

Home & Garden
22-32

THE JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

2 Iyar 5773

April 12, 2013



PHOTOS | NANCY KIRSCH
Emunah Children's Center boys perform in Israel.

Annual Campaign raises \$2.58 million for programs

Sixty percent of the funds remain in R.I.

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – “Money makes the world go ‘round,” sang Joel Gray and Liza Minnelli in “Cabaret.”

More than 300 Jewish programs in greater Rhode Is-

land, Israel and around the world will go ‘round, thanks to Alliance investments of \$2.58 million. By comparison, \$2.59 was allocated last year.

Calling himself fortunate that his Alliance colleagues

INVESTING | 15



Noa

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Acclaimed Israeli singer Noa will perform in concert

Politically-inclined musician sang for President Barack Obama in Israel

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Cher, Madonna, Prince, Bono, Sting and Adele: To this list of single-named rock stars, add Noa!

Known in Israel by her given name Achinoam Nini, Noa is Israel's leading international concert and recording artist. She will perform for local audiences at Temple Beth-El on Sunday, April 21 as the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's final signature event of Israel@Sixty-five celebrations.

Noa talked with The Voice & Herald in a Skyped

interview several weeks ago. Excerpts of the interview follow.

Q: You sing pop, rock, blues, rhythm and blues, folk ... and in so many different languages. How did that come to be?

A: I speak English, Hebrew, Italian, French and [I am] pretty fair in Spanish. Sometimes when I visit different countries, I will try to learn a folk song or a children's song in their language. [It's a] way to say 'thank you' to an audience [who listened] to my original songs in my culture [and

MUSIC | 41

SOME HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE



RUNAWAY ROOSTER



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KAROLYN WHITE

Children get their hands dirty at JCDSRI

Gardening is part of day school's full curriculum

By JAMIE FAITH WOODS
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Spring at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island means students can once again get their hands dirty – in our school garden.

This is the fourth school year JCDSRI is home to an outdoor garden and garden education program. Recently, fifth graders marveled over their tulips, planted in the fall of 2011, which are coming up in the shape of

DIGGING | 27

Annabelle, in 2011, didn't need the magnifying glass she holds to discover peppers in the JCDSRI garden.

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Middle school students enjoy a sweet twist on Passover traditions

By **BRITTANY RITELLE**
Special to The Voice & Herald

NEWTON CENTRE, Mass. – When most people think about Passover Seders, they think about the four cups of wine, the *maror*, the *haroset*, the matzah ball soup, etc.

But for several students from Massachusetts and Rhode Island who participate in BBYO Connect (for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades), their pre-Passover Seder was, well, a little bit sweeter. At their March 24 Seder, chocolate milk replaced wine, dark chocolate replaced the bitter herbs, Kit-Kat candy bars served as the



BBYO Connect kids gather after their chocolate Seder.

PHOTOS | BBYO



Mia Gershon of Cranston, at left, and Daisy Leepson of North Kingstown at the chocolate Seder.

shank bone and strawberries with chocolate sauce stood in for parsley and saltwater!

The nearly two-dozen kids who attended the event, held on the Hebrew College campus were empowered to engage with the Passover Seder in a fun and creative way. Not only did chocolate dominate the Seder meal, it also allowed students to make new friends and to work in teams to create skits about the Passover story, the Four Questions and the Ten Plagues.

"I've been to a lot of Seders, but this was my first time doing it with chocolate, said Eliana Stein, of Warwick. "My favorite part of [the program was] seeing old friends and making new ones."

Eliana was part of the group acting out the *dayenu* section of the Seder.

An *afikomen* hunt and creating Passover art on paper plates – using chocolate and other foods on the table – were also part of the festivities.

"My favorite part ... was when we

made pictures with chocolate," said Nettie Leepson of North Kingstown. "This was my first time at a chocolate Seder, and I had fun!"

BBYO/B'nai Brith Youth Organization: bbyo.org/region/ner/bbyo_connect

BRITTANY RITELL (brittanyritell@yahoo.com), a BBYO alum, is an intern for the New England Region of BBYO.



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Honoring the heroism of those who came before

Yom Ha-Shoah program recognizes local minister

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – At this year's Yom Ha-Shoah observance, Reverend Dr. Donald Anderson, executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, received the "Never Again" Award.

Presented each year by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Providence, the award recognizes an individual or group of individuals who work to reduce anti-Semitism, racism and prejudice.

Some 250 people left the beautiful weather of an April afternoon to gather at Temple Emanu-El in Providence for the interfaith commemoration of Yom Ha-Shoah, the somber annual remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust.

Held on the anniversary of the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto – when the Jews valiantly fought what they knew would be a losing battle against the Nazis – Yom Ha-Shoah is observed in communities around the world.

Year in and year out, Emanu-El



Lilliane Burch, left, and Barbara Fields prepare memorial candles; Kol Kesem Providence choir members – Eve Stein, left, partially obscured, Rachel Kaufman, Eli Lederberg, Alicia Blazer, Jesse Brenman and Mollie Westrick – observe.

PHOTOS | NANCY KIRSCH

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Celebrating WRJ's centennial year with visit to Israel, Berlin

District board member of Women of Reform Judaism reflects on remarkable experience

By **BARBARA HOROVITZ BROWN**

Special to The Voice & Herald

EAST GREENWICH – The Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) celebrated its centennial year with a March 5-17 trip to Israel and Berlin. The trip was packed with behind-the-scenes experiences that I could never have witnessed on my own. I was the only Rhode Island representative among the 27 participants from the United States and Canada.

Established in 1913, as women struggled for recognition and equality, WRJ was originally called the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and was renamed in 1993 to more accurately reflect Reform Jewry in Sisterhoods around the world.

Today, WRJ represents 765,000 women in nearly 500 groups worldwide; it supports the Reform movement's precept of placing Jewish women on a plane of religious equality with men and is active in a wide range of women's and social justice issues.

In Jaffa, we visited one pre-



PHOTOS | BARBARA BROWN

WRJ officers gather around a rabbinical student as he reads from the Torah in Berlin.



Barbara Brown

army leadership training opportunity, a *mekhinah*, which receives funding from the Reform movement in Israel and WRJ. At this *mekhinah*, participants help young and elderly residents of Jaffa's ethnically diverse community. In a program called

Friends Forever, one *mekhinah* volunteer works with high-risk kids, many of whom are of Arab descent.

At the Hotline for Migrant Workers, we learned that most migrant workers serve as home healthcare workers for long hours at low pay and for one person, until that individual dies. Then, lacking citizenship,

they must leave Israel. Many migrant workers establish illegal businesses in Israel, as non-citizens can't own legal businesses. The Hotline was established to help such migrant workers.

On International Women's Day, March 8, we met with the women of Beit Daniel, one of the original Progressive con-

gregations in Israel, and one of 26 WRJ affiliates in Israel. We talked about WRJ's YES Fund, which provides funding for Youth, Education and Special Projects initiatives.

A "twinning" program exists between North American synagogues' Sisterhoods and Israel's Reform women's groups. Each twin pair decides how to structure their relationship; in some cases, North Americans twins may advocate for Reform Jewish women in Israel who may not be able to practice their religion as they wish.

Jewish geography

Kibbutz Lotan, north of Eilat, focuses on ecology, sustainability, community and Judaism. On 70 acres of land, in one of the world's most arid areas – less than one inch of rain per year – the kibbutz has a thriving garden, using a saltwater drip irrigation system, a recycling center, solar ovens and lighting, and toilets that use no water but don't smell!

And Jewish geography was alive and well! After I returned home, I learned that Bill Miles, a Temple Emanu-El member, had written a book about Kib-

REFORM | 33



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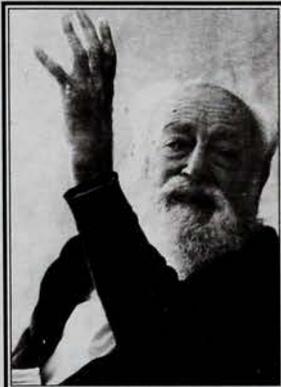
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Yitzhak Tabenkin is honored in Israel

Zionist helped build nascent kibbutz movement in pre-statehood Israel

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eugenia Naroditskiy, editor of Vestnik of RI, interviewed Alexander Tabenkin, who emigrated to Rhode Island in 1977, for a March 2013 issue of Vestnik of RI, Rhode Island's Russian newspaper for Russian Jews. The Voice & Herald is publishing the interview, which was translated into English by Tabenkin, in two parts. The first part, which addressed the early years of Yitzhak Tabenkin (Alexander's father's first cousin), appeared in the March 29 issue.



Yitzhak Tabenkin in 1968



Yitzhak Tabenkin and David Ben-Gurion

PHOTOS | ALEXANDER TABENKIN

BY EUGENIA NARODITSKIY

Q: Can you discuss early kibbutz life?

A: Until not so long ago, when the social structure of the kibbutz started to change from a socialist to more efficient capitalist principles, kibbutz members received only a small amount of 'pocket money.' All they needed – food, clothes, transportation, educational and medical expenses, rental cars, childcare and care for elderly people, etc. – were free. The decision on what kibbutz members could receive, as result of the kibbutz business activity, was made at the meeting of kibbutz members. For example, the decision on when kibbutz members will receive a color TV, to replace a black-and-white unit, was made at such a meeting.

In those days, most kibbutz members had breakfast and dinner in the dining room.

Today, kibbutz members receive a salary and pay for services, but prices are discounted. Most members have meals in the dining room only on Fridays and Jewish holidays; they prepare meals at home, as apartments have all the necessary equipment for cooking.

Today, the influence of the kibbutz movement on Israeli society has become smaller. Many kibbutzim gave up the principle of communal living that was suc-

cessful during the first dozens of years before and after the establishment of the State of Israel. In addition to agriculture, many kibbutzim have small- and medium-size industries and employ non-members.

Working cooperatives (*moshavim*) did not change as much as kibbutzim ... they are popular with immigrants from Africa, Asia and Arab countries.

Q: Israeli agriculture is one of the most productive in the world. Why is the myth – 'Jews do not like to work in agriculture' – still alive?

A: Jews, at least in the Russian Empire, were not allowed to own land. Expecting all kinds of persecution, including pogroms, they had to be prepared to run on short notice; obviously, whatever valuables they owned, had to be 'portable.'

This myth is a fabrication of anti-Semites, and kibbutzim are] the best proof of successful Jewish agriculture.'

Q: Kibbutz Ein Harod played an important role in creating Haganah, the Jewish self-defense force. What can you tell us about it?

A: Tabenkin deserves credit for creating a system of active self-defense. Ein Harod became one of several Haganah bases, with small, well-trained mobile groups who were capable of ambushing Arab gangs. Before,



Haganah fighters at Kibbutz Ein Harod, 1920

Arabs initiated the conflicts by attacking Jews. Charles Ord Wingate, a British officer and a descendant of a Scottish military family, greatly influenced Haganah training. Wingate was a Protestant who believed that Jews should return to the Land of Ancestors. The base of his activities was in Ein Harod. Wingate organized legal night patrols to protect the Iraq-Haifa pipeline from Arab gangs.

To provide military training for Haganah, illegal at the time of the British Mandate, those patrols were manned by young Haganah fighters.

Captain Wingate was a brilliant officer and teacher. Under

his command, Jewish fighters received excellent training in military theory and practical experience. His impact on Haganah commanders and fighters was enormous. Many of his students became the first commanders of Haganah and Palmah, the foundation of the Israel Defense Force; among them was Moshe Dayan.

Wingate did not hide his support for the establishment of a Jewish State and the need to create strong and active Jewish military forces.

The British Military Command was displeased by his remarks; in 1939, the captain was expelled from Palestine with no

right to return.

Q: You have visited Israel many times. Your impressions?

A: I was in Israel for the first time in 1982. I can see tremendous progress in science, modern technology and infrastructure.

I love Israel ... I have many friends and relatives there and I look forward to my next visit.

EUGENIA NARODITSKIY (enaroditskiy@gmail.com) is editor of Vestnik of Rhode Island.

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The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

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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 Elm Grove Ave.
Providence, RI 02906



Published by the Jewish Alliance
of Greater Rhode Island
Chair Richard A. Licht
President/CEO Jeffrey K. Savit
401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906
TEL: 401-421-4111 • FAX: 401-331-7961

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.

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Roundtable on gun violence in Rhode Island

Alliance CRC and NCJW/Rhode Island Section offer a presentation for community

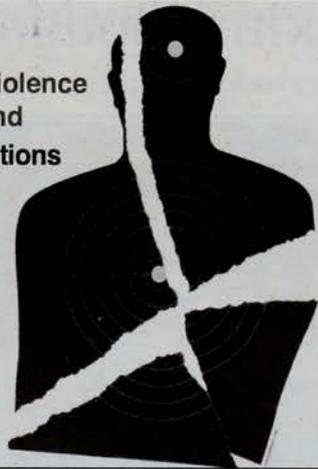
PROVIDENCE – The National Council of Jewish Women/RI Section and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's Community Relations Council invite teens, parents, community advocates and the general public to a panel discussion, "The Face of Gun Violence in Rhode Island: Causes and Solutions."

The program, free and open to the community, will be held on Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Providence Marriott, 1 Orms St., in Providence.

Dr. Michael Fine, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, will moderate the multi-member panel.

Steven Paré, Providence commissioner of public safety,

The Face of Gun Violence in Rhode Island
Causes and Solutions



will offer his perspective on the impact of gun violence on the city of Providence; Teny Gross, executive director of the Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence, will

rehab, gang influence and mental health issues of offenders; Rhode Island State Representative Teresa Tanzi (D-Narragansett and South Kingstown) will focus on her proposed gun legislation and what the public can do to get the bill passed and "Jane Doe" will share her personal story.

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse is honorary chairman of the event. The Melvin and Patty Alperin Fund underwrote this program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 831-2175.

talk about the social problems of offenders; Roberta Richman, retired assistant director for rehabilitative services, Rhode Island Department of Corrections, will focus on how offenders got guns, the possibilities of



National Council of Jewish Women

R.I. Jewish Historical Association holds 59th annual meeting

Chef Walter Potenza will discuss Sephardic Italian-Jewish cuisine

PROVIDENCE – Chef Walter Potenza will be the guest speaker at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association's 59th annual meeting. The event, free and open to the community, will be held on Sunday April 28, at 2 p.m., at Temple Beth-El on Providence's East Side. Potenza will offer dessert, as well, to those in attendance.

Potenza, food historian, owner of Potenza Ristorante on Atwells Avenue on Federal Hill in Providence and founder of Chef Walter's Cooking School, will speak on the history of Jewish cuisine in Italy

Chef Walter is the leading expert on the cuisine of the Jews present in the Italian Peninsula since Roman times. His presentation focuses on the lifestyle, foods and religious laws of the Jews. His research is based on the voyages of Benjamin da Tudela, a 12th century Spanish Jew who wrote extensively about the Jewish communities of Genoa, Pisa, Rome and Palermo.

The presentation will include an introduction to the geographic and historical setting of Jewish life, development of Jewish cuisine in Italy and descriptions of Sephardic Jewish-Italian dishes adopted by gentiles in Italy. The following individuals



Chef Walter Potenza

will be installed as officers: Michael Schwartz as president, Ruth Breindel as 1st vice president, David Gitlitz as 2nd vice president, Maxine Goldin as secretary and David Bazar as treasurer. Board members whose term ends in 2014 are Mel Blake, Harold Foster, Harold Gadon, Marilyn Myrow, Lee Teverow and Mel Topf; those whose term ends in 2015 are Myrna Levine, Lowell Lisker, Estelle Millman, Philip Segal, Bailey Silechnik and Marlene Wolpert.

Temple Beth-El is at 70 Orchard Ave., in Providence.

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Alice Goldstein shares her memoir

PROVIDENCE - Alice Dreifuss Goldstein will speak about her Holocaust memoir, "Ordinary People, Turbulent Times," on Monday, April 15 at 2 p.m. Her presentation at The Highlands on the East Side, 101 Highland Ave., Providence, is part of the organization's "Holocaust Remembrance Week" observations.

Born in Germany at the start of the Nazi era, Goldstein writes about how her family's strength, love and faith enabled them to remain optimistic and resilient during their struggle to leave Germany and make new lives for themselves in America.

Active in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community, Goldstein is a Holocaust Education & Resource Center board member and chair of the Adult Education Committee at Temple Am David. The Warwick resident tells her Ho-



Alice Goldstein

locast story to hundreds of students each year.

Goldstein's presentation is free and open to the public; as seating is limited, RSVPs are suggested. Her book will be available for purchase at the event.

RSVP: 654-5259

Dr. Wollschlaeger shares his life story

'A German Life: Against All Odds, Change is Possible'

"When is it time to question the morality of a society versus your own personal sense of what is just?"

Roberta Segal, Habonim congregant

BARRINGTON - On April 28, at 2 p.m., Temple Habonim will host Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger who will share his quest for truth and spiritual journey to Judaism. Born in Germany, Wollschlaeger was the son of a highly decorated World War II German tank commander who received the Iron Cross from Hitler.

Driven by curiosity and an interest in finding the truth about his father's past and the Holocaust, Wollschlaeger explored Israel and Judaism through literature, a series

of personal encounters with Jews and, finally, a journey to Israel. After seven years in Israel, Wollschlaeger converted to Judaism, a decision that caused a major rift within his family.

Ruth Oppenheim, who has heard Wollschlaeger speak and was instrumental in bringing him to speak at Temple Habonim, said in a release from the Reform synagogue, "Dr. Wollschlaeger is one of the most powerful speakers I have heard."

Before writing the memoir, Wollschlaeger told his story to explain his family and its complicated past to his own children. He now lives in Florida where he is a family physician.

This program, part of Habonim's "Time for Me" series,



Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger

is free and open to the public. Copies of his memoir will be available for purchase.

TEMPLE HABONIM (office@templehabonim.org or 245-6536) is at 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington.

Perform a mitzvah: Deliver food to the homebound

PROVIDENCE - The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry is looking for help with food deliveries.

The Chester Pantry delivers food to Jewish people in the community who need food assistance and are homebound or otherwise unable to come to the Chester Pantry.

Deliveries, which occur every Tuesday and Friday, are made to Jewish individuals throughout the state.

If you or someone you know is able to help or need more information, contact Susan Adler at 621-5374 or sadler-jeri@jsari.org.



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The Voice & Herald earns recognition

Rhode Island Press Association awards will go to Phil Eil, Nancy Kirsch

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Voice & Herald will take home two awards at next month's Rhode Island Press Association annual banquet. The Association announced preliminary results of the annual contest, judged again this year by members of the Idaho Press Association, in an April 10 email to members.

"A glimpse inside the Broad Street synagogue," by our former contributing writer

Phil Eil in the March 2, 2012 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald will receive either first, second or third place in the Religion and Spirituality category, and Nancy Kirsch, executive editor, will receive either first or second place for several columns she submitted in the Editorial category. First, second and third place winners will be identified at the May 3 banquet at the Quonset "O" Club.

Last year, Kirsch won third place in the Religion and Spirituality category for her Sept. 2, 2011 story, "Emanu-El congregants perform highest *mitzvot*," about congregants who volunteer to "sit *sh'mirah*" (watching over, or guarding, a person who has died).

From Fall River to Fort Washington: A Torah on the move

Adas Israel donates a Torah to a Reconstructionist synagogue

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – A Torah from Congregation Adas Israel in Fall River, Mass., now has a new home at Or Hadash, a Reconstructionist synagogue in the Philadelphia suburb of Fort Washington, Pa.

Adas Israel, operating out of a chapel at Temple Beth El in Fall River since it sold its building late last year, originally had seven Torahs on-site. "But it was kind of foolish. We'd rather have the [Torah] go to someone who could use it and enjoy it," said Jeffrey Weissman, president of Adas Israel, in a phone interview. Adas Israel, said

Weissman, holds services on Shabbat and on Jewish holidays, but it simply doesn't need seven Torahs.

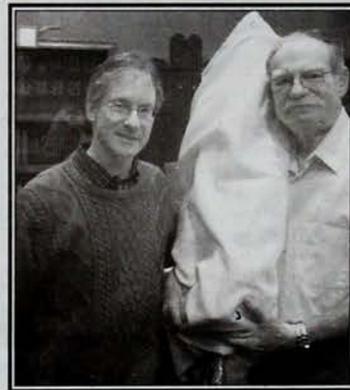
How was the connection made? Weissman explained that Beth El member William Chebot has a son, Jeffrey, who is active with Or Hadash; after some phone and email exchanges, the arrangements were made.

Representatives from Or Hadash came to Fall River on Sunday, April 7, to pick up the Torah. A staff member at the Philadelphia-area synagogue said the synagogue has a celebration planned for May 5.

This is not Adas Israel's first experience in "sharing the

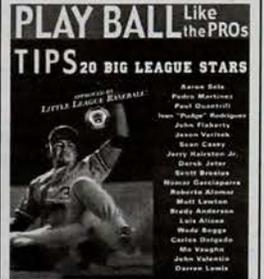
Torah wealth." Adas Israel was storing two Torahs owned by the Fall River Jewish Home; those Torahs have been returned to the home, he said. Adas Israel has plans to donate another Torah to another Jewish organization.

Yet another Torah, which was lent originally to Rabbi Yossi Laufer of Chabad of West Bay Chai Center for repair, has since been donated to that organization to use and enjoy, said Weissman.



JEFFREY WEISSMAN

Jeffrey Chebot, left, and Jeffrey Weissman



'Take me out to Hadassah'

CRANSTON – Want to talk about the Boston Red Sox? Interested in becoming a children's author?

Join sports journalist and published children's author, Steven Krasner, for an entertaining, interactive talk on Sunday, April 28, at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, from 2-3:30 p.m.

This family event is open to individuals of all ages; refreshments will be served.

Hadassah will sell tickets (6 for \$5) for chances to win door prizes before the program begins.

Krasner's books will be available for purchase after his talk.

HADASSAH: 463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org.

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AT THE STATEHOUSE

There's no place like home

Housing advocates urge legislators to enact relief measures

PROVIDENCE — With the iconic "The Wizard of Oz" as its theme, the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless and affordable housing and homeless prevention advocates gathered at the Statehouse to release homelessness data and to urge legislative relief for a system bursting at the seams.

With the refrain of Oz' "There's No Place Like Home," advocates urged support for H. 5554 and S. 494, companion bills that would allocate \$3.25 million for rental vouchers and emergency winter shelter costs. Additionally, they called upon the legislature to tackle the yearly increases in homelessness by adequately funding Opening Doors Rhode Island, the state's plan to end homelessness.

Dr. Eric Hirsch, Providence College professor and chair of the Homeless Management Information System Committee, released Point-in-Time numbers and the 2012 Annual Statistics at the April 3 press conference.

Conducted every January, the Point-in-Time Count tallies who is homeless on a given night and provides a snapshot of who experiences homelessness throughout the year. The Point-in-Time Count is a statistically reliable, unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in the



George Nee, president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, speaks at the Statehouse.

state. This year's Point-in-Time Count revealed a 10.5 percent increase in homeless individuals from 1,277 in 2012 to 1,411 in 2013. The Annual Statistics also found across-the-board increases: a 10.4 percent increase in the overall number of homeless from 4,410 in 2011 to 4,868 in 2012, with even greater increases for homeless families, children and veterans.

Hirsch, who attributes such increases to the poor economy and an unaffordable housing market, said in the statement, "It is actually, tragically simple, the need has grown while re-

sources have dwindled. Rhode Islanders still experiencing the economic downturn, the underemployed and the unemployed, have begun to run out of their resources and that, combined with cutbacks in ... funding, leads to more homelessness."

Hirsch referenced the National Low Income Housing Coalition report, Out of Reach 2013, which shows that affordable rental housing remains inaccessible for average Rhode Islanders and ranks Rhode Island as having the nation's 17th highest rental costs.

According to the report, the

Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island is \$945. To afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing, a household must earn \$37,813 annually.

"We hear so much about economic recovery but ... Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness aren't seeing any re-

covery," said Jim Ryczek, executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless, in the release. "In the past five years, we have witnessed a 24 percent increase in Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness but funding has not kept up with the need."

Advocates urged legislators to stay committed to Opening Doors Rhode Island.

Consistent with federal homelessness initiatives, the Opening Doors Rhode Island plan aims to sharply reduce the number of homeless individuals and the amount of time they are homeless. With a proposal to end chronic homelessness in five years, the plan outlines strategies to substantially decrease the numbers of homeless families and young people.

Information about how to find one's state representatives and senators is on the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.ri.gov/vic/>

CONTACT: rihomeless.org

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7pm

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נוריה שמואלה

Peter Garber

פנחס

Daniel Katz

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Rachel Kaufman

חיה

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בנימין צבי

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CALENDAR

Ongoing

Alliance Kasher Senior Café. Kasher lunch and program provided every Wednesday and Friday. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon – lunch; 12:45 p.m. – program. \$3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 861-8800, ext. 107.



YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Am David Kasher Senior Café. Kasher lunch and program provided every weekday. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.

11:15 a.m. – program; noon – lunch. \$3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Elaine or Steve, 732-0047.

Continuing through April 18

The Sigd: From Ethiopia to Israel. Exhibit features photographs by Ilene Perlman and Gidon Agaza. Gallery (401), 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 108.

Friday | April 12

Yiddish Shmooz. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. 421-4111.

Dinner with Holocaust Survivors. Event includes Shabbat service. URI Hillel, Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. 5:30 p.m. 874-2740.

Shalom to Shabbat. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 7 p.m. – wine and cheese; 7:30 p.m. – service. 885-6600 or toratysrael.org.

Yom Ha-Shoah Service. Musical participation by Shireinu. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 7:30 p.m. 942-8350.

Saturday | April 13

"Footnote": Israel @65. 2011 Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Film will be shown at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston and Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road, Middletown. 8 p.m.; \$5/adults; \$3/students or seniors. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 108.

Sunday | April 14

Walk the Land: Israel @65. Celebrate Israel's contributions to the world. RI Statehouse, Smith Street, Providence. 1 p.m. – walk; 2 p.m. – ceremony. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 108.

Hadassah Donor Event. Shireinu. Jewish community chorus of Temple Sinai, performs. River Farms Condominium Club House, 109 River Farms Road, West Warwick. 1 – 3 p.m. 463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org.

Yom Ha-Zikaron (Israel Memorial Day): Israel @65. Ceremony to honor Israeli's fallen is led by Rabbi Amy Levin and Matan Graff. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 7:30 p.m. Matan Graff, mgraf@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 121.

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Calendar items for our April 26 Mother's Day Issue must be received by April 17. Items for our May 10 Teens/Graduation Issue must be received by May 1. Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."

Monday | April 15

Holocaust Remembrance Week Observation. Alice Dreifuss Goldstein discusses her memoir "Ordinary People, Turbulent Times." The Highlands on the East Side, 101 Highland Ave., Providence. 2 p.m. 654-5259. See story, page 7.

"400 Miles to Freedom": Israel @65. Rhode Island film premiere features guest speaker Avishai Mekonen, director/producer. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. \$5/adults, \$3/students or seniors. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111 ext. 108.

Tuesday | April 16

Rick Recht Concert: Israel @65. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 5:30 p.m. – rehearsal & dinner; 6:30 p.m. – concert. Michelle Cicchitelli, mcicchitelli@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 178.

Roundtable Gun Control Discussion. Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and Commissioner Steven Paré discuss public safety initiatives. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Carol at cgualtieri@teprov.org.

Wednesday | April 17

"Lost Islands": Israel @65. 2008 Israeli Academy Award winner for best actor, best supporting actor, costume design and music will be screened. Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington and Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence. 7 p.m. \$5/adults; \$3/students or seniors. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111 ext. 108.

"Two Night": Israel @65. New England film premiere at Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence, and URI Hillel, Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. 7 p.m. \$5/adults; \$3 students or seniors; free for students from URI, Brown and RISD.

Thursday | April 18

Adoption Options Meeting. Meeting to learn more about available options for adoptions. Jewish Family Service, 959 N. Main St., Providence. 6 – 7 p.m.; Peg Boyle, peg@jfsri.org or 331-5437.

Ilan Troen Speaks: Israel @65. Ilan Troen, director of Brandeis University's Schusterman Center, to speak on "Perspectives on the Past and Challenges of the Future." Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 6:30 p.m. Marty Cooper, mcooper@shalomri.org or 421-4111 ext. 171.

Friday | April 19

The Israel Experience: Israel @65. Children's programming with PJ Library, Alliance JCC Early Childhood Center and the Jewish Community Day School. 9:30 – 11 a.m. Contact Michelle Cicchitelli, 421-4111, ext. 178 or mcicchitelli@shalomri.org.

Yom Ha-Atzma'ut Service. Shireinu participates in celebration of Israeli Independence Day. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 7:30 p.m. 942-8350.

Reminiscences of a Kindertransportee

A childhood classmate later plays a key role in Wegner's life

BY PETER WEGNER

PROVIDENCE – On March 12, 1938, I was living with my widowed mother and grandmother in Vienna, Austria. On that day, Hitler annexed Austria in a military operation known as the *Anschluss*.

The Anschluss

My mother had to flee at once, because her name was on a Nazi list of politically left-wing Viennese Jews; she could escape only by illegally

"I WAS LUCKIER than most Kinder."



PHOTOS | PETER WEGNER

Peter Wegner on Aug. 20, 1938 in Vienna on his sixth birthday

crossing the border into Switzerland with other members of her political group. So she left me with Grandma in an apartment at 52 *Praterstrasse* (one of Vienna's main streets), in an area where many Jews then lived.

One day later, a huge German military parade came up our street. Watching with my grandmother from a window, I saw a man standing in an open car – and heard loud cheers of "Heil Hitler!" from the crowds gathered in the street below. (Many Austrians strongly supported the Nazi invasion – though after the war they would claim to be among Hitler's victims, opposed to but unable to resist the *Anschluss*.)

After the *Anschluss*, my uncles were arrested and deported to the Dachau concentration camp near Munich. Six months later, they came home emaciated from starvation.

I, too, had bad experiences of my own. One day when I was walking in the park with Grandma, some children who knew I was Jewish wanted to beat me up; I had to run away from them. More importantly, I was expelled from my school, along with other Jewish pupils. I had to transfer to a school set up at the local synagogue, because Jews had been deprived of their Austrian citizenship and could no longer send their children to state schools.

Kristallnacht

On the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938, *Kristallnacht* ("the night of broken glass") brought destruction to synagogues and Jewish businesses through

out Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia; next morning, we discovered that my synagogue and school had been burned down. My uncle took me for a walk, and we saw Jewish women being molested by Austrian police and local Nazis.

Kristallnacht made the Nazi persecution of the Jews patently obvious to the whole world; the British Parliament responded immediately by passing a resolution granting asylum to 10,000 persecuted children from the three Nazi-controlled countries whose parents were willing to let them go. No other country offered to do this – the American excuse being that "it would not be right to separate children from their parents." (Most of those parents would later perish in the Holocaust; but every one of the *Kinder* [children] who had been separated from them was still alive when the war ended.)

Kindertransport

The *Kindertransport* initiative saved my life. My mother, who had been admitted to England by agreeing to take a job as a domestic servant, was able to get Marks & Spencer (the well-known Anglo-Jewish department store) to sponsor me, and on April 25, 1939, I left Vienna on a *Kindertransport* train. My grandmother took me to the *Westbahnhof* station to board the train, which left Vienna at 5 p.m., carrying about 300 children aged 3 to 17. Young Jewish adults – who had to return when the train crossed

the German-Dutch border or else reprisals would be taken against their families and the *Kindertransport* would be discontinued – accompanied us on the train ride. (Decades later, when Austria finally admitted complicity in the Holocaust, Austrian government archives revealed that both of my grandmothers, together with my two aunts and two cousins – children of my own age who had been unable to get seats on a *Kindertransport* – were deported during 1941 and 1942, along with the entire Viennese Jewish community.)

When the deportation trains reached neighboring countries like Lithuania, Poland and the Ukraine, Jews were taken to nearby locations, where they were machine-gunned into previously-dug trenches, which became mass graves for the victims.)

Throughout Austria and Germany, our train remained sealed. I remember passing through Munich at midnight and reaching the Dutch border at 9 a.m. the next day, at which point the train was unsealed and we children were allowed out onto the platform, where some Dutch ladies kindly handed out mugs of steaming cocoa.

Then the train continued on to the Hook of Holland and we crossed the English Channel to Harwich during the night, to arrive at London's Liverpool Street Station on

CALENDAR

From Page 10

Saturday | April 20

Benji Lovitt Comedian: Israel@65. American/Israeli comedian performs at the Wilbury Theatre Group, the Southside Cultural Center, 393 Broad St., Providence. Hosted by The RING. 8 p.m. \$18/admission and one drink. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 108.

Sunday | April 21

Kol Kesem HaZamir Providence Choir. The choir will perform two songs before the Noa concert. 6:45 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Jana Brenman, jbreman@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 181.

Noa Performs The Israeli Songbook: Israel@65. Internationally acclaimed musician Noa, with Musical Director Gil Dor and the Yoed Nir String Quartet. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. \$36/adults; \$12/children under 16, students or seniors; \$100 - Noa Experience: post-concert cocktail reception with singer and reserved seating. Erin Moseley, emoseley@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 108. See story, page 1.

Tuesday | April 23

Illustrated Lecture. Judith S. Pinnolis offers illustrated lecture about Julie Eichberg Rosewald, America's first female cantor. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. 331-1616.

Hadassah Speaker at Alliance. Barbara Goldstein, deputy executive director of Hadassah in Israel, speaks. Alliance Social Hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 7 - 9 p.m. 463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org. See story, below.

Wednesday | April 24

Rosh Hodesh Luncheon. Rabbi Andrew Klein speaks on "Physical Perfection, The Sabbath and Women's Roles in Ancient Israel Time." Babysitting available. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon - 1:15 p.m. \$10 includes lunch. Michele Gallagher, mgallagher@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 165.

Touro Fraternal Association Open House. Open house for new members. John Rooke, New England Patriots'

public address announcer and Providence College basketball's radio voice, is guest speaker. K kosher dinner. Touro Hall, 45 Rolfe Square, Cranston. 6:30 p.m. 785-0066 or info@tourofraternal.org.

Thursday | April 25

The Many Faces of Adoption. Families who have adopted children and licensed adoption workers discuss adoption. Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Peg Boyle, peg@jfsri.org or 331-5437.

Friday | April 26

Social Action Shabbat. Guest speaker at oneg is Simon Moore of College Visions. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Service at 7 p.m., oneg (refreshments and gathering) to follow. 331-6070. See story, page 39.

Saturday | April 27

Agudas Achim Adult Social. Plaza Mexico Bar and Grill, 2120 Diamond Hill Rd., Woonsocket. 7 p.m.: Bruce Ganek, bganek@gmail.com.

Sunday | April 28

Jewish Historical Association Annual Meeting. Guest speaker Walter Potenza discusses "The Cuisine of the Sephardic Italian-Jews." Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 2 p.m. 331-1360. See story, page 6.

Take Me Out to Hadassah. Guest speaker is Steven Krasner, sports journalist and published children's author. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 2 - 3:30 p.m. 463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org. See story, page 8.

Memoirist Dr. Bernd Wolschlaeger. Author of "A German Life: Against All Odds, Change is Possible" will speak. Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington, 2 p.m.; 245-6536 or office@templehabonim.org. See story, page 7.

Thursday | May 2

Lunch & Learn. Rabbi Richard Perlman leads Torah portion discussion; kosher deli lunch follows. Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. Noon - 1 p.m. \$10/session or \$54/7-session series. 463-7944 or rabbiperlman@cox.net.

From Page 10

the afternoon of April 27, two days after leaving Vienna. (In 2006, Frank Meisler, a former *Kindertransport* child, created a bronze sculpture commissioned by the Association of Jewish Refugees to commemorate the *Kindertransport*. Erected outside Liverpool Street Station, it graphically depicts five children arriving with small suitcases; one boy holds his violin case.)

I was luckier than most *Kinder*, as my mother, already in England, came to meet me at the station. She brought me to a house in the London suburb of Willesden, where she was caring for the children of a family whose job offer had enabled her to escape. Her employers let her keep me there for three months, until the Jewish Refugee Committee found a place for me at Bunce Court School - a boarding school whose pupils were mainly Jewish refugees, including several *Kindertransport* survivors.

A British education

During those three months in London (from May to July 1939), I attended Gladstone Park School, a local primary school, where I managed to learn quite a bit of English (6-year-olds thrust into a foreign-language environment pick up the language much faster than adults). I was more fortunate than most *Kinder* in being just the right age to receive my entire formal education in the English school system. This enabled me to pass the entrance exam to London University for a mathematics degree and to go on to post-graduate work at Cambridge University, where I became one of the first three people in the world to earn a post-graduate diploma in the newly-developing discipline of computer science.



Peter Wegner and Judith Romney Wegner sit in front of the sculpture commemorating the *Kindertransport* program, in 2009, which is erected outside London's Liverpool Street Station.

Meeting Judith

While at Cambridge, I ate Friday night dinners at the University Jewish Society, where I met an undergraduate named Judith Romney, who would later become my wife.

Incredibly, my schoolmates at the Gladstone Park Primary School back in 1939 had included the same Judith Romney - who just happened to be living in the same school district at the time! However, neither of us recalls meeting in grade school, and it was only after marriage that we discovered that remarkable coincidence of Jewish geography!

In 1999, when I was 66, the Austrian government - which had effectively banished me

from the country when I was 6 - inducted me into the Austrian Academy of Science and Arts, awarding me the *österreichisches Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst* (the Austrian Medal of Honor for Science and Art) for my contributions to Austrian computer science from the 1970s through the 1990s.

A LONGER VERSION of this essay appeared in the R.I. Jewish Historical Association's Notes (vol. 15, No. 3, Nov. 2009, p. 521).

PETER WEGNER (pw@cs.brown.edu) a retired Brown University professor, lives in Providence.

Hadassah leader to visit R.I.

PROVIDENCE - Barbara Goldstein, deputy executive director of Hadassah in Israel, will speak at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island on April 23.

Goldstein, a leader in Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, served as a member of the cabinet of the American Zionist Movement.

In 2011, she was chosen to light the beacon in Israel's Independence Day ceremony, one of the country's highest honors. Today, in Israel, Goldstein represents Hadassah on the prime minister's special committee on the legacy of Theodor Herzl and on the boards of the JNF, Hadassah Neurim and Meir Shfeyah, Ramat Hadassah.

"My life has been guided by a passion, commitment and humor to Judaism and Zionism, activism and pragmatism," said Goldstein, in a release from Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah. "I live according to 'Pirkei Avot' ('Ethics of the Fathers') ... the task is not mine to finish but I must be part of it."

Goldstein is touring the United States for a limited time, and her visit to Rhode Island is one of a select few of her stops.

The April 23 event, which runs from 7 - 9 p.m., is open to the public. There will be no solicitations.

HADASSAH RSVP: 463-3636

Providence USY volleyball team competes

The Providence USY volleyball team, then in second place, competed against the first place volleyball team from Peabody, Mass. Held at the Gann Academy in Waltham, Mass., on March 17, Providence lost 2-0.

The Providence USY volleyball team: Mimi Heath (kneeling), Zmira Stouber and Chava Herzog; Arielle Frank, standing, Gabby Warshay, Sarah Schneider and Nili Levine; and coaches Michael Frank and Barney Heath pose for a picture. Players Eve Stein and Alicia Blazer are not pictured.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

April offers somber reflections

BY NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

“April is the cruelest month,” wrote T.S. Eliot (1888 – 1965), a poet whose anti-Semitic writings were widely circulated.

Why should it be the cruelest month? April in southern New England offers the first blooming flowers of daffodils, crocuses and other early spring flowers. Is it a reminder that those bulbs faithfully send sprouts skyward after they’ve languished beneath a tomb of snow and ice for so many months? Is it a reminder that even as spring is sprouting all around us, our loved ones continue to die... regardless of the weather’s glory?



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

NANCY KIRSCH

Maybe there’s some merit to Eliot’s assessment of April, at least this year when we observe both *Yom Ha-Shoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and *Yom Ha’Zikaron* (Israel Memorial Day) in April. Shouldn’t we be celebrating, instead, that we survived yet another winter? Even if we get a snow shower, summer and all its glories are around the proverbial corner.

I find attending funerals and burials on glorious spring days incongruous – they are better reserved for weather reflecting the occasions’ sadness. Similarly, it’s hard to reconcile such somber days of observance as *Yom Ha-Shoah* and *Yom Ha’Zikaron* occurring in the midst of April’s rebirths.

But perhaps that’s the point; they remind us that, no matter how fecund and fertile Earth’s offerings are, death and destruction have occurred, are occurring now and will continue to occur.

Maybe these ceremonies are meant to serve as an especially poignant wakeup call to us all, given their timing. Perhaps if they were held in the dark, depressing days of January or February – at a time when cold, dark days may engender morose feelings – the ceremonies might not deliver such an emotional wallop.

Birth, death and change are inevitable (as are taxes): We are disappointed that Phil Eil, a contributing writer for the paper, will no longer be able to regularly write for us. Although we will miss his monthly contributions, we wish him well as he takes the helm as news editor at the Providence Phoenix.

On another note: Israel is celebrating its 65th birthday and our Jewish community, like others around the world, is hosting events to commemorate this country officially reaching “senior citizen” status! The March 29 issue, as well as this issue’s calendar, has a full schedule of events that will continue through April 21. The capstone event is the concert with Noa, an internationally known American-Israeli singer who now lives in Israel; see the story on page 1.

And, finally: Be sure to take a good look at our spring home & garden section inside. After I recently organized a cupboard’s worth of beauty supplies, I was, frankly, appalled. Do I really need 16 tubes of lipstick or multiple jars of daily moisturizer?

So, in keeping with an Earth-friendly philosophy of consuming less, I’m going to “shop my closet” for a while – I’ve got plenty of things to consume first before I buy more!

Jacobo Timerman’s must-read book

Author displays extraordinary courage, physical endurance and cunning

Next weekend, my wife Sandy and I will be attending a conference, “Yiddish Con Salsa: The Jews of Latin America,” at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass. In preparation for the series of lectures and discussions, the conference organizers have sent each participant two books and seven short stories.



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

One of the books is Jacobo Timerman’s “Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number,” translated from the Spanish

by Toby Talbot, which I read in hardcover shortly after Alfred A. Knopf first published it in 1981. The paperback edition, which I received from the Yiddish Book Center (University of Wisconsin Press, August 2002, by arrangement with Alfred A. Knopf) includes a foreword by Arthur Miller and an introduction by Ilan Stavans.

At the age of 5, Timerman (1923-1999) emigrated with his family from the Ukraine to Argentina, where – with the exception of about four years in “exile” – he lived out his life. Timerman was known throughout Argentina as the publisher and editor of the progressive Buenos Aires newspaper, *La Opinion*, which he helped found in 1971.

Timerman was one of the tens of thousands of victims of Argentina’s “Dirty War, le guerra sucia,” the vast majority of whom “disappeared” and are presumed dead. The war began in March 1976, when the army seized the government, in tragic repetition of the military takeovers of the duly elected governments in 1930, 1943, 1955, 1962 and 1966.

On April 15, 1977, an extreme sector of the army, the very core of neo-Nazi operations in Argentina, kidnapped Timerman and dragged him off to a series of secret locations, where he was continually tortured as a prisoner without a name in a cell without a number.

After six months or so, Argentina’s War Council concluded that they could not come up with a single legitimate charge against Timerman; nevertheless, he remained their prisoner, though in more “humane” conditions, for

another two years! By their own admission, the army had no legal reason to delay his release; however, they kept him in their custody because they both hated and feared him as a Jew and a Zionist.

What I remember most from my first reading of Timerman’s book more than 30 years ago was his courage, his physical endurance, and – yes – his cunning in confronting his torturers. He refused to succumb to the temptation of “bonding” with them. Rather, he stuck to what he considered to be a life-14

saving regimen of vegetative passivity as he faced his encounters with “Susan,” the diabolical machine that his torturers used to administer agonizing electrical shocks over the most sensitive parts of his body: “This passivity, I believe, preserved a great deal of energy and left me with all my strength to withstand the torture.

“THEY BOTH HATED and feared him as a Jew and a Zionist.”

mination of “the enemy.”

According to Timerman, it is no accident that anti-Semitism is almost invariably a fixture in the worldview of totalitarians of both the right and the left. In a sense, we Jews are the perfect enemy, an eternal “category of guilt, even when we were declared innocent of other offenses and absolved of the crimes.” Anti-Semitism, then, is “a deeper expression than the mere aversion aroused by an enemy, for it expresse[s], in addition, the need for a hated object and the simultaneous fear of that object.” Timerman’s experiences bring him to the pessimistic conclusion that anti-Semitism is “eternal, interminable, perfect, inevitable.



JACOBO TIMERMAN

Always inevitable.”

Following his 30 months of imprisonment, in early 1980 the Argentine army stripped Timerman of his citizenship – again, without the slightest legal justification – and put him on a plane to Tel Aviv, where he received a hero’s welcome. However, after writing “The Longest War: Israel in Lebanon” (Alfred A. Knopf, 1982) a book highly critical of Israel’s invasion and occupation of Lebanon, Timerman became persona non grata; he left Israel for Madrid, then New York – finally returning to Argentina in 1984, once the army had stepped down.

As Miller points out in his brief foreword to the 2002 edition to “Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number,” “Timerman was in trouble with everybody and for the same single reason – he could not tolerate mendacity in the powerful... He was a living reminder that prophets are irritants and not messengers of reassurance. He told it like it is, whether in Argentina, Israel, Europe, or the United States.”

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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.

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

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

Israel's 'social security'

Israeli middle class faces onerous tax burdens

The State of Israel is about to celebrate its 65th birthday, which brings to the American mind the issue of Social Security. But I want to relate to the term with a small "s" – the idea of social security in its wider meaning.

The U.S. has always had a creed of "rugged individualism" – each person first and foremost is responsible for his (and lately, her) own fate. That stems in part from its Puritan



REFLECTIONS
OF | IN ISRAEL

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG

tradition (God bestows success on the true believer) and also the 19th century "frontier ethos" (go out, grab land and build the future).

As a result, in comparison to European democracies, the U.S. has quite a weak social safety net for those who don't or can't make it – even after President Lyndon Baines Johnson's Great Society program was largely put into effect.

Israel, on the other hand, comes from the opposite direction. Zionists – at least those who came from Socialist Eastern Europe and originally settled the Promised Land in the early 20th century – started from the opposite perspective:

kol Yisra'el arevim zeh ba-zeh ("all Jews are responsible for one another"), a very ancient Jewish ethos. Given the lack of natural resources and a dearth of immigrant economic wealth, the Zionists established a very wide system of social services: universal health care (through four competing *kuppot holim*, i.e., HMOs) paid for by progressive taxation; universal and free K-12 education as well as quite inexpensive higher education (\$7,500 overall for a full undergraduate degree from a public college); extensive services and subsidies for those with physical and mental handicaps and, to a more limited extent, for elderly citizens; child allowance supplements until age 18; three-month paid maternity leave and in many other areas of life.

However, there's a price to pay – and the middle class is no longer willing to carry the whole burden, especially given that Israel's "social security" has gone beyond those who can't help themselves (enough) to those unwilling to try. This is the main factor behind the astonishing success of Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid party – calling for reducing the heavy tax burden on the middle class as well as forcing the ultra-Orthodox to serve in the army and work for a living as well (and, thus, pay taxes).



ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

Moreover, with rising expectations as a First World economy and state, the middle class expects even more in certain critical areas of life. However, as the country cannot afford to spend additional public funds, these services have started to be privatized: supplemental health insurance (to pay for medicines not covered by the HMOs or for ameliorating catastrophic illness through overseas operations); after-school private tutoring to ensure high marks in the "Psychometry" (Israel's College Board equivalent) in order to get into the best university programs; private colleges (\$25,000 for the full B.A. from a private college or university) that provide more personalized education, etc.

Ironically, therefore, both the U.S. and Israel are in the

midst of serious public debates regarding the extent of their overall "social security" policies, except that they are approaching the issue from different directions. America is asking whether and to what extent it should spend more public money to move millions of its citizens above the poverty line; Israel is asking itself to what extent it can cut its public outlays without overly damaging its once (and to some extent, still) admirably strong social safety net.

I would argue that the issue is far more critical in Israel than in the U.S. for two reasons. First, Israel has to spend a large part of its budget on national security because of its tenuous situation in the hostile Middle East. This is not the usual debate over "guns or butter" but

"ISRAEL'S
'SOCIAL
SECURITY' has
gone beyond ...
to those unwilling
to try."

rather "how much butter with the guns?" Second, Israeli society is so fractured along religious, ethnic, economic, ideological and national lines that removing too much social security (again, small "s") would dissipate the glue that today keeps large sectors of the citizenry from violent political activity, if not against the State then at least against one another.

In short, Israel is still a vibrant, young country, but having reached 65, it now has to deal with some very "new/old" issues.

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

We must do what we love

Have faith that the rest will work out

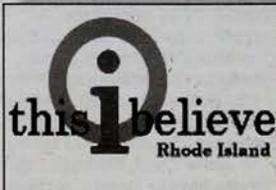
BY RABBI ELAN
BABCHUCK

I believe that life is too short to waste time doing what we think others want us to do.

I came to believe this in June of 2003, around my 21st birthday. My father and I pulled into the driveway, returning from a white-knuckled joyride around the neighborhood, with me at the wheel of my shiny new Audi. Were it not for the adrenaline rush of driving a car that I could barely control, I would have been just as queasy as my father, who was undergoing heavy doses of chemo at the time.

When he was first diagnosed, I was 17-years-old, about to make the biggest decision of my life: college. Deep down, I wanted to double-major in psychology and English at some warm-weather liberal arts school, dabble in philosophy, and take my time figuring out what I would do with my

life. But instead, I did what I thought my parents wanted me to do. I thought – I was sure – that they wanted me to start earning money right away,



supplanting my father's income and rescuing the family from imminent financial ruin.

So I chose an in-state university, studied business, and while my peers worked in restaurants and retail, I started a house-painting company. When his cancer came back for good, I worried that he would die without knowing that I could accomplish exactly what I had assumed he wanted me to do: to provide for the



Rabbi Elan Babchuck

"IT WASN'T HIS
death that flipped
my world upside
down."

family after he was gone. So in a moment of panic, I checked my savings account, called up a local dealer and bought the afore-mentioned Audi in a misguided, absurd, grandiose gesture.

Which brings us back to my driveway, post-joyride. We stood there together, between my new car and his old one – a 1993 trusty, teal tank of a Volvo station wagon.

He put his hand on my shoulder and said the last thing in the world I expected: "My dear Elan, enjoy it. But know this: I was planning, all along, to give you the Volvo."

He died a month later. But it wasn't his death that flipped my world upside down, it was that last, subtle – yet profound – piece of advice, given to me in our driveway that day: This life is too short to make choices based on what we think others want from us. We must do those things in the world that we love to do, and have faith

that the rest will work out.

RABBI ELAN BABCHUCK (ebabchuck@teprov.org) is a rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. He drives a sensible family sedan and loves nothing more than hitting the road and exploring the world with his wife Lizzie and their son Micah, who is named after his late grandfather, Michael.

RABBI BABCHUCK'S "This I Believe" essay aired April 3, 2013. The Voice & Herald thanks Frederic Reamer and Joseph O'Connor, the This I Believe producer and WRNI general manager, respectively, for allowing us to reproduce these essays.

TO SUBMIT your aired "This I Believe" essay to The Voice & Herald? Send to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: This I Believe.

Building a bridge across a huge cultural chasm

The longer I'm here, the less I understand

Lately I've been feeling more and more out of place, and less and less connected with Israel and the reasons I made aliyah.

I received a lot of comments on a statement I made in a recent column, that "the longer I

of all my mother's hard work, shopping for and shipping all those clothes over the past three years, possibly going to waste.

I thus retracted my already-rejected offer and slunk away from my friend with my tail between my legs. I felt selfish and misunderstood and, most of all, shocked that the concept of lending took on such different meanings in the U.S. and Israel. I felt sure that the dictionary definition coincided with my own, but clearly Israel uses an entirely different dictionary.

Another major mine that I always seem to step on exists in the area of nannies and caregivers for my kids. It has become painfully clear to me that my views on childrearing, discipline and parental empathy are fundamentally at odds with those of most of the Israeli populace, apparently at least down here in Be'er Sheva. So I have lowered my expectations overall, while carefully choosing between the battles in which I will and won't engage. Of course, none of my battling matters in the slightest, and I cannot count the number of times that I have had to grit my teeth and smile after having caught our various sitters giving our children sweets, plopping them in front of the television or admonishing them in a way that goes against everything I stand for as a parent.

Indeed, the unique and infamous breed of individual known as "The Israeli nanny" is a slippery and terrifying specimen. We have learned our lesson well, through no small number of clear warnings and insinuated threats: Don't cross the nanny. Our daughter's first nanny informed us, in no uncertain terms, that she would only care for Amit at her house, which allowed her ample opportunity to take care of all her housework and cooking for her extended family of, I swear, at least 17-gajillion. Only when Amit began seeking out our kitchen towels to fold and incessantly sweeping the living room did we realize what was really going on.

So we fearfully and timidly beseeched the nanny: "Maybe, pretty please, possibly, is there any chance you can spend a bit

more time playing and interacting directly with her?"

The response? An injured look and a 30-minute lecture on how much she loves Amit but how clearly her own family comes first. That rule held painfully true when relatives visited daily, when it was declared that extra days would be taken off surrounding holidays and when Amit's daily schedule was constantly shifted to accommodate certain family members' needs.

The reality of how different my mindset is from the Israeli perspective constantly smacked me in the face when the nanny would remind me proudly that she viewed and treated Amit like her "own granddaughter" – and I saw this only as a disadvantage.

And so, in a twisted take on the beloved (American) motto, we have learned the hard way and many, many times over, that "the childcare-giver is always right." And that there's nothing we can do about that.

Indeed, we had one sitter who committed to working two specific days a week, only to renege just a few weeks later when her

schedule suddenly "became problematic." Another signed on with us and agreed to a specific sum for her salary, but then a month later, citing rising living expenses, just declared she wanted 30 percent more! Another decided to stop working for us while we were on a trip abroad, apparently because she didn't think we were coming back. And my favorite, a previously beloved baby-sitter who, upon receiving a mistaken paycheck from my befuddled husband for over \$450 more than what we owed her, decided she deserved the "tip" and cashed the check without a word to us.

Yes, these Israelis astound, shock, flabbergast and enrage me at times. And, on a daily basis, I am left wondering despairingly, how can I ever make sense of this country and its people? I hate to extrapolate from these seemingly small and inconsequential examples to the entirety of my absorption process and bewilderment about Israeli society at large. And perhaps I am being over-dramatic and over-critical. After all, this is a Middle Eastern society, and a "salad bowl" of so many differ-

ent cultures and customs and backgrounds, all of which make communication and mutual understanding a challenge, to say the least. There are also many wonderful side effects of this diversity, and I try every day to focus more on them.

And yet, as usual, I find myself feeling like I am on the other side of a huge cultural chasm.

I had hoped to have made some progress building the bridge across by now, and in truth, there are days that I think I have. But then I look back and see that the bridge was actually made of sand and seems to be crumbling beneath my feet. And I look forward and see that the other side seems to be moving further away by the minute. I suppose all I can do is keep placing each pile of sand in position (and hope that it sticks) and have faith that I will continue to feel that the bridge is worth building at all.

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

ALISON ON ALIYAH REDUX

ALISON STERN PEREZ



am here, the less I understand anything about this country, society and people that are supposedly now 'my own.' I was asked for examples, and it made me reflect even more on some things that, I feel, epitomize my outsider-ness. The more such experiences I accumulate, the more I come closer to being able to put my finger on what makes me feel so frustrated and foreign and, often, fundamentally inadequate (at least, perhaps, for living in this society).

Case in point: A few months ago, a friend of mine mentioned that a friend of hers was about to have a baby girl and didn't have much money for clothes or supplies. Thinking I was showing admirable generosity and sharing in the Israeli collective and pioneering spirit, I automatically proffered the literal truckloads of adorable and barely-used Carter's dresses, jumpers and pajamas I had painstakingly organized and stored. "Of course," I said, in what I assumed was only an afterthought that was clearly obvious to both of us, "I would need everything back when we're ready for our next baby."

My friend looked at me wide-eyed, flabbergasted at the presumption, and asked with a not-imperceptible amount of disgust, "What?! You want it back?!" She immediately refused my offer, haughtily telling me that baby clothes are never given back to the original lender, only "paid forward" here. I, equally incredulous, asked what people do if they have another child after giving away all their baby clothing, to which she responded, "I guess they just buy more, or borrow from someone else."

I could not bear the thought

LETTERS

An update on the saga of Yuri Dorn

EDITOR'S NOTE: David Davies, who wrote "The sad saga of Yuri Dorn" in the March 29 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald, provided us with an update on recent developments.

He wrote: "FYI – I received this from Irina Dorn the same day [that The Jewish Voice & Herald] arrived in the mail. It was plead to the charge and get

out or face five years, which the prosecutor was asking for. Yuri had to resign from his leadership of the Belarus Jewish community as part of [the plea agreement], so I'm not sure what's left for him there."

The email that Davies received from Irina and Yuri Dorn states: "Hi, David. Thank you for this article! As of March 29, Yuri is a free person.

"They finally let him go. He had to admit to tax evasion and [the] judge counted a year he spent in jail as his punishment. Perfect explanation for the year they kept Yuri in prison."

We just spent our first [Shabbat] together, although still in Minsk. Now I understand better the true meaning of Pesach. Happy Passover, Irina & Yuri."

An update on the Ethiopian photography exhibit

As one who was involved, along with Matan Graff, in the preparation of the gallery (401) exhibit, and whose text describing the Sigd accompanies the wonderful photographs of Ilene Perlman and Gidon Agaza, I would like to correct a number of the errors contained in Nancy Kirsch's 288 word article, "Photographers' images of Ethiopian Jews on display" (March 29). It will take about as many words to clear matters up.

The photo exhibit is titled "The Sigd: From Ethiopia to Israel" and not "Documenting the Sigd."

The exhibit is not "about the Ethiopian Jews' sojourns from

their homeland to the State of Israel." It is about a unique holiday of Ethiopian Jewry that has now become an Israeli national holiday, though it continues to be celebrated mainly by Jews from Ethiopia, with most Jews in Israel and the diaspora remaining unfamiliar with it.

I did not travel "late last year to Ethiopia to document the Ethiopian holiday," but rather to Israel, which is where most of the Jews from Ethiopia now live and the main celebrations of the Sigd take place.

Ilene Perlman does not claim that her "ability to 'speak a little Hebrew'" brings Jews closer

together, whatever that statement might mean.

Gidon Agaza has not yet graduated from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. As his gallery exhibit artist's statement, which I translated into English, makes plain: "I'm currently completing my final year of study at Bezalel." And he does not live in Jerusalem.

Shai Afsai
Providence

EDITOR'S NOTE: The paper inadvertently ran an early draft of this story, which contained inaccurate information provided to The Voice & Herald. The paper regrets the errors.

Correction



Members of The Mothers Circle – Denise Josephs, from left, Anya Davis and Ciara Byrne – attended a model Seder at the home of Kit Haspel. They were incorrectly identified in the March 29 issue.

INVESTING in a vibrant Jewish future

From Page 1

do so much work, James Pious, Alliance Community Development Committee chair, noted that, with increased communal needs and reduced dollars to allocate, the challenges are immense.

Community volunteers on CDC subcommittees – Jewish Peoplehood, Jewish Life and Learning, Caring & Social Responsibility – meet over the course of several months to read, analyze and evaluate requests for proposals from entities seeking funds and kindly, yet firmly, query representatives about those requests before making funding recommendations.

Ultimately, the Alliance board must approve CDC recommendations before funds are distributed.

"If everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority," Rob Stolzman said.

Given his dual role – as an Alliance board member and Camp JORI president – Stolzman witnesses grant requests to the Alliance increasing while available funds are not.

"The Alliance leadership recognizes that the community needs to refocus on identifying community priorities and strategically addressing them with resources, financial and human," Stolzman wrote in an email. "Education, peoplehood, poverty, aging ... social justice, etc., need to be prioritized and effectively supported."

If programs or agencies are obsolete, we can't romanticize their "Jewishness" and support them without a rational understanding of how they meet community priorities, he added.

To that end, the Alliance has made clear decisions about funding priorities, which are identified in the sidebar, "CDC allocations in a nutshell."

Making changes

"The Alliance can't do the same things in the same way," Pious said in a CDC kickoff meeting last year.

And indeed, the 2013 Annual Campaign – which has not yet officially closed – includes a new Donor Choice Program, which allowed donors – who increased their gift from the prior year's gift (if any) and gave a minimum of \$360 this year – to designate up to 25 percent of their gift to any of six targeted areas.

Forty-three donors participated this year in Donor Choice, which directed funds to the CDC Subcommittees or three signature initiatives: Jewish camping scholarships and grants, community emergency assistance fund and a program for Ethiopian children with special needs.

"They [agencies] are hearing

our message," said Pious, about other changes the Alliance implemented, including more frequent site visits, improved outcome reports and the need for agencies to collaborate to leverage limited dollars.

By way of example, Providence Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community Day School now offer a joint science curriculum, and synagogues

Too, this was the second year of a two-year Alliance commitment to increase the percentage of allocable funds to local, rather than international, needs.

After some years of equally splitting allocable dollars to local and international needs, last year, the Alliance allocated 55 percent locally; this year, 60 percent. (See sidebar, "Israel's culture of giving is new.")

CDC subcommittees at work

Although we can't all visit Israel (or other countries) to witness our contributions' actual impact, David Yavner, a Jewish Peoplehood Subcommittee member, has.

"There's nothing like putting human faces to the problems," said Yavner. "You can't appreciate [the need] until you look at these beautiful children [at the Emunah Children's Center, which he visited during the January 2013 Alliance mission] and realize [that] these children need help. It makes you want to open your wallet ... or your time. Israel



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collaborate with Jewish Family Service's *Kesher* program, which provides social work support to congregants in need at participating synagogues.

and realize [that] these children need help. It makes you want to open your wallet ... or your time. Israel

SUPPORTING | 18

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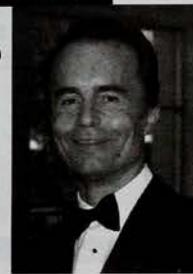
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A German Life: Against All Odds, Change is Possible

Guest speaker:
Bernd Wollschlaeger, MD

Sunday, April 28, 2013
at 2 pm
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Dr. Wollschlaeger's presentation explains his struggle with faith and identity, his separation from parents whom he loved and respected, and his conversion to Judaism. He was born the Christian son of a World War II German tank commander, who received Germany's highest honor, the Iron Cross, which Hitler personally pinned on his uniform.

Dr. Wollschlaeger has revealed his experiences in presentations in the United States and Canada. Those who have heard him speak have been deeply moved by his powerful story.

The program is sponsored by the Temple Habonim Adult Education Committee and is free and open to the community.

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YOM HA-SHOAH



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Volunteers from the Army Corps of Engineers and others maintain "Stumbling Stones," which commemorate Jewish residents of Wiesbaden murdered in the Holocaust.

In Germany, some closure for the son of survivors

A multifaith group experiences a moving moment in Wiesbaden

BY ADAM FRIEDMAN

NEW YORK (JTA)—As a child of Holocaust survivors, I have always managed to avoid visiting Germany. Part of my parents' legacy was never to visit the country, with its dark past—not even to own any products in our home that were made in Germany.

Despite my reluctance to visit Germany, an opportunity arose that I could not forgo. A professional group to which I have belonged for 10 years was holding a meeting in Wiesbaden—the day after Yom Kippur, no less.

As the international group of about 40 included many friends and people with whom I regularly do business, I felt compelled to attend. I also felt that Michael, my German host, would feel slighted if I chose to stay home. After all, Michael is in his 40s and should not be blamed for the sins of his grandparents' generation.

I was pleasantly surprised to find Wiesbaden a most beautiful city with many stately buildings dating from the mid-19th century, when it was a popular spa town for the rich and the royalty of Europe. It was a town that showed no visible scars from World War II, never having been bombed.

But in fact, there were less visible scars that tarnished the history of Wiesbaden. At the onset of World War II, the city was home to 1,500 Jews who had built a most inspiring and architecturally noteworthy synagogue that was destroyed on *Kristallnacht* (the "night of the broken glass") in 1938. Subsequently, Wiesbaden's Jews were deported to concentration

camp, leaving no survivors.

In my research before I arrived, I discovered that the town had built a memorial to those victims on the very spot where the synagogue was located. I was determined to visit the memorial, so that this trip, which seemed like a betrayal of my parents' memory, would take on some semblance of deeper meaning. I had no idea when I would have the opportunity, as the meeting left little time for anything else.

Michael, who was raised in Wiesbaden, is a sophisticated man who spent his younger years living in the United States and London. As part of the meeting's program, he had invited a speaker to discuss German history, and the speaker began with the reign of Charlemagne. Much to everyone's astonishment, when he discussed the 20th century, he never mentioned the Nazi period. We were all deeply offended and at the break expressed our disappointment to Michael, whereupon he stood before the group and apologized with tears in his eyes.

Suddenly I realized that here was my opportunity. I suggested to Michael that it would be appropriate for him to invite the whole group to visit the memorial to the Jewish victims. Michael eagerly agreed and later that day, most of the group walked to the memorial, not really knowing what to expect. Appropriately, the site is somber with a gray brick wall inscribed with the names of those who perished. I felt that I needed to seize this moment.

I asked my colleagues to gath-

er around while I put on my *yar-mulke* and recited the Kaddish, the Jewish mourner's prayer for the dead. Although the words are in ancient Aramaic, the meaning was felt more than understood. In a spontaneous outpouring of emotion, everyone burst into tears, hugging each other. The group included Jews, Christians, Hindus and Muslims; at this moment, we were simply people bound by our common humanity and the sadness over a terrible tragedy. As we stood there, many of the cars that passed by blew their horns in recognition and sympathy.

Michael then led us to a house in front of which was embedded a brass plaque in the sidewalk with the name of a Jewish occupant who had lived there and was deported. We all crouched down to read the name in an act of homage, each of us mouthing a prayer in our own way.

Later that evening, as we walked back to our hotel, Michael turned to me and said, "We learn all about the Nazi period and the Holocaust in school, and we take trips to many sites related to that time, but as Germans we never talk about it. That is a mistake. We need to talk about it so we won't forget; that's what I learned today."

The following day, I reviewed that simple yet profound event. I realized that coming to Germany was an act of closure for my own personal history. Even my parents would have understood.

ADAM FRIEDMAN is a public relations consultant who lives in New York City.

REMEMBERING the fallen, honoring our heroes

From Page 3

hosts this community-led initiative. Asked how many years the synagogue has been the event site, Rabbi Wayne Franklin paused and said, "A long time ... almost 30 years." [Editor's Note: Emanu-El staff told this reporter later that the first event was held there in 1984 – 29 years ago!]

Today, 70 years after the uprising, said Rabbi Franklin, "We honor the heroism of those who refused to go passively to their deaths; [we honor] the strength and ingenuity that they possessed."

Lilliane Birch, the first of three individuals who spoke about the March of the Living (a trip that begins with visits to several concentration camps and ends with several days in Israel), talked about her mother, who survived Auschwitz.

The experience of walking from Auschwitz to Birkenau in 2010, she said, was one of the "most heartwarming days of my life. Seventy-five hundred of us in our blue jackets, with signs from different countries ... it was a 'take back the night' kind of experience." The Nazis tried to kill us all, she said, but "here we are. We paid homage to those who perished and those who survived."

"THE MARCH OF the Living is more than a Jewish experience."

Jacob Dinerman, a Cranston resident and now a freshman at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., eloquently talked about courage. The courage of those in the Warsaw Ghetto, who held off the Nazis for a full month when all of Poland fell to the Nazi invasion after only three weeks ... the courage of Irena Sendler, who smuggled 2,500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and who, despite being arrested and tortured by the Nazis, worked diligently after World War II to reunite them with any of their surviving parents ... the courage of concentration camp inmates who shared their gifts of a speck of bread or a sip of soup with one another ... and the courage of March of the Living participants who bravely marched into and out of the camps.

"The March of the Living is more than a Jewish experience, but a human experience," he said. "[We came] face-to-face with the charred remains of a horrible moment in history; it is our responsibility to gather pieces [of those lost lives] ... and to honor each life."

And Allison Penn, who partic-



Reverend Dr. Donald Anderson, left, and Marty Cooper

ipated in March of the Living in 2012 with Dinerman, called it "a blessing to have survivors join us. They gave the Holocaust the human face," said Penn, a Warwick resident who is now a Boston University freshman. She spoke lovingly and emotionally of the three survivors whom she called "our inspiration."

Individuals locally are able to participate in March of the Living, thanks to allocations from the Alliance Annual Campaign, as well as funding from synagogues and other Jewish agencies.

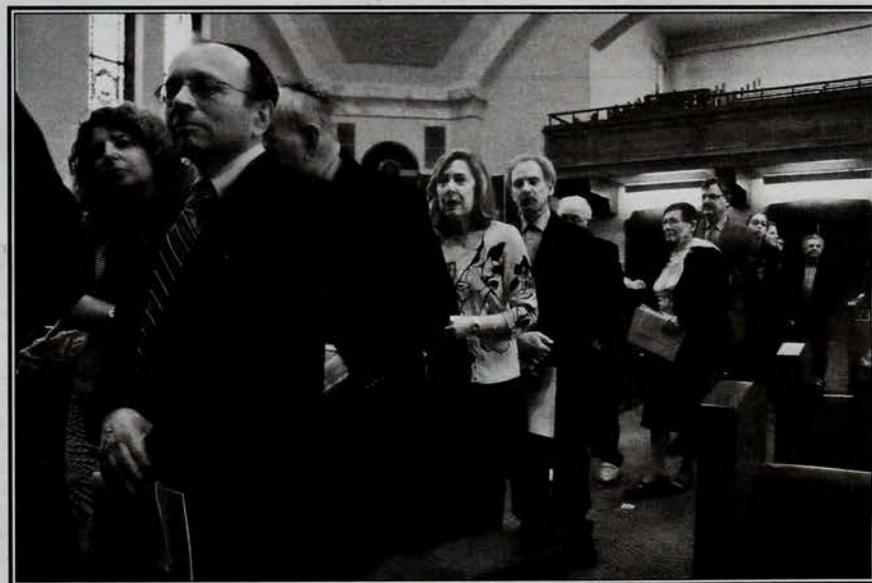
Although they didn't think of themselves as heroes, she said, "They made it out of Poland, yet chose to return to share their experiences. They didn't let grief conquer them."

Before presenting Rev. Anderson with the award, the Alliance Community Relations Director Marty Cooper called him a "state treasure ... a national treasure." Active in myriad organizations devoted to righting society's wrongs of hunger, homelessness, poverty, bias and prejudice, Rev. Anderson has been recognized for his work by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT and the Fund for Community Progress, among others.

In a voice thick with emotion, Rev. Anderson called the award "deeply humbling and moving" as he confessed, "Some of the people who performed these acts [against the Jews during World War II] follow[ed] my religion ... it's beyond my understanding."

"My faith calls me to view each human being as equal in God's eyes [and] none of us is truly free when any of us is less than fully free," he said.

Decrying the old chestnut "ignorance is bliss," he urged the 250 people at the April 7 ceremony to "listen and learn to trust one another. There are no shortcuts," he said, and noted that



Survivors and family members, as well as victims' family members, line up to light memorial candles.

such hard work, which takes commitment, is the only way to defeat ignorance.

In keeping with past practice, survivors and their relatives, as well as relatives of those lost in the Holocaust and March of the Living participants, walked down the aisle of the sanctuary to light candles of remembrance. In addition, the names of Holocaust victims – relatives of individuals who live or have lived in Rhode Island – were read aloud.

The event included a video and Emanu-El Cantor Brian J. Mayer and some members of *Kol Kesem HaZamir* Providence choir sang.

A program note summarized the event aptly: "Never forget" is the cry shouted out to the world; "never forget" is the cry which emanates from our souls."



Rabbi Wayne Franklin, left, and Rabbi Elan Babchuck confer before the Yom Ha-Shoah program begins.



Yom Hashoah
HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

"THEY MADE IT out of Poland ... they didn't let grief conquer them."

SUPPORTING programs here, in Israel and around the world for Jews of all ages

From Page 15

doesn't have the resources to do everything that needs to be done."

Despite a \$500,000 shortfall – between money sought and money allocated – Harold Foster, Jewish Life and Learning Subcommittee chair, called meetings with grantees and prospective grantees "the most enjoyable part of the experience" as they met community leaders who had the opportunity to explain their programs and make a case for funding.

"At the same time," Foster added, "they left with a better understanding of the Alliance's role in our community and realizing that the Alliance and communal organizations ... build community. The Alliance can't do it alone and the agencies can't do it alone."

Reviewing in detail so many requests for proposals is difficult, Foster said, with the most difficult task that of deciding how to allocate limited financial resources.

During the past several months, professional and/or lay leaders from organizations requesting funding and subcommittee members have held meetings, some of which this editor was able to attend.

Often asked to clarify or elaborate on proposed budgets, agencies' representatives fielded questions: "What other funding sources have you considered?" "Are you collaborating with others on this initiative?" "How many Jewish people would this program serve?" "What would happen if the Alliance couldn't fund the program?" "What are the expected outcomes?"

One agency's program was deemed worthwhile; because it served a very small number of Jewish individuals who are geographically distant from the Alliance's catchment area, it did not receive funding.

In another instance, funding was not recommended for a program lacking concrete data about the number of people it served.



Girls from the Emunah Children's Center in Israel perform.

Of such situations, Caring & Social Responsibility Subcommittee Chair Vincent Mor said, "If you can't give me numbers, it doesn't make sense."

Minna Ellison, Alliance senior vice president for community planning and programing, reminded Mor's group, valiantly struggling to find dollars to fund a specific program, "We don't just allocate money, we shape programs."

Subcommittees' members, each with a personal perspective and passion for a particular cause, volunteer to set aside personal biases and collectively make difficult decisions to fund – or not fund – particular programs.

As the sidebar "CDC allocations ..." notes, funding requests far outstrip funds available to address needs.

"It's a two-way street; we need [financial] participation from your board in [the Annual Campaign]," Pious told one agency's lay and professional leaders. "If people [on your board] don't know how we are helping them, we are missing something positive."

Recommendations for the future

"New approaches are critical to respond to a changing phil-



David Yavner

anthropic landscape. The Alliance is working on big ideas and strategic initiatives," said Eddie Bruckner, Alliance vice president of financial resource development. "We are enhancing our fundraising approach to align additional increased annual gifts with strategic priorities that will add value to Jewish life and culture and serve as tangible examples of the Alliance's direct impact in the community."

MINNA ELLISON (mellison@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 176) about the CDC; **EDDIE BRUCKNER** (ebruckner@shalomri.org or 421-4111, ext. 174) about the Annual Campaign.



Ellie Elbaum, left, and Faye Wisen at a CDC meeting

CDC allocations in a nutshell

• **Jewish Peoplehood:** Chaired by Faye Wisen, the subcommittee focuses on rescue, relief and renewal, with special attention to Jewish communities in Poland and the Afula-Gilboa region of Israel.

\$1,137,198 for 23 proposals sought.

\$854,355 for 18 programs/services granted.

New initiatives: A leadership program for Birthright alumni in Poland and a jobs training program for Ethiopian IDF veterans.



Vincent Mor

• **Jewish Life and Learning:** Chaired by Harold Foster, the subcommittee focuses on ensuring high-quality, accessible programs and services promoting active, lifelong participation throughout the greater R.I. Jewish community.

\$1,600,000+ for 37 proposals sought.

\$1,065,056 for 31 programs/services granted.

New initiatives: Holocaust Education and Resource Center programs for students on Aquidnick Island; Donor Choice Program dollars for needs-based scholarships at Camp JORI.

• **Caring & Social Responsibility:** Chaired by Vincent Mor, the subcommittee focuses on ensuring the quality of life in the greater R.I. community and that individuals who are poor or elderly or have disabilities are served with dignity.

\$500,000+ 14 proposals sought.

\$408,000 for 9 programs/services granted.

New initiatives: CHAVER College, a volunteer training program collaboratively run by Jewish Family Service and Jewish Seniors Agency; expanding *Kesher* to Congregation Beth Shalom.

Israel's culture of giving is new

By NANCY KIRSCH
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Are Israeli individuals or companies helping support Israelis in need? More than one individual posed that question during the Alliance mission to Israel in late January, often as we drove by new office buildings bearing familiar names of Google, Microsoft, Cisco, etc.

"Philanthropy is very new in Israel – the wealth that drives it internally is 20 years old or less. There are not tax write-offs like we [in the U.S.] have," wrote Dusty Heist, manager, community relations, Jewish Agency for Israel,

in response to this reporter's question. "The government has historically just taxed everyone at a high rate and that, coupled with western funds, is what funded various programs." Individuals submitting a tax write-off for a charitable gift, he wrote, would incur a government audit.

With Israeli wealth growing, "the west is pushing Israelis to take on ... responsibilities ... pushing the government to change laws so Israelis will have [an] incentive to give philanthropically," wrote Heist.

Some mission participants shared their thoughts about the role of Ameri-

can philanthropy in Israel.

"We helped plant the trees and supported development of the country," said Larry Hershoff. "We can't abandon this now. We are fortunate to have wealth in the U.S. that most older Israelis could never amass."

In contrast, while acknowledging Israel's growing self-sufficiency – demonstrated in part by Tel Aviv's new high-rise condos and high-tech companies – Mel Zurier believes Israel should support its own charitable endeavors. However, Americans still play a significant role by offering positive public and political support, as well as selling mili-

tary arms to Israel. He concurred with President Obama's view that we must let Israel know that we "have its back."

Zurier supports federation dollars going to Israel for emergency relief efforts – such as rescuing Ethiopian Jews and resettling them in Israel, for example.

Israelis are really starting to step up, Heist noted, and acknowledged that Israeli entities are making contributions to Israeli nonprofit organizations. Google, Microsoft, Cisco and others, with headquarters in Israel, bring a culture of philanthropy to Israel.

Lighten up your cooking for spring

Tempting recipes in 'Jerusalem: A Cookbook'

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

PROVIDENCE – With spring – and spring-like weather – finally here, it's time to turn to making and eating some lighter fare. We turned again to "Jerusalem: A Cookbook" by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi (Ten Speed Press 2012) for some recipes. Put away winter's heavy stew recipes and try these, instead.

Saffron chicken & herb salad

The authors note: "This colorful salad is extraordinarily moist and refreshing. The trick – boiling a whole orange and blitzing it down to a paste – is very effective for many sauces, salsas and cakes. If you don't like fennel, replace it with a combination of green onion and arugula."

INGREDIENTS

1 orange
2½ tablespoons honey
¼ teaspoon saffron threads
1 tablespoon white-wine vinegar
1¼ cups water
2½ pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast
4 tablespoons olive oil
2 small fennel bulbs, thinly sliced
1 cup fresh cilantro leaves
½ cup fresh basil leaves, torn
15 fresh mint leaves, torn
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 red chile, thinly sliced
1 clove garlic, crushed
salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400. Trim and discard ¼-inch off the top and tail of the orange and cut it into 12 wedges, keeping the skin on. Remove any seeds.

Place the wedges in a small saucepan with honey, saffron,



vinegar and just enough water to cover the orange wedges.

Bring to a boil and simmer gently for about an hour. At the end, you should be left with a soft orange and about 3 tablespoons of thick syrup; add water during the cooking if the liquid gets very low.

Use a food processor to blitz the orange and syrup into a smooth, runny paste; again, add a little water if needed.

Mix the chicken breast with half the olive oil and plenty of salt and pepper and place on a very hot ridged-griddle pan. Sear for about 2 minutes on each side to get clear char

marks all over. Transfer to a roasting pan and place in the oven for about 15 to 20 minutes, until just cooked.

Once the chicken is cool

enough to handle but still warm, tear it with your hands into rough, quite large pieces.

Place in a large mixing bowl, pour half the orange paste over it and stir well. (The other half of the orange paste can be kept in the fridge for a few days. It would make a good addition to an herb salsa to serve with oily fish such as mackerel or salmon.)

Add the remaining ingredients to the salad, including the rest of the olive oil and toss gently. Taste, and add salt and pepper. If needed, add more olive oil and lemon juice.

Serves 4.

Swiss chard with tahini, yogurt & buttered pine nuts

The authors write, "Chard leaves are some of the most popular greens in Jerusalem. Garlic is essential! Paired with tahini and yogurt, they make a remarkable side dish."

INGREDIENTS FOR SWISS CHARD

2½ pounds Swiss chard
2½ tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons olive oil, plus extra to finish
scant 5 tablespoons pine nuts
2 small cloves garlic, sliced very thinly
¼ cup dry white wine
sweet paprika to garnish (optional)
salt and freshly ground black

pepper

INGREDIENTS FOR SAUCE

2½ tablespoons light tahini paste
4½ tablespoons Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 clove garlic, crushed
2 tablespoons water

METHOD

Start with the sauce. Place all the sauce ingredients in a medium bowl, add a pinch of salt and stir well with a whisk until you get a smooth, semi-stiff paste. Set aside.

Use a sharp knife to separate the white chard stalks from the green leaves and cut them both into slices ¼-inch wide, keeping the leaves and stalks separate.

Bring a large pan of salted water to a boil and add the chard stalks. Simmer for 2 minutes, add the leaves and cook for a further minute. Drain and rinse well under cold water. Allow the water to drain and then use your hands to squeeze the chard until it is completely dry.

Put half the butter and 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large frying pan and place over medium heat. Once hot, add the pine nuts and toss them in the pan until golden, about 2 minutes. (Be careful not to let them burn.) Use a slotted spoon to re-

LIGHTER | 21

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LIGHTER recipes don't skimp on flavor

From Page 19

move them from the pan, then throw in the garlic. Cook for about a minute, until it starts to become golden. Carefully (it will spit!) pour in the wine. Leave for a minute or less, until it reduces to about one-third.

Add the chard and the rest of the butter and cook for 2 to 5 minutes, stirring occasionally until the chard is completely warm. Season with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt and some black pepper.

Divide the chard among individual serving bowls, spoon tahini sauce on top and scatter pine nuts. Finally, drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with some paprika, if you like.

Serves 4.

Clementine & almond syrup cake

The authors note: "This fragrant cake has a wonderful light texture and will keep, covered, for at least a week. Oranges will make an adequate substitute for the clementines. A citrus zester, inexpensive and widely available, is the ideal tool for getting long, even strips of orange zest to garnish the cake."

INGREDIENTS FOR CAKE

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup plus 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
scant 2 cups superfine sugar
grated zest and juice of 4 clementines
grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups ground almonds

5 large free-range eggs, beaten
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup plus 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour, sifted
pinch of salt
long strips of orange zest for garnish

INGREDIENTS FOR CHOCOLATE ICING (OPTIONAL)

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, diced
5 ounces good-quality dark chocolate, broken up
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons honey
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons Cognac

METHOD FOR CAKE

Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch spring-form pan with butter and line the sides and bottom with parchment paper.

Place the butter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of sugar and both zests in a stand mixer fitted with beater attachment. Beat on low speed to incorporate everything well, but do not overwork the mixture or incorporate too much air.

Add half the ground almonds and continue mixing until combined.

With the machine running, gradually add the eggs, stopping to scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl a couple of times as you go. Add the remaining ground almonds, the flour and the salt. Beat until completely smooth.

Pour the cake batter into the pan and level it with an offset spatula.

Bake the cake for 50 to 60 minutes. Check to see if it is ready by inserting a skewer into the center. It should come out a little bit moist.

When the cake is almost done, place the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar and the citrus juices in a small saucepan and bring to a boil (the juices should total about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup; remove some juice if needed). When the syrup boils, remove it from the heat.

As soon as the cake comes out of the oven, brush it with

the boiling syrup, making sure all the syrup soaks in. Let the cake cool completely before you remove it from the pan. Serve it as is, garnished with orange zest strips, or store it for up to 5 days in an airtight container.

METHOD FOR ICING

Ice the cake on the day you want to serve it so the icing is fresh. Put the butter, chocolate and honey in a heatproof bowl and place over a saucepan of simmering water (make sure the bowl doesn't touch the wa-

ter).

Stir until everything is melted, then immediately remove from the heat and fold in the Cognac.

Pour the icing over the cooled cake, allowing it to dribble naturally down the sides without covering the cake completely. Let the icing set and then garnish the center of the cake with the orange zest strips.

Serves 8 to 10.



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Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Rustigian Rugs is not your grandmother's rug store

East Side boutique welcomes Linda Fain

BUSINESS PROFILE

By **ARTHUR C. NORMAN**
Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE – Visitors to Rustigian Rugs may think something is missing from a rug store that seems to have something for everyone.

But what? Visitors won't see yesteryear's ubiquitous red-and-blue Persian area rugs.

Today's rugs, primarily from Iran, Pakistan, India and, increasingly, Afghanistan (see sidebar, "The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women"), have been influenced by the classic Persian theme, but also include Asian tribal motifs and contemporary designs such as rococo, minimalist and arts and crafts.

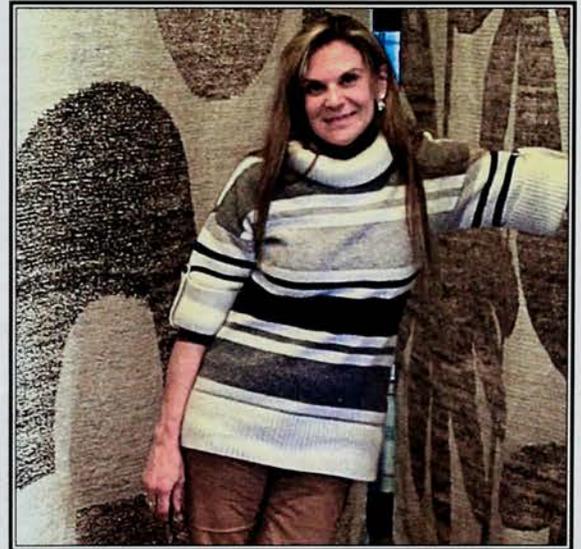
Roz Rustigian, Rustigian Rugs' owner, responded with a smile on her face as she recalled her early affiliation with the business, founded in 1930 by her late father, V. George "Rusty" Rustigian.

"It was child labor," she laughed. "I helped wash rugs and repair rugs [in the basement of the family home] with my mother and ... an old Armenian couple." The family's garage was converted to a showroom and it wasn't uncommon



Linda Fain

PHOTOS | ARTHUR C. NORMAN



Roz Rustigian

to see customers' rugs drying in the sun on specially made racks.

Fast forward to 1980

After her father's death, Roz used her strong business background (she holds a graduate business degree from Cornell University), to not only maintain the half-century tradition

of Rustigian Rugs, but also to survive and prosper against the onslaught from the "big box" discount retailers. How? "As the public's taste for price-points [and quality] got lower, I held ground ... or elevated slightly," she said. "There is definitely a ceiling on quality ... we have rugs that you just cannot find

[at the big discounters]."

Rustigian's position and reputation, on a national level, gives her "first crack at nearly everything [that comes to market in the U.S.]." A second strategy – one her father used in the early years to expand the business – was to remodel her Governor Street showroom and carry broadloom (wall-to-wall) carpeting.

As a testament to her knowledge of fine quality rugs, her business acumen and her devotion to "placing the right rug in the right room," Roz has twice been elected president of the

Oriental Rug Retailers Association of America.

An old friend returns to the rug business

Last September, Linda Fain – yes, that Linda Fain – of the now closed Fain's Fine Carpet & Rugs, retired from her retirement and joined the staff of Rustigian Rugs.

In a sense, her new endeavor completes a 30-year circle of friendship and, yes, competition with Rustigian. When this reporter asked Roz, "Why Linda Fain?" she replied, "That's

RUG | 27

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'Initiative to Educate Afghan Women'

By **ARTHUR C. NORMAN**
Contributing Writer

PROVIDENCE – The vision of the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women (IEAW) is "A peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, in which Afghan women participate fully in the governance and development of their country."

Roz Rustigian was recently named board chair of IEAW, a philanthropic cultural exchange program that helps arrange college acceptances and scholarships for qualified Afghan girls and provides funds for transportation to the U.S. and back, books and health insurance.

Its mission is to help create Afghanistan's future leaders through education and career guidance.

The program, founded 10

years ago in Rhode Island has provided 83 women with scholarships to some two-dozen colleges and universities.

Israel is not the only Middle East country where girls and women don't enjoy the same rights as do boys and men. Israeli women face obstacles in trying to pray at the *Kotel*; Afghan girls risk death to get an education.

One 2008 graduate, Adela Raz, personifies IEAW's aims. Graduating with a master's degree in law and diplomacy from Tufts University, Raz was recently named to a leadership position in the office of President Hamid Karzai.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: rozrustigian@rustigianrugs.com, 751-5100 or ieaw.org.



Beekeeper Bernard Bieder finds sweet relief in his avocation

The buzz about bees

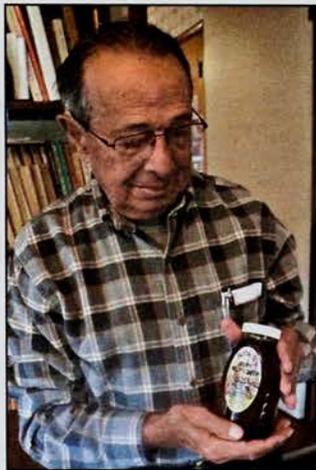
By **NANCY KIRSCH**
nkirsch@shalomri.org

WARWICK – Bernard (Bernie) Bieder knows his bees, all 240,000 to 360,000 of them.

A hobbyist beekeeper for some 25 years, he met with this reporter at his home in a cozy Warwick neighborhood not far from Temple Am David, where he worships.

After they met a beekeeper from Barrington, Bieder's daughter and late wife bought him one hive as a birthday gift about 25 years ago; today, the nearly 90-year-old Bieder owns six hives – two in his backyard and four at another location; a beekeeping friend maintains his off-site hives. Bieder believes that, due to this past winter's cold weather, he may have lost a hive or two.

If you want honey for yourself or to give away, you need about 40,000-60,000 bees for every hive; otherwise, the bees will fill their brood chambers with 60 pounds or more of honey in order to survive the winter



Bernard Bieder holds his jar of prize-winning honey.

months, according to Bieder.

Bieder, who said that he has given many lectures – far and wide – about beekeeping, said that the most common question he hears is this: What do bees do in the wintertime?

"They are," he said, "an amazing species." Offering a quick lesson in the organizational life of a hive, he reminded this reporter that each hive has one queen bee, female worker bees and male drones. The drones

that mate with the queen bee, which should be replaced every other year, die in the process. As for the other drones, they are dragged out of the hive in the fall by the worker bees to die. The worker bees cluster in cold weather, and the queen bee is in the center [to stay warm]," said Bieder, who is a member of the Rhode Island Beekeep-

ers Association. "The middle of the hive stays at 85 degrees, with the movement of the bees' wing muscles. The bees on the outside of the hive rotate in for warmth."

While queen bees can live for two to four years, the aptly named worker bees wear themselves out; their much shorter life expectancy is only about six

weeks, he said.

Bieder said that people often wonder whether bees ever sleep. He read that they might sleep, but no one has been able to ascertain if they sleep.

Although bees aren't aggressive unless they feel threatened,

BEE-ING | 30

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Providence, East Side This brick Georgian residence was built in 1920 and is located on a corner lot in the very desirable Freeman Plat. This property boasts 14 gracious rooms spread out over 6,000 square feet on three levels.

Upon entering, looking past the grand staircase you immediately see through to a large bay window overlooking the flagstone patio and the sunken yard below. To your left is the spacious formal living room with fireplace, anchored by a grand bay window with window seat. Steps from this space is a private library at the rear of the home overlooking the private yard. The generous formal dining room is accented by a grand bay window and leads to a beautiful breakfast room with decorative tile floor and light flooding in from the two walls of French doors. Through an original butler's pantry, you enter the spacious eat-in-kitchen, offering a sub-zero refrigerator and walls of cabinets for ample storage. There is also a half bath and laundry room on this level.

The second floor features a spacious master bedroom with sitting room, full marble bath with separate Jacuzzi tub, shower and a large walk-in closet. An additional bedroom is located on this level, offering a large dressing area with built-ins and beautiful marble bath with shower. The home office on this level also benefits from a full bath.

Set atop the integrated two car garage is a wonderful guest space with two bedrooms and a full bath. The third level has a large bedroom and another full bathroom as well as a gym space with sauna and large cedar closet.

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A home is more appealing to a prospective buyer with colorful garden beds and a welcoming exterior.

Maximize your selling opportunities in a changing market

Sellers must learn to be nimble and flexible

BUSINESS PROFILE

By JUDY CROYLE

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE - The year 2012 ended with a six-month supply of properties for sale - the measure of a balanced market.

With fewer homes available, many buyers are complaining there's nothing to see. And when there is, the property goes fast, often after multiple-offer situations.

So if you've been thinking of selling your house, now is the time to list. To improve your chances of success, follow these simple suggestions.

• Price right

The price you set for your house initially is critical. Even though sellers have watched the real estate market tumble over the past few years, many still believe their homes have pre-recession values.



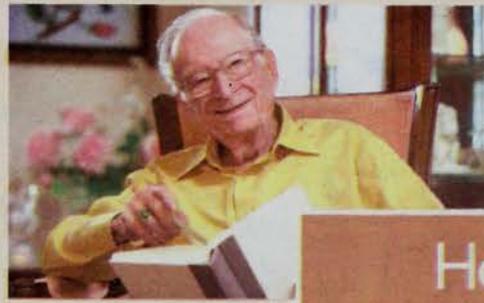
Judy Croyle

The problem? If you set your price high to test the waters, buyers won't even bother to view it.

Remember, there are two kinds of buyers: those who plan to buy in the future and others who are ready to purchase now.

You want to attract the latter, and those shoppers have been looking and are educated on the "right" prices. Be careful not to

REAL | 30



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Not all chickens lay eggs

Rooster runs wild on Providence's East Side

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

PROVIDENCE – Who knew? Until this month, The Voice & Herald didn't know that two rabbis from Providence Hebrew Day School and Michael Forstadt had captured Forstadt's AWOL rooster a couple of years ago in Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman's backyard.

How it happened

Forstadt, who keeps chickens in the backyard of his East Side of Providence home, had intended to purchase an egg-laying chicken, which the family had named Penny. However, identifying the gender of a very immature chicken isn't as simple as one might imagine! After a few weeks, Forstadt said in a phone interview, it became evident that Penny should be named Kenny.

Not only did Kenny bother several neighbors with his early morning crowing, he wasn't legally entitled to be living in any Providence yard! A Providence ordinance permits residents to keep hens (female chickens) but not roosters, said Forstadt.

Then in Hong Kong on a short-term work assignment, Forstadt asked his brother to



PHOTOS | MICHAEL FORSTADT
Michael Forstadt with Minnie

find someplace where the rooster could crow – legally – to his heart's content! The Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown agreed to take the noisy rooster, but when Forstadt's brother went to take Kenny to his new home, he "went on the lam" as soon as the crate door was opened.

Rather than tell his three children that Kenny was roaming free somewhere, he said



Kenny, the runaway rooster

ROOSTER | 31

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The real estate phenomenon

The market is on its way back ... don't miss it

NORTH PROVIDENCE - We are in an economic recession with a housing market that has been depressed. Then ... all of a sudden, we start to experience the real estate phenomenon! In my 34 years in the business, I've seen it only twice before.

Now, the buyers are out and everyone wants a piece of the market. But the problem is that the inventory is so small, there is nothing to choose from; hence, people all want the same house.

For buyers, it is aggravating, but it shows that the market has bottomed out. It's the time that, if you don't buy now, prices are going to rise and you will pay more for the same house in the future.

As sellers, you know that will get bites on your listing and be able to move sooner with a much more certain time frame



Bill Friedman

ers both, the market is on its way back.

You don't want to miss it.

BILL FRIEDMAN (BillFriedmanhomes.com or 353-8500) of Re/Max Preferred has been a Realtor in greater Providence since 1979. Certified as a residential specialist, he is qualified as a Rhode Island residential real estate expert.



THIS IS ONE of an occasional

series of stories about local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice & Herald.

than the previous situation: "I rather have no idea when it's going to sell."

It's spring; it's time to make your move. For buyers and sell-

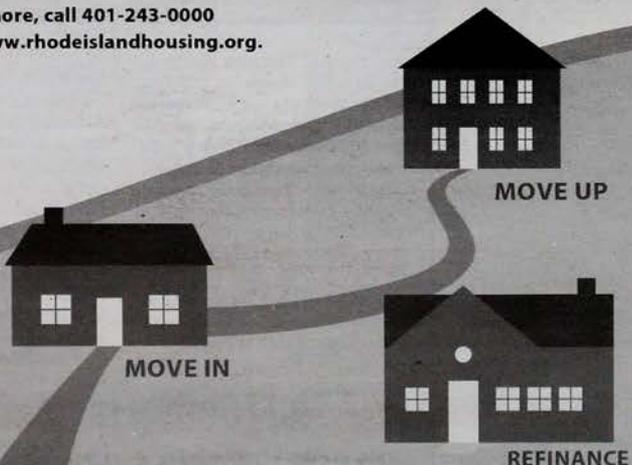
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Rhode Island Housing
working together to bring you home

RUG store has something for everyone

From Page 22

easy. Linda is a natural with people. Besides what she brings [extensive product knowledge]... she is genuinely interested in people's needs."

For her part, Linda talked about the joy of working in an area that has been a big part of her life. "This is what I know; this is what I love." The biggest difference, she said,

is that she is now able to concentrate on the needs of individual customers; in her previous business, she was responsible for stocking 18 stores. Linda related her happiness in

welcoming her former customers - who were bringing their children in to buy their first rug - not only as a salesperson, but almost as an extended family member, too.

More than sales

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(rustigianrugs.com), 751-5100, is at 1 Governor St., Providence 02906.

ARTHUR C. NORMAN (abcnorman@aol.com) is a contributing writer to The Jewish Voice & Herald.

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

DIGGING in the JCDSRI garden dirt

From Page 1

the number 13, their graduation year.

Students worked tirelessly together to till, weed and prepare the soil for springtime planting. Spinach, planted last fall, tastes sweet, and garlic will be picked shortly.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will plant sugar snap peas and lettuce this week. Pre-k students sing and talk about taking care of the *adamah*, the earth, and how the earth takes care of us, too. The pre-kindergarten and fifth grade classrooms both house high-tech grow labs, so students have been growing seedlings inside this winter. We hope that many seedlings we transplant into the raised beds will come from these grow labs.

JCDSRI's garden education program enriches students' experiential learning; students learn to respect the natural growing cycle and to feel

connected to it. Before our students can become stewards of the earth, they first need to cultivate a love for the earth. The garden education program makes connections between Jewish holidays and the garden. Many students took home for their Seders the parsley that they planted on *Tu Bi-Sh'vat* and grew in the grow labs.

Next fall, our sukkah will be decorated with the gourds we grow. In addition, the third graders' biblical garden houses plants named in the Torah as well as those prolific in Israel today.

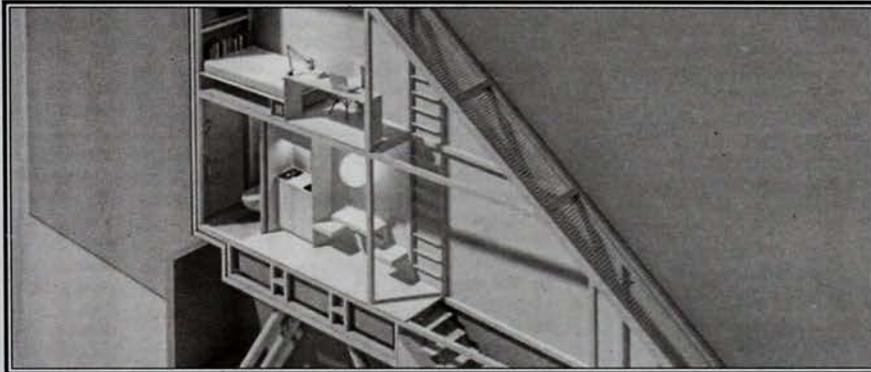
JAMIE FAITH WOODS (jfwoods@jcdsri.org) is the fifth grade general studies teacher and garden coordinator at The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

JCDSRI: jcdsri.org or 751-2470.

Thank you! to our ADVERTISERS!

Warsaw design team named its unusual art installation 'Keret House'

Israeli writer is first artist-in-residence



An artist's rendering of the interior of Keret House.

CENTRALA

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN
LEICHMAN
ISRAEL21c

Late last year, award-winning Israeli novelist Etgar Keret took up temporary residence in a Warsaw art installation billed as the world's narrowest house.

Wedge between two 1960s-era buildings straddling Chlodna and Zelazna streets – the border between the city and the Jewish ghetto during World War II – the 40-foot-long edifice measures just shy of four feet across at its widest point and only 28 inches at its thinnest.

For years, people walked by the slight gap without ever no-

ting it. But to Jakub Szczesny of Centrala Designers Task Force in Warsaw, the significance of the location could not be ignored as he works to recreate a Jewish flavor in the Polish city where Keret's mother was born.

"One of the side effects of communism was a uniformization of society," the 39-year-old architect tells ISRAEL21c. "The official policy was getting rid of differences among citizens because they were ... considered dangerous. The suppressed multiculturalism burst forth in 1991 but there was still a lack of Jewish presence. Our

group wanted to do something about it."

A freakily narrow space

Inspiration struck Szczesny as he walked by the site three years ago.

"At the crossing of the two streets is where the border of the ghetto was," he relates.

"There was an SS psychopath standing on the balcony there and shooting people when he was in the mood. The place is full of negative karma. So I thought this was the perfect space to show the lack of connection between pre- and post-war Warsaw."

The narrowness of the gap did



The house was constructed in the gap between buildings.

CENTRALA

not faze him.

"I needed to design an architectural structure that would

"KERET HOUSE
WILL be a place
for entering into
the real culture of
Warsaw."

envelop life – a revitalization of an empty space, a connector. I also needed an Israeli freaky enough to stay in a very narrow space, who would play the role of an external eye observing and commenting on how Warsaw is changing drastically and rapidly. The idea was to say [to Israelis], 'Look – a guy from your country is not just treating this as a space to run from; he has his second residency here.' Straightaway I went to Etgar."

Szczesny recalled reading about a visit from Keret to Warsaw. At the time, the author's works were starting to appear in Polish. "He was the representation of 'new Israel' to me," said Szczesny.

Coming back to Poland

Szczesny flew to Tel Aviv to meet the novelist and screenwriter. Etgar, born in 1967 to Polish Holocaust survivors, enthusiastically embraced the idea presented to him by Szczesny.

"He said it seemed like a perfect opportunity to come back to Warsaw," Szczesny says. "His mother claims he's a Polish writer who writes in Hebrew," he added with a laugh.

The two worked together for three years to make Keret

House a reality, with 200,000 zlotys (about \$63,000) in funding from private and public donors.

"A German maker of very expensive [light] switches wanted to be involved ... because of the project's uniqueness," said the designer.

The real culture of Warsaw

Too small to be a legal house, the steel-framed installation features a foldable staircase and water and sewage systems similar to those used on boats.

In response to a query from ISRAEL21c, Szczesny said he hadn't thought about placing a mezuzah on the doorpost, but agreed that it "would be natural."

Keret will work with the European Union National Institutes for Culture to choose young artists and intellectuals to reside in the structure for a few weeks at a time.

Centrala, which recently won a design contest for its installation heralding the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews, has been deeply involved in shaping a new cultural identity for Poland over the past 11 years.

"Poland is not a popular destination except for 'pilgrimages of hatred,' when 18-year-old Israelis come to tour the former death camps and have no interaction with the real thing," says Szczesny, who studied architecture in Warsaw, Paris and Barcelona, and since 2008 has been involved in cultural projects in Poland, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

"Keret House will be a place for entering into the real culture of Warsaw."

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State energy office offers tips to homeowners

Saving energy, saving money is a win-win opportunity

BY THE R.I. OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – After a long, cold winter, warm weather has finally returned. Now is the time to open our doors and windows and breathe in the fresh air.

From an energy perspective, spring and fall are often referred to as “shoulder seasons,” periods where the temperature is comfortable without the need for either heat or air conditioning. The shoulder seasons, which provide a welcome but brief respite from our rising energy bills, are a good time to take stock of our energy use.

As we jump into spring-cleaning, and before we turn on the air conditioning, consider some simple energy-saving practices that help us to both protect the environment and save money. These low-cost or no-cost tips will help you reduce your utility bills.

• Sign up for a free home or small business energy assess-

ment with National Grid.

The assessments, available to anyone who gets an electricity bill from National Grid, will include rebates and incentives to lower your bills and minimize your upfront costs.

• Install and set a programmable thermostat.

Programmable thermostats

(CFLs) or light emitting diodes (LEDs)

CFLs and LEDs last longer, use less energy and emit less heat.

• Switch to Energy Star appliances.

The U.S. De-

partment of Energy’s Energy Star program certifies appliances that are designed to use less energy than conventional appliances and often provide rebates for new purchases.

plugging our devices into a power strip allows us to turn them off all at once when they are not being used.

• Lower your water heater temperature setting just a few degrees.

Water heaters run 24/7 and are often too hot, so set your water heater temperature to around 120°F to provide comfortable – and safe – hot water for most uses.

• Have your heating and ventilation systems cleaned.

Cleaning your heating and cooling systems make your equipment run more efficiently and extends the life of those systems.

• Check for air leaks in windows or doors.

Heated and cooled air easily escapes through small cracks around windows and doors. By

installing weather stripping, we insulate our homes and cut down on our energy use.

These low-cost or no-cost ways to save energy help save money, reduce pollution and protect our environment. Rhode Island is a national leader in energy efficiency efforts, ranking seventh in the nation.

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources works closely with utility providers and various other stakeholders across the state to provide resources and assistance with energy efficiency projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on energy-saving tips: energy.ri.gov or powerofaction.com.



LEARN MORE AT energystar.gov



allow residents to schedule home temperatures according to different factors, improving comfort and convenience. Programmable thermostats are also more accurate than conventional ones.

• Use sunlight to your advantage.

By using window treatments that let in natural light, you cut down on your need for interior lighting.

• Switch to light bulbs like compact fluorescent lights

partment of Energy’s Energy Star program certifies appliances that are designed to use less energy than conventional appliances and often provide rebates for new purchases.

• Use power strips for your electronics.

Many of our electronics consume energy even when not in use – “phantom power” – so



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REAL advice from a real estate agent

From Page 25

alienate them!

• **Be prepared**

Even in real estate, a picture is worth 1,000 words. And in today's digital age, photos and videos of your home are accessible by buyers anywhere, anytime.

"BOOST YOUR HOME'S curb appeal with clean garden beds ... and a freshly painted front door."

To ensure your house "puts its best foot forward" on film, spend a little time staging your property. At the start of your relationship, your realtor should walk through your home and recommend some changes – and they're often not as big as you expect. De-clutter interior spaces, spruce up dated areas with inexpensive paint and/or

furniture rearrangement and boost your home's curb appeal with clean garden beds, colorful plantings and a freshly painted front door.

• **Listen**

After your agent shows your property, you're likely to receive feedback ... and it won't all be positive! Try to hear the input objectively and turn it into action. If buyers say the house is small, there's not a lot you can do. But if multiple viewers say they don't like the kitchen's paint color, the wall-to-wall carpet or window treatments, consider making some small investments in these areas to prevent a simple concern from stopping an offer.

By considering these easy tips, you and your agent can work collaboratively to position your property in the best light in this shifting market – and sell it!

JUDY CROYLE (judy.croyle@raveis.com or 499-7541) is an agent with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in Providence's East and West sides.

THIS IS ONE of an occasional series of articles about local businesses, some of which advertise with The Jewish Voice & Herald.



BEE-ING busy with an avocation

From Page 23

you're not likely to outfox the bee that does intend to sting you. Explaining that bees see action in slow motion, he said that someone trying to slap a bee would get stung before the slap could occur. Highly sensitive and reactive to both impending electrical storms and his hearing aids, Bieder avoids his hives when such storms are expected. As for his hearing aids, he removes them when he inspects the hives.

A bee sting inflicts death on the stinging bee and pain on the "stingee"; Bieder recommends scraping out the stinger with one's thumbnail, as the stinger will continue to pump more venom if it remains in its victim.

Asked how often he's been stung, Bieder laughed before he answered.

"I don't give them enough respect," he said. [I get stung about] a half-dozen times a season. I look on it as an occupational hazard."

But not all bee stings are considered a painful nuisance; many people – including Bieder – have received bee therapy to relieve shingles, backaches or other pain. In Bieder's case, two cortisone shots did nothing for his case of plantar fasciitis, but two bee stings did



Honey drips down from the trays taken from Bieder's hives.

the trick, he said. Too, after he began beekeeping, his arthritis disappeared.

Although some people assert that consuming honey every day is a homeopathic cure for tree and plant allergies, Bieder said that research has discounted its efficacy.

While bee therapy may offer sweet relief for those in pain, what could be sweeter than the honey that the bees produce? Not much!

"I can sell a lot more honey than I can produce," said Bieder, who sells half-pound or pound jars of honey as well as honey sticks to customers at the Pawtuxet Village Farmers Market (at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston).

He sells a half-pound jar for \$4 and a pound jar for \$7, but anticipates a possible price increase this spring. "Locally produced honey] is better than what you can buy at a store. Some fortunate friends receive his honey as gifts, as well. The pollen, Bieder said, is what

makes honey opaque, as he displayed a jar of his prizewinning honey.

With a beehive in Rhode Island typically producing about 60 to 65 pounds of honey each year, Bieder and his fellow beekeepers are producing plenty of sweetness.

What keeps him working at this longtime avocation?

"When it's cold outside with hard ground and leafless trees, but I see bees carrying pollen – little yellow dots in sacs on their middle set of legs – I get very excited. We have skunk cabbages and crocuses and they find [them]," he said. After the frustration of winter, "it's Mother Nature's of waking up. It's a very spiritual feeling."

BERNARD BIEDER (beeman704@verizon.net or 463-8654) to purchase honey or to book him to speak.

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TOBY KORITSKY

Catherine Walters demonstrates gardening techniques to students at Temple Sinai on March 31.

Temple Sinai's Biblical Garden is sprouting

Plans for a new garden path are laid

BY CATHERINE WALTERS
Special to The Voice & Herald

CRANSTON - Spring bulbs are showing in the Biblical Garden at Temple Sinai, promising a display of "Narcissus tazetta" (Rose of Sharon) in May.

In the weeks to come, several new projects are planned, and Religious School students will be engaged in bringing them to fruition. Among them is a water garden exhibiting waterside plants common in ancient Israel, including specimens of bulrushes, calamus, reeds and iris.

In the classroom, fifth and

sixth grade students at Temple Sinai, a Reform synagogue in Cranston, are sprouting foodstuffs that were staples of the ancient Israelites' diet, including chickpeas, lentils and broad beans. In the coming weeks, they will sow wheat and barley, and plant annual herbs, tender vegetables and flowers.

Over the summer, the garden will expand. A new garden path is planned to invite visitors to enter and observe more than 70 specimens of plants and trees that provide a living testament to our connection with Torah,

and to the everyday lives of our ancestors in ancient Israel.

Volunteer gardeners of all ages are welcome. Contact Catherine Walters (margalit_rut@hotmail.com) if you wish to help.

CATHERINE WALTERS (margalit_rut@hotmail.com), a Cranston resident, is a lifelong student of the culture and history of ancient Israel and the interdependence of natural environment and people in the biblical world.

ROOSTER on the lam

From Page 26

that the rooster had been taken to the bird sanctuary.

But when Forstadt's three sons told him about a funny thing that had happened that day at Providence Hebrew Day School - when they saw a chicken on the school's playground that looked an awful lot like Kenny - he knew he had to confess that Kenny was, in fact, on the lam!

Forstadt's notice on JProv (a Yahoo group list-serve for Jewish Providence news) asking people to keep an eye and ear out for Kenny yielded plenty of information, but it took several days to finally capture him. Eventually, Kenny was spotted at PHDS - the source of a big commotion - and Forstadt, with the fishing net he'd purchased, and Rabbis Shmuel Taitelbaum and Abraham Jakubowicz cornered him in Rabbi Scheiner's backyard. He is now living legally and noisily at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Forstadt said.

Other chickens, too, have occasionally gotten loose, but

Forstadt learned his lesson and clipped their wings.

Although Forstadt's chickens have been named, they "are not pets," he said. The three eggs they get each day from their four chickens are great. "Even my son, who is a otherwise a vegan, will eat baked goods made with our eggs," he said.

Having chickens has "been a learning experience for our kids, too," he said, as they have witnessed the cycle of birth and death with the chickens. In the years that Forstadt has had chickens, two have died of natural causes and two others were killed - one by a raccoon and another by a red-tailed hawk.

Chickens can live 10 or more years, but their egg production varies widely, depending on the breed, Forstadt said. Leghorns, for example, can lay an egg about every 23 hours. Other breeds tend to be not as productive, and they slow down as they age; an older hen may lay an egg a week or so. Some hens of all ages may shut down egg production during the winter or when they are molting. While chicken feed isn't free, it's not

an expensive investment, said Forstadt, who spends \$12 on a 50-pound bag of feed that lasts for about six weeks; he supplements that with some fresh leafy vegetables. And though they are inexpensive, chickens should be purchased from reliable sources. "You have to be careful who you buy from and that they are the right gender," he said, noting that he gets them often on Craig's List. The Providence ordinance requires chicken owners to compost their chicken poop.

Would he recommend this hobby to others?

"I would, but I also recommend staying within the parameters [of the regulations]," he said.

Depending on the size of a Providence homeowner's lot, he added, the maximum number of chickens legally allowed is six.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit PECK on Facebook, CLUCK on Facebook or Forstadt (mike@forstadt.com).

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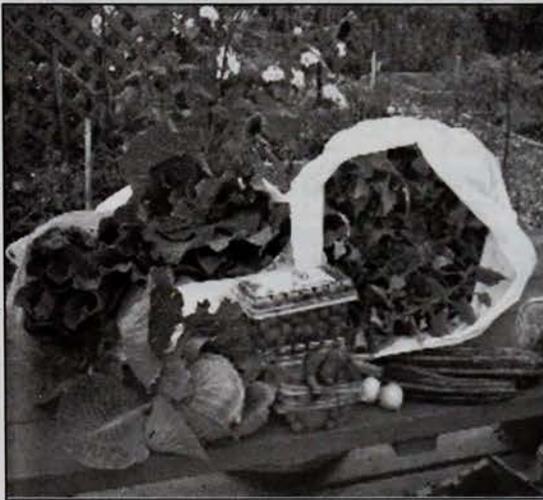
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Beth-El gardeners contribute to community



TEMPLE BETH-EL

Some of the bounty of the Beth-El garden

**BY RENEE FULLERTON
AND HELAINE SCHUPACK**
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – Temple Beth-El joined the Fox Point Community Gardens on Gano Street in Providence five years ago, and we are still growing strong.

Rabbi Sarah Mack, who started the project, said, “We wanted to answer the need for healthy local food.”

We have two plots with great soil, in full sun and a water connection. In addition, we have a fence, a tool shed and gardening colleagues.

Our plots have also given us a way to learn about community. Several students preparing for their bar or bat mitzvah ceremonies have volunteered at the garden; other volunteers have also joined. There is a constant need to watch over the plots and to weed, fertilize and provide water.

As the season progresses and our crops produce yield, we donate our produce to Camp Street Ministries every Friday morning. Most of the other gardeners at Fox Point Community Gardens also generously donate to Camp Street Ministries; last year four Brown University medical students donated all their produce to Camp Street’s food pantry. Volunteers there collect and sort vegetables from many places, and clients line up early with their shopping bags. Kale is always well received, evoking images of large pots of homemade kale soup.

Our plots include the traditional standbys: tomatoes, a tall wire fence of cucumbers, all kinds of squash, beans, varieties of onions, garlic, greens, parsley, chives and carrots. Several beekeepers are on hand to harvest the honey

from our very own hives. And we have zinnias – so tall, colorful and easy to grow that they earn their spot.

On Temple Beth-El’s Mitzvah Day – this year, April 28 – a group from the synagogue will clean up our plots. Then, we will mix in new soil and will be ready to plant shortly after that. Last year, about a dozen volunteers (including a few families) finished all the preparation. They enjoyed themselves that morning.

The community garden project is great for those who want to learn about gardening for the first time or for those who have moved to apartments and no longer have yards for gardening. The team who runs the Fox Point project and the volunteers there are delightful; they are experienced and always willing to guide volunteers.

The gardeners also meet monthly for a potluck dinner where they socialize and learn more about gardening. Last year, one man’s outstanding potluck dish was a green tomato pie on a whole-wheat crust with dollops of goat cheese.

Ask any gardener; gardening is a wonderful and productive hobby. There is nothing more delicious or healthy than a juicy tomato or crisp lettuce fresh from the soil, or more beautiful than a bouquet of vibrant zinnias.

TO VOLUNTEER: Call Beth-El, 331-6070.

RENEE FULLERTON (fullerton_renee@yahoo.com) and **HELAINE SCHUPACK** (hms475@cox.net) coordinate the Beth-El garden plots at Fox Point Community Gardens.



LAYNE MAYER

Jackson Mayer at Sessions Street Community Garden

Beth-El teen grows at Sessions Street Community Garden

BY LAYNE MAYER
Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – The Sessions Street Community Garden – adjacent to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island’s offices – recently donated a small plot to a Temple Beth-El mitzvah project program. Beth-El’s bar and bat mitzvah students will grow fresh vegetables and herbs at the plot for the Camp Street Ministries food bank; Rabbi Sarah Mack and I will manage the plot.

Rabbi Mack hopes to encourage an ongoing succession of students as they choose their community service projects.

My son Jackson, the first student involved in the new project,

hopes to set up the garden and its relationship with Camp Street Ministries so it will be easy for other kids to take over from year to year.

Jackie Watson, Camp Street Ministries’ executive director, said that about 105 families come to the food bank every Saturday.

“That’s like 400 or 500 people who would otherwise not have food,” said Jackson. “I didn’t realize that so many people who live within basically walking distance from my house would go hungry without the food bank.”

Watson helped Jackson decide what to grow and suggested that all the food be labeled and

include a recipe; Camp Street Ministries’ families don’t always know how to use all the vegetables and herbs that could be grown locally.

After preparing the garden plot during the weekend of April 7-8, Jackson plans to plant peas and leafy greens like lettuce and kale to start. He will have lots of guidance from the Session Street Community Garden members, many of whom have been with the garden for years.

LAYNE MAYER (laynemayer@mac.com), of Providence, is a member of the Sessions Street Community Garden.

Home ownership at lowest level since 1966

Is homeownership still the “American dream” for all U.S. residents? The Census Bureau, a source for all sorts of data, reveals a declining homeownership rate.

According to statistics from the Census Bureau’s Housing Vacancy Survey, the homeownership rate – 65.4 percent in 2012 – hasn’t been this low since 1966. The all-time high, according to the survey, was 69 percent in 2004.

In 2012, 34 percent of those aged 25-29 owned their own homes, while 77 percent of those 55-64 are homeowners; and 81 percent of those 65 and older owned their homes.

Between 2004 and 2012, the 30-34 age group experienced the biggest decline in homeownership, down a steep 9.5 percentage points from 57.4 to 47.9 percent (an all-time low).

The 35-39 age group did not fare much better, with a 9.3 percentage point decline during those

years (falling from 66.2 to 56.9 percent, also an all-time low).



Is home ownership still the American dream?

REFORM Judaism initiatives underway in Israel

From Page 4

butz Lotan and Kibbutz Yahel, "Zion in the Desert: American Jews in Israel's Reform Kibbutz-zim."

At a lunch with several Hebrew Union College rabbinical students studying in Israel, I sat with Max Jared Einsohn, Meredith Sinel's cousin from Texas., and met Eric Abbott, a rabbinical student from Rhode Island.

Meeting Anat Hoffman

Our most exciting experience was accompanying Women of the Wall (WOW) to the Kotel to pray, sing and dance on *Rosh Hodesh*. Anat Hoffman leads WOW and IRAC (Israel Religious Action Center, which receives WRJ support). Although WRJ does not financially support WOW, it shares WOW's belief that ending discrimination against women in Israel is essential. Today, women in Israel can't participate equally in praying at the Wall, sitting where they choose on a public bus or eulogizing one's father at a cemetery.

WOW wishes to pray traditionally at the Wall, and does not believe in "separate but equal." In 2003, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that sufficient space had to exist for women to pray at Robinson's Arch (a section of the Kotel) within a year. Ten years later, women are still waiting; arrests or detentions occur regularly at the Kotel before or after prayers. Orthodox men and women have responded to WOW with verbal abuse and more.

Warned to expect protests to our planned visit to the Wall, most of us, nonetheless, chose to participate. We figured out how to sneak in our *tallitot* (prayer shawls) and what to do if we were detained. There was a large police presence, perhaps because of rumors of a larger-than-usual protest.

After we cleared security, Temple Beth-El's Rabbi Sarah Mack, in Israel on a separate trip, greeted me; she was a reassuring presence.

After we took our *tallitot* from under our clothing and put

them on and began to pray, a number of *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) women screamed at us and shook their hands in the air.

Although I felt some sympathy for their strong beliefs, I – and the WRJ – believe the Kotel is a public holy place that should be open to all.

It was exhilarating to be with Hoffman, holding hands with

"IT WAS EXHILARATING to be with [Anat] Hoffman, holding hands with her and dancing with the group."

her and dancing with the group. We anxiously waited for the police to move in, as we were certain that some of us would be detained. In all, approximately 220 women prayed at the Wall.

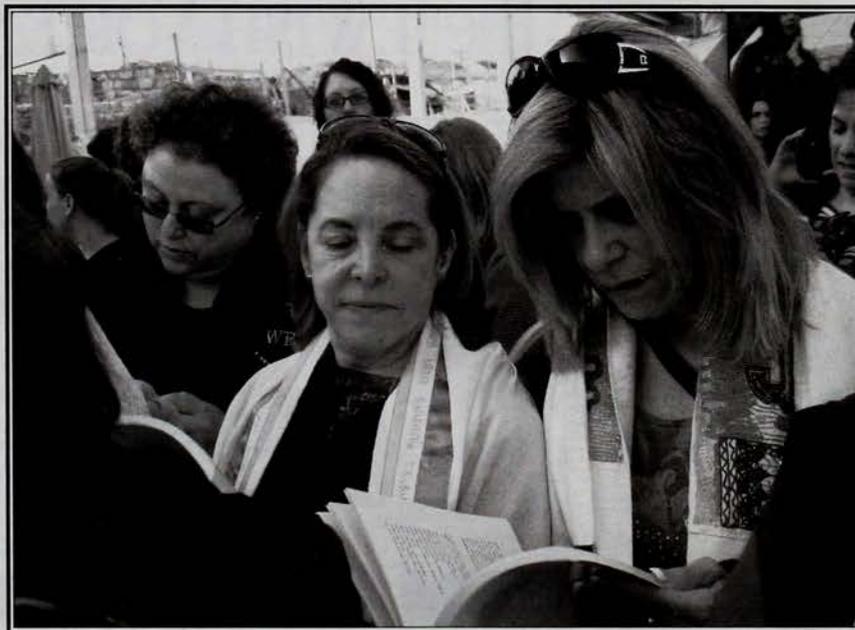
We were wholly surprised that, for the first time in 22 months, there were no arrests or detentions. Two theories were offered: As it was only a few days before President Obama's visit, they did not want to arrest any Americans. Also, three female Members of the Knesset – Tamar Zandberg, Stav Shaffir and Michal Rozin – demonstrated with Women of the Wall for the first time, while wearing *tallitot*.

We were able to complete our prayers, undisturbed except by Orthodox women.

On our last night together, we each received certificates for something that was significant about each of us. I received the "stayed away too long" certificate; it had been almost 50 years since my last trip to Israel.

Visiting Berlin

In Berlin, we laid a wreath at the Rosenstrasse monument,



WRJ leaders – Blair Marks, from left, Marla Feldman and Lynn Magid Lazar – pray in Israel.

which commemorates the incident in 1943 when Jewish men married to non-Jewish women were rounded up and imprisoned, before being shipped to Auschwitz. Risking their own safety, the women held a non-violent demonstration in front of the prison; they ultimately succeeded in getting their husbands released before the transport. Sadly, there were few other successes to celebrate.

The haunting Holocaust memorial of nameless gravestone-like concrete blocks of various heights and the architecturally amazing Jewish Museum helped reveal a new attitude toward accepting and acknowledging the extraordinary losses of the Holocaust. Visits to the Wannsee House, where

the meeting to unveil the Final Solution was held, or the platforms at Gleis 17, where trains stopped to send Berlin's Jews to concentration camps, were chilling.

There is, nonetheless, a growing Jewish population in Germany of about 11,000 members. We visited old and new synagogues (rebuilt where old ones had been destroyed) and celebrated our second Shabbat of our trip, praying in Germany.

After a 3:30 a.m. wakeup call, I was ready to come home. With challenged immune systems from our nonstop schedule, many of us came home with colds to begin preparing for Passover Seders. Many of us added a pomegranate to our Seder plates as a reminder of

Israel.

This year, hearing the words "Next year in Jerusalem" was especially poignant.

BARBARA HOROVITZ BROWN (aturtle47@hotmail.com), a Temple Beth-El Sisterhood board member and a WRJ Northeast District area director, lives in East Greenwich.

BROWN'S TRIP will be the topic at a Temple Beth-El Sisterhood *Rosh Hodesh* event on May 9, from 7 – 9 p.m., at the home of Dr. Cheryl Greenfield. For more info for directions/Rsvp: Call Rona at Beth-El, 331-6070.

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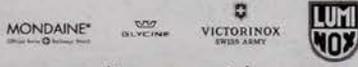


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The chilling travails of King David

A clinician's explanation of the risks of hypothermia

The Bible was never intended to be a source of authentic clinical information. Nonetheless, there are scriptural passages that offer, in a few terse words, an accurate medical portrayal.

Consider, for instance, the opening words of I Kings: "King David was now old, advanced in years; and though they covered him with bedclothes, he never felt warm." David, then 70-years-old, an advanced age, had lived a contentious life of victories and defeats, glory and ignominy and had suffered grievous losses – including the death of his beloved son Absalom.

In very few words, this scriptural passage portrays a disorder little discussed yet commonly found among the elderly: a diminished capacity to maintain body heat along with an enhanced vulnerability to heat loss when one is exposed to the cold. This phenomenon, sometimes called hypothermia, can at times amount to more than a personal discomfort; in the elderly, it can be life threatening.

We commonly think of hypothermia as a condition suffered by sailors who have survived ocean water immersion for extended periods or by cross-

country skiers lost for days in snow-covered terrain. In actual fact, hypothermia is substantially more common among the very elderly.



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Control of internal body temperature (thermo-regulation) is achieved mainly through involuntary systemic measures such as shivering, which generates heat;

through diversion of blood flow toward the body's periphery, which generates a minimal amount of heat through vasodilation or – more commonly – through diversion away from the body's periphery, which conserves heat through vaso-constriction. These body-warming mechanisms, which are involuntarily controlled by the central nervous system, tend to function less perfectly and less promptly in the elderly.

Hypothermia is medically defined as a sustained core body temperature lower than 95 degrees F. Its earliest symptoms include weakness, excessive fatigue, confusion and slurred speech. The pulse is unduly slowed and irregular and cardiac output is reduced. Shivering is inappropriately diminished. Breathing slows down and the victim's skin turns bluish (cyanosis.) Fluid leakage causes

swelling of the peripheral tissues (edema). Terminally, the voluntary muscles become more rigid, the pupils of the eyes dilate, reflexes are diminished and coma supervenes.

Who is most vulnerable to hypothermia? Predisposed persons include those who are elderly, substantially underweight, chronically anorexic or partially immobilized due

"I NEVER FEEL warm enough even when I wear two sweaters."

to incapacitating arthritis, a stroke or sedatives, as well as those with low blood sugar or low thyroid function. Alcohol consumption – including sacramental wines – exacerbates heat loss by dilating peripheral blood vessels; such consumption is a leading cause of serious hypothermia.

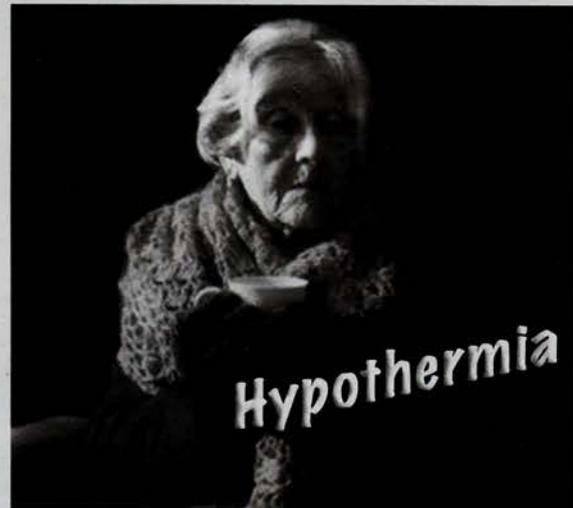
Increasingly, individuals who are confused or demented become vulnerable to prolonged exposure to the cold. And if, in addition, they suffer from depression, intentional exposure to cold is (sadly) a known meth-

od of suicide.

How serious is the problem of hypothermia? Over a 20-year period, the United States Public Health Service record-

tion – faces a serious risk of irreversible hypothermia if he or she is exposed to a frigid environment.

Elderly individuals, particu-



larly those with one or more of the risk factors mentioned above, may often declare, paraphrasing King David: "I never feel warm enough even when I wear two sweaters and am sitting in a warm room. Maybe a winter in Florida would warm me up."

This is certainly a hint for the family to consider sending Bubbe or Zayde to Boca Raton, Fla., next winter; the state recorded no cases of hypothermia last year.

Families should be aware that an underweight, emotionally depressed senior citizen – who may also be confused due to an organic dementia such as Alzheimer's disease or due to excessive alcohol consump-

tion – faces a serious risk of irreversible hypothermia if he or she is exposed to a frigid environment. Elderly individuals, particularly those with one or more of the risk factors mentioned above, may often declare, paraphrasing King David: "I never feel warm enough even when I wear two sweaters and am sitting in a warm room. Maybe a winter in Florida would warm me up."



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Immigration – then and now

Political compassion and wisdom required to resolve this challenging issue

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tema Gouse is still ill, and we are reissuing her Jan. 5, 2007 column on a topic that remains timely today.

In recent months, the topic of immigration comes up frequently in the media and from the mouths of our elected officials. More accurately, what they are discussing is illegal immigration. The population has diverse and uneducated opinions on this matter, but they are aware that it must be resolved.



AS WE GROW OLDER

TEMA GOUSE

I recall learning in high school that, for about two centuries of our statehood, anyone who wished to enter the United States could do so without reason, clearance, documentation or money. Remember: "Send me your poor and homeless yearning to be free?"

And then, in the first quarter of the 20th century, some Washington politicians did not like

the "flavor" of the diverse immigrants and decided to enact legislation that set quotas for future immigration. The quotas limited the number of individuals from each country who could migrate to our shores, per year. The quotas were established according to the biases of the elected officials. It was often unfair, but became law. An immigration process was established and for many years there were few violations.

In the past two decades, illegal immigration has become rampant, and the nation is divided about how to correct the influx and what to do with those illegal residents who are here now.

All of this leads up to a period when revision of immigration laws seemed highly justified. When World War II ended and the concentration camps were liberated, there were no homes (or welcoming nations) to absorb the survivors. The law required that each immigrant must have an affiant, an American citizen who would sign an affidavit assuming responsibility that the non-citizen would not become a public charge.

My knowledge of this comes from my employment at the Jewish Family Services of Chi-

cago, from 1945 to 1947. I was the youngest social worker in my branch office but I was the only one who could speak both Yiddish and German.

"SEND ME YOUR poor and homeless yearning to be free."

Because of that, most of the survivors who came to Chicago were part of my caseload. Those who came to each large city had, with a few exceptions, no one to serve as their affiants.

And here Jewish pride takes over. As soon as the war ended and the horror of the camp experience was obvious, every Jewish philanthropic organization assumed some responsibility for assisting the survivors in any way possible.

The federal government, however, was unwilling to modify

the usual procedures and requirements for immigration, despite the fact that thousands of Jews were sitting stateless and impoverished and in poor health in reformulated camps, with no options.

So, the nation's Jewish leaders, in collaboration with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish family service agencies in the major cities prevailed on the federal government to allow them to become corporate affiants (instead of individual affiants) promising to feed, house, educate, heal and care for those victims until they could become self-sufficient.

And it worked – without public funds of any kind. The immigrants arrived in New York and were dispersed to the various communities, where most became healthier and self-sufficient at amazing rates. They were eager to learn English and become American citizens. They welcomed the opportunity to regain their Jewish identities with pride, rather than fear. And I was proud to be in on the beginning of that process.

That was immigration then. But there are still many people in all parts of the world who

would like to immigrate. They have prepared the necessary documentation and await their turn in the quota listings. But few are called, because 12 million illegal [people] have stolen into the country in the past two decades, and there are limits to how many thousands can be absorbed.

Many greedy entrepreneurs hire the desperate illegal residents at substandard wages and prevail on politicians to allow them to remain in this country. Because they are illegal and have no documents, they pay no income taxes, but boost the cost of education and medical care for taxpayers.

And the Congress and the White House seem impotent to compromise or resolve this enigma with some balance of humanity and reality. Today's immigrants do not have HIAS, the JDC and communities of compassionate compatriots to take on their problems. This is immigration now.

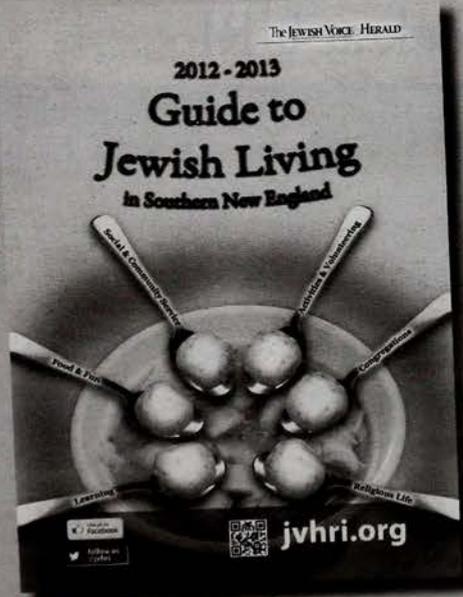
TEMA GOUSE (nbgtpg@cox.net), a retired social worker, lives in Cranston.

The Jewish Voice & Herald

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Remembering Jackie Robinson's fight with black nationalists over anti-Semitism

Legendary baseball player stood up for causes

By AMI EDEN

NEW YORK (JTA) – Moviegoers who head out this weekend to the opening of "42" will see the story of how Jackie Robinson displayed legendary courage, class and talent in the face of immense pressure and racial hatred as he broke down baseball's color barrier.

Less well known is Robinson's role in a controversy that erupted at Harlem's most famous theater, and underscored his commitment to fighting all bigotry, including prejudice emanating from his own community.

It was 1962, a decade-and-a-half after Robinson first took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers and just a few years after he retired. Day after day, an angry crowd marched outside Harlem's legendary Apollo Theater protesting against its Jewish owner, Frank Schiffman, and his plan to open a low-cost restaurant with prices that potentially would threaten the business of a more expensive black-owned eatery.

The demonstrators carried anti-Semitic posters and hurled racial epithets, reportedly denouncing Schiffman as a Shylock who wanted to extract a pound of flesh from the black community.

Schiffman turned to several black leaders for help, but despite the increasingly hostile acts of anti-Semitism that were taking place, they all remained silent – except for Robinson.

"I was ashamed to see community leaders who were afraid

to speak out when blacks were guilty of anti-Semitism," Robinson wrote in "I Never Had It Made," his 1972 autobiography. "How could we stand against anti-black prejudice if we were willing to practice or condone a similar intolerance?"

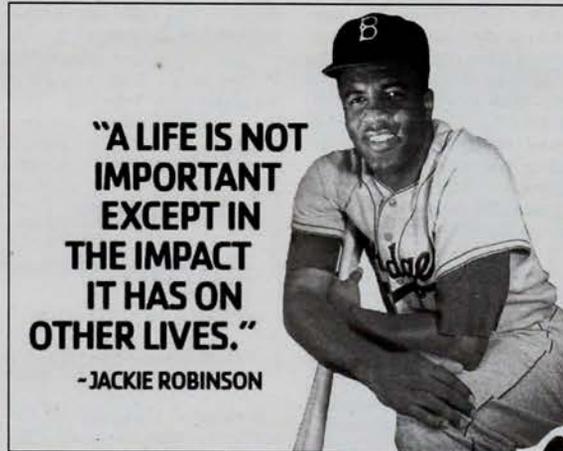
Never one to back down from a cause he believed in, Robinson used his syndicated newspaper column to condemn the protesters' blatant use of anti-Semitism and compared their actions to events that had occurred in Nazi Germany, drawing the ire of many black nationalists in the process.

The nationalists, who had adopted a separatist agenda, retaliated by protesting in front of a nearby Chock Full O' Nuts coffee shop – Robinson had worked for the chain after his 1957 retirement from baseball – and outside a dinner honoring Robinson's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In turn, several mainstream black leaders – including Roy Wilkins, the longtime leader of the NAACP – quickly came to the defense of Robinson and Schiffman.

"In their fight for equal opportunity, Negroes cannot use the slimy tools of anti-Semitism or indulge in racism, the very tactics against which we cry out," Wilkins wrote in a telegram to Robinson. "We join you in your straight statement that this is a matter of principle from which there can be no retreat."

Other leaders, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Philadelphia Tribune publisher



Dr. E. Washington Rhodes, also offered their support, according to Robinson. Major League Baseball's first black player also managed to pry a condemnation of anti-Semitism from Lewis Micheaux, the owner of Harlem's National Memorial African Book Store, though Micheaux had sympathized with the marchers and denounced Robinson's initial criticisms.

Soon after, the protests ceased.

Some Jewish communal officials have noted that Robinson's strong stance during the 1962 Apollo incident stood in stark contrast to the silence from black leaders during the 1995 protests outside Freddy's clothing store on 125th Street.

For months, large crowds gathered in front of the Harlem store to protest the efforts of its

Jewish owner, Fred Harari, to expand into an adjacent storefront that was occupied by a black-owned business.

The condemnations came only after one protester, Roland Smith Jr., shot and killed seven store employees before burning down the building and taking his own life.

Robinson was always quick to criticize anti-Semitism in the black community, according to Stephen Norwood, a professor at the University of Oklahoma who co-wrote a scholarly article on Robinson's relationship with Jews.

In a 1997 interview timed to the 50th anniversary of Robinson's integration of baseball, Norwood pointed out that Robinson was the first to condemn and call for the removal of a Congress of Racial Equality of

ficial in 1966 after he shouted at a group of Jews, "Hitler made a mistake when he didn't kill enough of you."

While raising funds for the NAACP and bail money for imprisoned civil rights marchers, Norwood said, Robinson witnessed the valuable contributions that Jews were making to the black community's struggle. When Robinson took part in the legendary march on Washington and stood by King in Birmingham, Ala., he saw that some Jews also were placing their bodies on the line for civil rights causes.

According to Norwood, when black nationalism emerged as a powerful force during the 1960s, Robinson rejected its separatist agenda and continued to include Jews in his major efforts to economically empower the black community with the Freedom National Bank and the Jackie Robinson Construction Company.

Roger Kahn, whose "Boys of Summer" chronicled Robinson and his teammates' multi-year road to winning the World Series in 1955, would write later that Robinson's actions during the Apollo protests should not have come as a surprise.

"He hated anti-Semitism just as he hated prejudice against blacks," Kahn wrote. "Without qualification and from the gut."

THIS PIECE WAS adapted from an article that first appeared in The Jewish Exponent.

Holocaust Remembrance Week at URI

KINGSTON – The students pictured at right are among the more than 35 student-volunteers who planted the Field of Flags. Many of them were from the Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) fraternity and Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) sorority, including Daniel Kessler and Sabrina Brotons, respectively, both of whom are active in URI's Hillel, according to information from URI Hillel Executive Director Amy Olson.

This year, the flags were planted on Yom Ha-Shoah, Sunday, April 7 and will remain through Sunday, April 14. Each flag represents 5,000 of the 11 million victims of the Nazi Holocaust. A total of 2,400 flags are placed in the ground, visually capturing the enormity of the devastation.

URI Hillel, with assistance from the Holocaust Education

and Resource Center of RI and support from other entities, sponsors the university's Holocaust Remembrance Week programs.

URI HILLEL: 874-2740 or urihillel.org.



Catherine Collard, back row, from left, Michelle Noonan, Kaitlyn Sharkey, Alyssa Teekema, Kathy Sussman and Sabrina Brotons; front row, Skylar Plante and Daniel Kessler stand in front of the "Field of Flags" at URI in memory of the victims of the Nazi Holocaust.



D'VAR TORAH

George Washington's message to Colonial-era Jews resonates today

Touro Synagogue invites collaboration in working for religious tolerance

By Rabbi Dr. Marc Mandel

Special to The Voice & Herald

NEWPORT - In 1790, George Washington, the first president of the United States, sent a message to the Jewish community of Newport, Rhode Island, at Touro Synagogue, promising that the United States would never support religious bigotry or persecution.

In this famous letter, Washington wrote, "May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants - while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

Fast forward 223 years, and once again, another United States president sends a mes-

sage to the Jewish people, quoting the very same biblical passage (Micah 4:4).

President Barack Obama, our 44th president, gave Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, a piece of the Touro Synagogue engraved with the same passage as was used by President Washington. President Obama's message was meant to convey to the people of Israel the same encouragement as President Washington gave to the Jews at Touro Synagogue. Security and safety were very much on the minds of Newport's early Jewish settlers.

The recent Passover holiday serves as a reminder that Jews have not always been blessed with security and safety. Yom Ha-Shoah, (Holocaust Remembrance Day) reminds us that

only a few decades ago, during the horrific years of the Holocaust, security and safety were nowhere to be found for millions of Jews. *Yom Ha-Zikaron* (Israel's Memorial Day) and *Yom Ha-Atzma'ut* (Israel's Independence Day) remind us that many brave soldiers lost their lives to gain security for Israel; today, the miracle of Israel is a reminder of how far the Jewish people have come.

We at Touro Synagogue are proud of our role in history; and we continue to pray that all people of good will shall indeed sit in safety under their own vine and fig tree and may there be none to make them afraid. At Touro Synagogue, we continue to teach the values of tolerance and religious freedom for all.

Please join us in our quest



Rabbi Dr. Marc Mandel

to look forward to greeting readers of The Jewish Voice & Herald at Touro Synagogue, and hope that, together, we may work towards fulfilling the goals of religious tolerance and freedom for all.

RABBI DR. MARC MANDEL (rabbimandel@touro-synagogue.org), a member of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, is rabbi at Touro Synagogue, which celebrates its 250th anniversary this year.

to teach the importance of these ideals that are so powerfully articulated in our Torah, which was meant to be a light unto all nations. I person-

Candle Lighting Times
Greater R.I. area



April 12.....	7:04
April 19.....	7:12
April 26.....	7:20
May 3.....	7:27

Beth-El presents programs

PROVIDENCE - Guest speaker Harris "Hershey" Rosen will discuss his book, "Creating A Guide So Your Partner Can Go On Living!" at a Temple Beth-El "Lunch & Learn" program on April 16 at noon.

The lunch program, open to the entire community, is \$10 per person.

Dr. Marc Weinberg is the guest speaker at the Herbert Wagner Brotherhood Breakfast on Sunday, April 21, at 9 a.m. Weinberg will speak on "A Clinical Method of Heart Attack, Stroke and Diabetes Prevention"; the event is free and open to members of the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rob Massi, rmassi@temple-beth-el.org or 331-6070.

Social Action Shabbat at Temple Beth-El

PROVIDENCE - Each spring, the Social Action Committee of Temple Beth-El sponsors an annual Social Action Shabbat service and a guest speaker at the post-service *oneg*. This year's Social Action Shabbat service will be held Friday, April 26; the *oneg* and Simon Moore's presentation begin around 7:45 p.m.

Moore is founding director of College Visions, an organization founded in 2004 that aims to empower low-income and first-gen-

eration college-bound students to pursue college.

Moore, a Providence native, attended Providence public schools before enrolling at Brown University, where he co-coordinated the Pre-College Enrichment Program through the Swearer Center for Public Service.

After college, Moore was a classroom teacher in New York. During his tenure in New York, he returned during the sum-

mer time to Providence to serve Providence Summerbridge as its dean of students.

He is a 2013 Rhode Island Foundation Fellow.

The service and the *oneg* are open to the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Temple Beth-El, 331-6070

Reporter Susan Hogan to speak at Senior Guild

WARWICK - The Cranston Senior Guild will meet Wednesday, May 1, at 1 p.m. at Tamarrisk, 3 Shalom Drive, in Warwick.

The speaker will be Susan Hogan, an Emmy Award-winning "Call 12 for Action Problem Solver" on WPRI Channel

12's 5:30 p.m. news.

A raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting.

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

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Tillie (Goodman) Altman, 99

PROVIDENCE – Tillie Altman died March 27. She was the wife of the late Isadore Altman, M.D.



Born in Boston, Mass., she was a daughter

of the late Max and Sara (Green) Goodman.

She volunteered as a Brownie and Girl Scouts leader, and at Sturdy Memorial Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

She is survived by her son Joel D. Altman, O.D., and his wife Charlotte and her daughter Diane Altman Berube; grandchildren, Marc and his wife Robyn Holdsworth Altman, Miriam Altman and her husband David Moburg, Ilana and her husband Keith Sheldon, Rachael S. Berube and Ilan A. Berube; and five great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Belle Herman and Isadore "Irving," Meyer, Theodore and Isaac "Jack" Goodman. Her family thanks her caregivers, Carol Renzi, Cathy Barbato, Suelen Scarabelot and Home & Hospice Care of RI.

Contributions may be made to Big Brothers Foundation or United Way of Greater New Bedford.

Roberta Davis, 75

PROVIDENCE – Roberta Davis died March 27. She was married to Joslin Davis for 52 years.

Born in Brookline, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Myer and Frances (Waters) Leshner. She was a graduate of Lesley College.

She is survived by her children, Donna and Steven Goliger, Marjorie Davis, Lori

and Mark Glazer; her grandchildren Sarah and Michelle Goliger and Jennifer and Matthew Glazer. She was the sister of Sandra Isaacson of Florida, Edythe Smith of California and the late Martin Leshner. She leaves several nieces and nephews.

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

Thyrza Toby Geringer, 79

NORTH SMITHFIELD – Thyrza Geringer died March 30. Born in Bronx, N.Y., a daughter of the late Harry and Jene (Weisman) Horowitz, she had lived in North Smithfield since 2010.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El.

She was the mother of Daniel Geringer and his wife Leslie of Germantown, Md., Sheldon Geringer and his wife Elizabeth of Honolulu, Hawaii, Adele Geringer and her husband Roy Collins of Chepachet and Barbara Daddario of Mamaroneck, N.Y. The grandmother of Jacqueline, Aja, Shane, Eric, Allison and Jamie, she was the great-grandmother of Nathynn, Amiah, Giovanni and Zofia.

Contributions may be made to one's favorite charity.

Charles Goldberg, 94

SMITHFIELD – Charles Goldberg died April 7. He was the husband of the late Hazel (Russian) Goldberg.

Born in Poland, a son of the late David and Sara (Snyder) Goldberg, he had lived in Smithfield for 13 years, previously residing in Johnston.

He was the owner of Charles Scrap Metal in Providence for 50 years and CHA Holding for 20 years, retiring 14 years ago. A Holocaust survivor, he had lost most of his family in the Holocaust and had fought in

the Russian army. A member of Temple Sinai, he was a former member of Temple Am David.

He was the father of Allan Goldberg and his wife Gabriela of Cranston; grandfather of Martin, Harrison and Avery and brother of the late Martin, Avraham, Nathan, Miriam, Haia and Faiga Goldberg.

Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920.

Selwyn R. Holland, 71

MATTAPOISETT, Mass. – Selwyn Holland died March 27. He was the husband of Carol (Mello) Holland.

Born in New Bedford, Mass., he was a son of the late Abram and Betty (Muscansky) Holland.

After graduating Syracuse University, he worked at his family's business, People's Supermarkets, and then owned his own business for many years, People's Package Store, until retiring in 1992.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children Amy Rein and her husband Mitchell, Douglas Holland and his wife Dang, and Alicia Holland; his sister Sandra Siegel and grandchildren, Katy, Jenn and Diego. He was the brother of the late Bernice Gadon.

Contributions may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

Charlotte Sybil (Bander) Jacobs, 83

CRANSTON – Charlotte Jacobs, of Boca Raton, Fla., died April 2. She was the wife of Albert Jordan Jacobs for 60 years. Born May 25, 1929 in Providence, to the late Cyrus and Sadie (Berkowitz) Bander, she

lived with her husband in Boca Raton for the past 14 years.

A 1946 Hope High School graduate, she attended the University of Rhode Island. She chauffeured her children to myriad lessons, sports and activities. A Cub Scout den mother for many years, she was active at her children's schools.

After her children left for college, she became a licensed real estate agent and an entrepreneur.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children, Sharon Jacobs Brown, Esq. and her husband Ronald B. Brown, Esq.; Bradley S. Jacobs and his wife Lamia and Theodore R. Jacobs, M.D. and his wife, Esther Chaffee. She leaves her grandchildren Pamela and Zachary Brown, Yasmina, Juliana, Emily Rose and Melissa Jacobs and Heather Chaffee and her husband Chris Karp; her great-grandchild Oliver Chaffee, a niece, two nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her brothers Howard M. Bander and Sheldon Bander and her sister Doris (Bander) Symanski, her husband Walter and their son Joseph.

Contributions may be made to The Arthritis Foundation.

Beverly (Meister) Kupchan, 88

YONKERS, N.Y. – Beverly Kupchan died March 26. She was the wife of the late Dr. Jerome Kupchan. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Mischa and Maryasa Meister.

She is survived by her children Marshall Kupchan and his wife Judy of Skokie, Ill., Eileen Kupchan Benes of Forest Hills, N.Y. and Dr. Audrey Kupchan and her husband Sam Havens of Barrington; her sister Sonnie Greenberg and her grandchildren Noam Kupchan and his wife Shuli, Rebecca Kupchan, Jeremy Benes, Dan DeLuca and David DeLuca.

Contributions may be made to Lincoln Park Jewish Center,

311 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704.

Robert E. Reuter, 72

EAST GREENWICH – Robert Reuter died March 29. Born in Providence, a son of the late Theodore and Dena (Gorden) Reuter, he had lived in Warwick for 27 years.

He was an accountant with Sinel Wilfand & Vinci CPAs, Inc., for 27 years.

He served in the R.I. Army National Guard.

He was the brother of Stanley R. Reuter and his wife Joan of East Greenwich and Anna Reuter of Palo Alto, Calif.; uncle of David, Melissa and Molly and great-uncle of Jonathan and Orson. He was the companion of the late Agnes Tatro.

Contributions may be made to The Seasons, 5 St. Elizabeth Way, East Greenwich, RI 02818 or the charity of one's choice.

Bernard Alan Sweet, 75

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Bernard Sweet died April 2. He leaves his wife Leni (Zucker) Sweet; daughters from his first marriage, Haley and Shari Sweet; and sons, Adam Andrew and Steven Matthew Sweet.

The son of Louis and Jennie Sweet, he was raised in Providence. A graduate of Pawtucket West High School and Emerson College in Boston, he served as a broadcaster, an advertising executive and a public relations director.

In 1974, he and his wife Leni became franchisees of Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant in Louisville. He retired in 2005 and passed the store to his sons.

Active in the Emerson College Alumni Association, he received an award for outstanding achievement and contributions.

Contributions may be made to The Temple/Waller Fund or Rabbi David's discretionary fund.

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MUSIC is not a job for me; it's a *raison d'être*

From Page 1

language].

I'm a singer songwriter with a 23-year-career ... a fusion of my Israeli background, my Yemenite family roots and my American upbringing [with] three cultures.

Q: Do you sing only your own work or cover other performers' music, as well?

A: I sometimes sing covers, but mostly my original work.

(Noa talked about two different projects that she called offshoots of her typical work.) They are songs that I didn't write but that I admire. 'The Israeli Songbook' is a collection of classic Hebrew songs molding the contemporary Israeli psyche. I recorded [songs] with the Jerusalem Symphony.

Another project, 'Noapolis - Noa Sings Napoli,' is dedicated to Neapolitan songs. I became very well known in Italy where I started performing early on. I wanted to thank the Italian public for their wonderful acceptance. I decided to sing those songs as encores [and] to build a repertoire.

Q: Can you talk about your musical training and your relationship with Gil Dor?

A: I was always interested in music since I was a very young girl, [though] I had very little formal music education. I went to Rimon School in Israel [where I met] Gil. I left school after a year and started performing. ... I was lucky [to be able] to connect with Pat Metheny [who] produced my first international album with Geffen Records.

Gil is my musical director and guitarist ... [for] 23 years. I write the songs and Gil is more of an arranger and a producer. Sometimes [he is] a cowriter of lyrics and of music, he's very talented. I've never had a show without him.

Q: You are married with three children, yet you tour internationally. How do you juggle the work-family balance?

A: A lot of flexibility, a lot of help, a lot of compromise and a lot of love. Sometimes you give up things; try to make the wisest way and most compassionate decisions. Before I had kids, music [was the] most important [part of my life]. I do my best to do well with both; I can't think of my life without either children or music.

Music is not a job for me; it's a *raison d'être*. I am lucky to have a husband, who is a great father and very supportive, and my parents, God bless their souls, are in Israel and help me a lot.

It's a constant balancing act. Sometimes one or more of the children come with me when I perform internationally.

Q: You were born in Israel and raised in New York as an Israeli. What made you decide to return to Israel as

a young woman and without your family?

A: I was very happy to go back to Israel [at age 17]. I fell in love with an Israeli man; I met him when he was 21 and I was 15. I wanted to go back to the homeland.

"I HAVE A short fuse and a big heart."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Israeli man with whom the teen-aged Noa fell in love is her husband!)

Q: Can you talk about the messages of your music?

A: I'm not here to solely entertain. A concert is being in the temple of the god of music, praying in the temple of the god of music [with] energy, happiness and joy of life and some serious moments.

I write songs about all things; I have a few songs [that are] more politically oriented. I am a great supporter of the two-state solution; I volunteer for a lot of peace organizations.

I received great news this morning - I was invited to perform for [President] Obama in Israel [along with] my Palestinian colleague. We'll be singing together.

I am adamant about this: I will not do anything that I don't love to do; I've given up commercial opportunities that weren't aligned with my musical principles.

I've been doing this for so long I'm a mobile one-woman Israeli embassy. Our musicians can show another side of Israel that people don't know as well - the humanitarian, compassionate side of Israel.

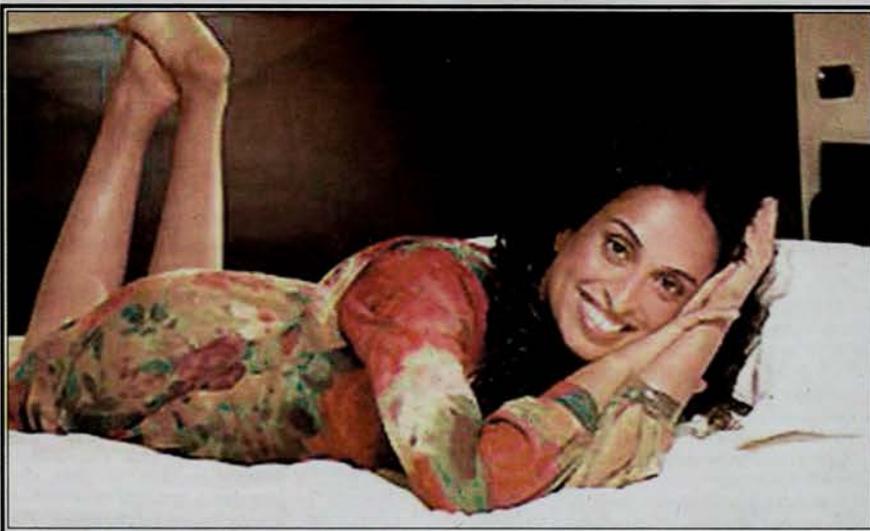
Q: What can the audience expect from your concert in Providence?

A: We'll have Gil, a string quartet from New York of Juillard graduates - seven musicians on stage besides me. Songs will be in Hebrew, English and Yemenite - very diverse and energetic. This show has gotten the best reviews all through Europe; it's the best show I've ever done. There's a rapport and communication on all levels [regardless of language]. You don't have to be familiar with my music to thoroughly enjoy it.

Q: We've talked about music and family and politics. Let's dish - what secret vices do you have?

A: When I die, I want to be buried with ice cream; I love ice cream ... hard-core vanilla ice cream.

I have a short fuse and a big heart. I'm very hyperactive; I'm driven by love.



Noa

Quick facts about Noa from her website

- Noa's strongest influences come from such singer-songwriters of the 1960s as Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen.

- Noa plays percussion, guitar and piano. She and Gil Dor have written and produced 15 international and Israeli labels, selling more than 2.5 million copies of their current catalog.

- Noa has shared the stage with such artists as Sting and Stevie Wonder. She has performed in Carnegie Hall in New York as well as in major

music venues in Paris, Barcelona and Rome.

- Noa was the first Israeli artist to perform in the Vatican for Pope John Paul II.

- The goodwill ambassador of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, she has been knighted by President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy and has received other awards from Shimon Peres, the New Israel Fund, the Rotary Club and the World Economic Forum.

VISIT NOASMUSIC.COM.

Noa performs "The Israeli Songbook," with Musical Director Gil Dor and featuring the Yoed Nir String Quartet.

- Sunday, April 21, 7 p.m., Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

- \$36/adults, \$12/children under 18, students with IDs and senior citizens.

- \$100/"Noa Experience" includes reserved seating and post-concert reception with Noa.

- Ticket sales and information: Erin Moseley, 421-4111, ext. 108 or emoseley@shalomri.org.

RWU holds film/speaker series

BRISTOL - Noted Holocaust historian Debórah Dwork will be the keynote speaker at a Yom Ha-Shoah program to be held at 2 p.m., on April 28, in Roger Williams University's Global Heritage Hall 01.

Dwork, Rose Professor of Holocaust History and director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, will speak on "Flight from the Reich: Public Actions, Private Lives."

Following her lecture, a series of new short films and about the Holocaust and about the Jewish experience in Israel will be shown as part of RWU's Roving Eye Film Festival. A reception will be held after the speaker and before the films.

The director of the short film, *Vergeben ≠ Vergessen*, Nicolas Greinacher, will also speak. The 10-minute film depicts what happens when a Jewish woman tries to escape from the Nazis after the Swiss Department of Justice and Police decreed that Jews were no longer considered political refugees.

"Snovi" is a 14-minute film

made in Bosnia by Reshad Kulenovich.

"Reporting on The Times: The New York Times and The Holocaust," an 18-minute film made in the United States by Emily Harrold, was inspired by Laurel Leff's award-winning book, "Buried by The Times," about the New York Times' reportage of the Holocaust. Why did the Times, then owned by

Sebastian Kilinski's "Heil Emil," an 18-minute film made in Germany in 2012, Heil Emil is about a German family whose son was born with Down syndrome. His mother finds a creative solution to keeping her son safe from being euthanized under the Nazi regime.

"Great," is a 23-minute film, made in Germany in 2013 by Andreas Henn. It poses the question: Did the Nazis ever see Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator?" On May 10, 1942, when the Nazis have occupied Yugoslavia, a young Serbian film projectionist decides to teach the Germans a lesson with Chaplin's movie. The film is based on a true story.

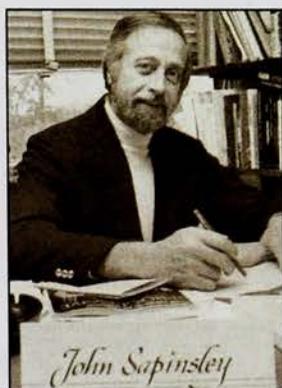
"On the Road to Tel Aviv," an 18-minute Israeli film made by Khen Shalem in 2008, depicts what happens when a young Israeli woman and a suspicious-looking Arab woman enter the same cab at the same time. The Israeli woman's fiancé must address the realities of war, terror and enemies.

All films will be held at 4 p.m., at Global Heritage Hall 01.

The program is free and open to the community.

The RI Film & Television Office, Flickers (the Rhode Island International Film Festival), the Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation, the Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation and Roger Williams University's Office of the Provost, Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Department of Communications, Hillel and the Spiritual Life Program are sponsors of this program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Nancy Soukup (nsoukup@rwu.edu or 254-3433).



John M. Sapinsley

POSTHUMOUS AWARD – The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame will induct posthumously John M. Sapinsley into the Hall of Fame.

Sapinsley, who died Feb. 29, 2012, was president of Carol Cable Company, a long-tenured professor of economics at Rhode Island College and Brown University and a philanthropist.

He and his wife, former State Senator Lila Sapinsley, herself a Hall of Fame inductee, were the major benefactors of the Lila and John Sapinsley Hall of the Performing Arts at Rhode Island College.

A member and board member of the Young Presidents' Association, he also served on the boards of The Miriam Hospital, the ACLU, Roger Williams University and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council.

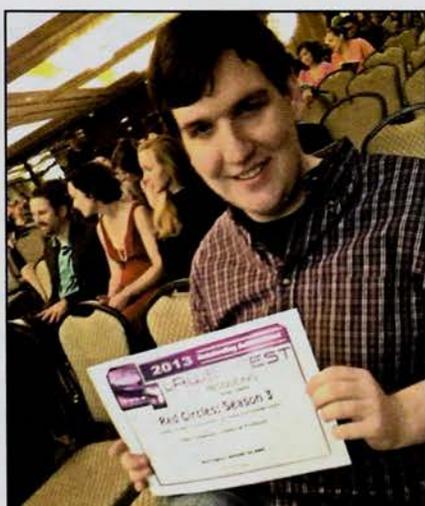
The Hall of Fame will induct nine individuals in all – four of whom are deceased – at its 49th annual ceremony on Friday, April 19 at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston.

COMMENDATION – Dr. Irving Fradkin, founder of Dollars for Scholars, received a Citizen Honors Certificate of Commendation from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States.

Fradkin's Dollars for Scholars program has raised more than \$3 billion to help more than 2 million students attend college through 1,200 program chapters in 42 states.

Secretary of State John Kerry nominated Fradkin for the 2013 Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's "Citizen Service Before Self Award."

Fradkin, 92, of Fall River, Mass., who announced his retirement from active participation in the scholarship program, was also recognized by U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III in a speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.



Seth Chitwood

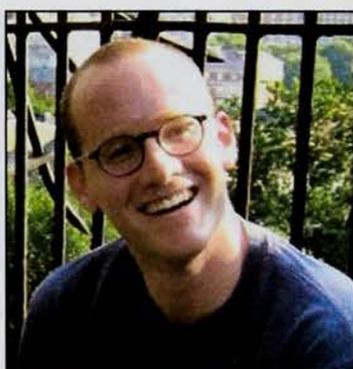
AWARD – Seth Chitwood, a Rhode Island College senior majoring in film studies and theater performance, is the award-winning producer, writer and director of three web series, "Red Circles," "Family Problems" and "World's Worst Director" – all online at angelwoodpictures.com.

At the Los Angeles Web Series Festival (LAWEBFEST) in late March, "Red Circles" won an award for Outstanding Leading Actress, as well as awards for Outstanding Directing and Outstanding Series.

"World's Worst Director" was screened at the festival.

Chitwood's web series were chosen from more than 400 entries and competed against entries from throughout the U.S. and 12 foreign countries. LAWEBFEST is the oldest and largest event of its kind. "Red Circles" won five LAWEBFEST awards in 2012.

The son of John Martin and Faye Zuckerman of Barrington, Chitwood has been producing films since 2008.



Phil Eil

NEW POSITION – Philip Eil, formerly a contributing writer to The Jewish Voice & Herald, has been named Providence Phoenix' news editor.

The Providence native, who wrote about such diverse personalities as Norman Mailer, Edith Pearlman, U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, Miss Wensday and M. Charles Baskst – among other assignments – for The Voice & Herald, holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and an MFA in nonfiction writing from Columbia University. He has taught several writing classes at the Rhode Island School of Design.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Eil's columns remain online at jvhri.org.)



Mel Yoken

AWARD – Mel Yoken received the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association.

For more than a half century, Mel Yoken has studied or taught French language and literature within the University of Massachusetts system. Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature at UMass Dartmouth, Yoken began his teaching career in 1962 and still meets and advises students on a regular basis.

Yoken received his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1960, his master's degree in teaching from Brown University and his doctorate in 1972 from UMass Amherst and the Five-College Ph.D. program.

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