

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

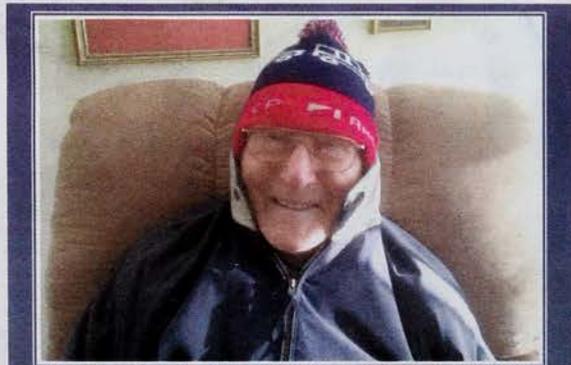
5 Adar 5773

February 15, 2013



MEL BLAKE

**WE ARE READ IN JERUSALEM:** Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island mission participants gather with The Jewish Voice & Herald for a photo opp! This issue includes several mission-related stories.



JENNY MILLER

Tamarisk resident Hyman (Hy) Jacobson is bundled up, due to extreme cold. Jacobson said, "This is a comic photo. My [relatives] dressed me this way." See story, pages 8, 10.

## Benedict's papacy: a period of close Jewish relations with occasional bumps

*German born pope visited Auschwitz, prayed for victims of the Holocaust*

ROME (JTA) – Pope Benedict XVI's eight-year reign as head of the world's 1 billion Catholics sometimes was a bumpy one for the Vatican's relations with Israel and the wider Jewish community. But it was also a period in which relations were consolidated and fervent pledges made to continue inter-

faith dialogue and bilateral cooperation.

Both elements were evident in the tributes that flowed from Jewish leaders following the surprise announcement Monday that, due to his advanced age and weakening health, Benedict would step down on Feb. 28.

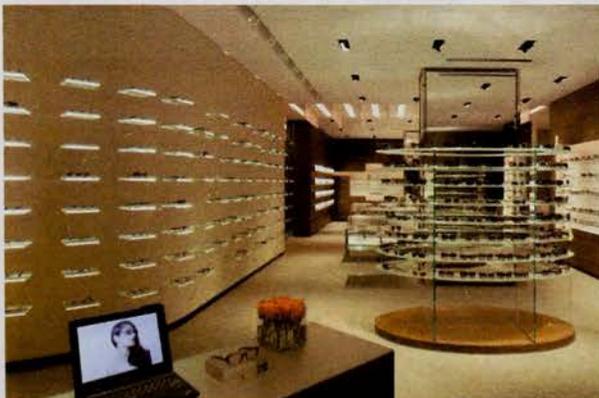


**POPE BENEDICT XVI**

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ALLIANCE MISSION TO ISRAEL

# Visual impairment doesn't stop intrepid traveler from 'seeing' Israel

*Alan Temkin makes his first visit to the Holy Land*

By **NANCY KIRSCH**  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Blindness didn't stop Alan Temkin, 60, from fully savoring the rich array of sensory offerings during his first trip to Israel late last month.

**"I COULD SEE from my other senses – smell, touch and hearing."**

He, along with 30 other individuals (including this reporter), most of whom live in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community, participated in the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's first mission to Israel.

Although the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (the Fed-

eration, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island became the Alliance in January 2011) had led past missions, this was the first mission under the Alliance umbrella.

What makes Temkin and his trip to Israel newsworthy? Legally blind since his 20s, he needs a cane to help him navigate when he's outside his apartment; sometimes that cane is put to use even within the familiar surroundings of his apartment, he said.

Although he says he can only see shadows and light, Temkin savored the action-packed days of the mission.

Why travel to a distant country without the benefit of sight?

"It was helpful to hear other people's descriptions [of what the group was seeing]," said Temkin. "I could see from my other senses – smell, touch and hearing."

Not only did Temkin thoroughly enjoy his first trip to Israel, he was an intrepid traveler and kept up with everyone as we navigated claustrophobia-inducing (for those who have a fear of confined spaces) underground tunnels, maneuvered



NANCY KIRSCH  
Richard Wimberly, left, and Alan Temkin in Israel; Beatrice and Howard Stone are behind them.

along slippery, uneven stone paths, endured jouncing jeep rides and climbed endless steps. His vision loss arose from de-

generation of his retinas, said Temkin, who earned an undergraduate degree from Rhode Island College in 1983 and, in

2000, a M.Ed. in counseling psychology from Cambridge College in Cambridge, Mass. Like others in this difficult Rhode Island economy, Temkin is looking for work.

Before this trip, Temkin, from Providence, hadn't ventured too far afield, other than a trip he took – alone – to California not long ago.

When his physician, the late Dr. Alden Blackman, visited Israel many years ago and gave Temkin a tallit from Israel, he became intrigued with the idea of visiting the Holy Land. The gift, coupled with encouragement from his friends Marc and Janice Adler – mission participants and frequent travelers to Israel – motivated Temkin to join the group.

"I wanted to experience for myself what it was like in Israel," said Temkin, who especially enjoyed walking through the tunnels underneath the Western Wall. "The caves," he said, "... were like walking through a haunted house. We didn't know what was next."

Temkin said that his other senses, highly attuned to com-

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**  
"the caves were like walking through a haunted house."

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# Traveling art show comes to Providence

*Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design multimedia show opens Feb. 28*

PROVIDENCE – Artwork from Jerusalem's prestigious Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design will be on display from Feb. 28 through March 15 at two Providence venues.

Brown RISD Hillel and Brown's Granoff Center for the Creative Arts are co-sponsoring an art opening featuring works from Bezalel alumni on Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Granoff Center, 154 Angell St., (on the Brown University campus), in Providence. The opening, which is free and open to the community, runs from 5-7 p.m.

Promptly thereafter, Heartbeat, the Israeli-Palestinian Youth Music Movement, will perform a free concert from 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Brown RISD Hillel.

Avi Salloway, who grew up in Barrington, is coordinating the band's local performance. Heartbeat includes Israeli and Palestinian musicians who perform together in an effort to promote cooperation and understanding between the two

peoples. This is their debut tour in the United States.

The Academy's traveling exhibition, "Bezalel on Tour," has hopped across the United States, with shows at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Md., Sotheby's in Chicago, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Cleveland, Ohio and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. After it closes in Providence, the show will open at a currently unidentified venue in New York City.

Pieces from "Bezalel on Tour" will be displayed at both venues – Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence and the Granoff Center, from the opening through March 15.

Bathsheva Rifkin, president of Friends of Bezalel, will speak briefly at the opening.

Referring to Bezalel exhibits in Milan and London, Tablet, a daily online Jewish magazine, wrote, "Bezalel Academy is now a central address for contemporary art and design ... [Israel's] preeminence in the fields of art and design can be traced to a single nexus: Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy."

According to information from Brown RISD Hillel and Bezalel Academy, the "Bezalel on Tour" exhibition is based on the format of the successful exhibitions Bezalel mounted during the past two years in Paris, Berlin, Milan and London.

The exhibit includes works of recent graduates and emerging artists working in fine art, photography, fashion and jewelry, industrial design, visual communications, architecture, screen-based arts, ceramics and glass, design and urban design. The exhibition offers an insight into the creative works produced at Bezalel, and introduces



people to an exceptionally talented, colorful and energetic side of Israel.

The exhibition includes two-dimensional works of art, 150 objects and several video pieces, as well.

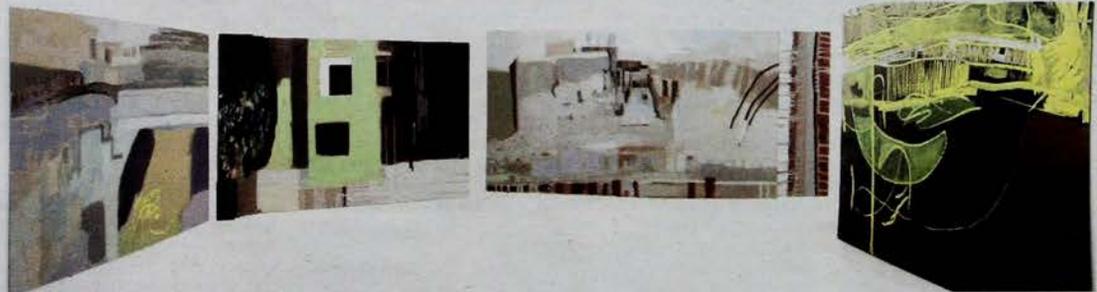
**FOR SHOW INFORMATION:** Brown RISD Hillel (863-2805, info@brownrisdhillel.org or brownrisdhillel.org). RSVP to rsvp@brownrisdhillel.org.

**FOR CONCERT INFORMATION:** heartbeat.fm.

**GALLERY HOURS:** Granoff Center Cohen Gallery's hours are Mondays through Fridays: 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturdays: noon – 6 p.m. and Sundays: noon – 8 p.m. Hillel's hours are Mondays through Fridays: 9 a.m. – 11 p.m., Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Sundays: noon – 6 p.m.



PHOTOS | BEZALEL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND DESIGN



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The land of 'milk and honey'  
is rich with surprises

Reflections on Israel

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

Just as passengers flying into T.F. Green Airport in Warwick hear "Welcome to Providence," passengers arriving at Ben Gurion Airport in Lod, Israel hear "Welcome to Tev Aviv!" Irrespective of what city we landed in, I was excited to be part of the Alliance's mission to Israel, as I had last visited the country in 1972-73!

EXECUTIVE  
EDITOR

NANCY KIRSCH

Israel's wondrous surprises are recorded in my pages and pages of notes to decipher and turn into stories for our readers, as well as my photos to download and identify. Some notes – such as those written while riding in the back of a jeep that bounced and creaked through rock-strewn paths – are nearly illegible.

The action-packed mission required us to ricochet – like a pinball (remember pinball machines?) on steroids – from modern, high-tech Tel Aviv, all gleaming and shiny and new, to the ancient history and times of Masada and the tunnels beneath the Western Wall.

In the meantime, I offer a few quick observations and "facts and figures" I acquired from various sources during the trip. I confess to not having "fact-checked" all these bits and pieces of data, so skeptical readers may want to take them with a grain of (Dead Sea) salt.

- Israel's economy is growing at 4.7 percent per year, yet fully one-third of its nearly 8 million citizens – some 6 million Jews and 2 million Arabs – live in poverty.

- On a per capita basis, Israel has the largest number of individuals with undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees of any country, yet its elementary students rank 27th in the world in math and science.

- Virtually all young Israeli women and men are expected to serve in the Israeli army, the IDF. Why then, is a shockingly low percentage – according to one source, only 50 percent – fulfilling that obligation? Arab Israelis and *haredi*, ultra-Orthodox Jews, don't serve, for example.

Our bus driver Meier asked, "Why do they receive government help to support their families when the rest of us serve in the IDF and go to work?" Others expressed a similar frustration.

- In a country where *haredi* influences dictate Shabbat closings, restrict women's rights to pray at the Western Wall and control marriage ceremonies, some restaurants serve "white steak" – pork, to the uninformed!

- Hostile nations surround Israel, yet no one I talked with identified peace or a two-state solution as a top priority. Rather, economic issues – not being able to afford an apartment, for example – and social issues of inequalities between men and women, between *haredi* and other Jews and between Arab and Jewish Israelis all seemed to take precedence.

- Finally, I was delighted that 31 diverse individuals – with, perhaps, only religion to unite us – were such compatible traveling partners! Some individuals who participated in other missions tell me that we were a remarkably cohesive group.

Whether you are a first-time or frequent visitor to Israel, the land of 'milk and honey' may surprise you, too.

## The religion of Abraham Lincoln

Passage of the 13th Amendment was morally and politically necessary

On an especially glum Wednesday afternoon in late January, I finally took the time to see Steven Spielberg's highly acclaimed film "Lincoln." Although at times the script drifted into melodrama, the movie did manage to hold my attention for its run time of 2 ½ hours.

IT SEEMS  
TO MERABBI JIM  
ROSENBERG

The acting was superb – Daniel Day-Lewis as our 16th president, Sally Field as his emotionally fragile wife Mary Todd Lincoln and Tommy Lee Jones as Thaddeus Stevens, the fiery Radical Republican congressman from Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and staunch abolitionist.

The Lincoln Day-Lewis portrays is a highly nuanced individual – deeply reflective, even menchalotic, yet whimsical to the point of trying to calm his political opponents by telling droll stories. We see a president who is profoundly principled and yet politically ruthless in obtaining the necessary votes for the passage of the 13th Amendment, which was to be considered by the House on Jan. 31, 1865.

Though he had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, Lincoln feared that his wartime act could well be overturned by peacetime legislation; therefore he insisted – with the prophetic passion of the biblical Amos or Jeremiah – that passage of the 13th Amendment was a political, indeed a moral, necessity. While the Senate passed the amendment on April 8, 1864 by an overwhelming majority of 38 to 6, the Jan. 31, 1865 House vote of 119 to 56 barely cleared the required two-thirds majority.

The text of the 13th Amendment, so dear to Lincoln reads: Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Like many Americans, I consider Abraham Lincoln, whose 204th birthday was this past Tuesday, to have been our nation's greatest president. As a rabbi, I have often wondered what role religion may have played in shaping the process of his decision-making. Scholars differ widely in their assessment of religion's influence upon Lincoln. On the one hand, there are those who argue that Lincoln personally rejected all forms of organized religion, that he never accepted the tenets of Christianity, that he was perhaps a "deist" – one who has a thoroughly rational view of a God who does not perform miracles or intervene in the affairs of men and women. Some scholars go even further and assert that Lincoln was an agnostic or even – God forbid! – an atheist.

of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

Despite the fact that Lincoln frequently invoked God and quoted from the Bible when writing in his public political capacity as president of the United States, many who knew him well held that, in the privacy of his soul, he was a man without religion, a man without God.

As Lincoln's friend, the prominent Illinois businessman Jesse W. Fell, put it (quoted in Mark A. Noll's "A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada," Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1992, p. 322), "[O]n the innate depravity of man, the character and office of the great head of the Church, the Atonement, the infallibility of the written revelation, the performance of miracles, the nature and design of ... future rewards and punishments ... and many other subjects, he held opinions utterly at variance with what is usually taught in the church."

Although Lincoln held opinions "utterly at variance with what is usually taught in the church," it seems to me that his deep sense of justice, his unswerving commitment to the eradication of the moral stain of slavery, his invoking of a power beyond our human strivings all define Lincoln as a religious man. Those who went so far as to call him an atheist must have understood atheism in the twisted sense of any belief "utterly at variance" with their own narrow views of who or what God is.

The power and the glory of the religion of Abraham Lincoln is that it is beyond the rigid doctrines that are "usually taught in the church." One must have a heart of stone to fail to feel the spiritual power, the religious depth found in the concluding paragraph of Lincoln's second inaugural: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in: to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan, among ourselves, and with all nations."

JAMES B. ROSENBERG (rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org) is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington.

"[T]HIS NATION,  
UNDER God, shall  
have a new birth  
of freedom ..."

On the other hand, to call Lincoln a religious skeptic, an agnostic or an atheist ignores the fact that he specifically mentions God in some of his most significant writings: Just before affixing his signature to the final Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863, Lincoln invokes "the gracious favor of Almighty God." In his Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, he includes in the very last sentence these words, "...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom ..."

Finally, Lincoln's second inaugural address of March 4, 1865, sounds somewhat like a Bible-based sermon: "Both [Northerners and Southerners] read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other ... but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes." Lincoln concludes this same paragraph by quoting directly from Psalm 19: "[T]he judgments

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# Israel's 2013 elections: Good news galore

*More women, civilians, young point to changing Knesset*

As a matter of journalistic routine, election news always tends to dwell on who won, who lost and who will form the next government. But sometimes subtler and hidden-from-view results can be more telling and influential in the long run. Regarding the 2013 Israeli elections, most of these results can be viewed as decidedly good news.

## Cleaning house

Of the 120 members of the Knesset elected, a full 53 are first-timers. Israel has never before had such a monumental "passing of the torch." Nor are "seniors" (age-wise) trading places with other seniors. This Knesset will see a handful of members in their 20s, and many in their 30s, but all have already accumulated impressive experience in the public sphere, whether as National Student Union leaders or as leaders of protest groups or other forms of "constructive rabble-rousing."



REFLECTIONS  
OF | IN ISRAEL

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG

## Unorthodox Orthodoxy

Close to one-third of all Jewish Members of the Knesset, MKs, in this new 19th Knesset are "religious" (which in Israel, at least, means "Orthodox" or ultra-Orthodox). That might not strike many readers – as "positive" news but in one important sense it is: For the first time ever we find significant numbers of Orthodox MKs in secular parties; indeed, Yair Lapid's secular party Yesh Atid (with 19 seats) has religious people in the number 2 and 7 slots – and an ultra-Orthodox (and former American citizen) in the 17th position! Other non-religious parties have their Orthodox MKs, as well. Even more unusual is the fact that Naftali Bennett's religious Zionist Bayit Yehudi party has a secular woman in the fifth spot, something unheard of in the annals of that party (formerly the

National Religious Party). In short, many religious Jews in Israel are now seeking greater integration and "normalization" of their relationship with

**"FOR THE FIRST time in Israel's parliamentary history, the Knesset will have no kibbutz members."**

Israeli society as a whole.

## General Representation

Israelis have always looked up to former officers in the Israeli Defense Forces, IDF, which is Israel's army. That explains the over-representation (professionally speaking) of former military officers in the Knesset. This time, though, only four former IDF generals will be parliamentarians, the lowest

number since the 1960s. How is that good news? It enables the Knesset to more readily address civilian matters that have been pushed to the back burner all these years: housing, cost-of-living, education, etc. This is not to say that security matters will be ignored; this Knesset will seat a few former heads of the security services and some high-ranking police chiefs. But at a time when serious budget cuts are in the offing, the reduced clout of army representation in Israel's supreme civilian body can only be considered a positive sign.

## Women

An all-time high for Israel relates to the distaff side: 27 women MKs – five more than the last – and far more than in any previous – Knesset. Indeed, the "revolution" could be clearly seen already in the race itself, with no fewer than three parties headed by women: Labor, Ha'Tnuah and Meretz. This, too, plays well with the country's turn to domestic issues as opposed to the usual ones of national security/foreign policy. Even the quality of Knesset debate might improve!

## Kibbutz kaput

For anyone worried that Israel is once again turning in a Socialist direction on socioeconomic matters, this next fact should allay their fears. For the first time in Israel's parliamentary history, the Knesset will have no (that's zero!) kibbutz members. This is a clear sign of the demise (at least sociopolitically) of one of the country's foremost institutions. How far the once mighty have fallen!

In short, it isn't enough to merely look at the number of seats for each party. Rather, for anyone who wants to try to understand the deep currents in Israeli society, it's more meaningful to examine the numbers that cut across all the parties. Whatever the final governing coalition looks like, it will be dealing with a Knesset unlike any ever seen before in Israel.

**PROF. SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG** (profslw.com), deputy director of the School of Communications at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, is currently a visiting professor at the Israel Studies Center, University of Maryland, College Park.

# More 'stuff' to worry about

*A retiree's perspective on Rhode Island*

By LARRY HERSHOFF

Special to The Voice & Herald

Having recently retired away from the hubbub of Rhode Island, I finally have the time to collect my thoughts on almost everything and share them with anyone of you who might be willing to read them.

I hope they provoke thought, amuse you, or get you so angry that you will try to fix the things that I never could when I lived in Rhode Island. And I know some of you won't like what I have to say, but it represents what I believe is true.

The overarching thing on my mind is how beautiful Rhode Island is (except for the winter), but how badly we have messed it up. Somebody keeps re-electing the same knuckleheads who have given us insane public pensions and debacles like the Curt Schilling mess. And then when we get someone bright and bold enough to tackle the problem (State Treasurer Gina Raimondo), even she gets attacked and the unions sue the state of Rhode Island.

Wake up folks, we are not far behind Buffalo, N.Y., and that ain't good. Oh well, at least we have WaterFire.

Those of us who aren't tied to Rhode Island are encouraged to leave (even for a place without a

decent bagel) and let somebody else pay for all the stupidity and corruption.

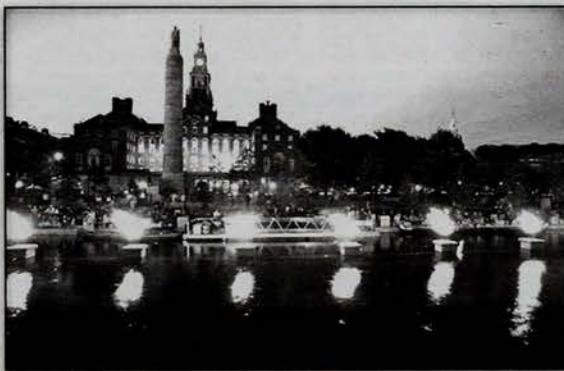
I hope somebody at the landfill is thinking about what happens when all these old people like me move out of their houses to smaller homes or assisted living, and finally throw out all the junk that we have been hoarding for years. You always knew that 98 percent of it would never be used again, but you didn't know which 98 percent! Then you have to move and 99 percent of it gets tossed on the landfill pile in Johnston; the other 1 percent is sold for 1/100th of its value at a yard sale or given to friends and relatives, so they can store it for a while.

My message to the older folks reading this – it wouldn't be so bad to give up the Social Security COLA and some of the other benefits you are getting if it would help the younger generation that we have now saddled with a moribund economy. We all have to wonder how anyone can ever retire when people's savings – if they have any – are compounding interest at 3 basis points per year? Who is going to buy your big house or contribute to the healthcare system you will rely on if these kids are struggling?

Which brings me to the "senior discount" – maybe this was a good idea when people retired

on \$500 a month and couldn't make ends meet, but does that make sense today when we have retired folks with seven-figure portfolios getting something for \$8 and we make some poor working stiff with three kids to feed pay \$10 for it?

care there are too few people paying in to cover it! So unless you want your healthcare premiums to be even higher, and or Medicare to fail, something has to change. The Baby Boomer generation has caused chaos in everything we touched over the



WaterFire is a rare asset in Rhode Island.

Speaking of healthcare, let's hope there is someone smarter than who we have seen so far in Washington. There are a bunch of us who paid thousands of dollars for health insurance premiums that we essentially never used—they paid for someone else's care; it's too bad, but that money wasn't sitting in a bank collecting interest somewhere, and now that WE need

years, from housing, to autos, to education, to retirement planning, and now we have our eyes firmly focused on healthcare. As technology and innovation deliver us even more remarkable medical procedures, not everybody is going to be able to have them done. If we try to offer them to everyone, the United States and Rhode Island will go bankrupt faster than Central

Falls did!

I might want new knees and hips and vision, etc., but society can't afford to give them to me. And relying on Washington to dole it out intelligently proves that you haven't been paying sufficient attention.

Which brings me back to technology. Again, I hope somebody is paying attention to the fact that many of us could care less about ever seeing "Windows 32" or "Google traffic light predictor" – we actually like the cars we drive now, the refrigerators that you can't control with a smart phone, and the washing machines that don't automatically detect the color and texture of the clothing so they can control the cycle and dispense the correct amount of detergent, bleach and fabric softener.

I am not interested in a car I have to program, and where "crash" has a whole new meaning. While they are making all the sophisticated gizmos in China, maybe somebody here in the U.S. will make stuff that we, the Baby Boomers, will be able to use.

**LARRY HERSHOFF** (larrysh@atmc.net), the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's assistant treasurer, recently retired to North Carolina after living in Rhode Island for 40 years.

# How to choose when giving *tzedakah*

Writer urges leaders and followers to 'rock the boat' to take organizations in new directions

By ARYEH RUBIN

AVENTURA, Fla. (JTA) — Anyone committed to financial support of Jewish causes likely has grappled with the questions of where to give, what to give, how to give and, of course, why to give.

Why grappled? Because there are so many worthy causes, and the needs exceed the resources. Our difficult economic times have lent greater urgency to this dilemma.

Our small foundation, Targum Shlishi, is faced with more inquiries than ever. People ask for help to feed their families or pay their mortgages. At the same time, some Jewish organizations are threatened with closure and Israel is facing an existential threat.

Do we give to a child needing an operation, a day school that can't pay its teachers or research that could help hundreds of educators do a better job?

These are questions that those able to allocate *tzedakah* think and often agonize about. In the end, it's each according to his or her conscience. But how do we decide where to allocate limited funds when we must choose among countless worthy and pressing causes?

It helps to go back to the basics, to consider the very nature of *tzedakah*.

What is charity? It's feeding the hungry and housing the poor, of course. But charity can also be supporting radical changes in Jewish education; funding an advocacy organization on behalf of Israeli women seeking divorce who are faced with an oppressive rabbinical system or helping seek justice for Nazi war crimes.

So how does one choose? Evaluate the cause and whether it has other potential donors. Estimate its long-term impact. Will it patch a hole or point the way toward meaningful, long-term solutions? Can the solutions be replicated?

Throughout Jewish history, enlightened individuals, usually behind the scenes, have helped the Jewish people move forward — whether away from slavery, out of the ghetto, toward more equality for women or in prevailing upon rabbis to ease up on sometimes restrictive laws.

In cahoots with select members of the clergy and the academies of learning, these individuals used their knowledge, money or power to help our people evolve.

The people who supported the first Bais Yaakov, an Orthodox Jewish school for girls established after World War I, had to decide whether, for example, to establish an orphanage in Lodz or set up a revolutionary new concept in Jewish education.

Just imagine where we would be today if they had taken the traditional route and opted for the orphanage.

The bottom line? Funding for concepts and the improvement of our lot serves as sacred a purpose as helping the unfortunate among us.

Consider not only which causes to support, but how to give. For

**“WILL IT PATCH  
a hole or point ...  
toward meaningful  
solutions?”**

our foundation's first 10 years, we gave almost anonymously — the highest level of charity, according to Maimonides.

Then, in 2002, we decided to go public to cultivate a higher profile. We did this for several reasons: We felt the type of venture philanthropy we were pursuing was important and innovative, and we were motivated to share our work and inspire others to take similar actions. We hoped to partner with other philanthropies on certain causes.

How does one justify giving a certain sum of money to a food program in Jerusalem and 20

or even 50 times that amount to finding the last of the Nazi murderers or to a movement that encourages a partisan agenda?

At Targum Shlishi, which offers modest grants to organizations dedicated to innovative problem-solving in education, women's issues, Israel and justice for Nazi war crimes, we use several criteria.

We consider the proposal itself and how many people and foundations support it. Is the idea sellable? Is the cause appealing to the masses? If the answer to any of these is yes, we believe they don't need us.

If, on the other hand, the organization has an idea that is too unconventional to attract mass support but could have wide-reaching implications if successful, that organization is likelier to get our help. Our heart is with innovative initiatives that have the potential to positively change the status quo.

That doesn't mean that longstanding, well-funded Jewish organizations are unimportant. If they didn't exist, we would not have the freedom to support the innovators; instead, our resources would have to go to basic survival and humanitarian needs such as feeding the hungry and running the senior citizen homes.

Thus, our goal: support ideas, organizations, individuals who

can make a difference. Take risks and midwife that spark. If we are lucky, we'll help start a revolution in a particular area that needs it. But even if not, and the promise of a project or organization isn't realized and all it does is get the conversation going, the mission is half accomplished.

We are living in a unique time in Jewish history. We have the most prosperity, freedom and power that we have had in 2,000 years. Yet this is also a dangerous time: Our enemies wish to destroy us, and the cultural demons of secular society are leading many of us down the path of assimilation and apathy.

Clearly, our approaches to the challenges facing the Jewish people have not been effective. We need to explore new ideas.

We all must reassess our giving, and allocate a portion of our *tzedakah* to creative individuals and organizations looking for new approaches. If we don't rock the boat and encourage our leadership to take us in a new direction, we will find ourselves in dangerous waters.

ARYEH RUBIN is director of Targum Shlishi and a JTA board member.

## One path toward economic and social wellness in Rhode Island

By STEPHEN MACIEL

Special to The Voice & Herald

If we don't address poverty, the root cause of food insecurity, we will continue to have people who struggle to put food on the table each month.

I've reached this conclusion based on my many years of experience as president of the End Hunger Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 2001, and other work in the nonprofit community for more than 25 years. We must continue our charitable work and work to repair our economy to create jobs for those who need them. Allow me to share one path with you.

The End Hunger Foundation's mission is to unite mass action through a grassroots network to maximize existing hunger organizations to help create food secure communities. We facilitate a organization called the '1 of 52' Hunger Network, which was inspired by Alan Shawn Feinstein's philanthropic work to end hunger.

Established in Rhode Island in 1988, the Network now has chapters in 23 states — and aims for a chapter in every state — and has helped direct tens of thousands of dollars in funding and tons of food toward local and national hunger organizations.

Why '1 of 52'? The concept is to match 52 individuals in each state with each of the 52 weeks of the year; participants in the '1 of 52' Hunger Network agree to use their unique talent to take action to help end hunger during their week. Actions might range from small steps such as holding food drives at work or school or organizing letter-writing campaigns; large events could include hosting major fundraisers. '1 of 52' members from all walks of life get started where and how they feel comfortable and follow their own lead.

This grassroots approach can be very effective in building political will. As an example, the National Anti-Hunger Organizations, which includes such anti-hunger initiatives as MAZON, a Jewish Response to Hunger, issued a Blueprint to End Hunger ([alliancetoendhunger.org/resources/blueprint](http://alliancetoendhunger.org/resources/blueprint)) with a "call to action to every segment of our society to mobilize and work to make the vision of a Hunger Free America a reality." They recognize that mass political will is needed first to make their plan succeed.

Our '1 of 52' plan is designed to make this Blueprint to End Hunger a success; we are uniting individuals to mobilize and take actions to help create the politi-

cal will the Blueprint seeks.

Regardless of political differences among Americans, I believe that no fellow citizen should go hungry; we must find ways to unite behind this goal. We must set the agenda, set the example and reach a tipping point where a vocal majority of citizens say, "We will no longer tolerate hunger and this is what we intend to do about it."

Why is ending hunger important to both our social wellness and the economy? In the late Senator George McGovern's book, "Ending Hunger in Our Time," he proves that the cost of enduring hunger far outweighs the cost of ending it.

Here in Rhode Island, due to time and the shifting fortunes of our economy, some core industries have left our state and will never return. However, we are very fortunate to have vast resources that we can tap into — the state's natural beauty, heritage, history, culinary prowess, hospitality, colleges and universities and our people. We also have great promise in future industries; the question, though, is this: How will we stay afloat to address poverty and social issues in the meantime?

On a statewide basis, we suggest immediately re-focusing our attention inward to support

Rhode Island businesses first on both a consumer and business-to-business level. This focus will have a dramatic impact on improving our economy by generating revenue and jobs while creating community wealth. Here are some startling statistics on (just) consumer spending from a recent study in an area of Michigan that has a population similar to that of Rhode Island's.

**“THE COST of  
enduring hunger  
far outweighs the  
cost of ending it.”**

According to that study ([ruralcommunitybuilding.fb.org](http://ruralcommunitybuilding.fb.org)), a minimum 10 percent shift in consumer behavior to shop and dine locally creates nearly \$140 million in new economic activity, adds more than 1,600 new jobs and provides over \$50 million in new wages. Just imagine what a similar 10 percent shift in businesses sourcing locally would do for our economy.

Additionally, according to a 2010 Global Insight Rhode Island Tourism report, every 163 new

visitors to Rhode Island generates one new local job. Let's collectively roll out a red carpet invitation to local, regional, national and international travelers to invite them to allow us to host their vacations or conventions in the Ocean State.

Let's set an immediate goal to maximize Rhode Island's year-round accommodation occupancy rate by greatly enhancing our existing tourism council value-added overnight packages to be simply 'irresistible'. (What would a 10 percent hotel and B&B occupancy rate increase do for our economy?)

These few specific actions — uniting behind a structured strength-in-numbers anti-hunger network, supporting Rhode Island's businesses first, shifting our purchasing power 10 percent and positioning Rhode Island as America's host state — offer quick startups on the path of economic and social wellness in Rhode Island.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[1of52.net](mailto:1of52.net).

STEPHEN MACIEL ([endhunger@cox.net](mailto:endhunger@cox.net)) is president of the End Hunger Foundation.

## Jewish day schools release NECAP results

JCSRSI and PHDS students earn strong scores in standardized tests

PROVIDENCE – Providence Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island released results of their students' New England Common Assessment Program test scores in separate press releases.

According to information from JCSRSI Head of School Renee Rudnick, JCSRSI students' NECAP scores are significantly higher than overall state scores.

JCSRSI students in third, fourth and fifth grades take reading and math NECAP tests; fifth grade students also take the writing test. The school reported that 100 percent of fifth graders scored in the two highest categories – Proficient with Distinction and Proficient – in the writing portion; only 59 percent of fifth-graders statewide did so.

Ninety-three percent and 82 percent of JCSRSI students scored in those same categories, Proficient with Distinction and Proficient, in reading and math, respectively.

Although JCSRSI places minimal emphasis on NECAP test preparation, Rudnick wrote, the NECAP tests serve as one of multiple benchmarks to inform our teaching and reflect on individual students' progress and needs.

PHDS students in grades three through eight took NECAP tests last October. Half of the students tested scored Pro-

ficient with Distinction and 45 percent scored Proficient in the reading portion of the exam. In math, 42 percent and 45 percent scored Proficient with Distinction and Proficient, respectively. For the writing portion of the NECAP test, administered only to fifth- and eighth-graders, 45 percent and 50 percent scored Proficient with Distinction and Proficient, respectively.



PHDS provided separate scores for its graduating eighth-grade students, as well, noting that the majority of them have been at PHDS for most of their schooling.

In reading, 75 percent and 25 percent scored as Proficient with Distinction and Proficient, respectively. In math, 38 percent and 44 percent scored as Proficient with Distinction and Proficient, respectively. In writing, half the students earned Proficient with Distinction and half earned Proficient.

PHDS' release noted, in part, "... students' test scores continue to be indicators of the excellent education students receive at PHDS."

JCSRSI (751-2470, [dadelsky@jcdsri.org](mailto:dadelsky@jcdsri.org))

PHDS (331-5327, [meweiner@PHDSchool.org](mailto:meweiner@PHDSchool.org))

## Voice & Herald welcomes two new interns

Interns sought for summer work

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Voice & Herald has two new interns working with the newspaper.

Clara Spohn, 22, the daughter of John and Jill Spohn of Providence, is a senior at Quinnipiac University studying journalism and political science. Her passion for journalism and Judaism started to grow during the gap year that she spent in Israel, and has not stopped since. She has been involved in both editorial and advertising issues for the paper and will continue to help our advertising department through mid-March.

Kendra Lolio, 21, is a senior majoring in English at Rhode Island College. The North Providence resident is considering a career in journalism and hopes that her internship here will give her valuable experience. Even before she officially began



Clara Spohn



Kendra Lolio

her semester-long internship, she contributed some stories to The Voice & Herald. She will continue through the end of May.

Both students will earn academic credit for their internship experience.

Although summer offers a slightly more relaxed schedule – with no paper published in

July – there's plenty of work for interns to do, on the editorial side, as well as in advertising sales and graphic design work. If you want to acquire valuable newspaper experience working with a small and dedicated group of people, contact Nancy Kirsch at [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org). (SUBJECT: INTERNS) or call 421-4111, ext. 168.

## Examining new models in Jewish education

PROVIDENCE – Change can be terrifying and exciting, resisted or embraced. Change, which happens with us or without us, is inevitable.

The Jewish Educators Assembly held in Dallas in late January focused on the theme of change, specifically as addressed in Talmud Hagiga: "A house of study is impossible without a *hiddush* [change or new idea]."

Although our basic systems of Jewish education date back 50 or more years to the growth and development that occurred after World War II, the structure of our society has changed dramatically since then. Some of the change may be attributed to the advent of technology. But with or without technology, societal norms and cultural expectations today are far different than they were 25 years ago. In many



Miriam Abrams Stark, Donna Tarutz and Larry Katz in Dallas at the Jewish Educators Conference in late January.

cases, our traditional models simply no longer work.

Miriam Abrams Stark, director of congregational learning at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, Donna Tarutz, education director of the Cohen Religious School of Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich and Larry Katz, director of education for the Jew-

ish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, joined colleagues from across the United States to question some of our most basic assumptions about Jewish education, refocus our thinking and re-imagine all that is possible.

Though no single model was touted as "the be-all and end-all," the group brought back many ideas to consider and to share with others working here in Jewish education.

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## Frigid temperatures force temporary closing of Tamarisk

Residents safely evacuated and safely returned to facility in Warwick

By **NANCY KIRSCH**  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Seventy-nine residents of Tamarisk Assisted Living Facility were safely evacuated from – and safely returned to – the Warwick facility, after the building grew too cold.

What happened? Tamarisk's 10-year-old generator was fully functional but it provides only backup electricity, not heat, said Roberta Ragge, Tamarisk's executive director.

In an interview with The Voice & Herald, Ragge provided this timeline of events:

Friday, Feb. 8

• As the storm started surging that night, Ragge arranged for extra staff to come in for the second and third shifts.

• 11:30 p.m.: Building loses power. Generator triggered to provide electricity.

“Because Tamarisk is so well-built, it held its heat through Friday night, Saturday and

[was] still fairly warm Saturday night,” said Ragge.

Saturday, Feb. 9

• Around 10 p.m. on Saturday night, the building's temperature was around 62 or 63 degrees, Ragge said, adding that there were plenty of blankets, and residents had access to warm food, hot cocoa and hot tea – as the gas-powered kitchen was fully operational. Some residents bunked with other individuals whose rooms were warmer.

“We did room checks every two hours,” said Ragge, who also said that she was told by National Grid that power would be restored – first by 6:30 p.m., then by 9:30 p.m. and then at midnight ... all to no avail.

Sunday, Feb. 10

At 5:30 a.m., Ragge received a phone call from a nurse who told her that the residents were “freezing.”

With that news, Ragge implemented Tamarisk's emergency evacuation plan that, she said,

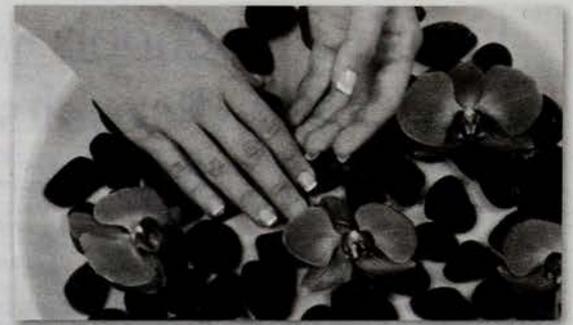
is practiced and rehearsed and tweaked, as needed, each year.

The facility's evacuation plan couldn't be implemented exactly as planned, as the planned evacuation sites of the Alliance JCC and the Jewish Seniors Agency building were both inaccessible due to snow-covered roads. It went smoothly nonetheless, said Ragge. As Shalom Apartments had both power and heat restored during the night, that facility became one evacuation site.

10 or 10:30 a.m.: Thirty-two residents were bussed to Shalom Apartments, adjacent to Tamarisk. Local families who had not lost power and could navigate the roadways were able to get their relatives – the remaining 47 Tamarisk residents – and bring them to their homes.

• 3 p.m.: Both heat and power were restored at Tamarisk. As the building warmed, residents who had been taken to Shalom Apartments were brought back

SPIRIT | 10



## A lucky woman will win 'A Day of Decadence'

By **NANCY KIRSCH**  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Our community no longer hosts Purim Balls at which a Queen Esther is crowned, as Geraldine Foster wrote about so eloquently in “Celebrating Purim” in the Feb. 2 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald. But, our 21st century paper offers women in the greater Jewish community something better – a day of decadence ... and what woman doesn't deserve a day to pamper herself?

The Jewish Voice & Herald invites women in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community to nominate their mothers, their daughters, their sisters, their partners, their colleagues or themselves for “A Day of Decadence,” which includes a spa treatment at Alayne White Spa, a personal

training session with Derek Allamby of Freedom Fitness, hair styling at Studio 101 and dinner for two at KitchenBar.

Helena Rubinstein famously said, “There are no ugly women, just lazy ones”; don't be lazy and don't delay: Send in your nomination today.

Whether you or a woman colleague have had a tough year of losses and difficult transitions or just desire some indulgences, let us know.

Email or write Nancy Kirsch a quick note – 300 words or fewer – to explain why your nominee deserves a day of decadence. Submissions are due by April 15, but don't wait until taxes are due: Do it today!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, see the full-page ad on page 27 of this issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald.

## ECC teacher earns national childcare teacher award

By **NANCY KIRSCH**  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Judy Nagle, an Alliance Early Childhood Center teacher, is one of 52 recipients of the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children's Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Award.

Nagle will receive \$500 for her award-winning proposal, “Through a Child's Eye ... Capturing the World Around Them Through Photography.”

The funds will be used to purchase child-friendly cameras, said ECC Director Nicole Katzman, so that children can capture images they see around them, indoors and outside.

“Students will be encouraged to explore their environment with no limits put on their imagination,” said Nagle. “The young child's world is a place full of many wonders.”

She wants children to “turn the tables” on their photograph-taking parents by capturing what's important to them, so that parents and teachers will observe what children find meaningful. “If it's important to you, [you should] capture the memories and moments,” said Nagle.

In addition to turning the 3- and 4-year-old children in her classroom loose with the cameras, she will take them to the Rhode Island School of Design to visit photographers in their studios. Whether these children grow up to simply take pictures



BRIAN SULLIVAN  
Judy Nagle

of their own children or become professional photographers, Nagle wants to expose them – albeit briefly – to the world of professional photography.

The children's photographs will be framed and hung in

**“JUDY ... IS  
THOUGHTFUL  
and compassionate,  
creative and kind.”**

gallery (401), the Alliance's art gallery, and on the walls of the ECC. Nagle anticipates that each child will be able to take home a framed photograph of his or her own.

Even before she was named a

national winner, Nagle earned kudos from those with whom she works.

“Judy always engages the students ... she definitely has made it a warm environment,” wrote Susan Gertsacov, mother of one current ECC student and two ECC graduates, in a letter of recommendation for Nagle, of Warwick.

Nagle, who holds an undergraduate degree in elementary education with a specialization in art education, is a highly experienced teacher who has worked with young children in the JCC's preschool, pre-K or kindergarten since 1989.

Nagle, wrote Katzman, is a “classroom teacher, teaching artist and curriculum developer. Judy goes above and beyond what is expected of her; she is meticulous, yet flexible, thoughtful and compassionate, creative and kind.”

Nagle's creative talents are already on display at the ECC – she painted the mural that parents and children see when they enter the ECC from the parking lot.

Jennifer Zwirn Yolles, a grant writing associate for the Alliance, informed the ECC about this opportunity.

Nagle plans to attend the all-expenses-paid awards ceremony in Philadelphia in mid-April.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the Board of Rabbis are pleased to present:

### How to Think about Being Jewish in the 21st Century

with Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard



**Monday, February 25, 2013 | 7-9pm**

Alliance JCC | 401 Elm Grove Avenue | Providence

The entire community is invited to attend this informative and innovative program

**Tuesday, February 26, 2013 | 9am-12pm**

Alliance JCC | 401 Elm Grove Avenue | Providence

This program is for clergy

The prevailing models of Jewish identity, which were derived from the social circumstances of Jews as an immigrant group, do not take into account contemporary American culture, which is based on individual choice. The new model of identity construction makes choice its centerpiece and has important policy implications. Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard is a catalyst for change. Longtime social advocate, psychologist, and teacher, he has been in the forefront of promoting inclusive, vital Jewish communities in the 21st century.

For more information, contact Wendy Joering at 401.421.4111 ext. 169 or wjoering@shalomri.org.

**Clal**  
The Hebrew word for inclusive

**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

This program is part of the Alliance-Synagogue Initiative.



Dan Nichols

## Temple Habonim to host joint Reform service

*Music by Dan Nichols enriches evening service*

BARRINGTON — Jews throughout greater Rhode Island are invited to attend the joint Reform service at Temple Habonim on Friday, March 8. Temple Beth-El and Temple Sinai congregants will join Habonim congregants at the 7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat service, which will include music and songs by Dan Nichols. Each year, Rhode Island's Reform congregations host a joint service at one of the synagogues.

Nichols, considered one of the most dynamic, influential and beloved Jewish musicians in North America, first came to Temple Habonim in April 2010. Nichols' melodies have become an integral part of the spiritual and liturgical experience for many Jewish communities.

The service is open to the entire community.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
245-6536 or templehabonim.org.

**Family First Program and Costume Party**  
Saturday February 23 - 5:45pm  
Special program for kids and parents! Songs! Music! Games! Come in Costume

### Festive Purim Megillah Reading

Saturday February 23 - 6:15pm  
Sunday February 24 - 8:00am

### Purim Spiel - "Green Eggs, No Ham; A Jewsical"

Saturday February 23 - 7:30pm  
Sunday February 24 - 2:00pm

What if Dr. Seuss had written the Book of Esther?  
Find out by joining Temple Spielers on their musical odyssey to Shushan via Seussville!

### Temple Emanu-El Purim Carnival

Sunday February 24  
PreK through Kindergarten - 10:15am - 11:00am  
All ages 11:00am - 1:00pm  
Kosher BBQ lunch 11:00am - 1:00pm



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## CALENDAR

## Ongoing

## Through March 7

**Art Show at gallery (401).** Fun Guys: Exploring Jewish Stereotypes by Leslie Friedman. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Erin Moseley, 421-4111 ext. 108.

## Ongoing

**Living with Integrity: Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas.** My Jewish Learning course provides tools to make the right decision and enhance interaction with family and friends. \$60. 884-7888 or www.myJLI.com. Mondays, 7:30 - 9 p.m., Warwick; Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Warwick; Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Warwick; Fridays, 12:30 - 2 p.m., Cranston; Wednesdays, 8 - 9 a.m., Providence; Thursdays, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Cranston.

## Friday | Feb. 15

**Am David Senior Café.** Program: Birthday celebrations for those with February birthdays; live music and gifts. 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.**



**YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**The RING Community Shabbat Dinner.** Performance by comedian Aaron Friedman. Alliance JCC Social Hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 6:30 p.m. Erin Moseley, 421-4111, ext. 108.

## Monday | Feb. 18

**JERI Satellite Office Hours.** JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant Director Ethan Adler counsel seniors and their families; Ethan is available for pastoral counseling. Blenheim Newport, 303 Valley Road, Middletown. 11 a.m. - noon. Susan Adler, 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org.

## Tuesday | Feb. 19

**Revolutions in Jewish Adoption.** Jewish families in an age of trans-national, trans-racial and open adoption; Drs. Jenny Sartori and Jayne Guberman, co-directors of the Adoption and Jewish Identity Project. Grand Reading Room, Claire T. Carney Library, UMass-Dartmouth Campus. Noon - 1:30 p.m., refreshments, park in lots 13 & 14. Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Culture. 440-241-1120 or joanna.korman@gmail.com.

## Wednesday | Feb. 20

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

## Thursday | Feb. 21

**Considering Adoption?** Adoption Options Meeting. Licensed adoption workers offer information and answer questions at free information session. Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence. 6 - 7 p.m. Peg Boyle, 331-5437 or jfsri.org.

## Friday | Feb. 22

**Yiddish Shmooz.** Group will celebrate Purim. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., 421-4111.

**Alliance JCC Senior Cafe.** Program: Providence Winter Concert Series with Providence Civic Orchestra. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon - lunch; program - 1 p.m. \$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.**

**Shireinu Sings.** Shireinu, Temple Sinai's Jewish Community Chorus, will sing at services. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 7:30 p.m. 942-8350.

## Saturday | Feb. 23

**Purim in Paradise.** Hear the Purim story (for all), enjoy a Purim carnival (for the kids) and a wine-tasting (for the adults). Bring a box of pasta as a "grogger" and then donate to the food bank. Come in tropical costumes. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Providence. 5 p.m. RVSP by Feb. 15, Dottie, dottie@templesinai.org or 942-8350.

**Potluck Dinner, Megillah Reading.** Congregation Agudas Achim's vegetarian potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Megillah reading begins around 6:30 p.m. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass., 10 a.m. - noon. 508-222-2243 or agudasma.org.

**Megillah Reading.** Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich, 6:30 p.m., 885-6600 or toratysrael.org.

**Purim Celebration.** Includes megillah reading, music and hamantaschen, Chabad of Rhode Island, 360 Hope St., Providence, 6:45 p.m., 273-7238

## Sunday | Feb. 24

**Megillah Reading.** Chabad of Rhode Island, 360 Hope St., Providence, 8:30 a.m., 273-3238

**Family Purim Celebration.** Interactive Megillah reading, costumes, songs and a Purim parade. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich, 9 - 11 a.m., 885-6600 or toratysrael.org.

**Purim Carnival.** Carnival with new games and prizes, music, crafts and snacks. Costumes welcome, as are donations of food or money. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass., 10 a.m. - noon. 508-222-2243 or agudasma.org.

## CALENDAR | 11



PHDS/NEAT

Bracha Leibowitz, left, and Blima Haldorsen

## Annual NEAT presentation presents moral dilemma

BY RABBI PERETZ SCHEINERMAN

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - "Justice Developed," this year's performance of song, drama and dance by New England Academy of Torah students captured the attention of student-performers and audience members of friends and family members.

"Justice Developed" focuses on the moral dilemma of a photographer who viewed his job to get the picture and ex-

pose the story ... at all costs. This all went well until his family was involved in a less-than-positive headline story.

NEAT students performed the show before packed houses on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26. Contributions from both faculty and students made this production a success: Tzippy Kahan as director, Deborah Raskin as director of dramatic performance and Janice Kaiden Rosenfield as choir director. Miriam Peromisk and Kira Kapilevich helped with sewing the costumes

and collecting all the props needed. Senior Aviva Rothbard and junior Goldie Taitelbaum served as NEAT production heads. PHDS is grateful to the larger school community for their work on and support of this production.

The event raised more than \$1,500, which will be used for NEAT trips and special activities.

RABBI PERETZ SCHEINERMAN (pscheinerman@phdschool.org) is dean of NEAT.

## SPIRIT of cooperation pervades temporary disruption at Tamarisk

From Page 8

to Tamarisk, tired staff members were transported home and rested staff members were brought in, said Ragge. "We called the [47] families to tell them that the Red Cross and the state fire marshal weren't sure that power and heat would remain on and to encourage them to keep their loved ones home for one more night."

Asked whether Tamarisk plans to purchase a generator that supplies electricity and heat, Ragge and JSA President Susan Bazar both said that Tamarisk will look into the situation with engineering experts.

Caring for our residents, Bazar said, "is absolutely ... a top priority."

Monday, Feb. 11

9 a.m.: All but one resident had returned to Tamarisk, according to Ragge; the last individual arrived back at Tamarisk around 2 p.m. on Monday, said Ragge.

Her voice cracking with emotion, she added, "I get very emotional when I see this

... [the residents] were fantastic and made the staff feel so appreciated. They were very good-spirited." She had high praise for Tamarisk staff, as well. The staff's allegiance to one another and to Tamarisk residents "shouldn't surprise me, but it does. I am so humbled to work shoulder to shoulder with them ... the staff has worked through many hurricanes and snowstorms ... this team is the 'A team' from the top down."

Residents Florence Katz and Hyman (Hy) Jacobson lauded Tamarisk staff.

Jacobson, 95, who uses a walker, said that he would have preferred staying overnight at Tamarisk to spending the night with his daughter in Warwick. "I've lived here nine years and am perfectly satisfied," he said. "Tamarisk [did] everything they [could] to make us comfortable."

Katz, who stayed with her daughter in Cranston, called the evacuation "terrific ... no trouble. All the important people that run the place were here," she said, "and that gave everyone a lot of

confidence." The 91-year-old Katz, a resident of Tamarisk for some 4½ years, had nothing but "praise for what happened here."

Tamarisk residents for little more than a year, Zelda and Ed Fitzgerald declined to stay with local family members, and instead went to Shalom Apartments.

They felt confident, said Zelda, that the "whole staff [would] take care of us. Roberta [Ragge] and the whole crew worked together."

Calling the heatless Saturday night a "rough night," Zelda said that she got dressed in every piece of clothing she could find. Once the decision to evacuate was made, she and Ed "trusted ... in [Tamarisk's] evacuation plan."

Both Richard Licht and Jeffrey Savit, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island chairman and CEO, respectively, were in contact with Tamarisk officials to offer assistance as needed.

Bazar expressed appreciation for Alliance support and Tamarisk staff.

## CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

**Please note:** Calendar items for our March 1 Passover Planning/Pets issue must be received by Feb. 20. Items for our March 15 Passover issue must be received by March 6. Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."

## CALENDAR

## From Page 10

**NERC Purim Parade.** New England Rabbinical College sponsors annual Purim parade; free and open to community. 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence (outside the Alliance building), 10:30 a.m. Purimparade@gmail or 274-1361

**Megillah Reading.** Chabad of Rhode Island sponsors megillah reading at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island boardroom, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon, 273-7238

**Beth Shalom Purim Dinner.** Meat meal includes vegetarian option; BYOB/wine (alcohol will be checked by the mashgiah). Program begins 4 p.m., \$15/adult, \$8/child (under age 12) or \$60/family maximum, \$12/student discount; payments at bethshalom-ri.org or at the door. Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence. RSVP by Feb. 18 to 621-9393 or officebethshalom@yahoo.com.

## Monday | Feb. 25

**JERI Satellite Office Hours.** JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant Director Ethan Adler counsel seniors and their families; Ethan is available for pastoral counseling. Sakonnet Bay Manor, 1215 Main Road, Tiverton; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org

**Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard.** "How to Think About Being Jewish in the 21st Century," presentation is free and open to the community. Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, 7 - 9 p.m., Wendy Joering, 421-4111, ext. 169 or wjoering@shalomri.org.

## Tuesday | Feb. 26

**Clergy Program with Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard.** Clergy-specific program with the rabbi. Alliance JCC, 410 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 9 a.m. - noon. Wendy Joering, 421-4111, ext. 169 or wjoering@shalomri.org.

## Thursday | Feb. 28

**JERI Satellite Office Hours.** JERI Director Susan Adler and Assistant Director Ethan Adler counsel seniors and their families; Ethan is available for pastoral counseling. Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Susan Adler, 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org.

**Bezalel on Tour.** Brown RISD Hillel and the Granoff Center for the Creative Arts co-host traveling exhibit of art from alumni of Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. Opening is free and open to community, 5 - 7 p.m., Granoff Center, 154 Angell St., Providence. 863-2805 or brownrisdhillel.org. See story, page 3.

**Healthy Eating.** Enjoy a "dark chocolate workshop" with J-Fitness personal trainer Jodie Thompson and Chef 'G,' Georgina Sarpong. Learn how to use dark chocolate in healthy menu options. 7 - 8 p.m., Alliance JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, \$15/member; \$25/

non-member; RSVP by Feb. 21 to Jodie, 421-4111, ext. 155.

## Saturday | Feb. 23

**Purim in Paradise.** Hear the Purim story (for all), enjoy a Purim carnival (for the kids) and a wine-tasting (for the adults). Bring a box of pasta as a "grogger" and then donate to the food bank. Come in tropical costumes. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Providence. 5 p.m. RVSP by Feb. 15. Dottie, dottie@templesinai.org or 942-8350.

## Friday | March 1

**Yiddish Shmooz.** Group will hear from guest speaker Rabbi Peter Stein of Temple Sinai. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 421-4111.

**Shabbat Yachad Dinner and Speaker.** Steve Jacobson of the Dorot Foundation will discuss trends and developments in the American Jewish community. \$10/adult, \$5/child (between 10- and 18-years-old) or \$30/family, maximum. RSVP by Feb. 25 to 885-6600 or toratysrael.org. 6 p.m., Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich.

## Sunday | March 3

**Art Exhibit at Temple Habonim.** Kite aerial photography by Ivan Wolfson. M.D., runs through May 2. Opening reception, 1 - 3 p.m., Temple Habonim Art Gallery, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. Free and open to the community. office@templehabonim.com or 245-6536. See story, page 37.

**Film Festival at Beth-El.** Sisterhood hosts "Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray," a film about American Jews' struggles during the Civil War. Dr. George M. Goodwin, historian and editor of Rhode Island Historical Notes, leads discussion. Refreshments, open to the community, 2 p.m., Silverstein Meeting Hall, Temple Beth-El, 90 Orchard Ave., Providence, 331-6070.

**PHDS "Price is Right" Auction.** Sixteenth annual auction is fundraiser for PHDS with raffle tickets, gourmet snacks, klezmer music and pasta bar. Providence Marriott, One Orms St., Providence. \$20 entrance fee (need not be present to win). 5:30 p.m. phdschool.org/auction, 331-5327, ext. 6 or ellisaffelder@aol.com.

## Tuesday | Mar. 5

**Women's Community Seder.** Women of Beth-El and of other synagogues and churches celebrate kosher-style women's Seder. Rabbi Sarah Mack, Cantor Judith Sepulwin and Educator Debbi Waldman lead Seder. 6 p.m., \$30 per person, portion of the proceeds donated to RI Food Bank and Women of the Wall. RSVP by Feb. 19, 331-6070.

## JEWISH DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

## Author Tom Fields-Meyer talks about autism

*Celebrating the joy of a boy named Ezra*

By LARRY KATZ  
lkatz@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE — Tom Fields-Meyer spoke about the joy he has had in raising his son Ezra, who has autism.

He spoke at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island earlier this month about his book, "Following Ezra: What One Father Learned About Gumby, Otters, Autism, and Love from his Extraordinary Son" (NAL Trade, September 2011), which covers a decade of raising Ezra.

As he spoke, my mind jumped ahead to Passover and amended the classic question — "Why is this night different from all other nights of the whole year?" — to wonder, "Why is this book different from all other books about autism?"

As one might expect from a journalist who is known for his articles in People magazine, the title of his book is deliberate. Fields-Meyer's book is different from most other books about the challenges of raising a child with autism: he doesn't concentrate on the search for a cause, a cure or a treatment. He and his wife are not battling a disease.

Fields-Meyer does not wish for a son who is "typical." Rather, his book is about following and learning from his wondrous, beautiful, exquisite child. He follows Ezra to learn what it is like to live with an extraordinary person who sees the world differently.

In his Feb. 4 evening presentation, Fields-Meyer told stories from the book and from the past few years since his son became a bar mitzvah (the book concludes after the bar mitzvah experience). As a parent with a son on the autism spectrum, I found that many of his stories echo our own family experiences. Parents of children with other disabilities may also find stories that sound familiar to them. Parents of "typi-



TOM FIELDS-MEYER

Tom Fields-Meyer

cal" children can gain an understanding of what their friends and neighbors experience, from a child's diagnosis at birth or shortly thereafter to the beginnings of adolescence.

Fields-Meyer's positive attitude is characterized by the

**"TOO MANY TEACHERS focus on what a child cannot do."**

way he labels the obsessions that people with autism have. He prefers to call them "passions," and someone in the audience mentioned that Clara Claiborne Park, one of the founders of the Autism Society of America, called them "enthusiasms." Although, ideally, Ezra would have spoken to the group at the Alliance on the evening of Feb. 4, said Fields-Meyer, he would have gone instead to the Roger Williams Zoo to indulge in

one of his "passions" — animals, most notably otters. His other big passion is animated films and one audience member recounted watching Ezra quiz people about their birth dates and then tell them what animated films premiered on those days.

A long discussion ensued after Fields-Meyer's presentation. When people asked what teachers should know about students with autism, Fields-Meyer replied that they should look for the strengths and gifts of the child; too many teachers focus on what such children cannot do.

The book includes a scenario when a teacher told him that Ezra did not seem to remember anything that she taught in class; he seemed completely oblivious. However, after several months of class, he suddenly repeated at home everything he had learned about the subject.

In his talk, Fields-Meyer mentioned a different example, one in which a teacher mentioned that Ezra demonstrated great knowledge in class, but had failed a test. Fields-Meyer noted that the test itself was a failure, and that teachers must find different ways to gauge what children with differences know. This is true of every child, as not everyone learns the same way.

The Jewish message of the book can be found before the table of contents, before the book even begins. One page contains only the traditional Jewish blessing: Praised are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates variety among living beings.

This book and Fields-Meyer's talk truly celebrate the life of a boy named Ezra and the joy he has found in the world and brought to his family and to his friends.

LARRY KATZ (lkatz@shalomri.org) is director of education for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

## RELISHING the sights, sounds and smells of the Holy Land

## From Page 2

pensate for his vision loss, often reveal things to him that others might miss. For example, he said that he heard the sound of raindrops coming through the underground tunnels, a very subtle sound that some of us may have heard, if at all, long after Temkin did.

While he especially savored the delicious Yemenite meal we had at a restaurant one night, he found our stay at a

kibbutz guesthouse a bit frustrating, as our time there was too short.

Aide Richard Wimberly accompanied Temkin on most, but not all, of the trip and helped him finesse his way through crowded markets, museums and streets. Wimberly, an Israeli citizen, left the group for several hours to vote and, at the trip's conclusion, remained behind.

About the mission, Temkin

said, "I enjoyed a good time, it was very educational and it was good meeting other people."

Asked whether he would go back to Israel, he responded without hesitation, "Yes."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Jewish Voice & Herald will publish stories and photos about the mission to Israel in upcoming issues. Look for the heading "Alliance Mission to Israel."

Visit our web site:  
**jvhri.org**

# Will Obama's planned Israel visit revive Israel-Palestinian peacemaking?

*A lasting disbelief in the possibility of peace*

## NEWS ANALYSIS

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Is President Obama's plan to visit Israel a sign that he's ready to take another shot at Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking?

The White House recently announced that Obama would visit Israel in the spring, his first trip there as president. He did visit in 2008, when he was a candidate for the Oval Office. This trip also will include meetings with Palestinian Authority leaders and a trip to Jordan, the White House said.

Obama spoke of the visit in a conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Jan. 28. The White House did not announce dates.

The announcement appears to be a signal that the president is serious about peacemaking, said David Makovsky, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which has close ties with the Obama and Netanyahu governments.

"Part of the problem is that on all sides, there's disbelief that peace is possible," Makovsky said. "He wants to engage both societies about why you can't give up. He wants to engage on the gut level with Arabs and Israelis in a way he hasn't until now."

In a region where optics are important, Obama's failure to

visit during his first term as president was cast by his opponents as a sign that Israel was not a high priority for him. It did not help Obama's popularity in Israel when he omitted the Jewish state from a June 2009 visit to the Middle East that included a major speech in Cairo and a stop in Saudi Arabia.

As much as anything else, the spring trip may be about reaching out to Israelis.

"I'm excited that President Obama is coming this spring to reaffirm the deep ties between Israel and the United States," Dan Shapiro, U.S. ambassador to Israel, said in a message in Hebrew on Twitter.

Netanyahu may have his own reasons for welcoming such a visit now. For one, a U.S. president on Israeli soil sends an un-



Prime Minister  
Benjamin Netanyahu



President Barack Obama

the prime minister over concerns about his rapport with Obama.

The two leaders have had something of a fraught relationship. There have been philosophical differences about Israel's settlement enterprise and the Palestinians, disagreements about the red line for Iran's nuclear program

and perceived snubs on both sides.

During a March 2010 White House meeting, Netanyahu was denied a photo opportunity with the president and Obama interrupted their meeting to eat dinner. Last year, Netanyahu gave an enthusiastic reception

to Obama rival Mitt Romney during the 2012 campaign.

But the recent elections in both the United States and Israel could mark a turning point.

In recent days, Netanyahu has indicated that he wants to establish a coalition government that tends more to the center than his last government. He also has identified diplomacy with the Palestinians as one of his top priorities.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Obama's choice for secretary of state, John Kerry, said in his Senate confirmation hearing that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and advancing Israeli-Palestinian peace would be his twin priorities in the job.

Kerry has since announced his own plans to visit Israel soon, and among his first calls in his new job were conversations with Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"It's a new beginning: Obama can have a serious discussion with the Israeli prime minister at a time he's heading a new government," said Dennis Ross, counsel at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who

was Obama's top Middle East adviser until a year ago.

"The president is interested in connecting with the Israeli public. It allows him to show he cares about the peace issues, but allows him to do so while discussing all the issues, including Iran, Syria and Egypt."

Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. negotiator who now is vice president of the Wilson International Center for Scholars, says both Obama and Netanyahu are being driven to a rapprochement by exigency: Netanyahu by his weakened political position and Obama by preserving his legacy.

"One guy is caught in circumstances which require improvement, and the other guy knows if he wants to get anywhere he's going to have to figure out if he can work with Bibi," Miller said, using Netanyahu's nickname.

Debra DeLee, president of Americans for Peace Now, said in a statement that Obama's visit will give him an "opportunity to directly address the people of Israel and lay out a compassionate, pragmatic vision for a future Israel that enjoys security and peace, and that it is a respected member of the community of nations."

But Danielle Pletka, vice president of the American Enterprise Institute, said if Obama is going simply to advance a peace process that many Israelis and U.S. lawmakers believe is stuck because of Arab intransigence, he's running a fool's errand. It would be more useful, she said, for him to use his Israel trip to discuss strategies at a time of Middle Eastern turmoil.

"If he's president of the United States, he's going to talk about Iran and Hezbollah and Syria," Pletka said. "If he's the president of Barack Obama's dream house, he'll talk about the peace process."

**"THE PRESIDENT IS interested in connecting with the Israeli public."**

mistakable message to Israel's enemies that America stands with Israel.

It also helps Netanyahu politically. Netanyahu emerged weakened from Israel's recent elections, and aides have told the Israeli media that they believe voters stayed away from

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## ALLIANCE MISSION TO ISRAEL

## Emek Medical Center serves Israelis and Palestinians

*Infrastructures delivering medical care in Israel and U.S. are markedly different*By DR. HERBERT  
RAKATANSKY

Special to The Voice &amp; Herald

PROVIDENCE – My recent visit to Emek Medical Center in the northern city of Afula illustrated how geo-political factors influence the delivery of medical care.

Emek, which opened in 1924, has had a special relationship with The Miriam, established in 1926, for several years; medical professionals from The Miriam have spent time at Emek and vice versa.

Situated on a hill overlooking Afula, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's sister city in Israel, Emek is a 500-bed facility that serves as a regional referral center for virtually all specialties. The Miriam and Rhode Island hospitals function as a two-campus unit with different specialized services at each location. The Miriam campus has 240 beds and offers specialized orthopedic care through its Total Joint Center, among other specialties. Unlike Emek, neither The Miriam nor Rhode Island hospitals offers obstetric services.

Israel is a highly developed, high-tech country with an excellent medical system. In 2010, Israel ranked ninth of 198 countries in life expectancy (80.89 years); the U.S. was 40th (77.97 years).

An American patient would not recognize the infrastructure that supports the delivery of medical care in Israel. For example, every Israeli citizen – Jews, Arabs and others – has a government-issued card that entitles him or her to lifetime access to the medical care system. And this care is without cost to the patient. Who pays? About 11 percent of Israelis' income tax is devoted to health care costs.

Israel's system, however, is not analogous to Medicare for everyone. Four government financed HMO-like organizations exist in Israel; individuals must select one for their health care, and may switch at yearly intervals. Emek is owned by the largest HMO, Clalit. There is a parallel private system for which patients pay out-of-pocket. For example, Emek's deputy director, a pediatrician, sees private pediatric patients in his private office after hospital hours.

Compared to U.S. doctors' salaries, Israeli doctors are quite poorly compensated, which contributes to a "brain drain"; many Israeli doctors emigrate, primarily to the U.S., in part to earn a better living. It's not medical school loans driving them from the country, as college and medical school tuitions are, by U.S. standards, laugh-



Larry Rich, Emek's director of development and international public relations, center, talks with Jeffrey Savit (back to camera) and Dr. Herb Rakatansky (facing camera). Mel and Janet Zurier are in the foreground and Dr. Robert and Carol Zurier stand behind them.

ably – or shockingly – low at only a few thousand dollars a year!

We met a cab driver who has four sons. One attended Harvard's undergraduate and medical schools, two went to Boston University for undergraduate and medical school and the fourth son, we learned,

**"THEY ARE  
ASTOUNDED to  
be treated with  
kindness and  
respect."**

will attend BU next year. The elder brothers, who specialize in orthopedics, neurosurgery and internal medicine, have settled in the U.S. I asked the father if he was upset that they all stayed in the U.S. to practice.

He replied that he encouraged them to stay in the U.S. where they could live better lives and avoid what he perceived to be inevitable and persistent strife.

As I wondered aloud how he managed all this on a taxi driver's income, he told us about his successful father who left "not one cent" for him, but left a fortune in trust for his grandchildren's education.

Both Israel and the U.S. have a shortage of doctors.

Some vital differences between Emek and The Miriam regarding the infrastructure are noteworthy. From a medical viewpoint, Emek has an advantage in being part of a

closed system – inpatient, outpatient, rehab, etc. are all managed by Clalit as a continuum. Clinical information is available anywhere in the system. Such closed, integrated systems do exist in America; Kaiser Permanente – predominantly in the western U.S. and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area – is one such example.

Clalit, Kaiser and other such HMOs manage the finances for the totality of the care and are the *de facto* insurers; in contrast, The Miriam is part of a system that includes only facilities and clinics owned by Lifespan. A patient at The Miriam who receives other medical care outside of a Lifespan facility will have less integration of his or her medical care than, say, a patient at Kaiser or Clalit.

In Rhode Island, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Medicare and other insurers assume the basic insurance risks, although there are new regulations that shift some financial risks to individual hospitals and even to physicians.

Emek is near the West Bank, where the government denies the right of Israel to exist and teaches its residents to hate Jews, and West Bank medical facilities lack Emek's sophisticated resources. Emek and The Miriam both provide medical care to any person who needs it; but specifically, in the case of Emek, this includes West Bank residents. Although there is no (or very little) contact between West Bank residents and Israel, special arrangements for West Bank Arabs allow them to go to Emek when necessary. Emek treats about 100 such patients of all ages each year; as they are poor and their government will not pay for their medical care,

Emek treats them with no expectation of payment, as The Miriam does for individual uninsured persons.

We learned from hospital personnel about many touching stories that arise from these situations. Critically ill children or individuals who have nowhere else to turn – who have been taught to believe that Is-

raelis intend only harm to them – receive compassionate, high-quality medical care. They are astounded to be treated with kindness and respect. When they return home, they tell others of their experiences, said Emek personnel, which contradict what they've been taught by their government.

The media in the West Bank do not report these stories (no surprise here). But perhaps – little by little – these respectful and mutually beneficial interactions may increase the opportunity for some reconciliation between West Bank Arabs and Israeli citizens. As this model of care is rare in the Middle East, Emek Medical Center may have the potential to positively impact a broader community than just the few West Bank patients it treats.

These two mission-driven sister medical institutions are striving to make the world a better place by doing what they do best, albeit in different geographic and political situations. And I think they are succeeding.

**DR. HERBERT RAKATANSKY** (herbrak1@cox.net) is a clinical professor of medicine emeritus at Brown University and a member of the board at Rhode Island Free Clinic.

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Rhode Island's Ring

The RING is a program of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

# RIC faculty travel to Israel to help foster international collaboration

*Ezra Stieglitz, professor of education, organizes international exchange*

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island College faculty members recently traveled to Israel to develop collaborative activities to strengthen ties between faculty and students from across the world.

Nine faculty members from Rhode Island College's Feinstein School of Education and Human Development visited Israel last month, where they met with colleagues from Beit Berl and Oranim Academic colleges to organize collaborative activities to strengthen ties

between faculty and students from across the world.

Ezra Stieglitz, professor of elementary education, organized the event in response to RIC President Nancy Carriuolo's request to develop ties with both colleges after her economic mission there in November 2011.

"The goal was to come up with a variety of collaborative activities between RIC and the two institutions of higher education in Israel," said Stieglitz.

Other faculty involved in the



EZRA STIEGLITZ

Ezra Stieglitz seated right, and other RIC faculty travel to Israel; Varda Stieglitz stands at center left.

trip were Karen Castagno, associate dean of the Feinstein School; Marie Lynch, chair/associate professor of special education; Ellen Bigler, professor of educational studies; Prachi Kene, assistant professor of counseling; Andres Ramirez, assistant professor of educational studies; and Mary Ellen McGuire-Schwartz, Elizabeth Henshaw and Maria Lawrence, all associate professors of elementary education.

Stieglitz had previously traveled to Israel in January 2012 to see if faculty from Beit Berl and Oranim were interested in collaborating with RIC. When he traveled there again in June of last year, they began to discuss ways in which collaboration could take place in the form of research, faculty exchanges and/or student interaction in coursework.

"We feel that now is the time to have our faculty interact with theirs," said Stieglitz, who left for Israel on Christmas day, more than two weeks before the rest of RIC's faculty.

There was a lot of prep work involved to ensure the trip would be both productive and successful, he said. Faculties from the institutions collaborated on an itinerary and schedule for the trip, and were then divided into areas of interest such as early childhood and special education and psychology subgroups. They used

email and other forms of social interactive media to collaborate from opposite sides of the world.

Stieglitz, who teaches a course called The Holocaust and Other Genocides, worked with colleagues from each of the institutions to help further develop that course to benefit future RIC students.

Associate Dean Castagno plans to collaborate with faculty at Beit Berl and Oranim to further develop the Feinstein School's "Worldviews on Education Lecture Series," developed to broaden students' world views about education and wellness by communicating through Skype with diverse professionals across the world.

In the fall, the plan is to offer this lecture in "real-time" with professors from Israel. This will allow Feinstein's students to learn about effective teaching and clinical practices, Castagno said.

Lynch said she was most excited to learn about Israel's special education practices in addition to identifying the similarities and differences about responsiveness to individuals who have disabilities.

"I explored a part of the world I have never been to, yet have heard and read so much about," said Lynch.

When RIC faculty members weren't collaborating with colleagues from Beit Berl or Oranim, they were able to tour the

two colleges and visit a public school to see how learning takes place in an Israeli elementary school.

Stieglitz also led RIC faculty on a tour of the community of Neve Shalom-Wahat al-Salam (NS-WAS, which means "oasis of peace"), where he spent time on his visit to Israel in June. Neve Shalom, a cooperative community in Jerusalem where Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs live side-by-side in peace, also offers a bi-cultural, bi-national, bilingual school for children from 3-months-old through sixth grade.

"We saw a lot of things in the short time that we were there," said Stieglitz. "We were able to mix business with some sight-seeing."

Of the nine faculty who traveled to Israel, Stieglitz is the only one who ever visited before. Since his son lives in Jerusalem, he has traveled back and forth many times, which is how he initially made contacts at Beit Berl and Oranim.

As a follow up, faculty from these institutions were invited to visit RIC in the fall to continue discussions about developing collaborative activities.

"The best is yet to come," Stieglitz said.

**THIS STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH** originally appeared in the Feb. 6 issue of RIC NEWS.

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## WILL the next pope reach out to international Jewish community?

From Page 1

"There were bumps in the road during this papacy," Anti-Defamation League National Director Abraham Foxman said in a statement. "But he listened to our concerns and tried to address them, which shows how close our two communities have become in the last half-century and how much more work we need to do together to help repair a broken world."

The German-born Benedict, 85, is the first pope to resign since the 15th century. He announced his decision at a meeting of cardinals at the Vatican.

"In today's world," he declared in Latin, "subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."

The pope's brother told the German news agency DPA that Benedict had been weighing the decision for months. Still, his resignation came as a shock.

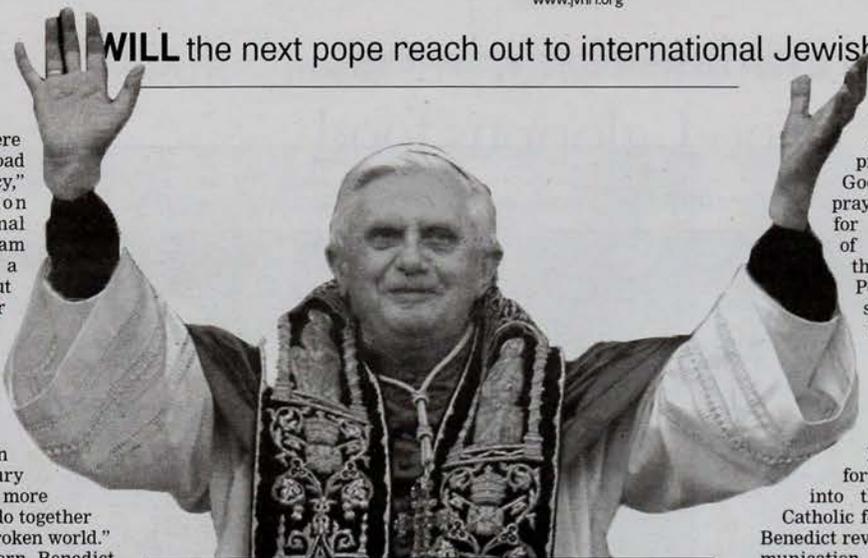
"There were moments of divergence, inevitable because of the essential and irreconcilable differences between the two worlds," said Riccardo Di Segni, chief rabbi of Rome. "But there was always a positive will to compare and construct."

Under Benedict's leadership, the Vatican "has been a clear voice against racism and anti-Semitism and a clear voice for peace," Israeli President Shimon Peres said in a statement. "Relations between Israel and the Vatican are the best they have ever been, and the positive dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people is a testament to his belief in dialogue and cooperation."

Less than two weeks earlier, in fact, Israel's deputy foreign minister, Danny Ayalon, had said that after years of fitful negotiations, Israel and the Vatican were "on the verge" of resolving outstanding bilateral issues and finalizing the Fundamental Agreement governing relations between the two states.

Benedict was elected pontiff in April 2005 following the death of Polish-born Pope John Paul II. As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he had been a close friend and adviser to the charismatic John Paul II, who had made fostering better relations with the Jews a cornerstone of his nearly 27-year papacy.

"For Jews and Israel, Benedict's papacy has meant a con-



Pope Benedict XVI

solidation and confirmation of the developments and achievements during John Paul II's papacy," Rabbi David Rosen, American Jewish Committee's international director of inter-religious affairs, told JTA.

Benedict's own personal history also helped shape this commitment. Born in Bavaria, he grew up in an anti-Nazi Catholic family but, like all teenagers, was obligated to join the Hitler Youth organization and was conscripted into the German army. Eventually he deserted.

As pope, Benedict met frequently with Jewish groups and visited synagogues in several countries. His first trip abroad as the pontiff was to his native Germany, where he made it a point to visit the synagogue in Cologne and issued a strong condemnation of anti-Semitism and "the insane racist ideology" that led to the Holocaust. The visit marked only the sec-

ond time a pope had visited a synagogue. Benedict later visited synagogues in Rome and New York.

He also confronted his troubled past in Poland in 2006 when he visited Auschwitz and, declaring himself "a son of Germany," prayed for victims of the Holocaust, as well as on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009 when he visited Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and met with Holocaust survivors.

As a young theologian in the 1960s, Benedict attended the Second Vatican Council, which aimed to liberalize the Church. In 1965, the council promulgated the Nostra Aetate declaration that opened the way to Catholic-Jewish dialogue. Benedict repeatedly reaffirmed commitment to Nostra Aetate's teachings. Still, several issues that emerged during his tenure called that commitment into question, casting a shadow over Catholic-Jewish relations.

These included the revival of a pre-Vatican II Good Friday Latin prayer that called for the conversion of Jews, moving the Holocaust-era Pope Pius XII one step closer to sainthood and reaching out to a breakaway ultra-traditionalist group, the Society of St. Pius X, in an effort to bring it back into the mainstream

Catholic fold. In doing so, Benedict revoked the excommunication of four of the movement's bishops, one of whom turned out to be a Holocaust denier.

Vatican officials said a conclave of cardinals will be convened in March to elect a new pope. But there is no clear indication as to who might be picked or from what country or continent he might come. Vatican observers said that since all the cardinals eligible to vote for a new pope had been appointed either by John Paul II or Benedict, whoever is elected would probably follow similar overall policies.

Like John Paul II, Benedict is a doctrinal conservative, staunchly opposed to female priests, gay marriage, abortion, birth control and divorce.

"History will view Benedict as the last of the traditional Eu-

ropean pontiffs, the last pope who personally experienced World War II and the Holocaust, and one of the last Catholic leaders to have participated in the historic Second Vatican Council," said Rabbi James Rudin, AJC's senior interreligious adviser, who first met Ratzinger in the 1970s.

The next pope will have to deal with fallout from scandals that tainted Benedict's reign, from continuing accusations of sex abuse by priests to a security breach that saw Benedict's butler leaking the pope's private papers to a reporter. It remains to be seen, however, whether fostering Jewish-Catholic relations will receive less attention under a younger and possibly non-European pope without the historic memory of the Holocaust and Vatican II.

"Doctrinally this will never happen, but in terms of visibility and engagement that may happen if he is from a place where there is no significant Jewish community present today or in the very recent past," Rosen said.

Rosen added, however, a non-European pope might be less encumbered by the burdens of the past.

"Past tragedy and past failure are not the best ... for a long-term future relationship," Rosen said. "This has to be based upon nurturing the sense of common patrimony, roots. Some African cardinals are better in this regard than many European ones."



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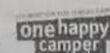


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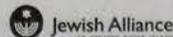
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## FIRST PERSON/ALLIANCE MISSION TO ISRAEL

## Food, glorious food

*Why are meals so sumptuous and Israelis so slender?*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Honestly, I am surprised that I can still button my buttons and zip my zippers!

After a week of decadent, non-stop eating my way through the restaurants and markets of Israel, I thought I – rather than my suitcase – might be assessed an excess weight charge!

More than one individual on the Alliance mission to Israel noted that the abundance of food didn't seem to create overweight Israelis.

Other than the occasional bowl of oatmeal or granola, breakfast isn't on my radar here at home. In Israel, breakfast was on everyone's radar, with sumptuous choices of foods, both savory and sweet. Eggs came hardboiled or cooked into quiches or omelets; and if cheese were people, well, they could have made a minyan! Salads of fruit and salads of vegetables, yogurt, breads and sweets – all laid out in veritable feasts. I never drink orange juice in the States, but in Israel – “OMG,” the fresh-squeezed Jaffa orange juice is amazing.

It was remarkable – no, embarrassing – how often I refilled my plate at any one meal and then vowed to not eat again for oh, say a good 10 hours, simply because I was so full. Those vows were short-lived, as there I was again, a few hours later, at another meal site, consuming more companionship, conversation and calories.

The group never missed a meal, much less a snack, and we certainly never had to go 10 hours between meals. Oddly enough, I can't seem to remember what we ate at lunch, but we were fed often and well. Falafel and hummus were among the most familiar of the ethnic dishes.



Spices for rice, spices for meat, spices for every dish imaginable were available ... and sampling was encouraged!

NANCY KIRSCH

(Ironically, when I recently went to Boston to interview Shai Bazak, Israel's consul general to New England, he said that the best falafel he's had in New England is not from any restaurant in Boston, but from East Side Pockets, a restaurant on Providence's Thayer Street.)

When I asked our crackerjack tour guide Ronen Ben Moshe, for the recipe of one delicious Yemenite tomato and egg dish, he quickly rattled off the ingredients, but not the quantities. If only my son, the chef, had been

with us – he could have deconstructed the recipe! Ah, well, though the taste is no longer on my lips, the results of those meals linger on my hips; memories of those mealtime conversations linger in my heart.

For those readers who like to shop at farmers' markets – as I do – and intend to visit Israel, I highly recommend the market in Jerusalem called Machane Yehuda Market, the open-air market that Alliance staff member Erin Moseley (who did not participate in the mission) shopped at weekly when she lived in Israel between 2010 and 2012.

“I didn't have one favorite place at the *shuk*, but my room-

mate taught me the art of shopping at the *shuk*. First I would go to the Iraqi section to buy my vegetables and bread, then I'd go to one of the butchers and buy my chicken, and then go to another stand to buy dried fruit and nuts, and another for salads, and so on and so forth,” said Moseley. “The first couple of weeks I decide to dedicate shopping at the *shuk* it took me nearly an hour and a half to navigate and decide what and where to buy, but by the end of the year... I could get all of my shopping done in about 30 minutes.”

To my mind, sharp elbows, a willingness to stand one's ground and the ability to navi-

gate through crowds without getting frustrated – or terrified – are all essential.

The market sells everything edible: spices, halvah, pineapple the size of one's fist – “It's not the season for pineapples,” said Ronen – and strawberries and radishes the size of baseballs (it must have been the season for them!) and chocolate rugelach with its buttery-rich filling oozing from the pastry's corners and edges. If you love rugelach, buy it at the bakery called The Halva Kingdom, conveniently located in Machane Yehuda Market ... and bring some home for me?

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# Israeli foods are abundant and delicious



NANCY KIRSCH

Secular and haredi Jews mingle at the market; Michelle Cicchitelli and Ronen Ben Moshe, our tour guide, stand behind a young Orthodox boy.



NANCY KIRSCH

A rosidie stand in Tel Aviv offers succulent fruits and vegetables.



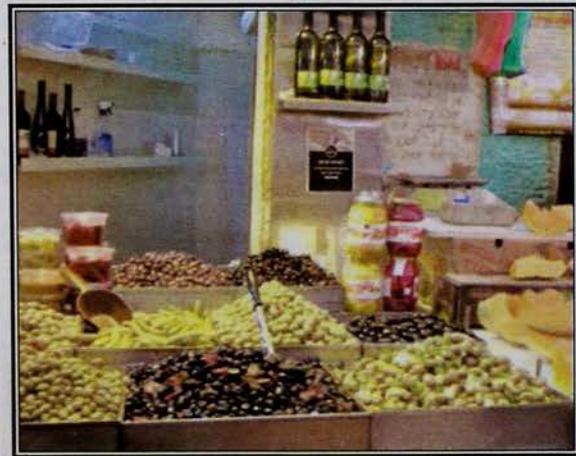
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Ronen Ben Moshe serves falafel as Lisa Dinerman captures the moment.



NANCY KIRSCH

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NANCY KIRSCH

Susan Bazar holds her \$50 gift card from Eastside Marketplace

*One good turn deserves another*

PROVIDENCE – The wedding story, "Treasuring memories of love," by Susan Bazar in our Jan. 18 wedding issue was voted "best wedding story" by judges from The Voice & Herald who, collectively, have nearly 100 years of marriage under their belts.

Bazar chose the \$50 gift card from Eastside Marketplace, which she said she will donate to The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry.

Bazar is president of the board of trustees of the Jewish Seniors Agency, which oversees the food pantry.

Contact Valerie Houshar for more information:  
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# URI Hillel hosts Standup for Peace comedy show

*Using comic relief to promote Middle East peace*

**By KENDRA LOLIO**  
Special to The Voice & Herald

KINGSTON – “That’s the difference between Israeli and Arab [pronunciations]. A little phlegm,” quipped Scott Blakeman. “And all we have to do to have peace? Clear our throats.”

The Standup for Peace Comedy Show in URI’s Memorial Union Ballroom, presented in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Week at URI, featured standup comics – Blakeman, an American Jew, and Palestinian-American Dean Obeidallah. The duo use the Standup for Peace tour – largely on college campuses in North America – primarily to promote political resolution in the Middle East, particularly regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The comics work to create dialogues among audiences to

“ALL WE  
HAVE to do to  
have peace?  
Clear our  
throats.”



Scott Blakeman, Lily Nieto, student president of URI Hillel, Samia Baig of the Muslim Students Association and Dean Obeidallah at URI Hillel.

Nonviolence and Peace Studies, and the Department of Communication Studies in the Harrington School of Communications were among the 150 or so individuals present at the Feb. 7 event, which also received support from The Avi Schaefer Fund.

Blakeman’s 30-minute act focused on comic aspects of Jewish-American cultural norms and harmlessly poked fun at other countries and races.

“Did you know that President Obama had the first Passover Seder in the White House? But,” said Blakeman, “there was no media coverage and the Republicans criticized him for it and said, ‘What’s Obama hiding?’ Obama’s great. He said, ‘The matzah.’”

Following Blakeman’s solo routine, Obeidallah discussed Palestinian-American stigmas and cultural qualities that, while unique to Arab culture, easily lend themselves to humor.

“Because I don’t look like what people think an Arab should look like, people will say things ... to me [as] if they

don’t know my background,” Obeidallah said.

“I’m in New York City and there’s a TV on in the laundromat while I’m washing my clothes,” said Obeidallah. “And a guy says to me, ‘Hey, buddy.

You see these Arabs on TV. I have an idea. Let’s kill them all and let God sort out the good and bad,’” he continued.

“So I’m like, sir, that’s not nice. I’m Arab,” Obeidallah answered.

“And the guy says, ‘Well you don’t look it.’”

“Well, that just makes it easier to achieve the goals of my mission,” said Obeidallah as the audience broke into a large roar of laughter.

Blakeman and Obeidallah created a dialogue that allowed the audience to reflect not only on differences between Jewish and Palestinian cultures, but between other cultures as well.

“We’ve got so many different groups who have come together to bring peace here,” Blakeman began. “That’s really what it’s all about. That’s what they’re not doing in the Middle East – talking, coming together, and so really this is an example of what they should be doing,” he added.

Blakeman and Obeidallah ended the show with a Q-and-A session in which audience members asked questions ranging from the comics’ political opinions to their favorite sports teams.

**KENDRA LOLIO**  
(kloio\_8996@email.ric.edu), a senior at Rhode Island College, is an intern with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

bridge the gaps among diverse cultures, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and genders. The show, which highlights all types of cultural differences in a positive and comical way, is designed to break down barriers among different communities.

Before the show, the two led a group of 20 or so individuals in a one-hour workshop discussion about ways to create cross-cultural dialogues.

URI President Dr. David Doolley, URI Hillel Student President Lily Nieto, who introduced Blakeman and Obeidallah, and representatives from many of the co-sponsoring organizations including URI’s Student Affairs Diversity Fund, the Multicultural Center, Muslim Student Association, Chaplains Association, the Center for

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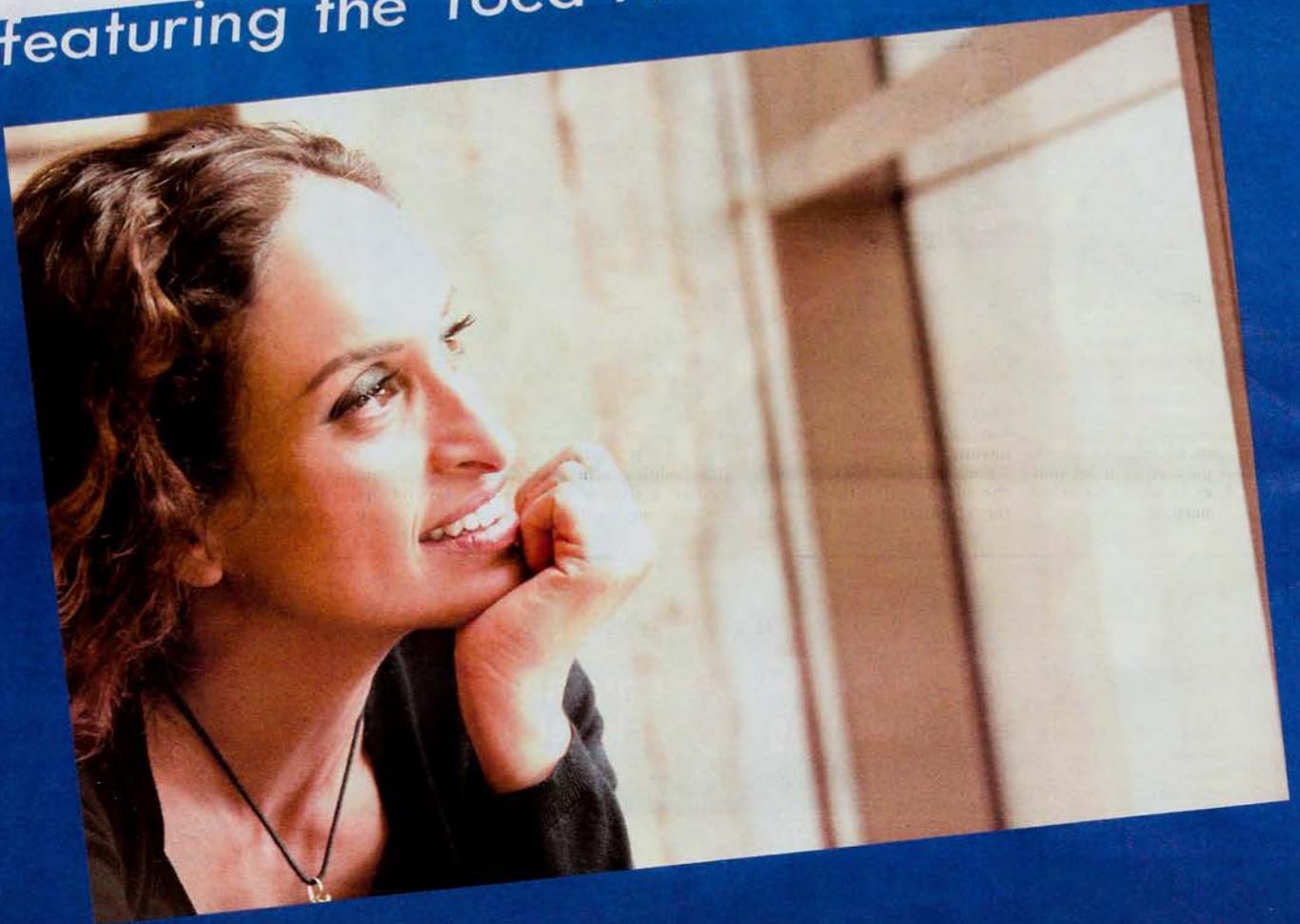
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**Jewish Alliance**  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

## ALLIANCE MISSION TO ISRAEL

## Ben Yakir Youth Village fulfills adage: 'It takes a village'

Israeli organization teaches life skills, academics, animal care and more

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – No bedtime routines, no school attendance or homework supervision, no expectations of personal hygiene? Young children might call a household with these freedoms “a dream come true.”

But, adults, including those who run the Ben Yakir Youth Village, which currently serves as a boarding school and “home away from home” to some 90 boys in need, ages 12 and older, know the consequences of such not-so-benign neglect.

Fifty-two percent of the children at Ben Yakir were born in Ethiopia, and another 16 percent were born to Ethiopian families in Israel, said Hila Elhayany, Ben Yakir’s resource development director. Ben Yakir, which means “dear son” in Hebrew, is one of four residential youth villages run by the Jewish Agency for Israel, one of two Alliance’s overseas partner agencies that assist Jews in need; the other is the American Joint Distri-



Two young residents of Ben Yakir Youth Village – and their pet goats – are flanked by Ted Orson, left, and Jeffrey Savit in late January.

tribution Committee, commonly called “the Joint.”

“These kids become adults too soon, they come from broken family structures,” said Elhayany.

Each child has his own story, she added, noting that most of the children didn’t get what

they needed at home to be “normal citizens. Kids had to learn at age 12 how to brush their teeth and shower.”

In contrast, at Ben Yakir, the boys have predictable and hectic schedules – school, extracurricular activities and thrice-daily prayers – with someone to

look after them all day.

When Janet Zurier asked about meeting the needs of much younger at-risk children, Elhayany explained that other programs in the community exist for such children.

“[They] are amazing children, talented and capable and learning to believe in themselves. Each child finds a place to feel success,” she said, whether in academics, sports or music, “which then breeds self-confidence.”

After a subset of the 20-member choir performed songs in Hebrew for the Alliance mission visitors, Hanan Peled, choir conductor, spoke briefly with this reporter.

“[These boys] are like my sons; it’s not easy for these boys [apart from music rehearsals],” he said. “They are part of me.”

Elhayany noted that Peled,

who has worked with the choir for six years, occasionally brings a few boys to his own

**“IT TOOK 15 minutes for me to catch this goat.”**

home for some rest and relaxation with his own family.

#### A home away from home

Each of the cottages dotting the youth village is “home” to about 20 boys, where two adults and one volunteer fulfill the parental duties that the boys’ parents cannot.

Boys typically enter Ben Yakir around age 12 and generally stay until they graduate high school. However, some students find 10th grade – when they attend a local high school – a tough transition year; sometimes, some boys find the transition too challenging, too scary and leave Ben Yakir, she said.

ETHIOPIAN-ISRAELI | 25



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LAURA DECKELMAN

An image of Hurricane Sandy's devastation

## Months after the disaster, Hurricane Sandy victims still stranded

*Stephanie Penzell organizes  
March 3 fundraiser*

By **NANCY KIRSCH**  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Stephanie Penzell weeps with frustration and rage, as she describes Hurricane Sandy victims' devastated lives, even months after the October storm.

Penzell, 56, a former resident of the hurricane-impacted town of Belle Harbor, N.Y., is organizing a March 3 fundraiser to help. All proceeds, she said, will be donated to graybeards.com, a nonprofit organization. Established shortly after 9/11, the organization now focuses on helping Sandy's victims. (To see more about graybeards, visit: <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/21134540/vp/50651755#50651755>).

The March 3 fundraiser includes a lineup of music and art. Calling it a family-friendly event, she said that 100 percent of the proceeds from ticket and raffle sales, and any other donations will go to gray-

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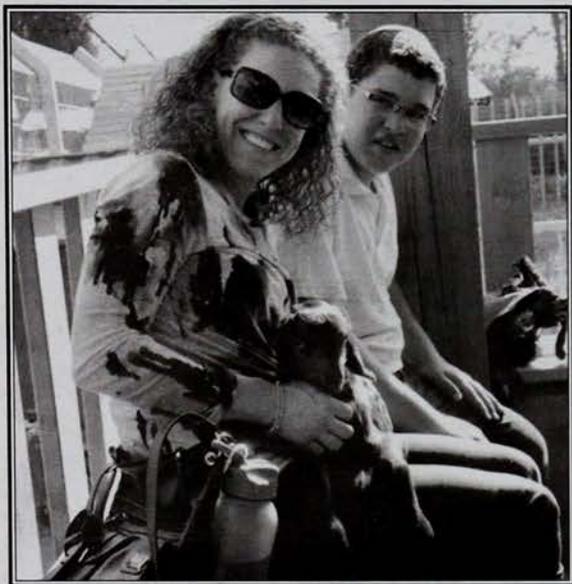
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## ETHIOPIAN-ISRAELI youths grow up in safe and secure environment in Israel



Michelle Cicchitelli cuddles a baby goat, as a Ben Yakir resident poses for the camera.

MEL BLAKE

From Page 23

And, according to Elhayany, 90 percent or more of Ben Yakir's graduates enter the military, which she called "an important stepping stone to Israeli life." On Monday, Jan. 21, a smaller percentage, 50 percent of the eight students old enough to vote (18 and older) for Israel's next prime minister - chose to do so.

"We hope to break the cycle of what they grew up with," said Elhayany.

What happens, asked Jeffrey Savit, to at-risk boys who are unable to enroll in Ben Yakir or other comparable youth villages?

Elhayany said that they might experience continued neglect and "fall through the cracks" or engage in criminal activity.

#### Roosters and chickens and goats, oh my ...

Although it's 10:30 a.m. Israeli time, roosters are loudly crowing. I always thought that roosters crowed at the crack of dawn.

The group traipsed from the green space where the boys sang songs to a farm area where roosters crowed, dogs barked and baby goats gambled. The boys who are elected as farm trustees, said Elhayany, must care for the animals, which teaches them responsibility and accountability. The animals, in turn, offer the boys unconditional love.

Cradling a baby goat in his arms for the Alliance visitors to coo over, Inon, one of Ben Yakir's residents, said, through a translator, "It took 15 minutes for me to catch this goat. It's only 2-weeks-old."

Danielle Mor, director of development, the Aliyah, Absorption and Special Operations Unit, of JAFI, offered Alliance visitors a brief update on JAFI's efforts to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel, beginning in the late 1970s, with operations Moses

and Solomon.

JAFI plans to bring the last remaining Ethiopian Jews from Ethiopia to Israel in September 2013.

Calling Israel's absorption centers, "the first chance" for *olim*, new immigrants, from such poor countries as Ethiopia, Mor said that many Ethiopian adults who come to Israel aren't literate in their own language. These individuals have never crossed a street with a traffic light or held a pencil in their hands. "How," Mor asked, "do they function as leaders of their families?"

Ben Yakir and other youth villages give these Ethiopian children a "second chance," said Mor. These children, she said, have few role models in Israeli society.

#### A role model worth emulating

One role model, Asher Seyum, is himself a graduate of another youth village, Hodayot.

Seyum, the youngest of nine children born to illiterate Ethiopian parents, arrived in Israel in 1983. After living at Hodayot and after his military service, he worked at Ben Yakir as a counselor. Mor explained that Seyum wanted to give *olim* kids from Ethiopia the same opportunities that he had through Hodayot.

Now leading JAFI's operations in Ethiopia, he is responsible for the all aspects of managing aliyah operations from Gondar, Ethiopia to Israel. Beginning in April 2011, he established a JAFI community center in Gondar, with a nutrition center, a preschool and school, an aliyah interview office, and has trained staff and volunteers. Through this initiative, more than 5,500 *olim* have made aliyah.

"He's a role model; that's what we're about and that's what your support is for," Mor said.

"We have much better tools today [to work with the chil-



MEL BLAKE

Some of the boys from the Ben Yakir choir relax after their performance.

dren and families] than we did [after] operations Moses and Solomon," said Mor.

#### Following the money

Although the village has the capacity for 100 to 120 boys, it currently serves 90 students. The organization has a strategic plan to grow to accommodate 150 students.

Asked why the village is not at full capacity, Mor said that JAFI is negotiating with Israel's Ministry of Education for more money. She explained that the Ministry provides funding to

the organization as if it were a traditional school, rather than one providing 24/7 care and support.

One-third of the organization's annual \$3 million budget comes from the Ministry of Education; the balance comes from donors such as the Alliance, said Mor.

The Alliance's most recent allocation to Ben Yakir Youth Village was \$63,000; additional funds were allocated to several other programs to help underserved children, teens and young adults in Israel.

Each year, the Alliance's Community Development Committee issues a report to the Alliance board recommending that the Alliance's Annual Community Campaign funds be allocated to specific programs in Rhode Island, in Israel and around the world.

Citing the adage, "It takes a village to raise a child," Elhayany added, "When these kids enter the larger Israeli society, they can succeed. [We offer] the right treatment for each and every child."

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# Project Shoresh's leader has 'a lot to say'

*Effective fundraisers have something good to offer, says rabbi*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Rabbi Naftali Karp calls the mindset that “there’s not enough money to go around” to fulfill communal needs “a myth.”

Rabbi Karp, 32, worked in fundraising for New England Rabbinical College in Providence and Rofeh International in Boston. He now works with Rabbi Aaron Lapin to lead Project Shoresh, projectshoresh.org, a small nonprofit Jewish organization in Providence organized as a synagogue.

Project Shoresh – *shoresh* is Hebrew for “root,” he told this reporter – creates programs that make classical Judaism easy for people to relate to, he said.

The organization sponsors a Jewish club for Classical High School students and a “partners in Torah program” on Sunday nights, which offers Jews of any denomination the opportunity to study Torah or other text materials in pairs or to hear a presentation.

If someone comes without a study partner, Rabbis Karp or Lapin will find someone to



YISROEL YAVNER

Rabbi Naftali Karp and his son Yisroel Mordechai at a children's study hall program at the New England Rabbinical College last year.

study with the individual or will serve as a study partner.

“It’s not a class,” said Rabbi Karp, “but a relaxed atmosphere with good food.”

Currently, Project Shoresh rents space from Providence Hebrew Day School for these Sunday night programs. The organization also offers holiday-related children’s programs so that children not enrolled in a religious or day school can learn about the holidays.

Asked whether Project Shoresh was aligned or allied with Chabad, Rabbi Karp said, “We’re similar and like-minded

[but not connected]. We’re another resource. If every Jewish person was already connected, things would be great ... there are still plenty of people who are looking for something.”

What advice can he offer other fundraisers?

Although there are people who don’t have enough funding, said Rabbi Karp, he noted that, as a general rule, there’s plenty to go around for many wonderful causes.

Effective fundraising, he said, requires time, training and a

certain amount of natural ability. Raising money can be difficult, especially for people who lack the inclination or haven’t received sufficient training, he said.

Another challenge is realizing that people want to give. “I think that what holds back lay leaders or professionals [is that] we think people don’t really want to give,” he said. “In my experience, that’s not true. If [people] have some level of discretionary income, they want to be involved and help in meaningful ways.”

Urging fundraisers to adopt a less nervous mindset, he added, “If you don’t think you have something good to offer, you’re in the wrong business.”

Committed to Project Shoresh, the rabbi says that he brings his hobbies and interests to work. For example, as he enjoys sports, he sometimes plays in the RING’s pickup basketball games at the Jewis Alliance of Greater Rhode Island JCC, where he can meet new people.

Asked where he wants to be five years from now, Rabbi Karp didn’t skip a beat.

“I’d like to know and be friends with every Jew in the state,” he said.

Although he’s yet to seek funding from the Alliance for Project Shoresh, Rabbi Karp said he’s looking to grow the organization’s annual budget, currently a modest \$120,000.

“We need more staff and more programming,” he said. “I have a lot to say.”

**PROJECT SHORESH** (projectshoresh.com or naftalikarp@gmail.com).

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RSVP to [rsvp@brownrisdhillel.org](mailto:rsvp@brownrisdhillel.org)

The Bezalel on Tour Exhibition will be on view at both the Granoff Center for the Creative Arts (154 Angell Street) and the Brown RISD Hillel Gallery (80 Brown Street) from February 28 through March 13.

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## 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](http://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](http://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 excluded.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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:

Call toll-free: 1-800-625-6440

Visit: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com)

Write to the Class Administrator:

Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement  
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Email: [info@PaymentCardSettlement.com](mailto:info@PaymentCardSettlement.com)

Please check [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com) for any updates relating to the settlement or the settlement approval process.

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## Modern Orthodox rabbi seeks to change Israeli rabbinate



The Modern Orthodox Rabbi David Stav is seeking to succeed Rabbi Yona Metzger (pictured), the current Israeli Ashkenazi chief rabbi.

JNS.org – Amid the surprising Israeli election results that empowered political parties calling for a change to the ultra-Orthodox's grip on Jewish life, a reform-minded Modern Orthodox rabbi has launched a campaign to become the next Ashkenazi chief rabbi, the Associated Press has reported.

Rabbi David Stav, a 52-year-old father of nine and chairman of the Tzohar organization, a group of moderate Orthodox rabbis, has launched an aggressive and highly visible campaign utilizing TV and newspaper interviews as well as social media to spread his message. He believes the current rabbinate, which is controlled by Israel's ultra-Orthodox, alienates Israel's secular majority.

"It's not about public relations and niceness," Rabbi Stav told the Associated Press. "There is a critical problem – it's not cosmetic – in the rabbinic system. It needs dramatic changes." Israel's current Ashkenazi Chief

Rabbi, Yona Metzger, will be vacating his post in the upcoming months. A panel of 150 rabbis and politicians will appoint the next chief rabbi. With the election success of the centrist Yesh Atid and national religious HaBayit HaYehudi – who both call for reforms to Israel's rabbinate – Rabbi Stav may get the necessary political support.

Rabbi Stav's candidacy also comes at a time when tensions between Israel's ultra-Orthodox religious establishment and the more liberal American Jewry are increasing.

"I think Rabbi Stav is trying to be more inclusive, more compassionate and more sensitive to Jews of all backgrounds and make the rabbinate in Israel more user-friendly and more approachable," said Rabbi Moshe Scheiner after Rabbi Stav spoke at the Modern Orthodox Palm Beach Synagogue last month, the Palm Beach Daily News reported.

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# Understanding medical technology

*Do you know what you are taking?*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This column appeared in the March 7, 2008 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald. As Tema is feeling a bit "under the weather," she asked that The Voice & Herald reprint one of her earlier columns.

In the olden days, when I was growing up, non-professionals had a limited vocabulary of medical terms.



**AS WE  
GROW OLDER**

TEMA GOUSE

Most families had a family doctor, who provided advice on every illness, from the common cold to cancer. We all knew what the common cold was, but no one mentioned cancer because treatment was limited and superstition was rampant. For a cold, aspirin was prescribed. Cough syrup was used for every cough, whether it was part of the common cold or tuberculosis. Milk of Magnesia or Ex-Lax treated constipation and resolution of diarrhea depended on your mother's preferred home remedy.

You did not need an appointment at the doctor's office and cash payment for services was expected. Doctors made home visits. In the early 1930s, office visits cost \$2 and home visits were \$3. As the decade ended, those rates rose to \$3 and \$5, respectively.

I need to provide this lengthy introduction in order to get to my subject. Today's medicine has dramatically improved. The visit to the family doctor's office is only the preface to the very varied specialists to whom he or she refers you. The medications prescribed are highly specialized. And there are alternate forms of therapy.

Cures are more likely. Pain and suffering should be less. Medical care insurance became a necessity, not a luxury. And we live longer.

The problem is that when we are diagnosed, referred and prescribed for, most of us do not understand the medical lingo, let alone how to spell it. The doctors are all very busy, but the caring doctor takes the time to explain the illness, treatment and prognosis.

Let's examine a frequently prescribed medicine. Hydrochlorothiazide. It's a real medicine, very commonly used. You may buy it under different labels, but they are all the same diuretic. (You don't know what a diuretic is? Well, neither do most users.) Another com-

mon problem is that you can be aware that you are allergic to one antihistamine (you do know what that is, don't you?) but when a different specialist prescribes it under a different name, you may take that one and suffer the same allergic reaction!

**"BUT THE AVERAGE (scared) senior is often too embarrassed to question the referral or the prescription."**

And then there are specialists. Do you know the difference between a neurologist, a psychiatrist and a neuro-psychiatrist? Each provides different services and it is wise to know which one will best serve your needs.

Let's track one patient. She is losing weight and has no appetite. Referral may be to a gastroenterologist. He finds no gastrointestinal problems and decides she is depressed. He may be diagnosing properly but depression is not his field of expertise so he sends her to the psychiatrist. He finds no significant

mental problems, but notes that she is 79-years-old. Next she is referred to the neurologist who negates any likelihood of dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

The next referral is to the geriatrician. After three visits (and endless testing), she realizes that this is a very nice young doctor who has nothing more to offer than the guy who started this whole expedition, her loveable bright internist.

The multiple names for a medication are not restricted to diuretics and antihistamines. A majority of Americans and a larger percentage of seniors have allergies. The pharmaceutical industry hit

a bonanza with the popularity of that disorder. And with each came the solution. My dear ear, nose and throat specialist prescribed medication for my allergy but gave stern orders not to buy the name brand. The generic has the same description of ingredients as the name brand but cost less than 2 percent of the cost of the one that

promises us relief every night on television.

There are medical dictionaries. But they are comprehended only after four years of medical school. I worked most of my professional life in a medical setting, so I know a lot of the terminology. But the average (scared) senior is often too embarrassed to question the referral or the prescription.

I am not suggesting that you concentrate on learning all the medical terms (or how to spell them). Instead, realize that your health is the most important thing in your advanced life and demand that the provider (doctor, pharmacist, therapist) explain the medical terms they throw at you and that they define the skills of the specialists to whom they refer you.

You must also understand the reasons for and risks of the drugs.

Write down the answers. (Get the spelling right.) And when you do not understand something, ask again and again until you do.

TEMA GOUSE (mbgtpp@cox.net), a retired social worker, lives in Cranston.

## ABC anchor to speak to Cranston Senior Guild

WARWICK – The Cranston Senior Guild will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 1 p.m. at Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Drive, in Warwick. The guest speaker will be Karen Meyers, news anchor for WLNE Channel 6, the local affiliate of ABC.

A raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting.



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# A world of possibilities beyond the blue serge suit

*Shame and embarrassment ensue from sartorial slip-up*

That indeterminate interlude between puberty and maturity is sometimes called adolescence. For most, it is a time of wonder and transition, of ferment yet mystery,



SCIENCE & SOCIETY

STANLEY ARONSON, M.D.

uncertainty and, not the least, discovery. Inherited genes and the interplay of awakening hormones surely play significant roles in shaping these transformative years, but the nature and impact of innumerable adolescent experiences each day certainly aid in determining the priorities, the very character, of the emerging adult.

Consider, for example, a seminal event in the life of an adolescent male: the purchase of a suit.

In the vast panoply of events in a 13-year-old's life — some memorable but most banal — the choice and purchase of a suit would seem eminently trivial. Yet, embodied in this simple mercantile transaction is a wealth of social interaction, crucial decision-making and experience in negotiating within a competitive society and, finally, accepting compro-

mises between the ideal and the realistic.

Walk now with this earnest youngster down Pitkin Avenue, a major business thoroughfare in the Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn; it's during the winter of 1935-36, in the depths of the Depression. Poverty is pervasive; no purchase, not even a candy bar, is undertaken impulsively or carelessly. The boy's mother is quite ill; yet, in an act of faith, she gives this lad the awesome responsibility of purchasing his suit, a purchase that occurs only once each year.

She declares in Yiddish: "Buying a garment is risky. You are old enough to decide on the clothing that you want to wear. Go now and buy yourself a suit. Remember, though, that it will be your only suit for the next year."

The block beyond the Loew's Pitkin movie theater houses a succession of men's clothing stores, each of which bears its proprietor's name. The store signs are handpainted, bilingual and lack the calligraphic niceties of commercially made signs; but in their crudity they convey the message that getting a tailored suit is a serious venture.

The transaction begins on the street fronting the clothing store; by venerable tradition, Yiddish tailors actively solicit customers caught strolling

near their stores. The tailor is less-than-resplendent in a small *kippah*, a stained vest more ancient than the pyramids and armored with thousands of pins, and a tape-measure draped around his neck. He emerges from his storefront and begins a monologue in a curious mixture of Yiddish and tortured English to encourage prospective clients to come in and view

in a subdued color.

**"BUYING A GARMENT is risky ... Go now and buy yourself a suit."**

his bolts of splendid wools.

The store interior is little more than a poorly illuminated, utilitarian workshop with cutting tables, shelves with bolts of fabric, a few foot-operated sewing machines, tanks to dry clean clothing and a trio of mirrors, angled so that customers might view themselves wearing their new garments.

This earnest youngster, burdened with the responsibility of selecting his own suit, examines the many swatches of fabric and becomes entranced with one: It is tawny-brown with a pattern of an interlocking plaid



In truth, the lighting in the store is at best marginal and so this youngster presumes that the colors are appropriate school attire for a boy of his age and station in life.

The tailor is overjoyed with his choice and proceeds to take the appropriate measurements. Further discussions ensue as to the inner lining (an important consideration, the tailor declares), whether there would

be one or two pairs of trousers, and the number of buttons on the sleeves. The final issue is the price. Fifteen dollars is agreed upon (but with only one pair of trousers), with one-third down immediately, another third during the later fitting and alterations and the final third upon delivery of the suit.

Everything goes smoothly until this empowered youngster wears his new suit in broad sunlight. The suit is now more orange than tawny-brown, the plaid pattern more purple than brown — the overall result is a suit more appropriate for the vaudeville stage than his elementary school classroom. And throughout the next year, the suit becomes an object of derision and shame, leaving the youngster longing for a blue serge suit and feelings of profound remorse.

But all was not lost in that year: Franklin Roosevelt was re-elected to the presidency; the New York Yankees won the World Series in four straight games; and Rebecca, that pretty 13-year-old girl living on Amboy Street, liked the suit very much.

STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D. (smamd@cox.net) lives in Providence.

## OBITUARIES

### Eleanor Dwares, 95

PROVIDENCE — Eleanor Dwares, died Feb. 5. She was the wife of the late William Dwares.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late John and Sarah Sweet, she was a lifelong Providence resident. She was the mother of Elaine Creem and her husband David of North Providence, Michael Dwares and his wife Sandra of Portsmouth, and Beth Weiss and her husband Steven of Stamford, Conn. The sister of Frances Perlow of Providence, Helene Izen of Chestnut Hill, Mass., and the late Dr. Gustav Sweet, her late twin Evelyn Wax and the late Dr. Morris Sweet, she was the grandmother of Bill, Patty, John, Sofia and Jane and great-grandmother of Kate and Emma.

Contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 13100 West Lisbon Rd., Ste. 700, Brookfield, WI 53005.

### Nathan Eisenstadt, 98

BRISTOL — Nathan Eisenstadt died Jan. 29. He was the husband of the late Blanche (Goldberg) Eisenstadt.

Born in Bristol, a son of the

late Abraham and Mollie Eisenstadt, he had lived in Bristol for three years, previously living in Warwick. He was co-owner of the former Eisenstadt Dept. Store and the Shoe Box in Bristol.

He was a World War II Army Air veteran, serving in Spain.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El in Providence, Jewish War Veterans and a former member of Touro Fraternal Association. A past president and co-founder of Bristol Citizen Scholarship Foundation, he was a past president of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce.

He was the father of Donna Neufeld of Cranston and Arlene Kaye and her husband Robert of Laguna Niguel, Calif.; brother of Leah Abrams of East Providence and the late Lester, Rose and Herbert Eisenstadt and grandfather of Marc and Lisa.

Donations may be made to Bristol Veterans Home, 480 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI 02809 or ALS, 2915 Post Rd., Warwick, RI 02886

### Paul Flam, 90

PROVIDENCE — Paul Flam died Feb. 9. Shiva will be held

Feb. 18 and 19, 7 - 9 p.m. at Epoch, 1 Butler Ave., Providence.

Born in Baltimore, Md., in 1922, son of Abraham Flam and Rose Kwash, he graduated from City College High School at age 16, John Hopkins University at age 20, and later received a master's degree from M.I.T. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp and served as an electronics officer in the Pacific theater on Guam and Iwo Jima. Following World War II, he remained in the Air Force as a civil servant and reservist until he retired in 1979, having earned the highest civil servant rank granted by the Air Force Communications Service.

He was married to Jeanne Rosenthal Flam, with whom he had two children, from 1944 until her death in 1970. After retirement, he embarked on a career in the travel business with his second wife, Doris Lichtor Flam. They coordinated guided tours for groups of teenagers and adults to destinations around the world, including many trips to Israel, until her death in 2006. He shared his love of books, music, travel and current events with his third wife, Bea Firestone Flam, until

her death in 2009.

Active in the Kansas City Jewish community, he served on the board of Congregation Beth Shalom and was a leader in the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Center, CAJE and Museum without Walls.

He is survived by his children Rabbi Alan Flam and wife Judy Semonoff and Nina Shik and husband David Shik, stepchildren Drew, Doug and Jeff Levine and husband Reed Fletcher; grandchildren Lucy, Ezra and Gabriel Semonoff Flam, Jonathan Shik, Sarah Lamdan and husband Eyal Lamdan and great-grandchildren Benjamin and Evelyn Lamdan.

### Herbert Gross, 98

PROVIDENCE — Herbert Gross died Feb. 9. He was the husband of the late Ethel (Suntup) Gross. He was born Oct. 21, 1914, in Acushnet, Mass., to Isaac and Esther (Goldfarb) Gross.

He graduated from New Bedford High School and lived in New Bedford, Mass., until 1953 when he moved to Providence. He worked for the Levitt-Colson Co. for 35 years until

retiring in 1980.

He is survived by his daughters, Esther Gross, with whom he lived, of Providence and Robin Liska and her husband Scott of Connecticut, and his grandson Eric Liska.

Donations may be made to Jewish Family Service, 959 N. Main St. Providence, RI 02904.

### Sylvia Jones, 93

WARWICK — Sylvia Jones



died Feb. 4. She had lived at Greenville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation before living with her daughter Susan.

Earlier, she had lived in Warwick with her husband for 47 years. She was the wife of the late Ernest L. Jones to whom she was married for 60 years.

She was the daughter of the late Solomon and Clara (Sharpia) Fuchs of Romania. She would have celebrated her 94th birthday on Feb. 17.

She met her future husband

## D'VAR TORAH

## Take responsibility for your spiritual life; don't lock God out of your life

*God's presence is constant ... even when we don't acknowledge it*

PARASHAT TERUMAH  
EXODUS 25:1 - 27:19

By RABBI CANTOR  
ANNE HEATH

Special to The Voice & Herald

"And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)

"I will abide among the children of Israel and I will never forsake My people Israel." (1 Kings 6:13)

"Seek the LORD while He can be found; call to Him while He is near." (Isaiah 55:6)

Whoever asks "Where is God to be found?" should consider the classic response of the Kotzker Rebbe, Menachem Mendel of Kotzk (1787-1859), "Where God is allowed entry," and then remember that the prophet Isaiah teaches us that allowing God entry begins with seeking God and calling out to God.

The Malbim, Rabbi Meir Leibush (1809-1879, Russia), teaches that it is not just the physical sanctuary that must be built for the community to find God's presence among them. We each must build a spiritual sanctuary in our own hearts, so that we, too, may find God within ourselves in our own lives.

The Radak, Rabbi David Kimchi (1160-1235, Provence), maintains that we should understand the Hebrew words

*b'him'atzo* and *bi-h'yoto karov* in Isaiah 55:6 to mean: "because He can be found ... because He is near" (rather than "while He can be found ... while He is near"), assuring us that God's presence is constant and can continually be found.

Hollywood scriptwriter and Happy Minyan co-founder/senior lecturer David Sacks reminds us that such seeking, calling, finding and meeting are not "one and done" activities: "The Midrash (Kohélet Rabba 1:3) comments that 'one who grows old is like an ape.'

"The Kotzker Rebbe explains that the nature of an ape is to imitate. Just as it is the way of an ape to imitate humans, so too, a person, when he has become old, imitates himself, and does what was his manner previously." In other words, most of us, at some point in life, whether consciously or not, become satisfied with who we are and what we've become. As such, we cease to strive toward attaining greater spiritual heights and are content to live out our remaining days as a mere imitation of ourselves!"

When we settle into "mere imitations of ourselves," we stop seeking God, calling upon God and expecting God to be near and among us. We take whatever presence of God we have experienced and lock that experience into the sanctuary we have built within our own hearts or into the sanctuary we

have built as the heart of our community. We expect that experience to nourish us for the rest of our lives. We rest content that we have met God. It's done, settled, and we're on to something else - or we'll repeat that experience over and over again, expecting it to be fresh and alive.

In "Ehyeh: A Kabbalah for

"WHEN WE SETTLE into 'mere imitations of ourselves,' we stop seeking God..."

Tomorrow" (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, Vermont 2003, pages 102-105), Rabbi Dr. Arthur Green offers us *hanhagot* ("personal practices") which can keep us from becoming satisfied with who we are and what we've become, which can keep God's presence among us fresh and alive. The first two of the 14 practices are as follows:

• Know that all of life is holy, all exists within the One.

There is no time or place in which God's presence cannot be found. Meditate on this each day. Think about it at home, while commuting, at work and back at home.

• Take responsibility for your own spiritual life. It is we who lock God out of our lives. Therefore open your heart, train your heart to fill up with God's presence and God's love. Be aware in each moment, no matter where you are or what you are doing, of the divine radiance within you and all about you.

I encourage you to find the entire list of 14, which are characterized as a "simple serious Judaism for today." You could begin by making certain the sanctuary you build in your heart is as carefully constructed as the sanctuary of the Israelites erected in the wilderness. While it's tempting to undertake this work of spiritual growth by oneself, our com-

munal experience tells us that it's better done together with friends.

Why not start this Shabbat? A good time to seek God and call out to God might be when the Torah is returned to the Ark. Join with friends in your community in praying: "Take us back, O Lord, and let us come back. Renew our days as of old." (Lamentations 5:21)

Or, as our Hollywood scriptwriter might say to God, "let's take a meeting."

RABBI CANTOR ANNE HEATH (rabbi.taunton@verson.net), spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Achim and the Jewish Community House, a 100-year old progressive, independent congregation in Taunton, Mass., is a member of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts boards of rabbis.

## Candle Lighting Times

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Feb. 15 | 5:00 |
| Feb. 22 | 5:09 |
| March 1 | 5:17 |
| March 8 | 5:25 |

## OBITUARIES

From Page 33

during World War II and became a war bride, moving to the U.S. in 1946 and becoming a citizen in 1948.

She worked for many stores, including Gladdings, Shepard's and Cherry & Webb. She worked at Leviton Manufacturing and P&B Manufacturing until retiring in 1989. In addition to cooking, knitting, crocheting, music, traveling and movies, she enjoyed her membership in Cornerstone Adult daycare services.

Besides her daughter Susan, she leaves a son Stephen Jones of Friendswood, Texas, a daughter Elizabeth Burns of Cranston, grandchildren Cynthia Burrell, Julie Seguin, Christopher A. Jones and Desiree Jones-Catalano and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Rhode Island Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Suite 306, Providence, RI 02906.

**Evelyn Silverman Katzman, 105**

PROVIDENCE - Evelyn Katzman died Jan. 29. The widow of Morris Leo Katzman, she

was the daughter of U.S. Army Warrant Officer Meyer Silverman (ret.) and Sarah Bander Silverman, and the sister of Lt. Abner John Silverman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, all of whom predeceased her.

She was a 1929 graduate of Oglethorpe College in Atlanta, Ga., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism. After graduation, she was on the staff of the Southern Banker, an Atlanta trade publication. She was a freelance writer for Smith-Hammond textbook publishers and a copywriter in the advertising department of the J.M. High Department Store, both in Atlanta, and then worked for the Georgia Public Health Department.

In 1938, she moved to Providence where she ran radio programs aimed at women shoppers, first as "Suzanne" in "In the Woman's World" for the now-defunct Cherry & Webb women's specialty store and then, from 1941-1945 as "Dorothy Kent" on the radio shopping network run by the now-defunct Outlet Co. She was advertising manager of the now-defunct Da-

vid Harley Department Store in Pawtucket from 1945-1948.

After her marriage, she worked with her husband in the advertising novelties business under the name of Plum Nelly Advertising Specialties Company. She was also the proprietor of the Plum-Nelly Gift Shop on the Providence-Pawtucket line.

She was born at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y., and lived much of her early years on U.S. Army posts throughout the South as well as in the former U.S. Canal Zone.

A member of Temple Beth-El, the Chopin Club, The Miriam Hospital Women's Association and the Jewish Home for the Aged, she was an American Cancer Society visitor for 27 years.

Active in Tockwotton and Fox Point neighborhood activities, she served as a class "auntie" at Fox Point Elementary School, holding monthly ice cream socials for pupils there. She represented Tockwotton residents at the groundbreaking ceremonies with Gov. Lincoln Chafee for the new waterfront facility on Providence Harbor.

She is survived by nieces, nephews and cousins.

Donations may be made to Tockwotton, 500 Waterfront Dr., East Providence, RI, Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, RI 02888 or a charity of one's choice.

**Dr. Edward Martin, 98**

Fall River, Mass. - Dr. Edward Martin died Feb. 7.

He was born Nov. 16, 1914 in New Britain, Conn., to Joseph Martin and Anna Brachman Martin, who were immigrants from a shtetl near Odessa, then part of Russia.

Raised in New Britain, he graduated magna cum laude and as a member of the TXE Honor Society in 1936 from the University of Connecticut. The first UConn graduate in more than 20 years to be admitted to the Yale University School of Medicine, he graduated from Yale's medical school in 1940 and won the Perkins Prize for excellence in pre-clinical studies and the Campbell Medal Award for highest academic standing in medical studies.

He was married in 1939 to Mu-

riel Brown Martin, his inseparable lifelong partner until her death in 2009. They had lived in Rhode Island for the past 18 years.

A flight surgeon in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1942 - 45, he retired as a major.

Practicing internal medicine and hematology for 40 years in New Britain, he was an instructor of medicine at Washington University, Yale University and New Britain General Hospital. A Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American Society of Hematology and a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, he served on the boards of a number of medical and civic organizations and was an active supporter of the Jewish community. In 1985, he received the Distinguished Connecticut Citizen Award from the UConn Alumni Association.

Beyond his academic and professional achievements, he will be remembered as a per-

## From Page 34

son who was smart, quiet, caring and gracious with a warm sense of humor. A good listener, he was always courteous and considerate with co-workers, patients and acquaintances and was widely admired. He loved reading, golf, swimming and squash.

He is survived by his children Steven (Lynn Blankfort) of Mill Valley, Calif., Margo Grodsky of Boston and Jeffrey (Barbara Gee) of Portsmouth, and his grandchildren Lisa (Rob Delmonico) and Jason Grodsky, Mather (Paul Kuhn) and Samara, and Danya Martin.

Contributions may be made to Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road, Middletown, RI 02842.

**Joan Sara (Frye) Priluck, 74**

WARWICK - Joan Priluck died Feb. 11. She was the wife for 33 years of the late Herberf M. Priluck. Born in Providence, she was daughter of the late Leo and Betty (Loebel) Frye.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island majoring in education, she later earned a master's degree from Providence College and worked as a teacher in the Providence school system before serving as the administrator of what was then called the Cranston Center for Retarded Citizens. She later became a founding member and principal of the Groden Center in Providence.

Her late husband was an ardent Zionist and they lived in Israel for two years. A lifetime member of Hadassah, she cared for her parents in their later years. She loved the beach at Narragansett's Bonnet Shores Beach Club.

She is survived by two daughters, Andrea S. Ellen and her husband Brian Keigan of Simsbury, Conn. and Susan (Ellen) Ben-Porat and her husband Albert of Tel Aviv, Israel; her stepsons Jonathan Priluck of Portland, Ore., and Eitan Priluck of Portland, Maine; her sister Donna Frye Brown of Boca Raton, Fla., and sister-in-law

Eleanor Weitzman (Steven) of Plymouth, Mass. and brother-in-law David Priluck (Joan) of Marblehead, Mass. She leaves her grandchildren Liat, Tali, Ariana, Noah, Jessica, Shiran and Sophia and several nieces, nephews and special niece Jill Glick (Marshall) of New York City. She was predeceased by her daughter, Sharon Dale Ellen, a twin to Susan, who died when she was almost 3-years-old.

Donations may be made to the Farmington Valley VNA and Hospice in Simsbury, Conn.

**Beatrice P. Rosen, 98**

PROVIDENCE - Beatrice Rosen died Jan. 30. She was the wife of the late Bernard Leo Rosen.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Meyer and Jenny (Redboard) Potash, she had lived in Providence, previously living in Coconut Creek, Fla. She was a life member of B'nai B'rith and Hadassah.

She was the mother of Linda Rubinstein and her husband, Dr. Michael of Providence and the late Dr. Stephen M. Rosen and his surviving wife Nancy of Deerfield, Ill. The sister of the late Edna P. Falk and Pearl Epstein, she was the grandmother of Andrew and his wife Karen, Dr. Mahra and her husband Jon, Lilli, Marti and her husband Eric, Dr. Jay and his wife Melissa, and Jenny and her husband Josh; and the great-grandmother of Benjamin, Natalie, Benjamin, Spencer, Emily, Danny, Simon and Micah.

Donations may be made to NY Presbyterian Hospital, Development Office, Heart Transplant Dept., 624 West 170 Street, New York, NY 10032.

**Carolyn R. (Sydell) Schiff, 92**

PROVIDENCE - Carolyn Schiff, daughter of the late Morris and Marion Sydell, died Feb. 7.

A Manhattan resident for the past 70 years, she had been a buyer for the Belk Department Stores early on, and later

a salesperson at Valentino on Madison Avenue.

The loss of her husband Charles Schiff in 2007 was a stunning blow.

A talented sculptor and artist who studied at the New School for Social Research with Bruno Lucchessi and Chaim Gross, as well as the Art Students League, she loved New York, its nightlife, museums, art and culture. In August she returned to Providence to be near her family.

She leaves her sister Phyllis Stambler, nieces Susan Tash, Barry Switzen, Roberta Greenberg (Robert Goldy) and Helen Greenberg (Michael Connor), nephews Peter Schildhouse (Deon), Richard Schildhouse (Stephanie), sister-in-law Doris Greenberg (Abraham), stepdaughter Susannah Holiday, many grand-nieces and nephews and cousin Amy Rubin.

Contributions may be made to the Art Students League, 215 W. 57th St., New York City, NY 10019.

**James Schocket, 98**

CRANSTON - James Shocket, a World War II veteran, died Feb. 2. He participated in the Normandy Beach invasion, and was among the first American soldiers to help liberate Dachau. He was also one of the

last living witnesses present at the official German surrender in France.

A lifetime member of Temple Torat Yisrael and the Shriners, he worked for the Hiram Walker Company until retirement. He was a member of the Jewish War Veterans, Sackin-Shocket Post. In 2008, he was honored for his military service and bravery with numerous medals presented by Senator Jack Reed.

He was predeceased by his mother Rose, father Harry and

brother Saul. He leaves his wife of 72 years, Sylvia, and his children Saul and wife Alice, Robin Kulik, and Suanne Shocket and husband Noah Nason. He also leaves his sisters Grace Boynick and Lillian Zarum; his grandchildren Ari and wife Susan, Brandon and wife Kathy, Josh and wife Diane, Shayna and husband Justin, and Mark and John; and his great-grandchildren Maya, Sophie, Zack and Jonah.

He was a family man, raised during the Great Depression. Hard-working, and true to his word, he was a storyteller.

Contributions may be made to Kosher Meal Site, c/o Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

**David A. Smoller, 66**

WARWICK - David Smoller died Feb. 11. He was the husband of Susan (Kantor) Smoller for 29 years. Born in Milwaukee, Wisc., a son of the late Moses Smoller and Anne (Abramowitz) Smoller Finkelshtein, he had lived in Warwick for 31 years. He was a graduate of Forest Park High School in Baltimore, Md.

He was a board member of Temple Torat Yisrael and past president of its Men's Club, an associate member of Hadassah and a member of Touro Fraternal Association, Redwood Lodge #35 AF & AM, Scottish Rite, Valley of Providence and Rhode Island Shrine.

He was the father of Michelle Amy Smoller of New York, and the brother of Lonna Picker and her husband Stan of California and Rachel Yoskowitz and her husband Rabbi Herbert of Michigan.

Contributions may be made to Temple Torat Yisrael.

**Professor Jerome Leon Stein**

PROVIDENCE - Professor Jerome Stein died Feb. 7. He

was the son of the late Meyer and Ida Stein and was the husband of Hadassah Levov Stein, and brother of Samuel (Sherry) Stein. The father of Seth (Carol) Stein, Gil (Liz) Stein and Ilana (Abraham) Ben-Ze'ev, he was the grandfather of Jonathan, Leora, Rachel, Abigail and Hannah and the late David Stein.

Born in New York City on Nov. 14, 1928, he was educated at Brooklyn College and Yale University, where he earned his Ph.D. in economics. He came to Brown University in 1953 and was a member of the Economics Department, and following his retirement, joined the Division of Applied Mathematics as a visiting professor.

**Harriette E. Zarchen, 90**

CRANSTON - Harriette Zarchen died Feb. 6. She was the wife of the late Oscar Zarchen.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Elizabeth (Grant) Krasner, she had lived in Cranston for more than 35 years. She was a preschool teacher at the Jewish Community Center and director of preschool education at Temple Sinai. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

An avid dancer, she and her husband were known as "the dancing duo." She was the mother of Cliff S. Zarchen, with whom she resided and Stuart I. Zarchen of Nicholasville, Ky.; and the sister of the late Ernest and Albert Krasner and Beatrice Mushlin.

Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El Chapel Fund, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence, RI 02906.



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A Wimpel for Isaac (detail) by Jane Trnka, 2009



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Sunday, February 24,  
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### Sunday, February 24, 2013 – Purim is the time to...



LISTEN to the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther) this year Saturday eve, Feb. 23, 2013 and again on Sunday, Feb. 24, thereby recounting and reliving in our own day, the great miracle of Purim.



SEND a gift of at least two kinds of prepared food (pastry, fruit, beverage, etc.) to at least one friend. (Each item of food should be at least one ounce or more. 3-1/2 oz. for liquids.



GIVE charity to two or more people. If you cannot find poor people, place at least two coins in a charity box. In the Megillah this is called "Matanos L'Evyonim".



EAT the festive Purim meal and rejoice in the Purim spirit.

The above Mitzvos should be done on the day of Purim

## More Purim information

FAST OF ESTHER

Because Purim is on Sunday, we therefore fast on the Thursday before (this year, Feb. 21) This commemorates the day of prayer when Jews fasted before victorious battle. It is customary before the *Mincha* prayers on this day to give 3 half-dollars to charity. This commemorates the yearly contribution by all Jews to the Temple in the Hebrew month of Adar.

AL HANISSIM

Remember to add in the *Amidah* prayer and in Grace After Meals, the special part for Purim, beginning "Al Hanissim."

PURIM ON SUNDAY

So as not to desecrate the Shabbos, all Purim activities should begin only after the conclusion of Shabbos Saturday, February 23 at 6:20 p.m. if in Providence.

INVOLVE THE CHILDREN

As in all Mitzvot, encourage young children to fulfill the Purim Mitzvot. Boys and girls past Bar/Bat Mitzvah are obligated, as are adults to do all Purim Mitzvot.

The Purim Mitzvot (Precepts) demonstrate the unity and togetherness of the Jewish people. The more charity and Purim presents one gives the better. There is no greater joy than to gladden the heart of the poor, the orphans and the widows.



www.virtualpurim.com  
for everything  
about Purim  
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Courtesy of: Chabad R.I. • 360 Hope Street, Providence  
Telephone: (401) 273-7238

## GRASSROOTS efforts are helping those in need

From Page 24

beards.com, which, she said, is a wholly volunteer-run organization.

The event runs from 1 – 10 p.m., on Sunday, March 3, at Fête Music, 103 Dike St., in Providence.

Tish Adams and the Biggest Little Jazz Show, Phil Berman, Mark Cutler, Dennis McCarthy, the Bob Kendall Band and John Fuzek are among the musicians donating their services; the Big Nazo Puppets and a "hug shack" – where children can make art work to send to children affected by Hurricane Sandy – are on tap, as well.

Raffle prizes include a wide array of goods and services, including, she said, a \$100 gift certificate for one of two high-end restaurants – Bobby Flay's Bar Americain or Todd English's Tuscany – and an overnight hotel stay at Mohegan Sun, a casino in nearby Connecticut.

Not a professional fundraiser, Penzell is channeling her frustration, sadness and anger into action: She simply wants to raise money to donate to Hurricane Sandy victims, many of whom



ANNE RICHARDS

Stephanie Penzell, left, and Sandi Bachom at the December fundraiser

are still living under extraordinarily difficult and primitive conditions.

Before Hurricane Sandy, Penzell, who said she is on disability and has a limited budget, had relied on Facebook to socialize and stay connected with friends. But after the hurricane hit, she witnessed the grassroots efforts of many individuals and organizations – such as graybeards.com – to help those in need. She realized, then, she said, that the disaster offered "an opportunity to use Facebook for good." She's now a devotee of – and contributor to – some Sandy-focused Facebook sites.

But Penzell has done more than post and review Sandy photos and facts on Facebook since October. A benefit in New York in December 2012 that she and a Far Rockaway High School classmate raised \$25,000 for Sandy victims, she said.

She also participated in the Far Rockaways' "Walk a Mile in Our Shoes," a mid-January initiative designed to raise funds for and awareness of the ongoing challenges. Local and national politicians were invited to walk the damaged neighborhoods with local residents.

Penzell, who lived in Belle Harbor from fourth grade through high school, hopes that the March 3 fundraiser will bring in even more money than the December event did.

Claiming that she had a "level of naïvete" about government's role in a disaster, Penzell criticized large institutional entities – such as the Red Cross and FEMA – for their lack of responsiveness. She cited the example of watching an Occupy Sandy Relief New York City Facebook video that showed, in the background, an elderly Jewish woman approaching a Red Cross truck to ask a volunteer, "Do you have anything kosher to eat?"

Penzell added that the Red Cross volunteer's eager but ill-advised response was, "We have a ham and cheese sandwich."

And, Penzell criticized FEMA for its decision to close some of its Hurricane Sandy sites, due to bad weather last November: [http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/2012/11/07/tottenville/stat-](http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/2012/11/07/tottenville/stat)

en-island-fema-disaster-center-shuts-doors-due-weather.

How, she asked, can the government tell stranded residents, including Holocaust survivors, to leave their homes?

Occupy Sandy Relief New York City volunteers climbed 26 flights of stairs in the dark, she said, to give elderly residents food and water, and to reassure them.

Calling the current system of emergency relief efforts "enormously broken and lacking compassion and safety nets," Penzell expressed gratitude for grassroots initiatives that have sprung up such as the Occupy Sandy Relief efforts and Team Rubicon – a group of retired military personnel who are helping to restore and rebuild – among others, including those through Facebook.

"I have friends in the Far Rockaways area – many are classmates [or their] siblings and parents; many of their homes are uninhabitable," said Penzell. "It's frightening... [they still have] no safe water, electricity or heat and are still living in places with mold."

Having witnessed the devastation, Penzell said, "I'm in a constant state of mourning."

However, she adheres to the assertions of both Rabbi Hillel, who said, "If not now, when?" and Margaret Mead, who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

When she gets letters via Facebook from strangers for the help she has offered, she "cries a lot."

But for Facebook, she added soberly, "the losses would have been much worse."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
RILOVESTHEROCKAWAYS.com, 440-0499 or stephwoman@gmail.com.

**FUNDRAISER DONATIONS:**  
Michael Aaronson, CPA, 1604 Broad St., Cranston, RI 02905.



DR. IVAN WOLFSON

## Dr. Ivan Wolfson takes photos, from 50 to 300 feet high, with his 'kite cam'

*At Habonim, an aerial kite photography show*

BARRINGTON - The Temple Habonim Art Gallery will showcase the aerial kite photography of Ivan Wolfson, M.D., on Sunday, March 3, with an opening reception scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m.

According to Wolfson, a small digital camera is attached via a few metal brackets to the line of his kite. "I choose the angle at which the camera sits and choose location, timing and conditions. The camera is programmed to take a photo usual-

ly between five and 10 seconds. The camera is set to rotate a few degrees every 10 seconds," said Wolfson in a synagogue press release. "The randomness makes the process more interesting for me and gives the photographs, especially the ones with people, a candid feel."

The photographs are taken from between 50 and 300 feet high. "These heights offer fantastic perspectives that are not often seen," he said. "Similar to macro-photography, the images

produced may be disorienting due to the novel perspective, yet often are very beautiful. I love when someone sees one of these photographs out of context and cannot be sure what it is."

The photography exhibit will continue through May 2. The synagogue is located at 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington.

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| <br><b>imam farid ansari</b><br>spiritual leader<br>@ muslim american dawah center   | <br><b>elan babchuck</b><br>rabbi<br>@ temple emanu-el                              | <br><b>steven brown</b><br>executive director<br>@ rhode island aclu                                    |
| <br><b>vernia carter</b><br>wellness/substance abuse prevention coordinator & food pantry coordinator<br>@ progreso latino, inc. | <br><b>brandon melton</b><br>senior vice president of human resources<br>@ lifespan | <br><b>keith stokes</b><br>president of strategic economic planning and development<br>@ mayforth group |

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**CRIC** Community Relations Council Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

The RING is a program of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



David and Susan Smoller hold their copy of The Jewish Voice & Herald.

**EILAT** – David and Susan Smoller, of Warwick, visited Eilat as part of their two-week trip to Israel last November with their daughter, Michelle, who lives in New York City.



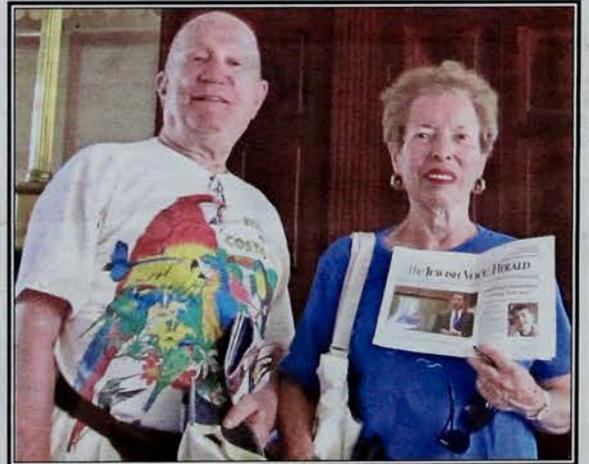
Ian Harrison Mellion

**BIRTH** – Rachel and Bradd Mellion of North Providence are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ian Harrison, born Jan. 13. The baby is named for his maternal grandfathers Irving Shear and Harry Cohen and carries the Hebrew name Yitzhak Hershel. Ian is the grandson of Leah and Stuart Daniels of Boca Raton, Fla., and Arlene and Douglas Mellion of Palm Desert, Calif.



Dave Rosenberg and Noga Nevel

**MYANMAR** – Noga Nevel and Dave Rosenberg pose in front of the Shwedegon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar with The Jewish Voice & Herald. They visited Southeast Asia for two weeks in January. Noga is a daughter of Avi and Dr. Laura Nevel of Providence.



**CRUISE** – Harry and Sandy Finkelstein visit the Bridgetown, Barbados synagogue while on a southern Caribbean cruise.

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## Yosinoff honored by URI, captured his 700th career victory

**HONORS** – Andy Yosinoff, Emanuel College women's basketball coach, was honored by his alma mater, as the University of Rhode Island inducts him into their Athletic Hall of Fame. Yosinoff's résumé also includes serving as the USA Maccabiah Open women's basketball coach, where he guided Team USA to its first-ever gold medal during the 2005 Maccabiah Games in Israel.

In late January, the coach captured his 700th career victory.

Yosinoff is the third NCAA Division III women's basketball coach to hit 700 wins, behind Scranton University's Mike Strong (782 wins) and former St. John Fisher coach Phil Kahler (757 wins). Yosinoff is the first Division III coach from a New England college or university to accomplish this feat.



Team USA 2005 Maccabiah Games in Israel



Andy Yosinoff



The three "b'nai mitzvah boys" – Harrison Shapiro, Jeremy Wolff and Yoel Drachman – show the cake prepared for their celebration at Camp Tevya.

**CELEBRATION** – Jeremy Wolff, along with two fellow Camp Tevya counselors, celebrated with their families a "b'nai mitzvah" on July 21, 2012 in honor of the 13 years each has attended the camp.

Camp Director Mindy Meltzer and all the campers, counselors and staff shared in the celebration. After his summer at camp, Jeremy returned to Nashville, Tenn., where he is a fifth grade teacher and assistant coach for the girls' volleyball team at the Apollo Middle School in Antioch, Tenn.

Jeremy is the son of Ellise and Peter Wolf of East Greenwich.



Ida and Tom Brown, at far right, enjoy a cruise with friends

**A BIRTHDAY CRUISE** – Ida and Tom Brown, of Hopatcong N.J., recently sailed on Royal Caribbean Explorer of the Seas with longtime friends Bob Craig, Lois Czajkowski, Tony Calcaterra and Karara Gajewski to celebrate Tom's 70th birthday. They wrote, "It was a week of special memories. We love sharing The Voice & Herald wherever we travel!"

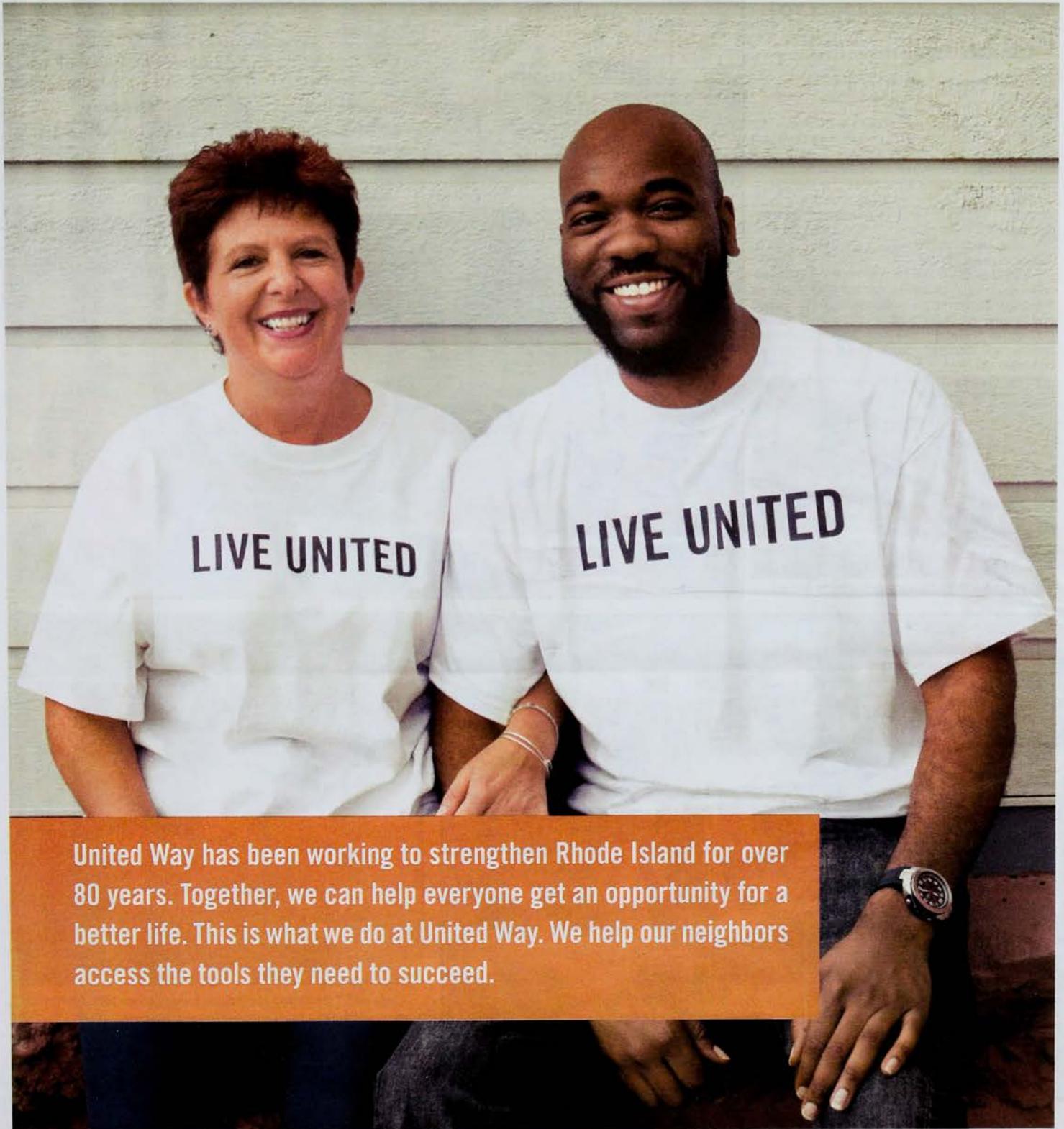


Zachary Dylan Strassberg

**BIRTH** – Shana and Peter Strassberg of Easton, Mass., announce the birth of their son, Zachary Dylan Strassberg, born Nov. 19, 2012. Zachary's grandparents are Roberta and Wayne Wilfand of West Warwick and Barbara Strassberg of Chicago, Ill. Zachary's great-grandfather, Dr. Irving Nemtsov, of Coconut Creek, Fla., was in Rhode Island for Zac's birth and bris.

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