a checkpoint or two on her commute to the Knesset. A 30-year resident of Hebron, Struk runs the Jewish community's legal and diplomatic division

Mother of 11 and grandmother of 12, Struk is founder and chairwoman of Human Rights in Yesha, an organization that advocates for settlers' rights. Struk has fought against alleged settler abuse by soldiers and policemen, and advocated for the rights of those who protested Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005.

Struk, 52, also runs the Land of Israel lobby, which fought for settlement expansion and legalizing settlement outposts.

Shimon Solomon (Yesh Atid)

Solomon, 44, has come a long way to the Knesset. When he was 12, Solomon set out on foot with his family from Ethiopia, traveling via Sudan to Israel.

Later, after becoming a social worker, he returned to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, from 2005-07, to help others follow in his footsteps. He advocates for refugees through Physicians for Human Rights and is a former director of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, a center for orphans of the Rwandan genocide.

The future of Israel's refugees and migrants has been a topic of heated debate during the last year or two.

"He reminds me of my father," said Lapid, Yesh Atid chairman and son of late Israeli politician Tommy Lapid, referring to Solomon. "My father was an immigrant. He came here in a ship from another country without knowing a word of Hebrew. And like Shimon, when he set foot in Israel, it became his."

"Everyone needs to give of what he has, even if he doesn't have much," said Solomon, promoting an ethic of service.

Solomon served in the IDF's paratroopers unit and is a reserve officer. He is one of two Ethiopians on Yesh Atid's list along with Pnina Tamnu-Shata, the first Ethiopian woman to be elected to the Knesset.

eats in the Larecruit igorate Members of the

19th Knesset
By JTA STAFF

(JTA) – The 19th Knesset includes 31 members of the Likud-Beiteinu coalition, including current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman, among others; Yesh Atid earned 19 seats, Labor snagged 15, HaBayit HaYehudi/The Jewish Home has 12 seats and Shas has 11. In addition, United Torah Judaism has seven, Hatnua and Meretz each have six seats, Hadash and RaamTal each have four, Balad has three and Kadima has two.

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JEWISH values inspire State Sen. Josh Miller, who holds new committee chairmanship

From Page 1

by how it treats its children, its elderly, the poor, the sick and the handicapped. And even though Humphrey was not a Jew, it's totally compatible with the role in which Jews have traditionally been cast in respect to their priorities and guidelines

I have the actual quote slipped under the glass of my desk at the Statehouse. That year was the beginning of tougher times for our economy when we had to deal with budget cuts that impacted those people that we were tasked to protect. Jewish teachings tell us to protect those groups so I see my role to be consistent with those principles.

Q: Can you give an example of how those teachings have affected you or guided you?

A: Going back to 2007, one of the first issues we dealt with was cutbacks to RITE Care (Rhode Island's Medicaid managed health care program); it wasn't necessarily one of my bills, but several other people and I made it a priority to make sure those cutbacks were not as deep as proposed. We made some progress on the budget in that regard and, as a result of our effort, they weren't [as

Another example - consistent with our Jewish tradition included affordable energy issues concerning the poor.

There was a bill that became very important to Sen. [Donna] Sosnowski and me that would prevent utility shutoffs if there was someone younger than 2-years-old [in the household]. We got a commitment from all the key players on the House and Senate sides that it would be fine and, on the last night of the session, we still hadn't seen the bill. Sen. Sosnowski and I were the quorum on the Corporations Committee, where the bill was coming out, and we actually boycotted the committee to prevent a quorum for the remainder of the night until the bill appeared. We didn't know, and nobody

was telling us, where the bill was. It may have been inten-tional and we'll never know, but with our boycott late at night on the last day, it finally did appear.

Those efforts early in a career help define who you are as a legislator and [that] you are here to represent: people of all denominations, economic status and physical abilities.

Q: Senator, you've been involved in the issue of marriage equality since your very first term in the General Assembly. A bill to sanction civil same-sex marriages has never made it to the floor for an up or down vote. The House seems to have sufficient support and, although personally opposed to same-sex marriage, Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Michael McCaffrey have both said that the Committee



Sen. Josh Miller attends a Jan. 14 press conference held by Rhode Islanders United for Marriage.

will vote on the same-sex marriage bill. Is this the year for same-sex marriage legislation in Rhode Island?

A: It seems like this is the session; I feel it in my bones. Sens. Paiva Weed and McCaffrey are both publicly committed to moving the bill to the Senate floor. The committee, as currently reassigned, is about 50/50 [pro and con], according to their historical positions, but that doesn't mean they will oppose allowing a full floor vote. Several factors [are] in play in the Senate that haven't been in play before.

If the House bill remains intact and reflects the views [of same-sex marriage advocates] and passes with overwhelming House support and early in the session, it gives senators time, even if they would otherwise be opposed, to define their role in this session on issues other than marriage equality and to accept the inevitability, nationally, [of same-sex marriage and to] leave that issue behind them. To me, it means they will allow the full chamber to vote on the issue

(EDITOR'S NOTE: After this interview was conducted, the House voted 51 to 19 on Jan. 24 to approve the same-sex marriage bill.)

Q: Where does Rhode Island stand in regard to Iran and our investments in that country? Is there any pending legislation that deals with this issue?

A: I had a meeting a few ago with Anne-Marie Fink, Rhode Island's new chief investment officer who works under [General Treasurer] Gina Raimondo. [Newly-elect-ed Sen.] Gayle Goldin, [newlyelected state Rep.] Mia Acker-man, and and I met with the treasurer's office. [It is] in the process of setting up, based on last year's relevant, but failed, legislation, an internal governance policy [on investments] that would cover the same ground as the proposed legisla-

internal governance The policy would review all the state's investments in Iran, and adhere to strict, transparent standards to divulge, and dispose of, our investments in any Iranian asset.

Also, Marty Cooper, director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, has been a major help in bringing the importance of divestment and a nuclear-free Iran to Rhode Island's [political leaders]. We are waiting as long as we can to introduce legislation.

A clear governance policy that we are confident the trea surer's office will abide by is the desired outcome; [then] there [would] be no need for us to introduce bills. But if we don't see that, the General Assembly calendar has a deadline of the end of February for introducing legislation and we

Another encouraging [fact] is that the attorney general's of-fice is involved with a national initiative on Iran divestment and contracting - an effort by every [state] attorney general to examine this issue - again, with the outcome of operating under the same type of restric tions and guidelines that obviate the need for legislation.

Q: Any aspirations for higher office at this time?

A: Every office holder thinks of higher office. I recently watched MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell opine with Massa-chusetts Gov. Deval Patrick about [Patrick's] desire to be named interim [United States] senator if [Sen.] John Kerry is confirmed as secretary of state.
[EDITOR'S NOTE: Kerry was confirmed by the Senate Jan. 29.] O'Donnell, who served as a senior staffer for two powerful congressional committees, made the case that, no matter which state, no matter how junior [a senator may be], there is nothing more powerful than being a United States senator.

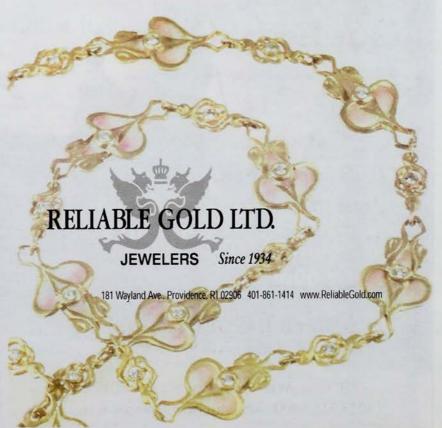
So, though I don't seriously consider it, I think the "what ifs" of statewide or federal [office] run through any state senator's mind at some point. But I don't foresee it. I don't like campaigning enough and I hold my nose, very tightly, at fundraising.

Q: Sen. Miller, you've served as chair of the Senate Corporations Committee and, now, you're the new chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. You've seen legislative victories as well as defeats. What would you consider a successful legislative session? A

A: I think that every session I've been involved in has had a little bit of both - successes and failures. It's a matter of arranging priorities so that they are ... ambitious, but also realistic. It's important to build on the successes and learn from the failures. Every session has components of both, whether it's successful pension reform or domestic energy initiatives, or the failure, until now, of getting a marriage equality bill to the floor for a vote.

I can't think of a session that didn't have both successes and failures, but I would rather define a particular session by its successes than by its failures.

ARTHUR C. NORMAN (abcnorman@aol.com) is an editorial consultant for The Jewish Voice & Herald.



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