

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

19 Adar 5773

March 1, 2013

The pets we love ... meet them on pages 20-26.

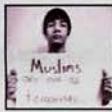


SOME HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE



ISRAEL CONCERT

2



CHALLENGE BIASES

9



PURIM SHENANIGANS

18-19

Making Jewish communities work in the 21st century

Rabbi Tzvi Blanchard proposes broader participation, new constructs

BY JOHN LANDRY
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — Anyone who's been paying attention to the Jewish world knows that 20th century institutional models need updating. What that means for leaders is less clear, but the latest in a series of local talks on change helped to fill that gap.

In a lengthy presentation on Feb. 25, Rabbi Tzvi Blanchard laid out steps for leaders to take — as well as criteria to help people decide if they're suited for the task. Sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis, his talk, which was held at the Alliance, drew about 50 people who asked multiple questions afterward.

Echoing a number of past Alliance speakers, Rabbi Blanchard quickly diagnosed why Jewish communities — like most American religious communities — have weakened in recent years. Unlike earlier

civic-minded generations who embraced Jewish institutions almost as a matter of course, people under 65 seek personal fulfillment and aim to live life "my way." Affluence and consumerism have taught them to treat institutions as service providers, so they dip in and out of involvement according to their needs at the moment.

Yet human nature, he explained, has not changed. People still want to feel that they matter to others and that their lives have meaning. As it's difficult to get community and meaning out of a commercial transaction, people seek this sense of connectedness — even while distrusting the institutions that provided it in the past.

As a result, Jewish institutions can no longer get by with merely doing their traditional jobs. Being an excellent service provider no longer works, especially since the secular world can often provide an equiva-

RABBI | 12



BETTY SMITH, TAMARISK STAFF MEMBER, SECOND FROM LEFT, STANDS WITH ERNEST ANDERSON, EVELYN BROWN AND LAKIE FREEMAN, NEAR THE FIRST OF MANY BIRDHOUSES AND FEEDERS TO COME AT TAMARISK.

TAMARISK ASSISTED LIVING

'Bird Tales' will engage residents with dementia

Tamarisk Program offers new initiative

BY ROBERTA RAGGE
Special to The Voice & Herald

WARWICK — Four-legged household pets have often served as "friendly visitors" to residents of assisted living facilities. It's no different at Tamarisk, whose residents frequently welcome visits from two standard poodles and retired show dogs from the Prov-

MULTISENSORY | 26

What's missing from this year's AIPAC conference?

Israel may face challenges if sequestration occurs; AIPAC agenda fails to mention Palestinians

BY RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Next week's annual AIPAC policy conference in Washington may be as notable for what — and who — is missing as what's planned.

For the first time in at least seven years, neither the U.S. president nor the Israeli prime minister will attend. In addition, for the second year in a row, no mention of the Palestinians, negative or positive, ap-

pears on the conference's legislative agenda.

Instead, the agenda will focus on the Congress enacting legislation that would designate Israel a "major strategic ally" of the United States — a relation-

ship not enjoyed by any other nation — and on facilitating a U.S. green light should Israel decide to strike Iran. Should the measures being considered

CONGRESSIONAL | 28



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VOL. XVIII | ISSUE V

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ALLIANCE MISSION TO ISRAEL

Youthful musicians transcend language barriers

Afula Wind Orchestra performs in free concert in Providence

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

"To stop the flow of music would be like stopping time itself, incredible and inconceivable."

Aaron Copland

PROVIDENCE – Neither time nor music will stop when members of the Afula Wind Orchestra and a singing group, Ze'irey Afula, perform at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12.

Although the concert's expected audience will be English-speaking and the youthful performers Hebrew-speaking, music has the power to speak "to the other"; live music, in particular, may bridge all kinds of barriers – language, age, ethnicity, politics, etc. The concert is free and open to the entire community.

Betzalel Kupervasser, who grew up studying in the Afula Municipal Conservatory, now manages the conservatory; he will accompany the group on its upcoming tour. In addition, Yoram Zadok, the musical arranger



NANCY KIRSCH

Middle school musicians rehearse at the Afula Municipal Conservatory in January.

for and manager of Ze'irey Afula, and Gal Alterovich, orchestra conductor, will accompany the group.

The 43 musicians and 12 singers will perform a range of music, much of which might be familiar to audience-goers. Songs

will range from a "Fiddler on the Roof" medley to work by Gloria Estefan; the orchestra will perform music by Shostakovich, as well as songs from Israeli films and more.

Who and what is the Afula Municipal Conservatory?

In Afula, Israel, in late January, on a mission sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, this reporter watched a group of middle school students (not part of the

Wind Orchestra) rehearse for the show they were to perform later that evening for family and friends.

A Hebrew speaker translated this reporter's question, "Are you nervous?"

Many of them responded with nervous giggles, huge exhalations of air and vigorous replies of "Ken, ken" – Hebrew for "yes, yes."

The Afula Wind Orchestra, established about 30 years ago, is just one program of the Afula Municipal Conservatory, which also includes Ze'irey Afula and a theatrical performing arts group. The Conservatory also offers music and singing lessons to Afula's students, said Lilach Meidan, program director for the Conservatory.

Home for these students is Afula, a northern Israel city – with a large low-income population – that is a "sister city" of the greater Jewish Rhode Island community. As such, the Alliance directs most of those Annual Campaign funds that are allocated to Israel specifically to Afula-based programs assist-

ISRAELI | 27



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
"We want them to be good citizens; music is not the only thing."

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

'THE PHILADELPHIA STORY': No, not the one with Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant; the one about local teens who traveled to Philadelphia for *tikkun olam*.

PASSOVER: All things Pesach.

ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL:
Gayle Goldin shares her perspectives on Jewish values, politics and life in Rhode Island.

RAISING CONFIDENT KIDS: Parents, do your homework! Dr. Ron Taffel, parenting expert, will speak in Rhode Island.

INDEX

Business	30-31
Calendar	10-11
Community	8-11, 31, 34-35, 38
Culture	14-15
D'var Torah	35
Israel Nation World	2-3, 12, 27-28
Obituaries	33, 36
Opinion	4-7
Passover	16-17, 29
Pets	20-26
Purim	18-19
Seniors	32-33
Simchas We Are Read	38-39

URI Hillel students help rebuild hurricane-ravaged Joplin

Teaming up with the Jewish Disaster Response Corps and Towson Hillel

BY JACK WILSON

Special to The Jewish Voice & Herald

KINGSTON – While some of our friends and classmates were catching up on much-needed sleep or visiting family during January vacation, 10 students from University of Rhode Island Hillel and URI Hillel rabbinic intern Nate DeGroot joined Towson University (in Maryland) Hillel students to help Joplin, Mo., recover from the devastating tornado that struck the area nearly 19 months ago.

Though the mainstream media appear to have mostly forgotten the hurricane's impact on Joplin, the city is still very much in the process of rebuilding. The tornado that struck Joplin was an EF5, the strongest type that can occur.

With sustained winds of up to 300 miles per hour and a damage radius of three miles, the center of the city was crippled within 20 minutes.

During our stay in Joplin, we learned that everyone had been affected by the tornado and everyone had a story to tell. Our site supervisor Tim hid with his two dogs in his bathtub when the tornado struck his neighborhood. Though he was unharmed, his house was completely compromised; many others were not as fortunate.

Others, like Lieutenant Darren Gallup of the police department, were among the first responders to witness the destruction; they provided a different perspective. Gallup's experience was the hardest to listen to, as he recounted tough decisions and moments of complete helplessness as he struggled to assist those around him.

During our Jan. 13 – 20 stay, we worked with the Jewish Disaster Response Corps (JDRC), which had been in Joplin for two weeks before we came. We formed two teams to work on two major house projects that were underway.

The house our team worked on was owned by a couple named Wes and Susie; their original house had been completely destroyed during the storm. They were victims of contractor fraud, as they paid a contractor for supplies to fix their house, but the contractor never came back to do the job. As a result, Rebuild Joplin considered them a priority case. Wes and Susie could not have been more appreciative of what we were doing for them.

Most of our work on the house was creating a template for furnishings to be put in over the next few weeks. We installed doors and wall trim and sanded and painted it all by the end of the week. The bathroom and kitchen were also our re-



NATE DEGROOT

Some of the URI Hillel students in Joplin: Lily Nieto, left, Nadine Miller, Rebecca Kraut, Michelle Babat, Jamie Brosof, Briana Lotriente and Jack Wilson; Rhody the Ram is over Michelle's head!

sponsibility; we installed a ceiling fan and put down the tiling for the floors. As the week ended, we also started to shape the front lawn from a very large pile of dirt that had been dropped off earlier.

Though it did not seem like much at the time, we accomplished a great deal and did our part to get Wes and Susie back into their house. Joplin was a wonderful city to spend time in; with help from JDRC and Rebuild Joplin, it will get even better.

Seeing firsthand the effects of the disaster in Joplin was sobering, to say the least. The city obviously is still in need of major recovery, but to be able to say that we helped make a difference there, in spite of what has happened, makes it all worthwhile.

JACK WILSON (jacob.alexandr.wilson@gmail.com), a junior at URI, is majoring in marine affairs. He is from North Kingstown.

URI HILLEL: urihillel.org

FUNDING FOR URI HILLEL'S 2013 Alternative Winter Break was provided by Ocean State Job Lot/URI President's Partnership Fund and the Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation.



REBECCA KRAUT

Jack Wilson in Joplin

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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The Jewish Voice & Herald (ISSN number 1539-2104, USPS #465-710) is published bi-weekly, except in July, when it does not publish.

Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Jewish Voice & Herald, 401 Elmwood Ave.
Providence, RI 02906

Published by the Jewish Alliance
of Greater Rhode Island
Chair Richard A. Licht
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401 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI 02906
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COPY DEADLINES: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: nkirsch@shalomri.org.

ADVERTISING: We do not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish. We do not attest to the kashrut of any product or the legitimacy of our advertisers' claims.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Time for making time

Slowing down may lead to more productive, less frantic interactions

By NANCY KIRSCH
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When I heard a lay leader say recently, "I don't have a nano-second to spare today ... I have meetings all day long," I laughed to myself. I relate so well to that feeling of rushing through the workday.

As do many busy executives, I frequently rush from one project to the next, from one meeting to the next, from one interview to the next and from one email needing urgent attention to the next.

But, rushing leads to careless errors, slips and falls (more on that, later!) and unintentionally abrupt interactions with colleagues and friends. As I'm rushing to get to the next task, I'll think to myself, "I'll have to call him later to apologize and make amends – when I have more time! And just when, I think to myself, might that be?"

I'm also realizing that I should develop a better reply to colleagues' question – "Is this a good time to talk?" – than my typical response, which is often something like, "It's never a good time to talk, but sure, we can meet now."

If you're like me, you feel enriched and valued when the person you are talking with focuses his or her laser-like attention on you – as if no one else in the world is as important as you are. That I don't possess now – and am wholly unlikely to ever develop – that element of charisma is not the point. So, what is the point?

The point is, that by rushing through conversations and interactions with valued colleagues, I may be sending them a wholly discordant message. It's a message that might suggest, "I don't care enough to spend meaningful time with you without mentally going on to the next task."

That's not the message I believe and certainly not the message I want to send, but I fear that it is sometimes the message that is received.

So what might I – and perhaps others who share this dilemma – do? After all, given downsizings and restructurings, many employees must assume ever-increasing portfolios of work responsibilities and many of them rush through their days as well.

Maybe I should take the advice I frequently offer to a dear friend, someone who has a tendency to project months and years into the future.

"Be where your feet are," I tell her when she starts worrying incessantly about the future.

I had the chance recently to perfectly practice my own advice. I was forced to lie completely still for 25 minutes in a coffin-like machine during an MRI for an injury – yes, an injury due to a slip-and-fall, courtesy of "being in a hurry."

The herniated disk is an injury that may force me to slow down physically. Perhaps there's some good that will come from that – if I can practice those same slow breathing exercises that kept me from freaking out in the "coffin" and focus more on the task and on the people at hand, I might be able to "be where my feet are."

Perhaps my valued colleagues will "weigh in" to let me know whether I am making any progress in the coming weeks and months.

OUR MISSION

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



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

NANCY KIRSCH

The opening sentence of the lead story in the Feb. 11 issue of the Rhode Island Catholic, the newspaper published weekly by the Diocese of Providence, notes, "Bishop Thomas J. Tobin said that he was 'stunned' by the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI early today, after learning that the pontiff announced he would step down as leader of the worldwide Catholic Church on Feb. 28, before the demanding schedule of Holy Week and Easter."

Both Catholic and non-Catholic communities in the world over have every reason to be surprised by Benedict XVI's decision, given that the last papal resignation was nearly 600 years ago when Pope Gregory XII stepped down in 1415.

In making his decision known to cardinals at the Vatican, the 85-year-old pope – who began his papacy on April 19, 2005 after the 27-year papacy of John Paul II – stated, "I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry."

Bishop Tobin, in his Feb. 11 press conference, applauded the Holy Father's resignation as "an act of great humility for he understands that the needs of the Church are greater than his own, that ultimately the well-being of the Church is in God's hands, not the Pope's."

In his Feb. 13 New York Times op-ed, Garry Wills – prolific author and public intellectual who identifies himself as proudly Catholic – takes issue with the notion that the word "humility" can ever be associated with a flesh-and-blood pope. The burden of Wills' argument is that the formal assertion of papal infallibility – which did not occur until 1870, when a Vatican council declared Pope

In his Feb. 15 column, "A world of possibilities beyond the blue serge suit," Dr. Stanley Aronson writes that the seminal event in

The Jewish Voice & Herald publishes thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds of 500 – 800 words) and letters to the editor (250 words, maximum) on issues of interest to our Jewish community. At our discretion, we may edit pieces for publication or refuse publication. Letters and columns, whether from our regular contributors or from guest columnists, represent

Rabbis don't bear the burden or obligation of papal infallibility

Pius IX "infallible" – has resulted in profound contradictions in both the idea and the execution of papal authority.

Essentially, even when presented with new evidence and compelling new arguments, the pope can-

million Jews in today's world are secular and, for the most part, not particularly interested in what we rabbis have to say.

It could be argued that our lack of any form of centralized religious authority has made our Jewish community notoriously argumentative, fractious, on the edge of anarchy. Most of you have heard at least one version of the following story: Two Jews are stranded on a desert island. So how many synagogues do they build? Not one. Not two. Not three, but four – four synagogues! Why four synagogues for only two Jews? Each Jew builds one synagogue for himself and a second that he wouldn't be caught dead in.

At times I have wondered if we Jews might not make our community life less stressful if we learned to accept a little more rabbinical authority, a little less of "doing our own thing." But I have come to realize that our pluralism of beliefs and non-beliefs, our profound and obstinate resistance to almost all forms of authority is a central strength of our people. While one could make a strong case that, on balance, the papacy has been a positive force in the life of the Catholic Church, we Jews seem to be at our creative best in the absence of centralized religious authority.

My colleague Rabbi Lawrence Kushner has pointed out on more than one occasion that the core message of our Hebrew Bible, our *Tanakh*, is "I'm God, and you're not!" That is to say, none of us speaks definitively for God. And yet, paradoxically, all of us – men, women and, yes, children – have the right, perhaps the duty, to articulate our varying personal views of God based upon our own soul-journeys, our own joys, our own wounds, our own defeats, our own victories. In the words of our sages, "*Eihu v'eliu divrei Elohim hayim*," Both these and those are the words of the living God." (Talmud, tractate Eruvin 13b)

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LETTER

A riff from Ricklin

In his Feb. 15 column, "The life of an adolescent male in the 1930s was the purchase of a suit.

For me, the seminal event back

then was going from boy's knickers to adult long pants.

Saul Ricklin

Bristol

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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Being a stranger in a not-so-strange land

Israel's efficiencies outpace America's, and a sole Seder is enticing!

As readers may note from my author description at the bottom of this column, I am once again spending several months in the U.S., as I did in 2008-09, for an academic year in Providence.

With Passover fast approaching, this raises an interesting question for someone like me who moved to Israel 35 years ago – and one the editor of The Jewish Voice & Herald posed: Where do I most feel “at home” culturally? (Obviously, Israel is my home officially and de facto.) Or, to put it another way, do American Jews who have made aliyah have a “back in the homeland” experience when visiting the U.S. – or is it rather a feeling of being a “stranger in a not-so-strange land”?

While experiences and reactions differ among expatriates, in conversations with many of my immigrant “colleagues,” the overall answer is pretty clear-cut: At some (relatively early) point, our heads undergo a “cultural switch.” Coming back to the States for a visit becomes more of an anthropological study for us than a “return home.” In no way does this mean that we think the Israeli experience is “better” than the American one (or vice versa) – just different. Here is just a sample of the different *weltanschauung* (“perspective on the world”) elements.

• Conversations (substance)

In Israel, it’s hard to simply converse socially with anyone without the conversation soon turning to some “meaty” current events issue. I apologize in

advance for what I am about to say, but in the U.S., social conversation is decidedly vapid. Sports talk (among men) is dominant; among women, office gossip or a recent store sales event. Yes,

I know – what I just wrote here is definitely offensive and not at all politically correct. Which is precisely the point: Americans have become so PC-conscious that they stay away from any topic that could cause “offense” for their conversational partner. In Israel, we have no such compunction – quite the opposite: the more controversial, the better.

• Conversations (style)

Here we get a “reverse shock” – Americans actually let you finish a sentence! It’s not that in Israel I can’t complete a sentence; it’s just that in the middle of mine, my partner is already responding, so we end up with a double monologue. Moreover, Americans tend to converse at a normal decibel whereas Israelis speak very loudly. These two things are a problem for visiting expats in the U.S. because we have been “acculturated” to interrupt the minute we have a response, and to do so quite loudly (not to mention vociferously). It takes a few days for us to “come down to earth” discourse-wise.

• Jewish identity

It’s a truism that the U.S. is a “Christian” country, albeit multi-cultural and increasingly varied religiously. Christian



REFLECTIONS OF | IN ISRAEL

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG



“MY COUNTRIES ARE going in opposite directions: formerly efficient America downhill; formerly bureaucratic Israel up and away.”

symbolism – and even more, gentile culture – is everywhere, even when not celebrating Christmas, Easter, etc. For an American Jew (actually, any Jew in the diaspora), that’s the

“natural” environment. But once you’ve lived in heavily Jewish Israel for a while, this feels “strange” indeed. True, we have our Christmas trees in southern Tel Aviv (thanks to the influences of foreign workers, etc.), but they pale next to the menorah at the Knesset, the *Magen David* on the flag, the use of biblical verses in popular songs – in addition to *Parashat HaShavua* mini-talks Friday on the radio, real quiet on the streets on the Sabbath (not just in religious neighborhoods) and other sundry, not-so-subtle manifestations of Israel’s predominant Jewishness.

• Efficiency

This is going to shock you: in most areas of public life, Israel is clearly more efficient than the U.S. When we book the cable person to hook us up in Israel, they ask what “2-hour window” we want them to arrive (and they do!); when we have a blood test done, we simply go online to our HMO (“*kupat cholim*”) and get the entire results, usually within 24 hours – and the past decade’s results, too, if we want to compare them.

Last summer, my wife and I moved from one city to the next so we had to get a completely new national ID card from the Ministry of the Interior

office. It took us 17 minutes – printed out, laminated etc. Internet? I already have 100-mega speed, which makes doing almost everything “government-official” online a *me’kha’yeh* (Yiddish for “pleasure”).

Here in the U.S.? Well, I don’t have to tell you. So when the commentators talk about rebuilding America’s infrastructure, it’s not just the roads and bridges that have to be brought into the 21st century.

It’s as if both my countries are going in opposite directions: formerly efficient America downhill; formerly bureaucratic Israel up and away.

There are some other areas of life where the U.S. has its advantages (you can’t beat the Super Bowl for sheer spectacle). But for me, one upcoming day says it all – the second day of Passover. Boy, am I glad not to have to deal with two Seders!

PROF. SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG (profsw.com) is deputy director of the School of Communications at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. This spring, he is visiting professor at the Israel Studies Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md.

Abusive journalism

Newspapers have obligation to report stories, write headlines with care

BY RABBI AVI SHAFRAN

A number of years ago, a neighbor of mine, a business professional, shared a secret and a request. He told me that he had been found guilty of a crime – a dishonest financial reporting to the federal government – and was awaiting sentencing.

He fully admitted that he had acted wrongly and offered no excuse for what he did. My neighbor is a kind, reasonable, family-oriented and charitable person. I drew on what thespian talents I had cultivated many decades earlier in high school, and feigned not being shocked.

“Oh, I’m so sorry,” was all I could say.

Then came the request.

“Could you write the judge a character reference letter?” he asked.

“Of course,” I answered, without hesitation.

My neighbor’s punishment would have great impact on his future, his family and his friends. Here was a good man who did a bad thing. The judge knew about the bad thing; the least I could do was describe the good man.

And so I did, the next day. I’ll never know whether my letter, which acknowledged the crime and sought only to provide an honest assessment of my neighbor as a person, had any effect. He was sentenced to a year in prison and served his sentence.

What brought that memory to mind was the most recent example of “creative” report-

age in a Jewish newspaper. “Orthodox Rabbi Defends Jewish Psychiatrist Convicted in... Assualts” read the headline of a report in the Forward on Feb. 8. (Editor’s Note: Read the story online at <http://forward.com/articles/170791/orthodox-rabbi-defends-jewish-psychiatrist-convict/>)

Now what kind of stupid fellow, I thought, would defend the abusive actions of a doctor? When I saw the name of the rabbi, however, I realized that the headline had itself probably been abusive, of the truth.

Rabbi Yisroel Miller is well known as a caring, sensitive, accomplished and respected leader of a congregation in the Western Canadian city of Calgary. He previously served a congregation in Pittsburgh and

has been honored with rabbinic leadership awards by the Orthodox Union and the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools; he received a special award from the United Jewish Federation too, for his work to build bridges among diverse groups of Jews. He has authored four well-regarded books of essays on Jewish thought.

Ah, I thought, and now he’s defending the indefensible? No way.

No way, indeed.

Upon closer inspection, the Forward piece exposed itself as an example of something less than responsible journalism. Oh, *pshaw*, let’s be straightforward: it was make-believe muckraking.

What Rabbi Miller did, it seemed, was just what I did

for my neighbor – and what innumerable rabbis, priests and ministers (not to mention friends, relatives and others) have done out of a sense of mercy and propriety: Ask a sentencing judge to take their impressions and information into account when deciding the punishment for someone guilty of a crime.

The article was not only headlined to make it seem as if Rabbi Miller had defended the criminal – which he hadn’t done; his letter is explicit and clear about that – but led readers to imagine that he had minimized the crime. The rabbi is introduced in a sentence recounting how the defense attorney character-

The right-of-way for all the wrong reasons

Learning the rules for the 'Traffic Circle Toss-up'

Throughout my nine-plus years of living in Israel, I have been met with bizarre scenarios, blasts of culture shock and situations that make me feel I may never understand this strange land and its people.

ALISON ON ALIYAH REDUX

ALISON STERN PEREZ



Perhaps the biggest mystery and frustration I experience on a daily basis is what I call the "Traffic Circle Toss-up."

There are many traffic circles here in Be'er Sheva, some of them one-lane and some two. And always, no matter what the circumstances, I have no understanding of the appropriate driving rules. And always, I feel I am getting totally screwed by my fellow drivers. From what I have gleaned so far, here are my best guesses as to the unique Israeli traffic circle rules:

- The Speed Rule: Whoever is going fastest, no matter where he is, has the right of way. Even if I am millimeters away from entering the circle, if there is another car barreling down the road 20 feet away to the left of me at a faster speed than mine, I am apparently expected to yield.

- The "Chicken" Rule: Whoever is unwilling to put his foot on the brake has the right of way. If I am approaching the circle at the exact same time as another car, we become locked into, essentially, a game of "Chicken." Whoever finally, begrudgingly, decides to yield and slams on his brakes to avoid an accident, loses the right of way – and his dignity.

- The Collective Momentum Rule: Whoever can stay close enough and at the same speed of the car in front of him acquires a kind of extended, all-inclusive right-of-way. This happens most often at heavy-traffic circles and at circles at the base of a hill, when I often find myself sitting for five minutes while a parade of cars "catches a lift" on the preceding car, resembling a faster (and angrier) funeral procession.

- The Loudness Rule: Whoever honks the loudest and/or longest has the right of way. Wherever the car may be in relation to the circle – again, even 20 feet away – he can cause all other cars to screech to a halt if he starts honking like a deranged lunatic.

- The Size Rule: Whoever is biggest has the right of way – closely connected to The Momentum Rule. Trucks needn't stop, yield or even slow down, ever.

- The Anger Rule: Whoever is angriest has the right of way.

In practice, it is often difficult to distinguish this rule from the Speed, Momentum and Loudness rules, but a simple glance at the face of the angrier driver, if possible, will cause anyone to halt dead in their tracks. (Also known as "The Spite Rule" and "The I-Don't-Give-a-\$%# Rule.")

- The Stupid Rule: Whoever is stupidest has the right of way. If I think another driver doesn't see me or is otherwise too occupied (talking illegally on his cell phone, most often) to pay attention to the road, I am apparently expected to yield.

- The Purposeful Blinders Rule: Whoever has the audacity to ignore all the other drivers has the right of way. These individuals seem to have no awareness of, or interest in, any cars that may be in transit in the traffic circle, apparently assuming that everyone else will exit before arriving at their personal point of entry.

- The "I Think I Can Make It" Rule: Whoever wants to risk his life and the lives of all the others in the traffic circle takes the right of way. These individuals enter the traffic circle directly in front of another car already on its way toward them, causing the latter to screech to a halt to avoid a collision. I have yet to understand whether this behavior comes out of pure thoughtlessness or simply an inability to judge distance and speed.

In many ways, the "Traffic

Circle Toss-up" can be viewed as both a microcosm of and an explanation for many of the most fundamental woes this country suffers, and that I suffer within it. I make great and constant efforts to understand this society, even from the outside, and to contribute to it positively. I endeavor to remain a moral person, even in the face of more immorality, dishonesty

"AND SO, ONCE again, I find myself in a mortal battle between worlds."

and manipulation than I ever saw in the U.S. And so, here I am, still trying desperately to understand "The Rules" – for traffic circles as well as everything else in this crazy land – and failing miserably on a daily level. If the above rules are for Israelis, what am I to do when I reach a traffic circle?

And herein lies the crux of my dilemma. Shall I accept these rules, which I find distasteful, rude and upsetting on a strangely personal level, in the spirit of "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em"? Shall I be proud

of myself when I cut someone else off or honk angrily at a fellow citizen because I have now supposedly assimilated and am acting like a "real" Israeli? Or should I continue in my own personal quest to remain honorable and moral, even if it means feeling like a complete *freier* (sucker) every time I stop to let a line of cars go by, to the tune of a cacophony of angry honking behind me?

And so, once again, I find myself in a mortal battle between worlds – between remaining true to the values of my upbringing or adopting the (sometimes dubious) values of my new homeland; between assimilating or remaining an outsider in so many ways; between accepting injustice or attempting to fight against it, only to end up exhausted and demoralized.

This is, obviously, not just about traffic circles. It feels mostly about my growing sense of inadequacy as an Israeli, and my feeling that, no matter what I do, in any given situation or context, it's wrong – or rather, just not quite right. I used to think that if I just learned "The Rules," I would be fine. But now I realize that following them is the tough part. I guess I still have a lot to learn.

ALISON STERN PEREZ (alisonsternperez@gmail.com or alisonsternperezclub.com), a native of Seattle, is a 2000 Brown University graduate.

Board of Rabbis issues support for civil marriage for all Rhode Islanders

No obligations imposed on clergy who don't support same-sex marriage

The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, representing different movements and practices, endorses the idea that the right of civil marriage should be available to all Rhode Islanders.

Our support of full civil marriage rights for same-sex couples rests on two key principles.

First, lessons from Jewish history provide us with a mandate to work for civil rights. We understand the right of same-sex couples and their families to enjoy liberty and equal justice under law as a civil right. Married couples receive many federal and state-level legal protections, benefits and responsibilities with a civil marriage. Recognition by the State of Rhode Island of the right of same-sex couples to

marry would provide access to such fundamental family and financial rights.

Second, is the clear distinc-

tion with Roger Williams' vision for religious freedom that is pivotal to our state's identity.

As rabbis, we believe that every human being is created in the image of God; thus, it is our obligation to defend vigorously the dignity of and respect for every human being and every loving couple. For all the reasons stated above, the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island supports the legislation proposed to the

Rhode Island General Assembly providing marriage equality in Rhode Island.



American law makes between civil and religious marriage. Legal recognition of same-sex civil marriage should not and will not require clergy of any faith or denomination to officiate at or recognize the religious status of same-sex marriages. This is consistent with our understanding of the separation between church and state. This liberty is in keeping

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Amy Levin (ravlevin@gmail.com), president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, released this statement effective Feb. 20.

OUR ONLINE COMMENTS:

Re: "Guttin, Camp JORI director, shines in prestigious FJC program" by Nancy Kirsch in the Jan. 4 issue:

"Great job Ronni, Camp JORI, and the JV&H for covering another win for the Rhode Island Jewish community."

Rob Stolzman

Stolzman is board president of Camp JORI.

Re: "Our house divided" by Rabbi James Rosenberg in the Oct. 26, 2012 issue:

"One of your best articles. I have shared it with two of my friends, with whom I have discussed the topic of where the current administration is taking us. I really like

your dichotomy of the two visions. Thanks for writing this piece!"

Lester Nathan

Re: "Dr. Gary Witman wants to practice medicine" by Nancy Kirsch in the Jan. 6, 2012 issue:

"Dr. Witman, I read you were interested in starting a chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) in Rhode Island. I worked for NSCIA for many years and served on the board of directors, I would be happy to assist with your efforts in RI. You can contact me via my last name at AOL.com."

John F. Fioriti

READERS HAVE WHAT WE WANT!

YOU HAVE THEM ... and The Voice & Herald wants them: Your opinions! This paper is only as vibrant and robust as our readers make it, with online comments, letters to the editor and op-ed contributions. The door is open, so please send us your suggestions, ideas and comments.

Letters to the editor: 250 words or fewer and must be signed. Op-ed essays: 500–800 words and must be signed. Bring 'em on: Send to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: OPINIONS. Questions? Call Nancy Kirsch at 421-4111, ext. 168.

Lessons today from Sophie Scholl's anti-Nazi resistance

The story of the White Rose resistance resonates today, 70 years after the fact

BY JUD NEWBORN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Though Sophie Scholl and the students of the White Rose resistance were executed by the Nazis 70 years ago last month, the example they set of courage in the face of authoritarian repression is as relevant today as it was seven decades ago.

Their crime: Daring to rouse the consciousness of their countrymen in the face of Nazi Germany's destruction of all civil rights and its mass murder of European Jews.

In 1933, when Sophie was 12 and her brother, Hans, was 15, the Scholl siblings rejected their Lutheran upbringing and their parents' Christian humanism and instead embraced Hitler's philosophy of racial superiority, becoming leaders in the Hitler Youth.

But when Hans was arrested and convicted in 1938 for a same-sex relationship he had had three years earlier, the Scholls' admiration for Hitler quickly ended. Gradually they became activists against the Nazi cause. By 1942, the siblings were engaging in daring forms of nonviolent resistance.

In May 1942, they dubbed themselves the White Rose and joined with a handful of friends at the University of Munich to produce what became a staccato burst of six impassioned anti-Nazi leaflets. Reproducing thousands in their secret headquarters over a nine-month period, they made dangerous train trips to distribute the leaflets throughout Germany. They mailed them to 16 cities — Stuttgart, Vienna, Frankfurt, Berlin and Hamburg among them — in a bid to mislead the Gestapo into thinking theirs was a broad-based movement and not just a handful of students.

"Since the beginning of the

war," they declared in their second leaflet in June 1942, "300,000 Jews have been murdered in the most bestial manner. This is a crime unparalleled in human history — a crime against the dignity of Man. But why do we tell you these things when you already know them? Everyone wants to be exonerated, but you cannot be, because everyone is guilty, guilty, guilty."

In their fourth leaflet, they wrote: "We will not be silent. We are your bad conscience. The White Rose will not leave you in peace!"

On Feb. 18, 1943, Sophie and Hans climbed a gallery at the University of Munich's atrium. From there they scattered hundreds of their sixth leaflet down upon the heads of astonished students below in what was called the only public protest by Germans against Nazism ever to be staged.

Spotted almost immediately, they were arrested by the Gestapo and subjected to grueling interrogation. Sophie, Hans and their comrade Christoph Probst were tried in a show trial in Munich by Hitler's "hanging judge," Roland Freisler. They were condemned to death.

Four days after their arrest, the three were beheaded by guillotine. Hans was 24, Sophie 21.

But their message lived on. Their last leaflet, smuggled out to the West, was dropped by the tons over Germany. Nobel laureate Thomas Mann broadcast back to Germany from America to exile, praising the "splendid young people" who "at the time when Germany and Europe were still enveloped in the dark of night, knew and publicly declared" the ugly truth about Nazism in an attempt to bring about the "dawning" of a new faith in freedom and honor."

Today, the White Rose students are icons in Germany. In a nationwide TV competition to

choose the top 10 most important Germans of all time, German voters chose Sophie and Hans Scholl for fourth place — beating out Goethe, Gutenberg, Bach, Bismarck, Willy Brandt and Albert Einstein.

A German film, "Sophie Scholl: The Final Days," was nominated for an Academy Award in 2006, around the same time that "Sophie Scholl and the White Rose" (One World Publications, 2007) was published. Its Hebrew edition just appeared in Israel in time for the 70th anniversary of their extraordinary protest and executions.

Heroism like theirs is being replicated in countries around the world. There is Malala Yousafzai, the now-13-year-old Pakistani children's rights activist who was shot in the head by the Taliban last October and now says she's ready to fight on. There are the gays who struggle for equal rights in countries where they are despised and put to death. There are Chinese dissidents like Liu Xiaobo, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2010, but is languishing in a Chinese prison.

Given the oppression, violence and threats such men and women face — and the costs they often are forced to pay — we who live in democracies owe it to them not to stay silent.

"Somebody had to make a start," Sophie Scholl told Freisler, looking the judge straight in the eye on that fateful day in February 1943.

Seventy years on, we are still that somebody.

JUD NEWBORN (judnewborn.posterous.com) is co-author of "Sophie Scholl and the White Rose," just published in Hebrew by Penn Publications, and was a founding historian at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage.

tencing the defendant, including his experience of the man as having always possessed a "humble manner," the observation that "The bad does not erase the good" and the fear that "a prison term would be a death sentence" for the doctor (who was reported to be frail and in the early stages of dementia).

So I contacted Rabbi Miller directly, and asked to see the letter myself. He readily sent it to me and it was, as I had expected, nothing more than a plea for leniency. In it, he explicitly declares himself unqualified to opine about the defendant's guilt or innocence and, equally

explicitly, acknowledges the "darkness of the human soul" to which even otherwise good people can succumb. At no point in the letter does Rabbi Miller try to minimize the seriousness of the charge against the defendant; at no point does he in any way "defend" him.

I asked the rabbi how he feels about being maligned by a national newspaper.

"I myself don't blame the Forward too much," he responded, kind soul that he is. "After all, it's their *parnassa* [livelihood]."

© 2013, Rabbi Avi Shafran

LETTERS

Congratulations to EDITH ROTENBERG — the 1936 Queen Esther and the following attendants: Zelma Reffkin, Irma Wallack, Ann Stepan, Jeanette Markoff and Dorothy Mashlin.

1936 Purim Queen



Edith Rotenberg Voted
"Queen Esther"

EDITH ROTENBERG CROWNED QUEEN

The crown and blue sash robes of "Queen Esther" were bestowed on Edith Rotenberg who polled more than the 10 other contestants at the 1936 annual Purim Queen pageant sponsored at Elks Auditorium last night.

The choice of Miss Rotenberg, however, was a surprise to many.

The election of Miss Rotenberg, an exuberant and triumphant tour ahead of the Purim carnival, was decided with a final poll.

The contestants were Zelma Reffkin, Anna Stepan, Irma Wallack, Jeanette Markoff and Dorothy Mashlin. They were dressed in blue and white. Miss Reffkin and Ruth Twardoff were the pages.

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Holocaust Education Center issues call for nominations

PROVIDENCE — The Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island seeks nominations for its Never Again Award, which recognizes those volunteers whose actions inspire and support the nonprofit organization.

The annual award is given to an individual or group whose activities have made a significant contribution to the organization's mission, but who has not already received the award.

HERCRI's mission is to teach the history of the Holocaust in order to promote human dignity and justice, and to serve as a memorial to its victims.

Recent past awardees include Stanley Abrams (2012), Barbara Silliman (2011), Raymond Bacon (2010) and the Honorable

David N. Cilline (2009).

To nominate an individual or a group of individuals for the Never Again Award, provide the following information to HERCRI by no later than March 18: Nominee's name, address, telephone number and email address; narrative describing one's reasons for nominating the individual or group — and be specific about how the nominee's actions support the HERC mission — and nominator's name, address, telephone number and email address.

All the information should be sent to May-Ronny Zeidman, HERCRI's executive director, at mzeidman@hercri.org or mail to HERCRI, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI 02906.



KENDRA LOLIO

JCDSRI fifth graders perform with accompaniment by Musical Director Ben Hughes, at far left, on guitar, at the 2013 Zimriyah.

JCDSRI hosts annual *Zimriyah*, songfest

A celebration of the Earth

BY KENDRA LOLIO

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — More than 250 parents, students and alumni of the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, in Providence, gathered at Temple Emanu-El's Meeting House to celebrate the *Zimriyah* (songfest) 2013, an event the school holds each year.

The Feb. 14 musical festivities began with a singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," which was immediately followed by the students excitedly racing down the center aisle to the stage. They were all clad in recycled *Zimriyah* t-shirts from the previous year — created by students and art teacher Jen Bend — in honor of this year's *Zimriyah*

theme: Guardians of the earth.

The students, ranging from pre-K to fifth grade, were led by musical director Ben Hughes in singing songs to honor our planet, including, among others, "HaOlam" ("The Earth"), "Gina Li Haviva" ("My Beloved Garden") and "Ani veAta Neshane et haOlam" ("You and I Will Change the World") and "The Garden Song."

The stage was framed with large pieces of fabric scenery adorned with flowers and other decor, created by the JCDSRI staff and students.

The evening included some parents, staff and alumni singing "Ki Tavou" ("As You Shall Enter"), as well as the fifth grade students performing a dance and singing "Inyan shel

Zman" ("Matter of Time") led by *Zimriyah* Band members Howard Bromberg, Rob Micallef and Dr. Steven Stein.

Hebrew language consultant Ruth (Ruti) Adler, wrote the narration that the fifth graders delivered and taught the children the songs, almost all of which were sung in Hebrew.

The festivities concluded with everyone singing "*Hatikvah*," the Israeli national anthem, and then enjoying drinks and snacks and socializing.

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

JCDSRI: jcdsri.org

Contact me to review our Exceptional Properties Marketing Program
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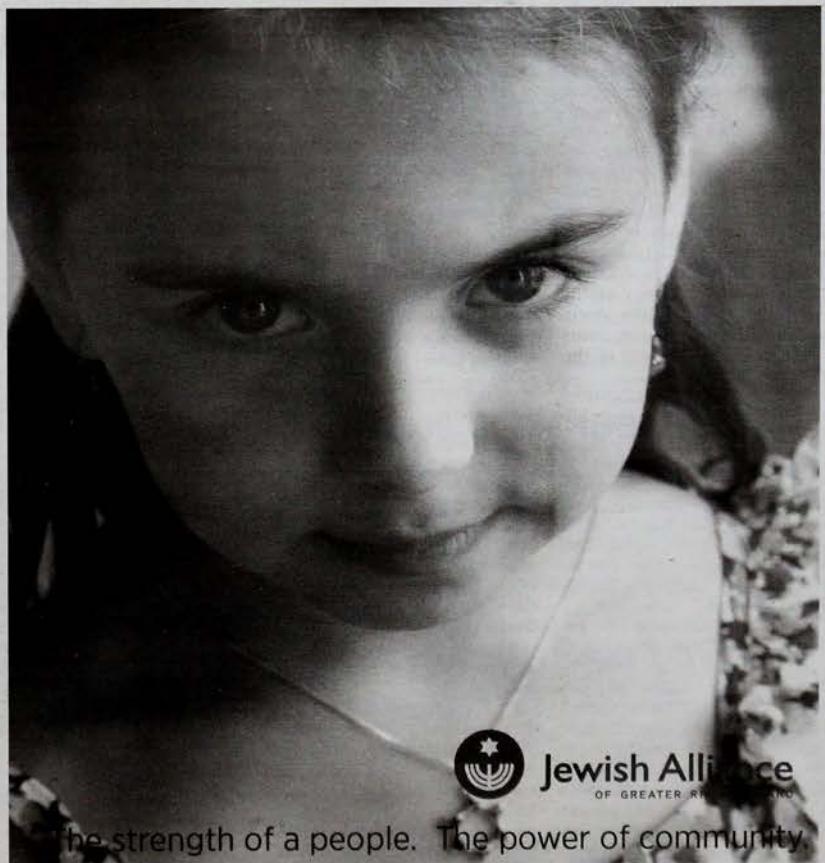


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Multifaith energy organization addressing climate change

Is the Jewish community moving in the right direction?

By LIZ MARSIS

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - Is the Jewish community of greater Rhode Island doing enough to respond to climate change? Are our homes on a path of sustainability? Are our synagogues working to reduce their energy usage?

From the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Community Relations Council commitment in February 2012 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 14 percent by 2014 to celebrating *Tu Bi-Sh'vat* and Rabbi Amy Levin's efforts to build Temple Torat Yisrael as a green worship space to the community gardens at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, our Jewish leaders are

talking the talk and walking the walk of climate change.

A statewide multifaith community initiative is hosting a conference, "Eco Solutions: Inspired Solutions for A Sustainable Future," scheduled for Thursday, March 7, from 5 - 9 p.m. at Roger Williams Casino in Providence. The conference, which will include opportunities for an energy audit of one's home, business or house of worship, will feature speakers, table discussions with experts and vendors displaying their goods and services.

Faith-based sponsors of the conference include, among others, the Community Relations Council, the RI State Council of Churches, Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, the Catholic Dio-

cese of Providence and the New England Regional Environmental Ministries.

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light, founded by Chaim Brown, is the organization hosting the conference. Rabbi Levin was a founding board member of RI-IPL and Rabbi Richard Perlman of Temple Torat Yisrael was the first faith representative to join as a member of RI-IPL.

The program includes a vegetarian dinner. The fee is \$50 per person, with scholarships and group discounts available.

TO REGISTER: www.ri-il.org or call 261-3426.

LIZ MARSIS is director, RI-IPL.

PHDS students receive *siddurim*

By MIRIAM

ESTHER WEINER

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - *Mazal tov* to the first-grade students at Providence Hebrew Day School, a Jewish day school on the East Side of Providence, who received their *siddurim* (prayer books) on Wednesday, Feb. 20. The children sang about *davening* (praying) and learning Torah and even read and translated a *pasuk* (verse) of *Humash* (Torah) for everyone in the audience! Their Judaic Studies teacher, Rabbi Avraham Jakubowicz, then distributed the *siddurim* to his students. After the children received their *siddurim*, Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, PHDS dean, spoke to the students and their guests about the power of the Torah that they can now learn, as exemplified by the students who studied in the days of Haman and Mordechai.

PHDS thanks Rabbi Jakubowicz for teaching the first grad-



PHDS first-grade students are joined by Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, Rabbi Avraham Jakubowicz and Miriam Esther Weiner

ers to read so they can begin to learn *humash* inside the text. Miriam Persomik for making the *siddur* covers, Rabbi Shmuel Taitelbaum for inscribing the students' names on their *siddurim* and NEAT students Riva Steinhart and Adena Malka Yudkowsky for helping set up for the *siddur* party. The

school extends a special thank you to parents of PHDS students for sharing their children with us.

MIRIAM ESTHER WEINER (meweiner@phdschool.org) is principal of PHDS.

PHDS: phdschool.org.



Stereotypes run the gamut.

Understanding – and breaking down – stereotypes

The Alliance, United Way and the Urban League sponsor a free panel discussion

By KARA MARZIALI
Kmarziali@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE - Which ethnic group is better at managing money ... better at sports ... smarter in math and science ...?

If you've been the subject of such stereotypical misperceptions, you know that, for better or worse, any stereotyping can lead to misunderstandings and confusion.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is hosting a panel discussion on stereotypes on March 4 at 6:30 p.m., at the Alliance, 401 Elmwood Ave., in Providence. Partnering with the Urban League and the United Way of Rhode Island, the Alliance will explore preconceived ideas that shape how we view certain people and cultures in our society. The goal of the program is to discuss the harsh realities of stereotypes – both positive and negative – and how they become the basis of prejudice, as well as to propose solutions to break down barriers that lead to stereotyping.

"Stereotyping is the foundation of prejudice and bigotry. A joke about a particular ethnic group may seem on the surface 'just a joke,'" said Marty Cooper, director of the Community Relations Council of the Alliance. "However, such jokes often become the springboard that will lead to prejudice and hate of that group."

Toby Ayers, executive director of Rhode Island for Community & Justice, will moderate the panel. Panelists are Imam Farid Ansari, spiritual leader at the Muslim American Dawah Cen-

ter; Rabbi Elan Babchuck, rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, a Conservative synagogue in Providence; Steven Brown, executive director of the Rhode Island ACLU; Vernia Carter, director of Central Falls Prevention Coalition and director of Central Wellness Program at Progreso Latino; Brandon Melton, senior vice president of human resources at Lifespan and Keith Stokes, president of strategic economic planning and development at Mayforth Group.

"Stereotypes are cross-cultural and continue to be a burden on all communities," said Erin Moseley, director of arts & culture at the Alliance. "We've created this open forum – which will include a question-and-answer session – to discuss how stereotypes have affected our lives and the events in history that contributed to these misunderstandings."

In addition to the panel discussion, guests will have access to gallery (401), a studio space that currently features artist Leslie Friedman's sculptural pieces made of screen-printed tiles wrapped around wooden armatures, which identify both positive and negative stereotypes of Jewish people.

The event is free and open to the community.

KARA MARZIALI is director of communications for the Alliance.

CONTACT ERIN MOSELEY (emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 108) for more information.



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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 Elmwood Ave., Providence. Erin Moseley at 421-4111 ext. 108.

Friday | March 1

Rabbi Peter Stein/Yiddish Shmoosz. Rabbi Stein of Temple Sinai will speak to the group. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., 421-4111.

Saturday | March 2

"Oslo Accord: 20 Years After, Peace or Peril?" Israeli businessman Eliav Bar-Chai will speak about the Oslo Accord and its 20-year ramifications. The documentary "Judeophobia Unmasked" will be shown also. R.I. Chapter of Americans for a Safe Israel is the sponsor. Congregation Ohaw Shalom, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket. 8 p.m., free and open to community. riasf@yahoo.com.

Sunday | March 3

Beth-El Sisterhood Film Festival. "Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray." Discussion with Dr. George M. Goodwin, editor of Rhode Island Historical Notes, about the struggles facing American Jews in battle and on the home front during the Civil War. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 2 p.m., free and open to community. 331-6070.

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

Monday | March 4

Understanding Stereotypes. The Alliance's RING Group and Community Relations Council, in partnership with the Urban League and the United Way, host panel discussion on stereotypes. Toby Ayers, executive director of Rhode Island for Community & Justice, moderates; panelists come from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Alliance, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence, free, open to the community. 6:30 p.m. - walk through of gallery (401) with Leslie Friedman, whose artwork depicts stereotypes; 7 p.m. - panel discussion. Erin Moseley, 421-4111, ext. 108. See story on page 9.

Wednesday | March 6

Alliance JCC Senior Café. Topic: Sleep Disorders. The URI pharmacy program offers information on causes and cures for sleep disorders; learn about the newest medications. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence. Lunch - noon; program - 1 p.m. \$3 suggested donation for those 60+. RSVP two days beforehand; Neal or Elaine at 421-4111, ext. 107. This location hosts a meal site every Wednesday and Friday.

Hebrew Coffee. Israeli emissary Matan Graff leads program for people who know basic Hebrew. Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. Matan Graff, 421-4111, ext. 121.

Thursday | March 7

Am David Lunch & Learn. Discussion, led by Rabbi Richard Perlman, focuses on weekly Torah portion; kosher deli lunch follows. 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Noon - 1 p.m. \$10 per session or \$54 for 7-session series. 463-7944 or rabbiperlman@cox.net.

Energy Forum. Multifaith forum on energy issues; faith-based sponsors of program include the Alliance's Community Relations Council. Roger Williams Casino, Providence, 5 - 9 p.m.; vegetarian dinner included. \$50 per person, with scholarships and group discounts available. RVSP: ri-il.org or 261-3426. See story on page 9.

Friday | March 8

Shalom to Shabbat. Temple Torah Yisrael's service with wine, cheese and a shmooz before service. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich, 7 p.m. - nosh and drink; 7:30 p.m. - service. 885-6600 or toratayisrael.org.

Joint Reform Service with Dan Nichols. Temple Habonim hosts this year's joint Reform service for community. Cantors and rabbis from Beth-El, Sinai and Habonim lead service with guest singer, Dan Nichols, to lead congregation in singing. Nichols is a singular talent in the world of Jewish music. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. 7:30 p.m.; free and open to community. 245-6536 or templehabonim.org

Sunday | March 10

Beth-El Sisterhood Film Festival. "Two Who Dared: The Sharps' War." Discussion with Artemis Joukowsky III, filmmaker and grandson of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, who helped save imperiled Jews and refugees at the onset of World War II. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Free and open to community. 331-6070.

CALENDAR | 11

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Please note: Calendar items for our March 15 Passover Issue must be received by March 6. Items for our March 29 Camping Issue must be received by March 20. Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."



Fifth graders Joey, from left, bottom row, Noam, Ruth, Elieza and Minna, and Matan, Jonah, Noa, Annette, Asheley and Nina, are joined by fifth grade teacher Jamie Faith Woods at the Farm Fresh food forum. (JCDS does not include students' last names in media photos.)

JCDSRI students attend food forum on sustainable protein

Students' perspectives on food sustainability and earth's fragility

By JCDSRI
FIFTH GRADERS

Special to
The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - Why does it matter where food comes from if it's fresh?

That was just one question we - fifth graders at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI) - asked when we attended the Farm Fresh RI Local Food Forum on sustainable protein.

Our teacher, Jamie Faith Woods, wanted to give us a real world view of our study of ecosystems and our need to be *shomrei adamah*, guardians of the earth.

Two fisherpeople, Sarah Schumann and Jared Auerbach, and two ranchers/farmers, Mel Coleman and Patrick McNiff, talked about their jobs. They answered questions asked by Bill Idell, department chair of culinary arts at Johnson & Wales University, and other spectators. We hope you enjoy our article about our experiences on this field trip.

We learned many different things about food and nature at the Feb. 6 forum. For example, we learned that, just five years ago, Rhode Island did not have winter farmers' markets. Also, through Farm Fresh RI's Market Mobile program, 50 farms deliver their food to a warehouse that is then distributed to dozens of restaurants and grocery stores around the state. In California, farmers produce 50 to 60 percent of

the produce eaten in the United States. Only one percent of the food eaten in Rhode Island is grown locally. We came up with lots of big ideas: For everything you take, leave just as much. Eat healthy, save the earth and buy local protein. Protecting the earth is of the highest importance. Compost! Eat vegetables from local farms because they don't have to spray chemicals to keep them fresh.

We had many questions, as well. For example: Who came up with the idea of farmers' markets? What is DEM? (Our teacher has since answered, but if you don't know, it stands for Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.)

We also learned these facts: In 2012, the production of locally raised meat grew hugely! Land development is taking over a lot of area formerly used for farming and agriculture, as much as 300 acres a day. The government's restrictions on fishing protect the fish but economically harm fishing companies. We need to cut down our fishing if we want fish for the next generations. The price for farmland in Rhode Island is one of the highest in the country. Rhode Island is known as the squid capital of North America. Sixty-four percent of all land in the United States is grassland. The average age of a farmer is 46-years-old. The United Nations estimates that, by the year 2025, there will be 8 billion people on this planet to feed. We need to help sustain clean water and rich

dirt.

Some things we think about agriculture are: Humans are really to blame for ruining the planet. We think it is horrible that people give their livestock growth hormones to make them bigger - the animals probably have feelings, too. The world's food systems are super-complicated. Some quotes that we remember are these: "Grass is a rancher's passion," said Mel Coleman of Niman Ranch.

"[Sustainability] is something that we all have to do together," said Sarah Schumann.

"Nature works in weird, mysterious cycles, but that does not mean they are not amazing," said Matt Varga of Gracie's Restaurant.

"Three hundred acres were lost to land development," said Patrick McNiff, Pat's Pasture.

Jared Auerbach of Red's Best, said, "Sustainability will last for a very long time."

We all thought that the field trip experience was intriguing, as it taught us people's ideas about how to sustainably protect nature.

FARM FRESH FORUM: farmfreshri.org/about/localfoodforum.php

WOODS' BLOG and JCDSRI garden: http://jcdrsri.ipower.com/fifth/

HANNAH MELLION, Farm Fresh RI's Food System coordinator and a JCDSRI alum, welcomed the group.

CALENDAR

From Page 10

Monday | March 11

JERI Satellite Visits. Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island Director Susan Adler and JERI Assistant Director Ethan Adler visit Jewish seniors; Ethan provides pastoral counseling. Blenheim Newport, 303 Valley Road, Middletown, 11 a.m. - noon. 621-5374.

JERI Satellite Visits. Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island Director Susan Adler and Assistant Director Ethan Adler visit Jewish seniors; Ethan provides pastoral counseling. Brightview Commons, 57 Grandeville Court, Wakefield, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. 621-5374.

Wednesday | March 13

Torat Yisrael's Sisterhood Dinner. Sisterhood hosts light dinner and speaker, Carol Wheeler, M.D., "Many Changes: Sexuality Throughout a Woman's Lifetime." 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. \$5 per person, RSVP: Torat Yisrael at 885-6600.

Friday | March 15

Am David Senior Café. Community Passover Seder. Transportation to Am David provided for those who attend Alliance JCC Senior Café. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. \$3 lunch donation is requested for those 60+. Bus leaves the Alliance at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 1:30 p.m. RSVP required 2 days in advance: Steve, Neal or Elaine at 732-0047. This location hosts a meal site every weekday.

Shabbat Hallelu/Service in Song.

Temple Beth-El's Cantor Judy Seplowin and musicians offer uplifting musical Shabbat. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Refreshments - 6:30 p.m., Service - 7 p.m.; free and open to community. Rob Massi, 331-6070.

Saturday | March 16

Torah Study. Join Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer for a special Torah study. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 10:15 a.m. Rob Massi, 331-6070.

Sunday | March 17

Beth-El Sisterhood Film Festival. "A Journey of Spirit" is a documentary about Jewish singer/songwriter, Debbie Friedman. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 2 p.m., free and open to the community. 331-6070.

100 Days until Opening Day. Camp JORI celebrates 100 days until opening day with a slide show, crafts, games and "candy call." Open to all JORI families, alumni and others. Alliance JCC, 401 Elmwood Ave., Providence. 2 - 4 p.m. Rachel Mersky Woda, rachel@campjori.com. See story on page 38.

Wednesday | Mar. 20

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

Brown's archaeology department hosts lecture

Israeli professor to address role of archaeologists in modern Israel, Palestine

PROVIDENCE — Professor Raphael (Rafi) Greenberg will present a lecture, "Archaeology and Identity in Modern Israel and Palestine" through Brown University's Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World on Wednesday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m., on the Brown University campus.

Greenberg, a humanities professor at Tel Aviv University, will discuss the interface between archaeology and the emergence of diverse modern identities in Israel and Palestine, be they secular and religious, national and ethnic, or indigenous and territorial.

According to press materials promoting the lecture, archaeologists play an important role in molding communities' collective memories.

As active participants in the creation of heritage, archaeologists in Israel and Palestine have a role as public intellectuals and a responsibility to the past, the present and the future.

The lecture, at Brown University's Rhode Island Hall, Room



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

Professor Raphael Greenberg

108, is free and open to the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about archaeology and identity in Israel and Jerusalem, see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcluKsGOj_Y

Applications wanted for Ruderman Disability Prize, \$250,000 award money

BY JTA STAFF

NEW YORK (JTA) — Applications are now being accepted for the Ruderman Prize in Disability, which features \$50,000 awards for five organizations that actively champion inclusion in their work.

The prize is funded and awarded by the Ruderman Family Foundation. It recognizes organizations that are involved in the Jewish community and take the lead in including those with disabilities. "This year's Ruderman Prize in Disability will again celebrate exemplars in inclusion, which by example accelerate innovations for people

with disabilities and energize the global Jewish community to work toward those ideals," said Jay Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation, in a release. "We believe this competition will generate new attention to the issue and spur new ambitions, as we work toward our goal of the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the Jewish community, so that these individuals have the same employment, social and religious opportunities as those without disabilities."

JTA is serving as a media partner for this year's contest.

"We are proud to be promoting an initiative to recognize

and reward organizations that are working to make Jewish life more accessible to people with disabilities," said Ami Eden, JTA's CEO and editor in chief.

More than 150 organizations applied for the prize in its first year, with \$200,000 in awards being divided among 10 winners.

The prize is for existing initiatives only.

Winners will be selected by the Ruderman Family foundation. The application form for the awards is available on the foundation's website (rudermanfoundation.org).



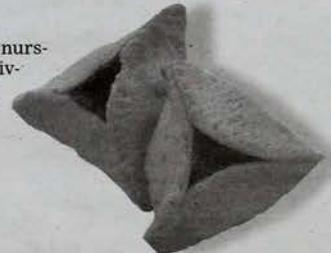
Dahna Ori, Erica Allen, Rebecca Kraut, Lily Nieto, Sarah Marasco and Ariel Marcus baked hamantashen for Jewish seniors in Rhode Island.

AMY OLSON

A day of baking hamantashen

KINGSTON — Although winter storm Nemo triggered a cancellation of Purim Mitzvah Day on Feb. 10, URI Hillel rescheduled its hamantashen-baking event for Feb. 24, the actual date of Purim. Several URI Hillel students gathered and baked more than 200 hamantashen to distribute to

Jewish residents in area nursing homes and assisted living facilities courtesy of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI).



T.F. GREEN AIRPORT

Calling all snowbirds

Don't miss a single issue of The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — Are you returning home to New England for Pesach or soon thereafter? Don't forget to contact The Jewish Voice & Herald at 401-421-4111, ext. 168 or nkirsch@shalomri.org (ADDRESS in subject line) so you won't miss an issue of the paper. After all, it's the one newspaper that reports on greater Rhode Island's Jewish news and offers up-to-date news and feature stories about Jewish life across North America, in Israel and around the world.

Email contact is preferable, so please send information with your name, current address, Rhode Island address and expected return date.





PHOTOS | WENDY JOERING

Rabbi Tzvi Blanchard speaks at the Alliance on Monday, Feb. 25.



Members of the Jewish community listen intently to Rabbi Blanchard.

RABBI diagnoses dilemma, proposes some solutions

From Page 1

lent service more efficiently. Instead, they must focus on community and meaning. Participants have to feel personal ties to others, and to see a greater purpose in their involvement than their own needs.

So what's a Jewish leader to do? Rabbi Blanchard started with broader policy-making issues. Instead of major donors and professionals simply issuing decisions, he urged an expanded process of deliberation that draws on many more people. The usual deciders might

still make the final call, but people who have a real voice in the process are more likely to feel a sense of inclusion.

This approach will certainly slow things down, but it's likely to improve both the decisions and the implementation. More important, it will promote community to people who crave a sense of belonging to something authentic.

As for meaning, leaders need to work on adding distinctive Jewish values to programs and activities. Rabbi Blanchard mentioned a parenting class he taught based on the Jewish

idea that everyone is of intrinsic worth, which in turn helped inspire parents to make the effort to really listen to their kids.

The trouble is that many potential leaders bring mixed motives to their service. Too often their egos get in the way of actually connecting to and helping people. All the change taking place — demographic, technological, and cultural — require a great deal of flexibility from leaders inclined to insist on what they're used to or what they've personally built. It also means having the humility to seek input from people involved only at the margins.

Leaders also need to start with something of a commitment to klal Yisrael, the Jewish people as a whole. If their Jewish identity is more a private,

individual feeling, they won't feel the closeness with others that they need to facilitate community.

"SO WHAT'S A Jewish leader to do?"

As the director of organizational development at CLAL, a group devoted to inclusiveness, Rabbi Blanchard explored this point in detail. He pointed out the growing tensions among Jewish institutions as traditional funding sources and

memberships fall short. Rather than compete among themselves, he urged leaders to cooperate to find ways to make everyone feel respected — or even collaborate to attract new sources of support.

His high-level talk did not delve into some of the challenges of this approach. In their attempts at inclusiveness, for example, many organizations offer a lowest-common-denominator version of Jewish values nearly stripped of meaning. He only briefly addressed the possibility of community groups bubbling up on their own, with leaders acting more as catalysts than directors.

Rabbi Peter Stein, immediate past president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island (rabbisofgreaterrhodeisland.org), mentioned in his introduction to Rabbi Blanchard that the board is working with the Alliance for possible follow-up visits from CLAL. Anyone who has thoughts about these visits should contact him or Wendy Joering, the Alliance community concierge and synagogue liaison, who organized the event.

Rabbi Blanchard spoke again at the Alliance on the morning of Feb. 26 — but this time, to a group of his rabbinic peers.

JOHN LANDRY (jtlandry@verizon.net), a Providence resident, is a member of The Voice & Herald's editorial board.

IF YOU WANT to post comments on this provocative talk, visit jvhri.org, and add your thoughts at the conclusion of the online story. The Voice & Herald welcomes thoughtful discourse on any of its published material.

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OneHappyCamper.org



Consul General Shai Bazak offers insights to Israeli elections

Israel knows how to defend itself against Iran

BY JONATHAN STANZLER
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — Paraphrasing Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities," Shai Bazak, Israel's consul general of Israel to New England, said that 2013 is, for Israel, "the best of times and the worst of times."

Speaking to some 50 Jewish community members at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Bazak cited Israel's strong economy whose technology sector is among the world's most advanced and a life expectancy ranked by the United Nations as the eighth highest in the world.

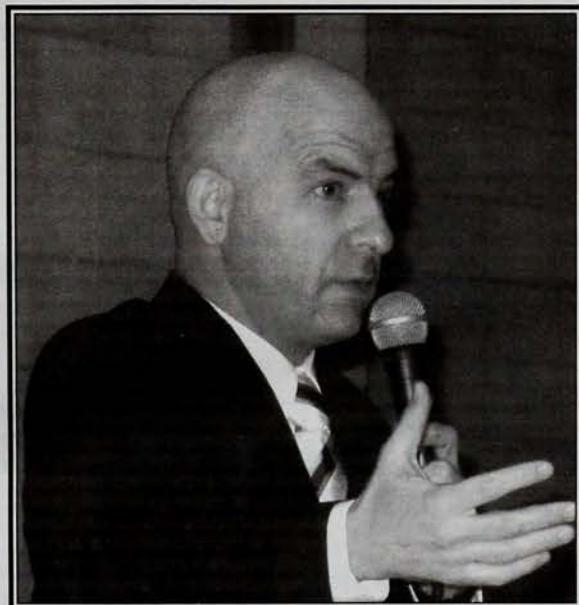
"PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP HAS not been courageous enough to make decisions for peace."

On the other hand, Israel continues to struggle with complicated security issues that include, said Bazak, a "very unstable Gaza," an Egypt with many economic problems and

a Syria in the throes of civil war. Israel, he said, is threatened "more than any other country in the world," with "65,000 rockets" pointed at her.

However, with help from the United States, her greatest ally, and the American Jewish community, Israel can approach its problems with confidence, asserted Bazak, whose office is in Boston. "We are an island of civility," he said, and a "strong outpost of the West in the Middle East."

About Israel's late January election, he noted that there



JONATHAN STANZLER
Shai Bakak, consul general of Israel to New England, speaks at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

were 34 parties on the ballot; of those, 12 garnered enough votes to gain seats in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Bazak believes that the coalition that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will put together, post-election, will be more moderate than his previous government had been. The election results, a surprise to many, were, he said, "more about economic conditions than about the peace process." In what he called a "refreshing change from the usual," Bazak noted that major issues were housing and economic justice. He fully expects Netanyahu's new coalition government to be in place before President Obama's visit to Israel this spring.

A spirited question-and-an-

swer session followed Bazak's presentation. Talking at length about Iran, he indicated there were no real disagreements between the political sides on the perceived threat from Iran. "Everyone understands the danger," he said. "While no one wants war with Iran, Israel will defend itself together with the U.S., Europe and other free nations." Although he expressed hope that current and future economic sanctions will work, if there is no other choice, Israel "always knows how to defend" itself, he said. Reminding those present that Iran is a "very dangerous regime" that wants to hurt not just Israel, but the United States and Europe as well, he attributed responsibility for most of the world's ter-

rorism to Iran.

Most Israelis, he indicated, support a two-state solution, but he asserted that Palestinian leadership, he said, has not been "courageous enough" to make decisions for peace. The only way to achieve peace is for the Palestinians and the Arab nations "to know that the U.S. stands 100 percent behind Israel," he said. He praised the United States as the first superpower in history whose goal is to "use its power to help others rather than to enslave them." The U.S. and Israel, standing together, "share a vision of the future and this will lead to peace."

Asked at the Feb. 12 forum, which was sponsored by the Alliance's Community Relations Council and the RING, about Israel's relations with President Obama, he characterized the relationship as "strong." Our mutual relationship, he said, is based on "common values, the Bible, tradition and our histories."

He noted that Israel has weathered disagreements with past administrations, and added that Israel is looking forward to President Obama's visit.

Regarding the roles of religious parties and the ultra-Orthodox in Israeli society, Bazak noted that religious parties are a minority but have historically affected policy in Israel, especially about issues clarifying who is Jewish and who can be married there.

"Political circumstances," he said, make it "difficult to make changes in laws on religion." The avoidance of military service by *haredi*, ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel has become a crucial issue, one that he predicts will change in the aftermath of the January elections.

JONATHAN STANZLER (jonstanzler@gmail.com), a lawyer in private practice, is a member of The Jewish Voice & Herald's editorial board.



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Israeli pianist Alon Goldstein shares his insights into music, Judaism and holding dual citizenships

Virtuoso visits Rhode Island; Philharmonic's new Steinway concert grand piano

By PHILIP EIL
Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE – In the last five months, Israeli pianist Alon Goldstein has performed in Mexico, Peru, Argentina,

Turkey, England, Canada and his native Israel, among other countries. And that's just his international work. Here in his adopted home country, he has graced stages from Bangor, Maine to Fresno, Calif. and

Hart, Mich. to Jacksonville, Fla., and dozens of others.

On the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 13, Goldstein came to Rhode Island for a



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recital to dedicate the Rhode Island Philharmonic's new, nine-foot, Model D Steinway & Sons concert grand piano. It was an instrument that the pianist had helped select during painstaking, all-day tinkering and listening sessions at the Steinway factory in Queens, N.Y.

Onstage at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Goldstein's approach to the piano was something akin to an F-1 race-car driver whipping his new toy around the racetrack at top

speed. (Indeed, he compared the pianos he plays in the world's top concert halls to Ferraris.) By the end of the performance – from the bellowing lower-register roars of Ludwig van Beethoven to the shimmering cascades of notes from Franz Liszt to the frenetic, triumphant dances of Alberto Ginastera – there was little doubt that this gleaming new instrument onstage had been the right choice. To finish the show – as if offering the audience a tiny, delicate, sugary confection af-

ter an enormous meal – Goldstein returned to the stage to deliver a brief, exquisite Chopin prelude.

I caught up with him for a phone interview when he was at home in Maryland a few days after the recital. The interview has been edited and condensed.

Q: Can you tell me a bit about the experience of selecting the piano?

A: I've played hundreds of pianos before, so there are certain things that you are looking for,

ISRAELI | 15

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with special guest Judith Manassen-Ramon the film's producer
"Q&A sessions were great in the past year, with all audiences. The film raises many questions and it is always an interesting discussion," said Manassen-Ramon.

For more information contact Erin Moseley at 401.421.4111 ext. 108 or emoseley@shalomri.org.

The Alliance JCC is a division of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

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ISRAELI pianist recently visited Rhode Island

From Page 14

certain things you are searching in terms of character, in terms of soul. [And] there were certain pieces – a Schubert impromptu, a prelude by Chopin – things where I wanted to see what comes out ... [a] kind of meaningful sound that would penetrate my heart. So I think we got a wonderful instrument. It's such a big undertaking; it doesn't happen every year or two. It's something that needs to serve the orchestra for a decade, maybe two decades, I don't know, maybe longer. It in some ways reinforces the level of this wonderful orchestra. When you're now getting a brand new Steinway, I mean, it puts you on that highest level.

Q: What does being Jewish mean to you?

A: When you see, all over the world – in this country, every country – Jewish heritage ... we talk about musicians, pianists, you know from Vladimir Horowitz to Arthur Rubinstein; more contemporary, to Daniel Barenboim, Radu Lupu ... more contemporary, Evgeny Kissin. You just have powerhouse after powerhouse of musicians who are a source of inspiration. But [also] for me, being a Jew and being Israeli is one. I cannot be a Jew and not connect it to Israel. So there's also that element of feeling that you're an ambas-

sador. And I love that. I embrace that. I actually hope people will ask me about Israel or Judaism or the two together, because I think there is so much misinformation out there.

Q: You are a dual citizen of

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**the United States and Israel.
Can you offer any insight
into the two cultures, having
lived in them both?**

A: When you're a citizen of Israel, you embrace a lot of responsibility. It's part of your culture. It's how you're brought up. You're supposed to go to the army and of course, to pay high taxes. But it's also just the way of how you feel towards the country, how much you care for it. And I remember one of the things [I noticed] when I came to study here in my early

20s; I was a little shocked about many of the students that I studied with, how much they took the U.S. for granted. They didn't really understand what an amazing country they live in. It's almost like a culture of entitlement rather than of responsibility. Now, of course, not to generalize, but I'm sure you know what I mean ... When I decided to become a [U.S.] citizen, I saw a huge list of responsibilities in front of me, none of which had anything to do with being entitled to anything. I felt very fortunate that this country allowed me to be one of its citizens. And full of gratitude.

I had an experience once ... [at] a luncheon that I was attending in the Midwest where someone who heard that I had become a citizen gave me [an American] flag to wear. And I never wore a flag of Israel so I didn't really feel like I'm going to wear a flag of the U.S. But I, you know, [I said], 'Thank you very much,' and I put it in my pocket.

This person saw me, and he said, 'Oh, you're not patriotic! You don't wear the flag!'

And then I told him what, for me, being patriotic means. And I mentioned to him an occasion where I went and played for a facility [for people with mental disabilities] in Coal City Ill. I [have been] to about 80 different places – retirement homes,

rotary clubs, colleges, schools. One of these places was the [facility]. So, I usually have an official concert or a concert with an orchestra or a concert that's just a solo recital, but I offer to come a day or two before and play – obviously unpaid – in a school or wherever one wants [me] to. The only thing I ask is to have a piano, which has been tuned.

PHILIP EIL (Philip.edward.eil@gmail.com), a contributing writer to The Voice & Herald, teaches English at Rhode Island School of Design.

For more about Alon Goldstein – whose website notes that he made his orchestral debut at age 18, playing with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta – see alongoldstein.com. Goldstein is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Md.

Editor 'ISO' (in search of) stories beyond greater Providence

Jewish Voice & Herald staff welcomes ideas, suggestions and recommendations

PROVIDENCE – Are you among the people who think that there is no Jewish life in greater Rhode Island beyond the borders of Providence?

Contrary to what some may believe, greater Providence is neither home to the entire greater Rhode Island Jewish community nor is it the focus of all news and feature stories in The Jewish Voice & Herald.

In an effort to continue to expand reporting outside the

greater Providence area, The Jewish Voice & Herald is soliciting stories from people about Jewish news and events throughout greater Rhode Island.

Although we would like to believe we have our fingers on the pulse of "all things Jewish in greater Rhode Island," with our lean staff, we know that's not entirely possible.

As we may not hear and see everything that's newsworthy,

give us a call (401-4111, ext. 168) or send us an email (nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: ALL THE NEWS).

We want to make the paper as user-friendly and accessible and meaningful as possible – and we can do so with our readers' input!

We want to hear your ideas, suggestions and recommendations – in and out of greater Providence. Thank you.



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Save the self-pity, choices abound for Passover meals

Food that should appeal to even the pickiest Seder-goer

BY HELEN NASH

(JTA) — For the many who feel overwhelmed by Passover because of the demands of cooking without leaven, a word or two: That should not be an obstacle.

After all, on this most celebrated of Jewish holidays, we are allowed to eat fish, meat, poultry, eggs, nuts, fruits, most vegetables and fresh herbs.

All of the recipes featured here are nutritious, attractive, flavorful and easy to prepare. They emphasize fresh, seasonal

ingredients, fewer complicated techniques, and stylish, elegant dishes. What more would you want for Passover?

The Seder meals, when we recount the Exodus story, are the most important events of the holiday. Most people, like me, favor their own traditional menu. Each year, I repeat the Seder menu as a way to hold on to cherished family traditions.

The recipes [and color picture] are from my new cookbook, "Helen Nash's New Kosher Cuisine" (August 2012, Overlook Press).

Beet soup

With their magnificent color, delicious flavor and vitamin richness, beets are one of my favorite vegetables. In the summer I serve this soup at room temperature; in the winter I like it hot.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 pounds beets, plus 1 small beet for garnish
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small red onion, sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 McIntosh apple, peeled and sliced
- 4 1/2 cups vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon dark brown sugar
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Method

Peel and slice the beets (see note below). Heat the oil in a medium saucepan. Add the onion, garlic and apple, and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the beets and broth. Bring to a boil over high heat. Lower the heat and cook, covered, for about 30 minutes, until the beets are tender. Cool a little.

While the soup is cooking, wrap the reserved beet tightly in foil. Bake in a toaster oven at 400 degrees for 30 minutes, or until just tender when pierced with the tip of a paring knife. Cool, slip off the skin and grate.

Puree the soup in a blender until very smooth. Season to taste with the vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper.

To serve, garnish with the grated beet.

Makes 6 servings.

Note: I always wear thin plastic gloves when I work with beets, as this avoids staining my fingers with beet juice, which can be hard to remove.



Stir-fried spinach

This is a delicious recipe that captures the very essence of spinach. Now that prewashed spinach is so readily available, you can prepare this dish in minutes.

Ingredients

- 20 ounces prewashed spinach
- 1 1/2 tablespoons pine nuts
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Method

Break the stems off the spinach leaves and discard. Roast the pine nuts in a toaster oven on the lowest setting for 1 or 2 minutes, until they are golden. (Watch them carefully, as they burn quickly.)

Heat a wok over high heat until hot. Add the oil. Add the spinach and stir quickly until it is just wilted, no more than a minute; season with salt and pepper. With a slotted spoon, transfer the spinach to a serving dish. Sprinkle the pine nuts on top.

Makes 6 servings.



Marinated salmon

This is a variation on the traditional pickled salmon sold in every Jewish delicatessen. The difference: The salmon is more delicate and less vinegary, and has a richer color. It makes a perfect Shabbat luncheon dish. Note that the fish should marinate for 2 to 3 days before serving!

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 4 tablespoons rice vinegar
(for Passover, replace with white wine vinegar)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 small red onion, very thinly sliced (see note below)
- 15 dill sprigs, snipped finely with scissors, plus 2 sprigs, snipped, for garnish
- 6 skinless center-cut salmon fillets (about 6 ounces each)



Method

In a medium bowl, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar and salt. Add pepper to taste. Pour the marinade over the salmon, add the onion and sprinkle with the 15 snipped sprigs of dill. Cover the dish with wax paper, then foil and refrigerate for 2 to 3 days without turning.

Bring the salmon to room temperature. Place on individual plates along with some of the marinade and onions. Garnish with the fresh snipped dill; makes 6 servings.

Note: I use a mandoline to slice the onion, as it makes the cutting easier.

HELEN NASH'S NEW KOSHER CUISINE

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Chicken with potatoes and olives

I am always pleased to come up with a dish that is a meal in itself – one that combines either chicken or meat with vegetables.

This is one of my favorites, and because it is so easy to make, I often serve it at Passover. I bake it in an attractive casserole, so it can go directly from the oven to the table.

Ingredients

- 5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 9 garlic cloves
- Kosher salt
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Leaves from 10 thyme sprigs
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
(about 6 ounces each)
- 5 plum tomatoes
- 1 pound Yukon gold potatoes, unpeeled, quartered
- 1/2 cup pitted black olives, quartered



Method

Preheat oven to 450. With 1 tablespoon of the oil, grease a glass, ceramic or enamel-lined baking pan that can hold all the vegetables in a single layer.

Coarsely chop 4 garlic cloves on a cutting board. Sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon salt and, using a knife, crush them into a paste. Place the paste in a small bowl and combine it with the lemon juice, 2 tablespoons of the oil, half of the thyme leaves and pepper to taste.

Pat dry the chicken breasts with paper towels and season lightly on both sides with salt and pepper. Coat the chicken with the mixture and set aside.

Bring a pot of water to a boil. Drop the tomatoes into the boiling water; bring the water back to a boil and drain. Core the tomatoes and slip off the skin. Cut the tomatoes in half widthwise and squeeze gently to remove the seeds. (Some seeds will remain.) Cut the tomatoes in quarters.

Thickly slice the remaining 5 garlic cloves and spread them in the prepared baking pan along with the tomatoes, potatoes, olives, the rest of the thyme leaves, and the remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Roast the vegetables, uncovered, for 20 minutes, or until almost tender.

Place the chicken breasts on top of the vegetables and bake, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Turn them over, spoon on some pan juices and bake for another 5 minutes, or until the chicken is slightly pink on the inside. Cover with foil for 1 minute.

Makes 4 servings.

SEDER meals may include healthy and enticing choices

From Page 16

Chicken salad with radicchio and pine nuts

This is a colorful and delicious salad with an interesting mixture of textures and tastes. The currants and pine nuts add an unusual Mediterranean piquancy.

Ingredients

1 small red onion, very thinly sliced
 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 6 ounces each)
 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil for greasing the chicken
 Kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper
 1 head radicchio, shredded
 1 to 2 bunches arugula, leaves torn if they are large
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup loosely packed flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped



Method

Place the onion slices in a small bowl and cover with cold water. Let stand for 30 minutes. Drain and pat dry. Place in a large serving bowl.

Pat the chicken dry with paper towels and grease with oil; season lightly with salt and pepper.

Place each chicken breast in the center of a piece of cling wrap and wrap it so that it is completely covered. Place the packages in a steamer, cover and steam over high heat for about 9 minutes. (The inside of the chicken should still be pale pink.) Turn off the heat and let stand for 1 minute.

Remove the chicken and cool, still wrapped. When cool, unwrap the chicken and cut it on the diagonal into thin strips. Place in the bowl with the onions.

Makes 6 servings.

Sweet and sour dressing

Ingredients

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup extra virgin olive oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pine nuts
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins or currants
 2 tablespoons Marsala wine
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar



Method

Heat the oil in a saucepan.

Add the pine nuts and raisins and sauté over low heat until the pine nuts are lightly golden.

Remove from the heat and add the Marsala and vinegar.

Add the radicchio, arugula and parsley to the chicken and onions; toss with the dressing. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

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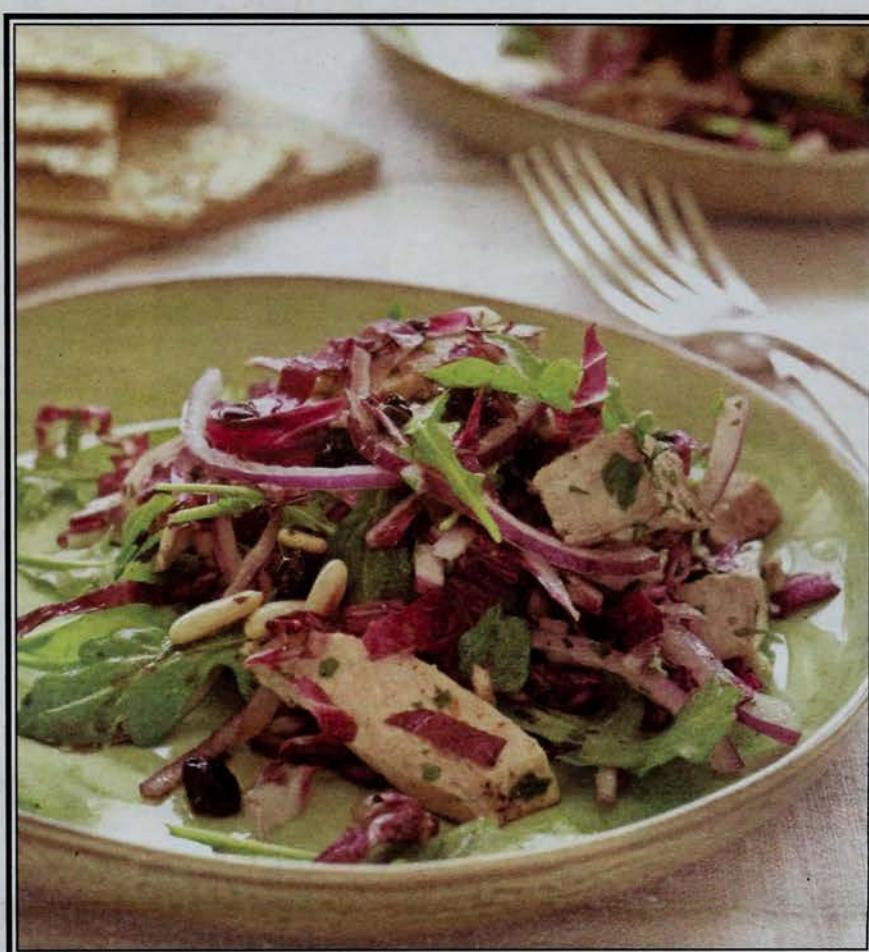
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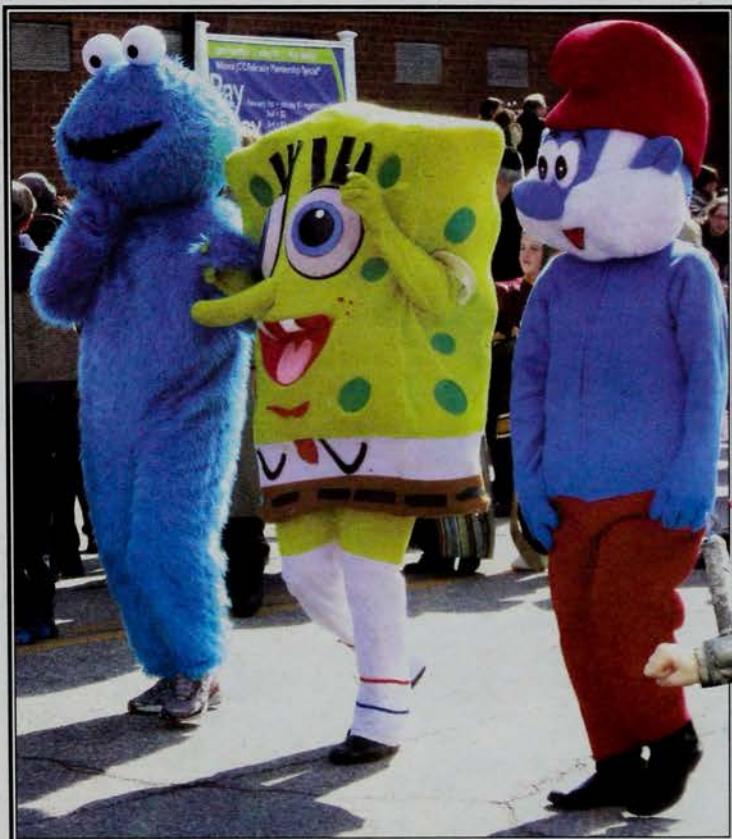
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Cartoon characters are in abundance at the NERC Purim Parade.

PHOTOS | ARTHUR C. NORMAN

No rain on this parade.

Delayed start of Purim parade was no deterrent to fun

By ARTHUR C. NORMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Nearly 200 "kids" of all ages took part in this year's Purim parade, sponsored by the New England Rabbinical College. Led by Master of Ceremonies Dovid Michaeli, the spirited gathering walked or rode bicycles, tricycles, motorcycles, baby carriages, mini-train cars, horses, a fire engine, a band float or a U.S. Army Humvee.

The Feb. 25 parade route differed from last year's route, which fooled not only veteran parade watcher Al Weiner, but also Providence Police Department escorts charged with closing the appropriate streets to automobile traffic.

to mention an equal number of "Queen Mums" – along with many Mordechais, King Ahasueruses, the odd Haman or two, George Washington, a Confederate soldier and a bagpiper. Yisroel Yavner as a hamantashen-dispensing clown stood out from the crowd, as did Mordechai Bielory, below.

A lead up to the more somber – yet gratitude-filled – holiday of Pesach, Purim is indeed the Jewish holiday of merry-making and festivities for kids of all ages.



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



Mordechai Bielory is dressed as a "menorah man."

More than one parent expressed gratitude that the parade was postponed one day, thus avoiding the wet wintry mix of Sunday's weather.

This reporter spotted nearly two dozen Queen Esthers – not

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ARTHUR C. NORMAN
Master of Ceremonies Dovid MichaeliE. BRESLER
New England Rabbinical College students demonstrate their passion for Purim.ARTHUR C. NORMAN
Sesame Street's Grover joins Shua Himes.NICOLE KATZMAN
Bob Sousa, a teacher in the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Early Childhood Center

NICOLE KATZMAN

All dressed for Purim: Patty Abrames, a teacher in the Early Childhood Center's Room 6, holds a baby who appears fascinated by Abrames' headwear. With them are Willene Aubin, lead teacher in Room 4 and Jordan Harpel, an ECC assistant in Room 6.

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Local marathoner starts dog-running business

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BUSINESS PROFILE

BY KENDRA LOLIO
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE — Meet Clayton Roth, dog lover and owner of Canine Cardio Company of Rhode Island, a dog-running business.

After conducting a free assessment of a dog's fitness level, Roth determines the best fitness plan for the particular pup. Before and after putting in a full day as assistant director of Jewish Seniors Agency's To Life Center Adult Day Services, Roth runs his clients' dogs in the morning and evening.

A marathon runner for the last 10 years, Roth started the company this past October, after being a longtime fan of running with his dog Lucy, while simultaneously training for marathons.

"I love that [this company] combines two of my passions in life — running and dogs," Roth said.

Just as people benefit from regular exercise, so, too, do their dogs, he said, adding, "They are so happy when they get out." Without proper exercise, dogs often develop bad habits such as chewing, excessive barking and hyperactivity. "A tired puppy is a good puppy," said Roth.

In addition to customer-friendly prices, Roth's fully insured company offers a Power Paws Punch Card, a "frequent user" reward system that offers one free 20-minute run after 10 prior exercise runs.

With a handful of loyal clients, the company welcomes



CLAYTON ROTH
Clayton Roth and his black Lab mix, Lucy.

serving more dog owners who may not have the time or physical ability to properly exercise their pooch.

Roth is canine CPR-certified and a member of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS).

KENDRA LOLIO (kollo_8996@email.ric.edu), a senior at Rhode Island College, is an intern with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

CANINE CARDIO COMPANY of Rhode Island: Clayton Roth: 919-2267 or caninecardiori.com.

THIS IS ONE of a series of business profiles about local companies, some of which advertise with this newspaper.



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RABBINICAL DOG



JOE FRIEDMAN

Blaze, the 'rabbinical dog'

Joe Friedman sent this note explaining "Rabbinical Dog." He, his wife Lisa and their children, of Barrington, sometimes babysit for Lisa's parents' toy poodle, Blaze.

Jonathan, Joe and Lisa's son, makes sure that Blaze — who sleeps in his room in a bed adjacent to his own — is comfortable, kisses him goodnight and provides a blanket and pillow

on the bed.

Blaze sometimes wraps things around himself to get cozy. When Jonathan tried to wrap a blanket around Blaze, it looked as if he was wearing a tallit. He looked like a "rabbinical dog."

Blaze lives with Lisa's parents, Howard and Temma Holland of Barrington.

With no bark, no bite, V&H brings pet ownership data to its readers

More cats than dogs in the U.S.

Dogs

- There are approximately 78.2 million owned dogs.
- Thirty-nine percent of households own at least one dog.
- Sixty percent of dog owners only own one dog; 28 percent own two; 12 percent own three or more dogs.
- The proportion of male to female dogs is even.
- Twenty-one percent of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter.
- Seventy-eight percent of owned dogs are spayed or neutered.
- Dog owners spent on average \$248 on veterinary care — including vaccines and well visits — each year.

Cats

- There are approximately 86.4 million owned cats.
- Thirty-three percent own at least one cat.
- Fifty-two percent of owners own more than one cat.
- More female cats are owned than male cats (80 percent versus 65 percent respectively).
- Twenty-one percent of owned cats were adopted from an animal shelter.
- Cat owners spent an average of \$219 on routine veterinary visits.
- Eighty-eight percent of owned cats are spayed or neutered.

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Pets in our Lives



CINNAMON – The female Golden Doodle, stands on the back deck. Apparently Storm Nemo turned her into a "Dogscicle." Her "parents," Joe and Lisa Friedman, of Barrington, think that she is saying, "Hello, is anyone going to let me back inside? C'mon, mom and dad, had enough fun in the snow for one day!"

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE PET AT: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JVHRI](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JVHRI)
VOTING ENDS MARCH 15; VOTE EARLY, VOTE OFTEN.



SASHA – Vicky and Cliff Karten, of Barrington, wrote, "This is Sasha, our husky 'fur child' that we rescued from a shelter a little over a year ago. We rescued her; however, she deserves recognition because she has done a mitzvah and rescued us as well. She has brought an abundance of love, laughter and life to our home and has done more for us than we could ever do for her. She is a spoiled girl, but one look at her face and how can you deny her anything? If we could make snow every day, we would! Thank you for voting for our beautiful and gentle girl!"

JUNE was adopted from The Seeing Eye in Morristown, N.J., wrote Ida, (formerly of Rhode Island) and Tom Brown of Hopcatong, N.J. "June is now 6-years-old and a certified therapy dog. She brings her 'smile' to nursing homes, hospitals, special events and children's activities. She is very gentle and loves people. She definitely deserves a 'bark or toy' and I hope your readers will agree!"



LOLA – A Havanese, Lola lives with Rob and Mindy Sherwin in Pawtucket.

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Pets in our Lives



WOODY – The Shih Tzu peeks out from behind a couch. His "parents" are Scott Turner and Karen Wargo of Providence.



Peek-a-boo



TEDDY – Teddy awakens from a nap in his favorite spot, burrowed in the clean laundry piled on the couch, the ultimate place for a power nap. Teddy lives with Layne Mayer and her family.



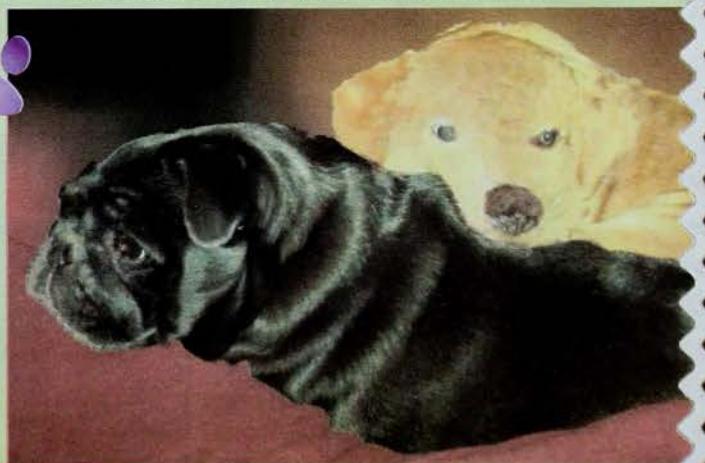
ZIMMY AND LEO – Zimmy, the brown dog, and Leo, the black dog, live with Sue Itkin in Pawtucket.



HAMMER – Owners Neil and Elizabeth Golditch of Johnston wrote, "This is 'Hammer' the Greyhound, former racer, 10-years-old. He is still very fast, and chases squirrels, cats and chickens. He weighs in at 90 pounds, and has a huge appetite. His favorite treats are hot dogs. He would love to be the winning pet."



OSKAR STEARYL – The Bishon-Poodle mix, lives with his dad in Sarasota, Fla. in the winter and in Coventry in the summer.



LANCELOT, the Labrador and **COSMO** the Pug, are the pets of Ava Lopes.

Pets in our Lives



EMMA – Leah Cooper of North Kingstown dressed her cat Emma in a special outfit for Hanukkah last year.



CHARLOTTE, a Coton de Tulear, lives with Bob and Lee Krasner of Rehoboth, Mass.



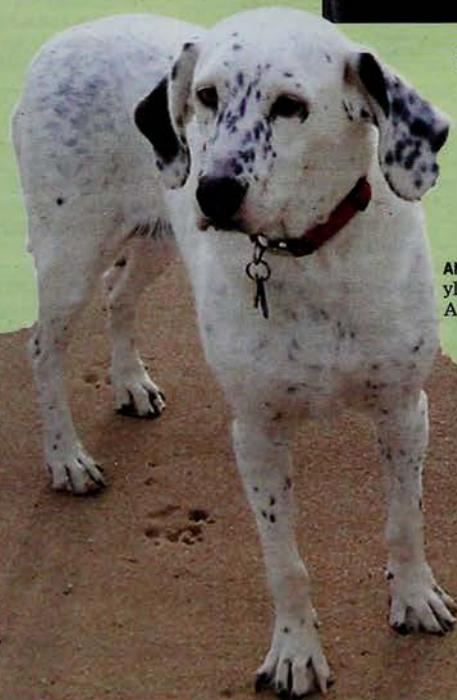
PEACHES –
The Goffin's Cockatoo is perched in her favorite tree. She lives with her favorite friend, Julia, of Coventry.



EOIN – A cattle dog lives with Karen Clarkson.



JACK, left, and **GUS** – Jack, also known as Gunning Island Crackerjacks and Sugarlips, and Gus, also known as Gunning Island As Good As It Gets, live with Gail Solomon and Michael Palatucci in Pawtucket.

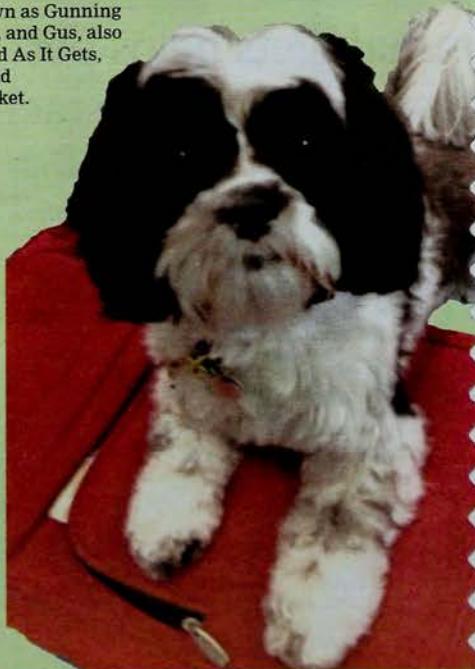


ANDI – Andi lives with Judy Croyle, is a rescue from Little Rock, Ark. Croyle wrote, "She always bring a smile to my face."



ELSIE – The Shih-poo, will turn 4-years-old in April. She lives with Karen Borger, of Providence.

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ARTHUR C. NORMAN

Betty Norman, left, and Porter Pup are pit bull mixes who live with Arthur Norman of Providence.

A dog's tale

Canine covets cleanliness

BY 'BETTY' NORMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - Hi! My name is Betty and I'm writing to all the other dogs, some of whom may be standing over their paper right now. By the way, I'm the gorgeous - and very friendly - brindle and white pit bull/lab mix you may have seen around town or at the dog park.

Please remind your humans to clean up after you. It's no big deal; it just takes a minute, a plastic market or newspaper bag and a neighborly spirit. As the weather clears, my dad and I are seeing more new dogs walking about and, unfortunately, evidence of their presence. No, I'm talking about your "presents" and it is not a funny situation. Besides being unsightly and unfriendly, your poop (Hey, it is what it

is!) may contain viruses and parasites that can be harmful or even fatal to puppies. I love puppies. Don't we all?!

Not only that, but it's also a Rhode Island law to clean up immediately after we do our business. One lady told my dad that she would "come back later" to clean up after her dog even after he offered her one of the extra bags he always carries with him. We both shook our heads over that one. So dogs, please train your humans to be good neighbors (praise helps). My name is Betty and I have an abiding faith that people will do the right thing if given the chance.

'BETTY' NORMAN is one of two canine companions of Arthur C. Norman (abcnorman@aol.com), editorial consultant to The Jewish Voice & Herald.

Terminal4Pets helps pet owners transition to Israel

Are you moving to Israel with pets? Terminal4Pets, the Israeli pet travel agency, can help travelers with pets. According to information from the company, it offers these services:

- Veterinarian procedures of vaccinations, pre-flight and after-flight checks, rabies blood test, microchip, etc.

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Families can be more active with a pet.

The joys of pet ownership

Pet ownership can benefit all family members

BY GRACE DAYIAN,
LICSW
Special to The Voice & Herald

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

Anatole France

PROVIDENCE - This winter has truly lived up to its reputation: cold, dark and long. Since it may be a few long weeks before any reassuring signs of spring appear, why not get a jump on spring and bring some new life into your home in the form of a pet? Having a pet can bring many mental health benefits for both adults and kids.

Whether you're an adult or a child, a pet may provide an important source of comfort and companionship. A dog or cat accepts us for who we are and doesn't judge us. No matter our worries, concerns, failures or disappointments, our pets love us unconditionally, a source of love that can help ease the sharp edges of life's reality.

Spending time with a dog or a cat can help us slow down. Dogs and cats live in the moment, so when we interact with our pet, we create an opportunity for our overscheduled, multi-tasking selves to slow down and enjoy the present. A dog needs walks, of course, which motivates us - no matter our mood or the weather - to get outside and get moving. These forays into the neighborhood not only give us good physical exercise (which helps our mood) but also give us opportunities to

socialize with our neighbors and build a sense of community. Even more significant, a pet's playfulness can create many moments of humor and allow us a chance to laugh and be silly, a true antidote to the winter blahs.

Kids benefit even more from having pets than do the adults at home. In addition to the benefits already noted, studies show that pets can actually help children with learning. In one study, children were asked to read aloud in front of a peer, an adult or

"A RELATIONSHIP WITH a pet will also create a warmth in your heart."

a dog. Researchers monitored children's stress levels and found that the children were most relaxed around the animal. If you know a child who is struggling with reading or math, having a pet nearby may cultivate a relaxed approach to learning.

Nurturing animals also helps children develop important relationship skills. By interacting with their pet, they can practice understanding perspective and can begin to understand nonverbal communication. In addition, because kids love animals, having a relationship with a pet

provides kids topics of conversation when making new friends or talking to existing friends. In most cultures, girls traditionally are encouraged and expected to practice nurturing skills through doll play or, when they grow older, babysitting.

Boys have fewer culturally conditioned ways to practice these skills. A pet can give boys opportunities to develop and practice nurturing skills.

Having children take age-appropriate responsibility in caring for a pet teaches them responsibility and develops their self-esteem.

Finally, having a pet can help build family bonds. A pet is often the focus of activities that families do together - be it taking the dog for a walk or joining the cat at its warm spot on the sofa. Sharing love and concern for a pet can knit a family together even during the tumultuous teen years.

By opening your home to a pet, you may reap great mental health benefits for you and your family. A relationship with a pet will also create a warmth in your heart that may even help you forget winter!

GRACE DAYIAN, LICSW (grace@jfsri.org) is a social worker with Jewish Family Service, a nonprofit organization serving individuals and families in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts, regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or economic status: 331-1244 or jfsri.org.

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Doggie day-care, doggie training at new facility

Understanding one's canine companion

WARWICK – Bow chika Wow Town, an off-leash, climate-controlled, indoor dog park is partnering with Courteous Canine to help dog owners better understand and control their canines.

"Many of our regulars have had negative experiences with socializing their dogs in public areas," said Bow chika Wow Town owner Alisa Paykos-Theurer, in a press release which also stated that the company is the first such off-leash, climate-controlled, indoor dog park in Rhode Island.

Offering a play park, day-care and pet hotel, the facility, off Post Road near T.F. Green Airport in Warwick includes 8,700 square feet of play areas, round-the-clock supervision and boarding suites. Dogs that come to Bow chika Wow Town

BUSINESS PROFILE

must be fully vaccinated and either spayed or neutered.

More than offering a play space for dogs, Bow chika Wow Town is committed to helping dog owners understand their dogs' body language, reinforce appropriate play and identify tools to keep their dogs safe in public areas.

"The number one training tool we consistently emphasize to owners is a

"Come when called," said Paykos-Theurer in the release. "A rapid recall not only empowers the owner while in a dog park, but it can be used in many other situations to keep control of their pet. If owners have difficulty regaining control of

their dog, a dog park isn't the appropriate place to play."

Dog owners who want to eliminate embarrassing pet behavior may register online for training at Bow chika Wow Town. For more information and tips, visit <http://www.bowchikawowntown.com/blog/>.

The company, an LLC, offers different packages for half-day, all day or overnight dog visits.

BOW CHIKA WOW TOWN: 737-2900 or bowchikawowntown.com.

COURTEOUS CANINE: 954-2699 or courteouscanine.com.

THIS IS ONE of a series of business profiles about local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

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When death cometh to man's best friend

Grieving the loss of a beloved pet

By HERB WEISS

PAWTUCKET – Like many of my fellow aging baby boomers who are childless or even empty nesters, I am a pet owner. Over the years, my pets have evolved into my pampered little "children" and have become my faithful companions. However, when death comes to our little furry, four-legged friends, coping can make even the most intellectual person shed rivers of tears.

The end is near

An early morning call from our veterinary clinic delivered a message we were not prepared to hear: "Murray's temperature had soared to 105 and his system was beginning to shut down."

Murray, our 13-year-old diabetic chocolate Labrador also had arthritis that reduced his movements to a very painful crawl. The vet recommended we come to the office as soon as possible to end Murray's suffering.

Just two days earlier, concern with Murray's declining health led us to take him to the vet for a blood glucose check. Maybe his blood sugar was not under control. We expected that adjusting the amount of insulin he received would be an easy fix. Or perhaps the new medicine prescribed to reduce his arthritic pain would finally make it easier for him to walk again. Our faithful frail pet, blind from cataracts, was well into his 90s, if you calculate his age in terms of human years. Saying goodbye to what you love does not come easy.

We drove in silence to the vet's



Murray, the chocolate Lab

PATTY ZACKS

office. Tears flowed as we drove past each landmark while flashbacks of fond memories brought me back to happier days over the last decade. In my mind's eye, I watched a younger Murray chase a bouncing yellow tennis ball in my backyard or belly dive into the Slater Park pond when no one was looking to chase the swans or Canadian geese.

For 13 years, Murray, our "little boy" gave us comfort – always by our side. Now the time had come to put him down. On Sunday, June 5, 2011, in the sparse examining room, we approached Murray, lying uncomfortably on top of a floor scale cushioned by an old blanket.

He was panting and his eyes fixed forward. I noticed the portal injected in his back leg – ready to accept the lethal dose. In a matter of seconds, when I gave the doctor the OK, she would begin the medical procedure to put my pet out of his pain.

My then longtime girlfriend

(and now my wife) Patty and her son Ben tearfully bent over, saying their goodbyes – stroking him, making sure he knew he was not alone. Stroking his face, I whispered one last "good boy." With tears rolling down my cheeks, I knew it was time to end his suffering. Calling for the lethal pink drug led to a quick injection of that deadly substance. Within seconds, our chocolate Lab lay motionless on the blanket.

Murray's collar, plastic bowl, worn black leash, chewy toys and a few old photographs are the few tangible items reminding us of his existence as a member of our family. Our memories are plentiful. While grieving his loss, those special times swiftly came back to me: His backseat rides in our car with his head hanging out the window and how warmly he accepted the adoption of a rescue

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MULTISENSORY program using birds designed to benefit those with dementia

dence Kennel Club.

Now, thanks to a new program called Bird Tales, created by Ken Elkins, an Audubon Society educator, and Randy Griffin, R.N., a private consultant teaching techniques for caregivers of individuals with dementia, birds offer cognitive and creative experiences for such individuals.

Tamarisk Assisted Living's Renaissance Memory Support Program (Renaissance Program), which currently has 21 residents, is the only location in Rhode Island now using Bird Tales.

In Connecticut, five eldercare communities are piloting the Bird Tales program, thanks to financial and operational support from long-term care provider TransCon.

This program builds on the Renaissance Program's innovative resident activity plan and staff training, which has been in existence since Tamarisk first opened 10 years ago. Now, Betty Smith, Renaissance Program director, will lead team of staff members to engage residents with dementia in the Bird Tales programming.

By encouraging participants to engage in interesting projects and plan the creation of healthy habitats for wild birds, the recently released Bird Tales kit



Marge Halloway, an activity assistant at Tamarisk, hands a plush bird to Evelyn Brown, center. Brown and Lokie Freeman, Tamarisk residents, share their memories of local birds.

combines best practices in dementia care with the therapeutic power of animals and nature.

Although the program is designed for those with dementia, all Tamarisk residents are invited to participate in the program — some actively, some passively — and all according to their ability and interest.

According to Griffin, participants experience Bird Tales in a multisensory way using soft, plush bird models and reminiscence exercises meant to stimulate sight, touch and sound. In

addition, participants are able to observe live birds on feeders or at a distance, sometimes with binoculars. Classes can be held indoors or outside, seven days per week. This program, explained Griffin, author of "Changing the Culture for Dementia Care" (PESI HealthCare - PHC Publishing Group, 2012), brings residents, staff and visitors together to share experiences in a meaningful way.

Last August, Griffin trained Renaissance Program staff to become certified in Culture

Change in Dementia Care. One aspect of the eight-hour training, which addresses creative ways to interact and support those living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, is the Bird Tales program. Tamarisk has allocated \$1,000 for materials and supplies to keep the program, which was launched in January, running for one year.

Bird Tales program's education and programming to address the needs of both people with dementia and native bird populations.

"Nature is one of our best medicines," said Audubon CEO and President David Yarnold in Audubon Society materials. "Bird Tales connects those with dementia to the healing power of birds and creates bird-friendly habitats at the same time."

In addition, Bird Tales' bird sanctuaries must use organic materials for grass and plants, all of which must be pesticide-free. Tamarisk's residents will work with Smith to start a compost area from the existing vegetable garden on-site and to choose appropriate organic materials for the bird sanctuaries.

The new program is already drawing praise from Tamarisk staff and at least one resident of the Renaissance Program. "I have always loved bird-

watching," said resident Evelyn Brown. "From the window near the dining table, I watch the weather and the birds. Recently, we have seen robins and cardinals come to the birdhouse and the yard."

"When I saw the beautiful layout and outdoor plantings [at Tamarisk]," said Griffin, "I knew Bird Tales would flourish [there]; I was impressed by the teamwork of the staff."

"Those committing to the program must dedicate a space that will become a bird sanctuary," said Smith. "Our residents love nature and our beautiful backyard is a perfect place for this. [Our residents] are very excited about planning the habitat."

Tamarisk has already been involved with the Rhode Island Audubon Society for many years through its nature education programs, which brings red-tail hawks and other prey birds to visit for live presentations.

BIRD TALES INFORMATION/PURCHASE: Bird Tales: Health Profession Press Inc. (healthprofessionpress.com) or Audubon.org.

ROBERTA RAGGE (robertas@tamariskri.org) is executive director of Tamarisk Assisted Living Facility in Warwick.

GRIEF RECEDES, but memories linger forever

From Page 25

dog, Abby — a younger chocolate Labrador — into our household. Our pet's death did have the same emotional impact for Party and me as experiencing the loss of a parent, sibling or even a close friend. Some have told me that they would never have

another dog or cat because of the intense and emotional pain and trauma they experienced. Murray was cremated and his ashes have been placed in a wooden box, which sits on the mantle of our living room fireplace. Someday, we will bury his ashes in his favorite stomping grounds, our back yard.

Grieving your loss

My family and pet owners worldwide know the pain of losing a pet considered to be one of the family. It took months for our grieving dog Abby to eat normally again. Sometimes, she walks

the house wondering where her companion is, sniffing areas around the house that still has Murray's scent.

On her website (<http://www.pet-loss.net>), Moira Anderson Allen, M.Ed., author of "Coping with Sorrow on the Loss of Your Pet," states that intense grief over the loss of your pet is both "normal and natural." While some people may not understand your strong emotional bond to your pet and pain after the pet dies, "all that matters is how you feel," Allen writes.

Grieving pet owners can express their feelings about and

memories of their deceased pet in poems, stories and letters to the pet, Allen said. While feeling the loss, the person may feel guilt for not doing enough, denial of the death and anger at the vet who failed to save the pet. Grieving can also cause depression.

"Don't deny your pain and grief — acknowledge your feelings," noted Allen, who recommends that a grieving pet owner work through feelings with family and friends, the vet or seek out a pet loss counselor or support group. As we grieve, life continues with the day-to-day activities,

strangely healing our pain. We will always remember Murray, the best dog and companion we have had in our more than five decades of living.

HERB WEISS (hweiss@ao.com) is a Pawtucket-based freelance writer.

A LONGER VERSION of this story appeared in the Nov. 23, 2012 issue of the Pawtucket Times, which granted permission to The Voice & Herald to publish this edited version.

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ISRAELI musicians will perform in free concert in Providence

From Page 2

ing individuals and families in need.

The Alliance, does not currently allocate any funds to the Conservatory, which Meidan said, offers instruction to some 500-600 students each year.

The Wind Orchestra's 50 or so instrumentalists are all high school students who take academic classes in their local public school and then adhere to a rigorous after-school schedule of classes and rehearsals at the Conservatory. These classes,

"WHAT THE KIDS love best is meeting local teens."

said Meidan, are so important.

"Three to four times a week they come to the Conservatory, rather than be on Facebook or the computer or [hang out] in the streets of Afula," said Meidan. "We want them to be good citizens; music is not the only thing."

Some 15 years ago, Afula's mayor determined that the city should "offer music lessons to anyone who wants them," said Meidan. The entire Conservatory is funded predominantly by Israel's Ministry of Education and the city of Afula.

Class fees, said Meidan, are subsidized for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Although Afula had long had an orchestra, the then-mayor wanted, Meidan said, "to bring music to every [child] and find a talented [child] and nurture him or her." Conservatory teachers visit Afula's elementary schools each week to provide music classes to children.

Dr. Herbert Rakatansky, chair of the Artistic Committee of the Rhode Island Philharmonic board, also visited the Conservatory. Lauding the Israel's government commitment to the arts, he said, "That shows a societal appreciation of the value of music and presumably other art forms."

Keeping the music going

After students from the Conservatory performed in West Hartford, Conn., when its local federation celebrated Israel's 60th birthday in 2008, tears flowed, said Meidan. Before the group left for their next performance in New London, Conn., individuals who hosted the student performers and audience members bid them a tearful farewell, she said. "What the kids love best," said Meidan, "is meeting local teens or young kids [in the cities in which they perform]."

In addition to overseas perfor-



Israeli music students rehearse.

NANCY KIRSCH

mances in the United States and Europe, the Wind Orchestra regularly performs at all major municipal events and ceremonies in Afula, as well as representing the city at various programs across Israel. It performs pieces for wind ensembles, with a focus on classic repertoire, Israeli repertoire and world music, with a goal of reaching other cultures through music, said Meidan.

As a Jan. 18 story in The Jewish Voice & Herald noted, "Host families sought for Afula Youth Orchestra," the Wind Orchestra won an international competition in Germany in 2006.

Ze'irey Afula is composed of some 20 singers, also between the ages of 16-18, who are graduates of the Conservatory's specialized music classes. Ze'irey Afula, which performs throughout Israel, has also performed in other locales, including the United States.

Calling the Conservatory a "second home" for many of these students, including her own sons, Meidan expressed appreciation to the mayors of Afula who have committed to fully funding the Afula Municipal Conservatory. They recognize, she said, the importance of arts education for all students, but most especially for those whose families may not be able to afford extra-curricular enrichment activities.

With its own building, which includes an extensive array of performance and rehearsal spaces and musical equipment, the Conservatory offers students a welcoming environment.

The visiting Conservatory performers have a full schedule in the U.S. In addition to their Providence performance, they

will perform in several New York venues, Washington, D.C. and New London. Their trip concludes with a day of fun – "big wow," said Meidan – at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Reciprocal relationships

Mission participants visiting Israel (see sidebar at right, "Nu, what's a mission?") were invited to visit the homes of Israelis for an afternoon of "home hospitality." Now, it's an opportunity for residents of the greater Rhode Island Jewish community to demonstrate some of our own home hospitality. The Alliance seeks families who are able to provide sleeping accommodations for the teens, who will be assigned in pairs to each local home during their March 12-14 stay in Rhode Island. Host families will need to provide – or carpool with others – transportation to and from the Alliance. Homes for a few adults are also needed. For the most part, the visiting Israelis, who all speak some English, will spend most of their waking hours at the Alliance, 401 Elmwood Ave., in Providence, and will neither need nor expect any "home entertainment."

Meals will be provided by the Alliance; those offering home hospitality need not keep kosher homes.

We are taught to "welcome the stranger in our midst," so here's an opportunity for us to meet that biblical obligation.

TO HOST STUDENTS/ADULTS: Contact Wendy Joering (wjoering@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 169).

Nu, what's a mission?

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Not every member of the Jewish community knows what a "mission" is, so, in a nutshell, here's a definition.

Jewish federations, including the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island; and umbrella organizations such as the Jewish Agency for Israel or the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee – with which the Alliance partners – often host Jewish-themed trips to Israel, Poland and other countries.

The goals of a mission to Israel, for example, might include simply introducing first-time visitors to the wonders of Israel, reinforcing the need for support of Israeli programs to experienced visitors to Israel or raising money for Israel and/or the entity sponsoring the mission to Israel.

Missions may have a target audience – first-time visitors, multigenerational families, adults only, etc. – and gener-

ally are action-packed. They may include visits to traditional tourist sites – the Western Wall, Masada, Jerusalem's markets, etc. – but they also typically include "behind-the-scenes" tours and information sessions that a non-mission tour may not be able to provide.

This mission to Israel, said Jeffrey Savit, president and chief executive officer of the Alliance, was not a fundraising mission – as some are – but a friend-raising mission.

Given the relatively modest price of \$2,999 (or \$1,999 for individuals under age 45) for the seven-day trip – and each person's pledged donation of a minimum of \$360 to the Alliance's Annual Campaign, the Alliance assumed a portion of the trip's cost.

As noted in earlier articles of The Jewish Voice & Herald, the Women's Alliance is sponsoring a Cuba mission in April for members of the Women's Alliance Lions of Judah: membership requires an annual gift of \$5,000.

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CONGRESSIONAL leaders, Vice President Joe Biden to address AIPAC conference in March

From Page 1

by the Senate and the House of Representatives pass, it would constitute the most explicit congressional sanction for military action against Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program.

An official with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee who spoke on condition of anonymity said the thinking behind this year's theme is the twin urgencies of what appears to be an accelerated Iranian nuclear program and turbulence in Syria and Egypt, both Israel's neighbors. The official also said AIPAC remains as committed as ever to advancing the two-state solution and noted that the peace process did not feature on the legislative agenda of last year's conference, either.

Both dovetail with recent signals from the Israeli government that talks with the Palestinians are not going anywhere soon, and that Iran is the largest looming threat in the region.

The absence of both President Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears to be due to external circumstances more than anything else.

Obama will be visiting Israel just two weeks after the conference – his first visit to the Jewish state as president – obviating the need for the president to deliver another Israel policy speech at AIPAC. In his stead, the administration is sending Vice President Joe Biden, who will address the conference on Monday morning. Obama

has been at four of the last six AIPAC conferences.

For his part, Netanyahu is still trying to cobble together a coalition government following Israel's Jan. 22 elections, in which the prime minister's Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu faction was weakened. Netanyahu will deliver a video message to AIPAC; Ehud Barak, Israel's outgoing defense minister, will address the conference in person.

"THIS IS NO time to cut aid to an ally."

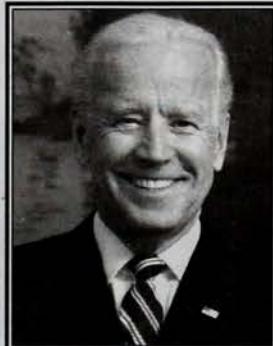
Democratic and Republican leaders in both houses of Congress also will address AIPAC.

Despite the absences, AIPAC expects 13,000 activists, including 2,000 students, to attend the conference – a number commensurate with last year's record-breaker. AIPAC officials say the number is more remarkable in 2013 because it's not an election year.

The AIPAC official interviewed by JTA said that part of what motivates the push to name Israel a major strategic ally is an appeal to maintain defense assistance funding, averaging more than \$3 billion annually, at a time when both



Ehud Barak, Israel's outgoing Minister of Defense, will speak at AIPAC policy conference.



Vice President Joseph Biden is expected to speak at AIPAC's policy conference in Washington, D.C. in early March.

parties are seeking ways to drastically cut spending.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry wrote congressional appropriators last week to warn that across-the-board "sequestration" cuts due to kick in Friday – unless the White House and Congress achieve a compromise – will hit Israel funding, among other things.

"This is no time to cut aid to an ally," the AIPAC official said. Conferring major strategic ally status upon Israel "would mean that the United States and Israel would work together on a cooperative basis on missile defense, homeland security, energy independence, medical research and innovation and military technology," the official said.

The push to name Israel a major strategic ally comports

with a longstanding preference among some leading Republicans to tweak apart assistance for Israel from other foreign aid, which the conservative wing of the party advocates slashing.

The overriding consideration in such a designation, however, was Israel's increasingly close security ties with the United States, in the Middle East and across the globe, where the two nations have collaborated on cyber-security issues, the AIPAC official said. The major strategic ally legislation will be introduced in the House and Senate in the coming days.

Separately, a nonbinding resolution that would call on the president to support Israel "if it is compelled to act against the Iranian nuclear threat" will be introduced in the Senate. The House will consider legislation that would authorize the president to sanction any entity that

trades with Iran.

The conference schedule heavily emphasizes the Iranian threat, Middle East turmoil and the perceived need to intensify further the U.S.-Israel security alliance. There are a few sessions dealing with the Palestinian issue – some with a pronounced skeptical tone when it comes to the peace process.

"Why, despite persistent efforts and an acknowledgment of the general outline for such an agreement, have the parties failed to attain a negotiated peace?" reads the promotional material for one session.

This year's "AIPAC action principles," to be considered by the array of American Jewish groups that makes up AIPAC's executive committee, mention the Palestinians only in the context of keeping them from advancing toward statehood outside the confines of negotiations but do not explicitly endorse the two-state solution. Most of the principles address the security relationship, as they did last year.

Missing also, however, from the AIPAC legislative agenda is any effort to limit U.S. funding of the Palestinian Authority. AIPAC had pushed such efforts in December, after the U.N. General Assembly vote in which the Palestinians gained boosted recognition as a non-member state, but they fell by the wayside in part because of mixed signals from the Israeli government.

The conference runs March 3-5, ending with the annual AIPAC lobbying blitz on Capitol Hill next Tuesday.

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A Seder is for reliving and relearning our past

The Mothers Circle, Temple Sinai offer Passover Seder Survival Guide workshop

BY KIT HASPEL
khaspel@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – As the leader of The Mothers Circle (a program for non-Jewish women raising Jewish children), I am often asked about the basics of how to do a Seder and, especially, about how to make it meaningful to people who are not Jewish.

Many people I know talk about their memories of Seders as sitting at the table being bored for hours as their father or grandfather raced through the haggadah in Hebrew. (My Reform father, using the English version, was of the "less-is-more-but-still-as-fast-as-possible school.") But the spirit behind a Seder is not to go through the words; it is to discuss the meaning of the day, to, in fact, re-live it so that we, too, feel like freed slaves.

After all, the haggadah states, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and Adonai freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm."

"We were slaves and now we are free" is the standing-on-one-foot version of the Seder.

If we have young children at our Seders, we need to make the story come alive for them. The haggadah "A Different Night" has a sample of a skit that can be used. When my children were young, we made our own stick figures of the main characters, using cardboard and Popsicle sticks. Today, plague toys can be purchased or, even more fun, made yourself at the Alliance's Creativity Center.

For adolescents and adults, many modern haggadahs include readings about other times the Jewish people have moved from some kind of slavery to freedom. "Gates of Freedom" includes readings about

the victory of the Maccabees, the nightmare of the Crusades and the "modern Pharaohs" of Hitler and Stalin whom we have survived.

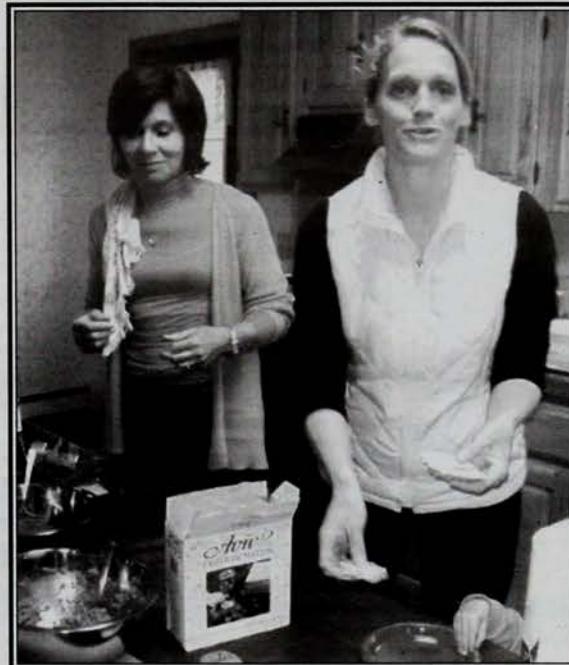
But we need not stop there. What about the slavery and freedom crusades of other people? The Emancipation Proclamation is read at President Barack Obama's Seders in the White House. In the haggadah, "A Different Night," there are readings from Toni Morrison and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As Americans, white or black, we can relate to these words, as the slavery of African-Americans is closer to us, chronologically, than the slav-

'TO ME [THE ARTICHOKE]
has come to represent the Jewish people."

ery of the Israelites in Egypt.

We can also encourage our guests to think about other liberation movements (gay rights?), psychological kinds of slavery (addiction?), and modern-day plagues (green house gasses?).

And I recently learned about the symbol of the artichoke on the Seder plate. To quote from Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, writing on InterfaithFamily.com, a website supporting interfaith families exploring Jewish life,



ing with "lately we add another category, that of interfaith."

She ends with a prayer: "Let this artichoke on the Seder plate tonight stand for the wisdom of God's creation in making the Jewish people a population able to absorb many elements and cultures throughout the centuries – yet still remain Jewish. Let the thistles protecting our hearts soften so that we may notice the petals around us."

This discussion can continue. The Mothers Circle, in partnership with Temple Sinai, is offering a Passover Seder Survival Guide workshop for mothers and fathers in interfaith families on Sunday, March 10, from 9 – 11:30 a.m. at Temple Sinai, a Reform congregation in Cranston.

KIT HASPEL is coordinator of the Mothers Circle, a program for non-Jewish women raising Jewish children, created by the Jewish Outreach Institute and coordinated locally by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Passover Seder Survival Guide, contact Kit Haspel at 421-4111, ext. 184 or khaspel@shalomri.org, or Rabbi Peter Stein at 942-8350 or stein@templesinairi.org.

Katherine Coster, of Barrington, left, and Christine Stanger, of East Greenwich, prepare Passover food at last year's Seder Survival Guide workshop, which was held March 25 at Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich.

"What is an artichoke? Surely a work of God's imagination! Many petals, with thistle and a heart. To me this has come to represent the Jewish people.

We are first of all very diverse in our petals." She goes on to describe the varying Jewish denominations, nationalities, cultures and colors, conclud-

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Who doesn't love chocolate?

Jodie Thompson, left, and Georgina Sarpong

Jodie Thompson, certified fitness instructor at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's JCC J-Fitness, and Georgina Sarpong, often called "Chef G" by her youngest clients – children enrolled in the Alliance's Early Childhood Center – demonstrated the benefits of cooking with chocolate, which a small group of women appeared to enjoy, at a Feb. 26 workshop.

Thompson and Sarpong co-lead the "Healthy Eating" workshop, which this month focused on chocolate's health benefits. The Alliance JCC is sponsoring these monthly workshops.

MORE INFO: 421-4111.

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Fink wants nothing to do with decaf anything

'Good to the last drop' Maxwell House coffee is good enough for him

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SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

No, I have not retired. I must get up and make my coffee or at least pour my juice and toast my bread.

One of my very first responsibilities as a boy was to make coffee for my parents when they got home from work. My mother and father had to drive across the old Red Bridge to open their store on Waterman Avenue.

My mom would call home to tell me how to prepare the percolator pot of Maxwell House "good to the last drop" brew.

"Just listen. Put the water from the faucet up to the hole. Then the spoonfuls of the grounds – doesn't it smell good? – in the basket, and cover with the sieve top. Light the stove, and when you hear the bubbling and boiling, lower

the heat and wait just a few minutes. Then, turn it off and we'll just be arriving!"

My biggest and most enduring lessons of boyhood were these: How to tie my shoes, how to climb the hill to grammar school to be on time for

Passover, in the blue cover, as a promotional ad, to appeal to first-generation American Jewish customers.

My lifetime has disappointed me in this regard. Instant coffee was bad enough, but coffee drinking has deteriorated

Kashrut has nothing to say, critically, about the phenomenon of decaf. I believe, however, that removing caffeine from coffee is similar to blessing not wine but grape juice. It is the denial of the authentic Torah truth, a form of "adultery," which thou shalt not commit!

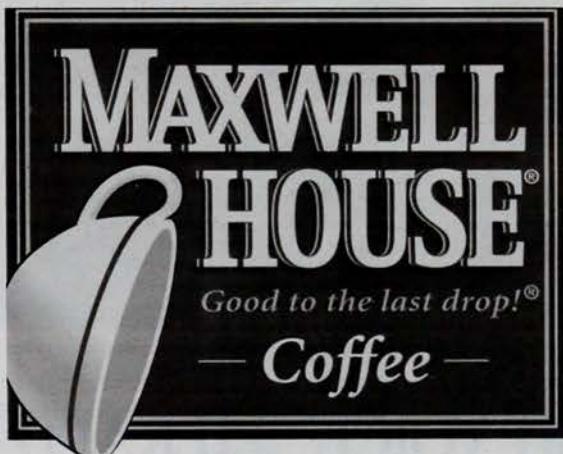
Even in our synagogues, we put out urns that contain neither tea nor coffee but a bever-

age and Chileans, have their elegant wines. We American Jews – whether Orthodox, Hasidic, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Ethical Culture or whatever – we are too often satisfied with jugs of sweet Concord grape, an undistinguished beverage. We thus ruin our rituals and rites. We seem to believe that our diets require that everything be tested, wrapped in endless envelopes (that load the landfills) and have the soul of the living thing drained of its essence. I hereby declare and wage my war against a diet of decaf and everything it implies!

Are there more urgent issues? Well, the art of the essay, from its Jewish birth in the journals of Michel de Montaigne of Bordeaux, originally a Spanish Sephardic converso, pioneered the genre that was supposed to go from the sublime to the ridiculous. The founder of the movement wanted to judge behavior not by major episodes but by minor key details.

That's why I order, at my cafe routines, "A small regular, please, with sugar and cream!"

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol.com) is a professor of English at Rhode Island School of Design.



my first class and, most important of all, how to brew coffee! You serve it, even for your solitary self, in ceramic cups, with saucers and spoons, and provide sugar and cream in proper containers. Maxwell House was the only brand that my parents ever purchased. I guess it was because Maxwell House produced the haggadah for

even more dramatically. Some villain invented decaf coffee, which I consider an oxymoron ... coffee that isn't coffee. Then, coffee purveyors got rid of the cups, the saucers, the sugar bowls and the cream pitchers. The price went up from a nickel to a dime to 15 cents and now, incredibly, more than \$2 a cup!

This here is a Jewish issue.

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The rise and fall of an Arabian spice

Once favored, myrrh has fallen into near-disuse

"Then they [Reuben and his brothers] sat down to a meal. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels bearing gum, balm and ladanum, to be taken to Egypt." (Genesis 37:25)



SCIENCE &
SOCIETY

STANLEY
ARONSON, M.D.

Ladanum (Heb: lot) is translated in the King James Bible as "myrrh" (a Greek and Latin rendering of the word *mar*, a Hebrew and Aramaic adjective meaning "bitter").

Myrrh, a rare substance, is frequently mentioned in the Bible. Moses, for example, is instructed to gather myrrh, other spices and precious oils to anoint the altar (Exodus 30:22). Myrrh is also mentioned as a cosmetic for young maidens (Esther 2:12), a perfume for the bed of a harlot (Proverbs 7:17) and a pleasing fragrance for courtly robes (Psalms 45:9).

The Hebrew Bible teaches, however, that myrrh was a sacred substance not to be employed frivolously for profane purposes. Maidens were en-

joined not to use myrrh or balsam to incite base passions (despite its sensuous prominence in The Song of Songs).

But what is this rare substance that had consecrated the Ark of the Covenant, a substance that was brought from Sheba by a queen fascinated by Solomon's reputed wisdom, justified a hazardous journey by Ishmaelite merchants from southwest Arabia to Egypt, served as an embalming agent for royal funerals, was sought by ancient apothecaries as a miraculous cure for leprosy and other ills and was borne by wise men from the East as a token of esteem to a manger in Bethlehem?

In fact, myrrh is derived from an undistinguished, scrawny, thorny tree found in isolated clusters in the Yemeni corner of southwestern Arabia and (across the Red Sea) in the Horn of Africa. It is of the genus *Commiphora*, a balsamic tree that rarely exceeds eight feet in height and has no economic value beyond its exuded sap, which hardens into myrrh, an aromatic, highly inflammatory resin.

Why this particular resin was chosen over other gummy oils of botanical origin is difficult to explain. Certainly similar substances in the Mideast had found either medical or ceremonial uses — substances such as bdellium, said to be found in the



The myrrh plant is sturdily built, with knotted branches and branchlets, that stand out at right angles and end in points.

lands near the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:12), frankincense, galbanum and the many other Arabic balsams. The balsamic gums were sweet-smelling, yellowish in color and tenacious to the touch. The Semitic word balsam (Hebrew: *bosem*) was eventually corrupted to the English word "balm" and, as these gums were frequently employed to preserve dead bodies, the process became known as embalming. Oleo-resinous balsams also had medicinal uses in ancient pharmacopoeias.

Merchants from India recognized the commercial pos-

sibilities of tree-derived resins. A caste of Hindu merchants, known as the Banyans, purchased the precious resinous fragments, sorted them and shipped them to the markets of South Asia and even Europe.

Myrrh was allegedly used medicinally to treat wounds, as an astringent, a tonic, an appetite stimulant and as therapy for tuberculosis and other chronic infections. According to one interpretation of Proverbs 21:6 (whose meaning is very unclear), myrrh, which had a sedative effect, was sometimes mixed with wine for prisoners awaiting

"MYRRH IS DERIVED
from an undistinguished, scrawny, thorny tree."

execution. It was also used for numerous sensuous purposes (Song of Songs 1:13). But by the 19th century, myrrh had become less of a miraculous cure and was no longer prescribed, except by elderly physicians trained in the Middle East.

It is strange to reflect that the use of resinous drippings of Arabian tree saps, revered in the scriptures of many faiths and employed throughout many centuries for such a wide array of medicinal, spiritual and sacramental purposes, is currently confined to flavoring mouthwashes and toothpastes!

STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D. (smad@cox.net) is a regular columnist.

Ethel Sarah G. Cort

NARRAGANSETT — Ethel Cort of Providence and Narragansett, died Feb. 23. She was the wife of Leonard Cort.

Born Aug. 8, 1914 to David and Clara (Tischler) Golden, she was the sister of Ann (Namerow) Marshak and Max Golden and mother of the late Susan Rosen (Fred). She is survived by Donna Perelman (Samuel), Harold Cort (Molly) and Bruce Cort (Sandy), eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She graduated Commercial High School and became a bookkeeper for Boston Radiator and Casino Bowling Alleys. A past president of Providence Women of Rotary, member of Temple Beth Israel, Sinai and Beth David, she drove until age 95, learned bridge at 94 and played mah jongg always. Famous for her brownies, generously given to family and friends, she knit beautiful afghans and sweaters.

She was an amazing woman, never complaining and always had a smile.

Contributions may be made to Camp JORI.

Gertrude Gordon

PROVIDENCE — Gertrude Gordon, whose goal was to live to 100, died Feb. 24, at her residence at Epoch Assisted Living on the East Side. At her side was her only daughter, Eda, of Santa Fe, N.M.

The wife of the late Jack Gordon, she was an active member of the Jewish community in her native Baltimore, Md. and in Rhode Island, since her arrival in 1955.

She served as secretary to the rabbi of Beth Jacob Synagogue of Baltimore.

Once in Rhode Island, she worked in the jewelry industry, assisting her husband in his company, The Jewelry Mart, and later retiring from Bergere Inc., where she was assistant to the founding owner, Peter Barbach.

She volunteered her time and organizational skills as a member of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association, the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, Temple Beth-El and Temple Beth-El Sisterhood.

OBITUARIES

Born Sept. 14, 1913, she was the daughter of Charles and Edna Hyatt and sister of Raymond Hyatt, all of whom predeceased her.

Donations may be made to Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906; The Miriam Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box H, Providence, RI 02901 or Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, RI 02903.

Irving Gozonsky, 80

PRINCETON, N.J. — Irving Gozonsky died at home in Princeton Junction, N.J. on Feb. 21.

He was married to Dee for 57 years. They had three children: Mark Gozonsky (Stephanie Astrow), Lisa Devine (Steve) and Ann Zaccardo.

A family and community man who was closely involved with his family, including seven grandchildren, he is also survived by his brother Ed (Dotty) in Providence and his sister Mary Friedman in East Meadow, N.Y.

He had been president of his temple in Morristown, N.J.

Three older brothers, Abe, Charlie, and Moses, predeceased him.

Originally from Laconia,

N.H., he attended Cornell and Harvard Business School. He was a lieutenant in the post-Korean U.S. Army. His career included work with department stores in New York City, Bristol-Myers, Warner Lambert and Goody.

Ruth Press Jagolinzer, 74

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Ruth Jagolinzer, formerly of East Providence, died Dec. 31, at her home in Boca Raton.

Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Abraham and Molly (Fine-

man) Press. She attended the women's Pembroke College of Brown University, earning her Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 1960 and was awarded a Phi Beta Kappa Brown Student Award in 1960. She later earned a master's in social work from Rhode Island College.

She married the late Philip Jagolinzer and began a career in textbook editing, mainly re-

garding the sciences. Her editing skills were highly regarded and sought after throughout her career. In 2005, she retired and relocated to Florida, with her longtime friend Alan Uffer.

She was predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her brother Arthur Press and his wife Carol of Wynnewood, Pa.; son Bruce and his wife Karen of Cumberland, Maine; son Alan and his wife Connie of Boulder, Colo.; five grandchildren and Alan Uffer of Cranston, as well as his son David and daughter Ellice.

Donations may be made to American Lung Association National Headquarters, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004, or at <http://www.lung.org>.

Leonard Yale Jewett, 86

MONTANA — Leonard Jewett died in Montana Veterans Home Feb. 6. Born in Providence on July 1, 1926, he was the son of the late David and Rachel (Goldman) Jewett.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the

JCDSRI head of school search committee presents first candidate

Allison Oakes, the first of three finalists, visits school

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE — Jewish community members had three opportunities this week to meet Allison Oakes, the first of three finalists to succeed Irene (Renee) Rudnick, as head of school at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

Rudnick, as reported in a past issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald, announced her plans to leave JCDSRI at the end of this academic year.

Oakes, who received her certification in school leadership from Florida Atlantic University and training in Jewish day school leadership from the Day School Leadership Training Institute, spoke at an evening community forum, attended by some two dozen individuals, on Tuesday, Feb. 26, and spent time in the school on both Feb. 26 and Feb. 27.

At the evening forum, Oakes spoke enthusiastically about the role that her Jewish day school experience — as a graduate of the Solomon Schechter Day School in Philadelphia, Pa. — has had on her upbringing. The daughter of secular parents — who served pancakes on Passover, because they were flat — Oakes said that the Jewish foundation her day school experiences pro-

vided her remains important, even today.

Now, she said, Jewish day schools must prepare their students for a 21st century world that is not familiar to them. Rather than teaching English, history, math or Judaic studies as separate disciplines, schools must use these subjects as conduits to teaching collaboration, communication, etc., so that students can interact successfully in global relationships.

After responding to questions from audience members, Oakes expressed pleasure that she is teaching, rather than serving as a head of school, this year. "Every principal needs to be in a classroom," she said. "It's important to get that perspective."

She has worked in education for 15 years, five of them in leadership roles.

The mother of three young children, Oakes currently lives with her family in Boca Raton, Fla. Her comment about Boca Raton, "where all Jewish people end up everywhere," drew appreciative and knowing laughter.

Before Oakes spoke to the group at the Alliance, Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, chair of the school's search committee, encouraged the audience to submit their feedback through the school website (jcdsri.org)



NANCY KIRSCH

Allison Oakes gestures as she responds to a question from an audience member.

or by contacting her directly. She also thanked members of the search committee, several of whom were in the audience.

Noting that more than 40 candidates responded to the international search and, after interviewing 15 candidates, Skolnick Einhorn said that the search committee narrowed the candidates down to three.

We have "an apple, an orange

and a banana," she quipped. "They are all different ... all incredible."

Additional "meet the candidates" community forums are scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 and Monday, March 11.

FOR INFORMATION: jcdsri.org or 751-2470.

Agudath wants faith-based pre-Ks

(JTA) — Agudath Israel of America, a *haredi* Orthodox Jewish organization, called on President Barack Obama to include faith-based providers in his proposal to make preschool available to every child in the United States.

In a letter to Obama, Rabbi Abba Cohen, Agudath Israel's vice president for federal affairs, wrote, "If early education for every child is to be a reality, we must offer parents the widest range of options," including preschool programs that are operated by religious providers.

One of Obama's major public policy priorities for the coming term, as announced in his State of the Union address, is to make high-quality preschool available to all children.

Cohen suggested that including faith-based providers could be handled constitutionally, either through direct aid to parents or direct grants to preschools that are not used for any sectarian purpose.

Faith-based pre-K providers make up nearly one-third of all providers, according to Agudath Israel.

"With such a significant percentage, it is simply inconceivable to think that movement forward in universal pre-K can come about without including the faith-based sector," Cohen wrote.

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



D'VAR TORAH

Equal stakeholders in our own community

PARASHAH KI TISSA
EXODUS 30:11-34:35

BY RABBI AMY LEVIN
Special to The Voice & Herald

I write and speak often about the centrality of community to the Jewish experience. John Donne posited, "No man is an island" ... Judaism posits that no lone Jew is a self-sufficient island, either.

We are dependent on each



Silver-plated half-shekels

"EVERYONE WAS A stakeholder ... everyone had met the elemental obligation of community responsibility."

to praise God with the words of the Kaddish, to bring a child into the covenantal community of Israel... we need a community of Jews to educate our children, to educate ourselves, to be inspired and supported.

We each seek our "place" in the Jewish community. Some of us are learned and are valued for the learning we share. Some of us are people of financial means and are honored for the crucial support we provide that keep our Jewish institutions open and accessible. Some of us are compassionate and are precious to our community for the support and time with which we bless our community.

But our Jewish community (both in the "micro" embodiment of a single synagogue and in the "macro" version of a regional Jewish community

like that of greater Rhode Island) cannot thrive if we only embrace and value the "stars," those who donate the most time, money and learning. Indeed, our survival clearly depends on us all, equally – every person who self-identifies and affiliates by choice to our Jewish community must be regarded as an equal and essential stakeholder in our Jewish community.

This week's Torah reading establishes the principle of "stakeholder" in the community of Israel. According to this week's Torah reading, every adult Israelite was required to donate a half-shekel to support the rituals of the wilderness Tabernacle. The half-shekel was a modest amount of money, within the means of all but the community's destitute.

Those half-shekel donations

and larger donations, from individuals with greater means, supported the Kohanim (priests) and Levi'im (Levites) as well as the Tabernacle and the sacrificial cult, a system of daily and event-based sacrifices of animals, grains and oils.

But the universal application of the half-shekel donation meant that everyone was a stakeholder, everyone could look everyone else in the eye knowing that everyone had met the elemental obligation of community responsibility.

Today, the half-shekel has evolved into synagogue dues, Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island donations, support of our community's mikveh and the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island, and our Jewish Family Service and our Kosher Food Pantry and our Jewish day schools – and so many

other elements of our community – but the power of looking each other in the eye and knowing that together we have sustained the central institutions of our community is the same. It is through the principle of "mahatzit hashekel" – the half-shekel established in the wilderness to sustain the Tabernacle – that we can stand as equals within our own community and consider each other as partners and stakeholders in sustaining our own essential community organizations.

RABBI AMY LEVIN (ravlevin@gmail.com) is rabbi of Congregation Torat Yisrael (toratyisrael.org), a Conservative synagogue in East Greenwich, and president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island (rabbisofgreaterrhodeisland.org).

Candle Lighting Times

March 1	5:17
March 8	5:25
March 15	6:33
March 22	6:41

Some Jewish residents find this ham kosher

Jewish individuals communicate daily via ham radio

BY JIM GERSHMAN
Special to The Voice & Herald

WARWICK – Kosher ham ... who knew?

At 7:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, seven days a week, amidst the static and crackle of the shortwave bands, dedicated Jewish amateur ham radio operators across the U.S. switch on their equipment. Dials light up, knobs are spun, meter readings are checked, antennas are aimed and the *Mishpacha* (Hebrew for "family") Network is on the air on the 20-meter amateur radio band at a frequency of 14.326 megahertz.

Two radio pioneers, Julius Rosen, call sign AJ1W, and the late Myer Delnick, KZ4ML, founded the *Mishpacha* Network decades ago. In its earliest years, the network offered Jewish ham radio enthusiasts a forum for conversing in Yiddish. Then, some 40 or 50 ham-radio operators (called "hams") from around the world would check in to the



network each morning.

Over the years, the *Mishpacha* Network (most old-timers still use the Yiddish pronunciation "mishpoocha") has evolved into English-only chat-

ter. The network is an interesting mixture of old friends and newcomers. While many of us have socialized with each other "up close and personally," others' decades-long relation-

ships are only through the sound of their voices.

During the hour that the Network operates, operators kibitz a little, share brief weather reports from around the country and wish each other a good day. Fridays usually see the most check-ins, with operators taking the opportunity to wish each other "Shabbat Shalom."

The daily *Mishpacha* Network is "co-chaired" by two Florida hams, Mort Schwartz, N4ETT and Mel Peskin, WA1UDI. They keep the conversation flowing in an orderly

fashion while giving all operators a chance to add their two shekels.

All appropriately licensed ham radio operators, Jewish or not, are welcome to check in, give a weather report and generally have a little schmooze – except on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, of course!

JIM GERSHMAN (negev-com@verizon.net), a Warwick, resident, has a ham radio call sign of K1JJJ.

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

MOHEL

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From Page 33

Pacific Theater.

He is survived by his three children, Wendy Jewett of Hertford, N.C., Wayne Jewett and his wife Lori of Swanville, Maine and Murray Jewett and wife Melinda Rae Cole of Kalispell, Mont. Also two sisters Gittel Tatz of Canada and Helene Holland and husband Harold of California and a brother William Jewett, deceased.

Louis Kanopkin, 97

PAWTUCKET – Louis Kanopkin died Feb. 25 in Canton, Mass. He was the husband of the late Ida (Kaplan) Kanopkin.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late David and Dora (Spiegel) Kanopkin. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He worked at Valley Gas Company for 35 years before retiring at age 65.

He is survived by his son Philip Kanopkin and his wife Susan; his son-in-law, Thomas Anderson and grandchildren Rebecca Anderson, Eric Kanopkin and Deena Kanopkin. He was the father of the late Sandra Anderson and brother of the late Bella Harriet, Rose Dwares, William Kanopkin and Benjamin Kanopky.

Contributions may be made to the Amyloidosis Foundation, 7151 North Main St., Suite 2, Clarkston, MI 48346.

Harold J. Krasnoff and Shirley (Rosenfeld) Krasnoff

NORTH PROVIDENCE – Harold Krasnoff and Shirley Krasnoff died within hours of one another on Feb. 12. They met before he entered the Army during World War II and married upon his return. Having spent 79 years together, they continued to live independently until one month before they died.

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OBITUARIES

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Elsie Leeman, 93

PROVIDENCE – Elsie Leeman, of Providence, died Feb. 14 in Needham, Mass. She was the wife of Rabbi Saul Leeman of Providence.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Nathan and Ida (Barnett) Lewis, she had lived in Providence since 1974, previously living in Cranston. She was a teacher of Greek, Latin and English at Classical High School and a member of Temple Emanu-El.

She was the mother of Deborah Robbins and her husband Peter, Joel Leeman and his wife Sara, David Leeman, and his wife Ramona, all of Newton, and the late Michael Leeman. The sister of Betty Lewis of New York City and the late Sylvia Margolies, she was the grandmother of Rebecca, Joshua, Laura, Dena, Jonathan, Julia and Ethan and great-grandmother of Adam.

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

George Joseph Lucove, 96

FALL RIVER, Mass. – George Lucove died Feb. 17. He was the husband of the late May (Altman) Lucove. A lifelong resident of Fall River, he was a son of the late Moses and Bessie (Bassovsky) Lucove.

He was a graduate of BMC Durfee High School, Class of 1933 and attended Providence College. The founder and owner of the former George Lucove Interiors, which he ran for 40 years, he was also known for two other hobbies – raising orchids and running a little antique shop. He was a member of the American Orchid Society and Congregation Adas Israel.

He is survived by his children Sara Janet Dickerman of Fall River and Jeffrey S. Lucove and his wife Andrea Wolf of Chestnut Hill, Mass.; his sister

Mildred Greenberg of Los Angeles, Calif.; his grandchildren, Shelby and Jaime and his great-grandchildren Carter, Jordan and Ashley. He was the brother of the late Bertha Rosenfield, Irving Lucove, Sarah Ludman and Fay Block.

Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Jennifer A. Mello, 42

SEEKONK, Mass. – Jennifer Mello died Feb. 19 in Attleboro, Mass. She was the wife of Troy Mello.

Born in Framingham, Mass., a daughter of Marsha Osbaldeston and her husband James of Seekonk and Harvey Cohen and his wife Penny of Lunenburg, Mass., she was a lifelong Seekonk resident. She was the mother of Jaquelyn Mello of Providence and James, Tyler and Jillian Mello, all at home, and the sister of Edward Cohen of Seekonk.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Alton Molasky, 92

PAWTUCKET – Alton Molasky died Feb. 21. He was the husband of the late Lillian (Weinerman) Molasky. Born in Bristol, he was a son of the late Samuel and Minnie (Garr) Molasky.

He is survived by his daughter Barbara Aurelio of Arizona, grandchildren Lana, Lisa and Lauren and two great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late George Molasky and brother of the late Edward and Lewis Molasky.

Norma Caslowitz Munves

NEW YORK CITY – Norma Caslowitz Munves died Feb. 20, surrounded by her family after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Edward; her daughters Elizabeth Sherman and Joan Boening and their husbands David and Philip; her grandchildren Benjamin, Sarah, Justin and James and her great-grandson Paul.

She was the daughter of Helen Caslowitz of Providence and the late Aaron Caslowitz, and the sister of Gail Levine of Chestnut Hill, Mass.

She was active in civic and community organizations including serving as president of the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York and trustee of Brown University. She worked full-time as vice president of James Robinson, Inc., until her illness.

Contributions may be made to Brown University or the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York.

Helen B. Samuels, 95

WARWICK – Helen Samuels died Feb. 16. She was the wife of the late Paul Samuels.

Born in Lowell, Mass., a daughter of the late David and Fannie Berman, she had lived in Warwick for more than two years, previously residing in Cranston and Providence.

She was an adjudicator for the State of Rhode Island Unemployment Office for more than 30 years before retiring 27 years ago. She was a member of Hadassah.

She was the mother of Andrea Levinson of Swansea and the late Ronald Samuels, sister of Lillian Darman of West Roxbury, Mass. and the late Nancy Berman; grandmother of Lori, Steven and David and great-grandmother of Jake, Matt, Amanda and Ryan.

Contributions may be made to the Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

Charles M. Strauss, 74

NARRAGANSETT – Charles Strauss died Feb. 10. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Joseph and Rosalie Strauss.

After Classical High School, he graduated Harvard College in 1960, where he was active in providing piano accompaniment to Hasty Pudding shows.

He received his Ph.D. from Brown in applied mathematics.

Most recently, he was on the staff at Draper Laboratories. Among his passionate avocations were gardening, sailing, music and conversation, including an ongoing catalogue of hilarious jokes.

He leaves three children, Julia (Bin), Benjamin (Stephanie) and Louis (Anne); three grandchildren, Phoebe, Joseph, and Rivkeh; two sisters, Avis Goldenberg (Mal), and Ellen McKenna; his former wife Patricia Strauss and his friend Judy Bickart. Also among the mourners is a vast group of friends.

He was a family member and friend without peer, happy to open his house and welcome all with his warm hospitality. He will be vividly remembered for his intelligence, wit and sheer joy of life.

**In Memoriam****Elaine S. Goldman**

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Nancy Kirsch, Editor
at nkirsch@shalomri.org
Subject line should read
Day of Decadence

Deadline for submissions is April 15, 2013

We respectfully request that all nominees be members of the greater RI Jewish community.

The winner will be announced in the
April 26 Mother's Day issue
of The Jewish Voice & Herald.

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

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

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PROVIDENCE — Camp JORI will host its "100 Days until Opening Day" Party on Sunday, March 17, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island JCC in Providence. This celebration is open to current JORI families, alumni and anyone interested in learning more about "all things JORI!" There will be a slide show, crafts, games and, of course, the beloved JORI tradition of "candy call." Director Ronni Guttin and Assistant Director Rachel Mersky Woda — along with other members of the JORI staff — will be present for this event. Camp JORI staff members are excited for Summer 2013; we hope campers are too!

RACHEL MERSKY WODA (Rachel@campjori.com) for more information.

Contact Valerie Houshar
for more information:
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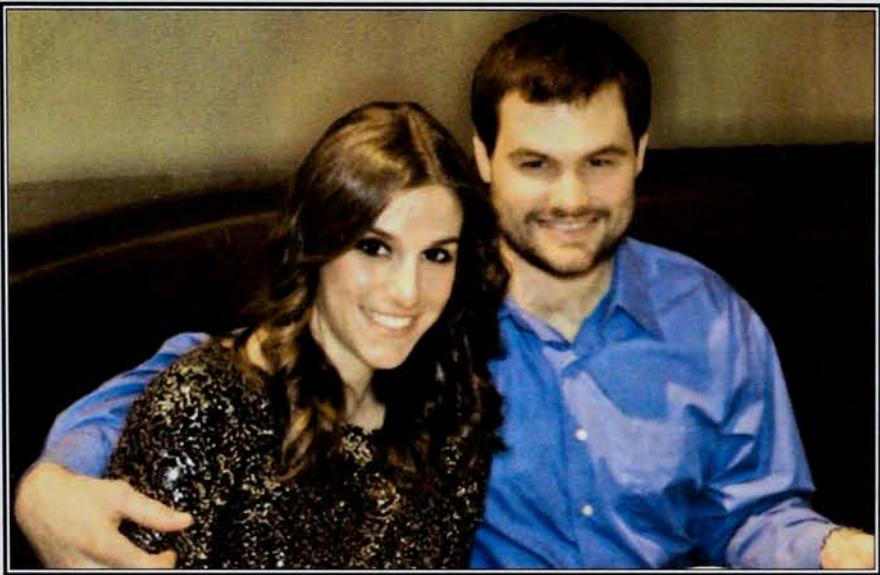


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Rachael Amanda Bloom and Samuel James Nicastro

ENGAGEMENT – Richard and Linda Bloom of East Greenwich and North Woodstock, N.H. announce the engagement of their daughter Rachael Amanda to Samuel James Nicastro, son of James and Theresa Nicastro of North Kingstown.

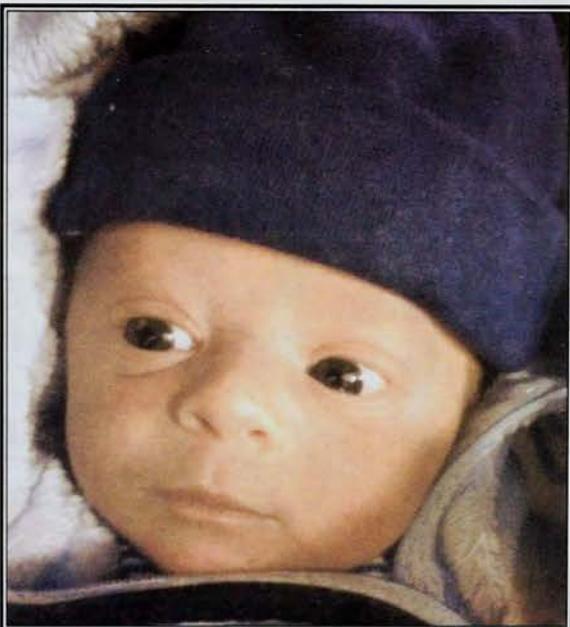
Rachael is the granddaughter of Phyllis and Arthur Bergantini of North Providence, and Herbert and Irma Bloom of East Greenwich and Boynton Beach, Fla. The future bride graduated from the Lincoln School in Providence, and Colby-Sawyer College with a major in communica-

tions and a minor in business

Samuel is the grandson of James and the late Beverly Nicastro and of the late Rene and Florence Collard. He is a graduate of North Kings town High School and New England Technical Institute.

Both are self-employed.

A September 2013 wedding in Connecticut is planned.



Parker Samuel Phillips

BIRTH – Ruth Phillips of Warwick announces the birth of her great-grandson, Parker Samuel Phillips, on Jan. 4. He is the son of Sara (Cohen) and Michael Phillips of Philadelphia, Pa.

Parker's grandparents are Jo Ann Phillips of North Providence and the late Paul E. Phillips, Sr., and Dr. Joseph and Joanie Cohen of Cherry Hill, N.J. His great-grandparents, in addition to Ruth Phillips, are Loretta Bergeron of Pawtucket and Renee Farkas and the late Samuel Farkas of New Jersey.

Parker Samuel is named after his late grandfathers, Paul Phillips, Sr. and Samuel Farkas.



Carol (second from right) and Ron Schwartz

PANAMA – Carol and Ron Schwartz of Tiverton with their family in a dugout canoe in Chagres national park in Panama on their way to the village of the Embere-Puru natives. They wrote that there are five kosher restaurants in Panama City.



BOYNTON BEACH, FLA. – Nathan Lury of Warwick (in blue shirt), escaped New England's cold winter weather by visiting his daughter Gail Lury Johnston and son-in-law Bob Johnston in Boynton Beach, Fla. Robin Traugott Gersten, Nate's niece, and her husband Gary Gersten visited Boynton Beach en route to a visit to Jamaica.

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