

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

13 Tammuz 5773

June 21, 2013



**Torat Yisrael President Susan Smoller accepts a tree – a gift from the local Muslim community – from Imam Walid Muhammad, as Andrew Sholes, center and Imam Farid Ansari observe.**

## Torat Yisrael dedicates its new building

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

EAST GREENWICH – One group of wandering Jews has finally found a home ... in East Greenwich.

Torat Yisrael, a Conservative synagogue led by Rabbi Amy Levin, was created by the merger of Temple Beth Israel, founded in 1921, and Temple Beth Torah, founded a bit more than 60 years ago. The synagogue's

first building, constructed in Cranston in 1952 at 330 Park Ave., was sold to Praise Tabernacle Church in April 2012 for \$1.2 million.

On a sun-kissed Sunday afternoon, members of the Jewish community, religious leaders from many other denominations and civic leaders poured into the new light-filled synagogue for the dedication

**SYNAGOGUE | 6**

## Alliance leaders honor the past and anticipate the future

*Richard Licht ends tenure as chair; Sharon Gaines takes the helm*

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

PROVIDENCE – Embrace change, yet hold fast to our Jewish traditions of treating all with *kavod* (respect) and *hesed* (kindness).

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's second annual meeting's speakers expressed the need to simultaneously adhere to ancient values and deftly navigate a new world of philanthropy and community-building.

Although our values – to provide our constituents with excellent Jewish life and learning programs – endure, said Sharon Gaines, newly installed as the Alliance board chair, we can't stay static.

"We must remain nimble in this changing world," said Gaines. "We must adapt our vision accordingly because we cannot stand still in a world of change."

Acknowledging that neither she nor Jeffrey Savit, CEO and president of the Alliance, hold the solutions to the community's most demanding challenges, Gaines promised to

"convene the conversations that will allow us to shape our future."

Gaines identified several key elements that, if embraced, will position our Jewish com-

munity for an extraordinary future. Among those elements are: fostering a climate of transparency, debate and mutual respect; engaging old and

**STANDING | 20**



PHOTOS | NANCY KIRSCH

**Students from the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island embrace Ilana Kapoch after she receives the Lea Eliash Memorial – Grinspoon/Steinhardt Award at the Alliance annual meeting.**

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## Is the Orthodox community prepared to welcome women as spiritual leaders?

By **BEN HARRIS**

NEW YORK (JTA) – More than three years ago, following a broad Orthodox backlash to his decision to ordain a woman with the title "*rabba*," Rabbi Avi Weiss made a promise: He wouldn't do it again.

So when Yeshivat Maharat, the school founded in 2009 by the New York activist rabbi to "ordain Orthodox women as spiritual leaders and *halakhic* (Jewish law) authorities," held its first graduation ceremony on

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RABBI SHMUEL GOLDIN

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# Alliance announces key staff promotions

*Changes will deploy additional resources to Jewish life and learning programming*

BY NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org



Larry Katz, Michelle Cicchitelli, Dan Hamel and Erin Moseley

**“THESE PROMOTIONS**

**will allow the Alliance to operate more effectively and efficiently.”**

PROVIDENCE - Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island CEO Jeffrey Savit announced the promotions of several Alliance staff members, all of which will become effective July 1.

Michelle Cicchitelli, director of Shalom Family and PJ Library, has been named director of Jewish life and Larry Katz, director of education, has been named director of Jewish learning.

As he noted in his speech at the June 10 Alliance annual meeting, Savit spoke of the need to restructure and realign resources, some two years after three agencies merged to become the Alliance.

“We need to direct additional resources to learning and engagement,” said Savit. “After we initiated a national search, we realized that we could most effectively fulfill these critically important roles with current staff members. We are pleased to be able to promote from within and offer career advancement opportunities to our valuable employees.”

Cicchitelli will lead and direct all aspects of Alliance Jewish life initiatives, including

interfaith outreach, cultural and arts programming, Shalom Family, PJ Library and the Parenting Resource Center, said Minna Ellison, senior vice president for planning.

Katz will be charged with guiding and leading all educational aspects of Alliance programming, including the Early Childhood Center, special education and teen engagement programs.

“These promotions,” said Ellison, “will allow the Alliance to operate more effectively and efficiently and offer more cross-functional programs and ser-

vices to our community members.”

Toward that end, Alliance Director of Arts & Culture and NextGen Engagement Erin Moseley will assume additional responsibilities, as well. She will coordinate programming offerings for students of all ages, so that the Alliance can maximize its resources to meet the community’s needs and priorities, said Ellison.

The Alliance is interviewing candidates to fill a new, entry-level position, which Ellison calls “an incredible opportunity to work in the arenas of Jew-

ish life and learning.”

Savit also announced the promotion of Dan Hamel, from controller to chief operating officer. In his new position, Hamel will assume responsibilities for J-Fitness, the membership and business office, building operations, information technology, human resources, accounting, budgeting and financial analysis.

Ellison will focus on planning.

In an email blast to the Alliance staff and board of directors announcing the news, Savit wrote, “It is wonderful ... to grow even stronger with our own family members.”

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## The Voice & Herald welcomes summer intern

PROVIDENCE - Shannon Conley, a Wheeler School graduate, is a summer intern for The Jewish Voice & Herald. A resident of Pawtucket, she will attend Loyola University in Baltimore, Md., where she plans to major in communications, with a double minor in writing and Chinese.

Already published in The Quill, Wheeler’s literary magazine, Shannon wrote her first article for The Voice & Herald about the Jewish Community Day School annual meeting; it appears on page 3 in this issue.



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# At JCDS annual meeting, Ruti Adler receives Charles Samdperil Award

*Day school community bids farewell to one head, welcomes another*

**BY SHANNON CONLEY**

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – The Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island's annual meeting honors those who have shown a commitment to the school and the larger Jewish community.

The June 5 evening's first hour, filled with food and the comfortable conversations among people who consider one another family, recognized Irene (Renee) Rudnick, head of school for the past three years. (In her first year here, she served as assistant head.)

Rudnick is leaving the school (see sidebar, "A parting interview with Renee Rudnick"), and many of her colleagues and friends were teary-eyed during their speeches lauding her.

As the crowd of some 60 people settled in for the annual meeting, Rabbi Sarah Mack of Temple Beth-El talked briefly about the importance of learning Torah and keeping close to Jewish values.

The Charles Samdperil Award, an honor given to an educator who made a difference to students and is constantly teaching, was given this year to Ruti Adler, a renowned Brown



PHOTOS | KAROLYN WHITE  
Eileen Ellis, JCDS executive assistant, and Renee Rudnick, JCDS outgoing head, at the annual meeting

University professor of Hebrew and JCDS' Hebrew consultant.

Adler graciously accepted the award as she showed some "JCDS spunk" in briefly acting out – in Hebrew – a small scene with the stuffed animals she uses in her classes. She says she spreads herself thin in teaching because she truly loves Hebrew; she feels it is immensely impor-

tant for people in the Jewish community to have a relationship with the language.

Dozens of volunteers as well as employees, past presidents and past trustees were thanked for their dedicated service throughout the years. In fact, as the names of every parent-volunteer and every teacher with 10 years of tenure were an-



Karen Samdperil Rosenfield, left, Ruti Adler and Ruth Samdperil at the JCDS annual meeting.

nounced, participants responded with a cacophony of cheering and clapping.

The meeting closed with Adler leading attendees in singing "Hatikvah" (the Israeli national anthem), but most people lingered to mingle and offer congratulations to those who were honored.

A new chapter in the book of JCDS' history began, as a new

slate of trustees was installed and as the community bid farewell to Rudnick and welcomed the new head of school, Adam Tilove.

**SHANNON CONLEY** (ShannonConley95@gmail.com), is a summer intern for The Jewish Voice & Herald.

JCDS: 751-2470 or jcdsri.org.

## A parting interview with Renee Rudnick

*Day school head will have her first summer vacation in years*

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

PROVIDENCE – Renee Rudnick, outgoing head of the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, talked with The Jewish Voice & Herald about the "highs and lows" of her four years at JCDS.

**Q: Let's talk about challenges first. What were your**

**challenges?**

**A:** The number one priority was to change the culture of the school ... to get back on a positive track and to make it a community in as many senses as possible, both internally and in reaching out to [the] greater community and helping them appreciate what they have.

I can only tell you what I was

told – because I wasn't here – but there was not a positive feeling in the school. (Before Rudnick's tenure, which began four years ago, JCDS had closed the middle school and many teachers had lost their jobs.) I know that has changed on many levels – we have 12 community members – most of whom are alumni parents – who volunteer regularly on a

weekly or twice-a-week basis. People felt welcomed back and are spreading the word. A parent volunteer, who requested anonymity, with years of experience in the school, told me, 'I have to tell you – it's like a whole different place.'

**Q: How did you achieve that change?**

**A:** We have full-school assemblies four mornings

a week; on Fridays, we end the week with an assembly. You have to be [there] to feel what happens – saluting flags, singing songs, acknowledging birthdays, hearing announcements, etc. We incorporated our JCDS ROCKS campaign, a values-

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# End-of-year celebrations include welcomes and farewells

URI Hillel elects new leaders and recognizes others

By AMY OLSON

Special to The Voice & Herald

KINGSTON – Comings and goings – hellos and goodbyes – were evident at URI Hillel’s awards night and, several weeks later, its annual meeting.

At the annual meeting, held on June 3, longtime board member



**YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Mel Alperin was recognized for his contributions and was named an honorary board member. The review of URI Hillel’s many accomplishments during the past year prompted Alperin to say, “I feel like a *kvelling* (proud) grandfather!” He was

moved almost to tears, he said, in witnessing Hillel’s progress.

Alperin has been a board member for the past 11 years – ever since then-Federation Executive Vice President Janet Engelhart specifically asked him to help strengthen URI Hillel’s viability. In slightly more than a decade, URI Hillel grew from a small, struggling, homeless organization to an award-winning agency with a permanent facility – The Norman M. Fain Hillel Center.

More recently, in the past 12 months, URI Hillel organized an alternative winter break when students helped rebuild tornado-damaged houses in Joplin, Mo., and sponsored a Holocaust Remembrance Week, featuring a student-led vigil at which URI



ARLENE WINKLEMAN

URI Hillel board and staff members “get silly” for this photo at the June 3 annual meeting. Seated, from left, are Seth Finkle, Barbara Sokoloff, Mel Alperin, Henry Winkleman, Sam Shamoan and standing, from left, are Aaron Guttin, David Talan, Louis Kirschbaum, Jhodi Redlich, Mark Ross, Susan Leach DeBlasio, Marty Waldman, Amy Weiss, Ron Freeman, Amy Olson and Martha Roberts.

President David Dooley spoke. Student participation and leadership has continued to grow. Last August, URI Hillel was awarded the first Indispensible Campus Partner Award by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life for inspiring the university community as a campus leader on diversity, tolerance and multiculturalism.

Honoring Alperin at the June 3 meeting, Hillel President Susan Leach DeBlasio presented him with a package of URI Hillel regalia, noting that he eschewed plaques. On behalf of the board, students and staff, she praised Alperin for his years of service, supreme dedication and humility.

While transitioning to an hon-

orary position, true to his reputation, Alperin committed to help URI Hillel in whatever fashion he could.

Leach DeBlasio was elected to another term as president; Ruth Jarrett, Ron Freeman, Barbara Sokoloff and Henry Winkleman were re-elected as officers. New board members include Jonathan Friesem, Jayne Richmond and Adam Roth.

### Student leadership dinner

Although the annual student leadership dinner is always a time of transition – with graduating seniors moving on – this year’s May 1 dinner included one significantly different transition.

After four years as URI Hillel’s director of programming

and engagement, which included bringing students to Israel on a Birthright trip and staffing alternative winter break trips to New Orleans, La., and Los Angeles, Calif., Joie Magnone is leaving to spend more time with her baby. Aaron Guttin will begin his position this August as URI Hillel’s new Jewish student life coordinator.

Hillel student board presidents for the upcoming school year will be Lily Nieto, a senior from Needham, Mass., and Sabrina Brotons, a senior from Bronx, N.Y.

Other student board members are Samantha Bucco of Wrentham, Mass.; Lauren Cohen of Syosset, N.Y.; Lauren Feldfogel of Suffern, N.Y.; Sage Daupinee

of East Greenwich; Hannah Kaplan of Ocean, N.J.; Ariel Marcus of Northport, N.Y.; Ben Nachtigal of West Hartford, Conn.; Alys Redlich of Cumberland; Shayna Sage of Newton, Mass.; Adam Schmuter of Longmeadow, Mass.; Jennifer Widisky of Natick, Mass. and Jack Wilson of North Kingstown.

Marcus received the Lawrence Hopfenberg Award, given to a first-year student who has demonstrated outstanding participation and leadership at Hillel. She will serve as vice president of Shabbat and holiday programming on Hillel’s 2013-2014 student board.

Brotons received the B’nai B’rith Plantation Unit 5339 Award, for an outstanding student leader. The Bertram and Phyllis Brown Award, for the most active graduating senior, was awarded to Rebecca Kraut of Hauppauge, N.Y., who was Hillel student board president in 2011-2012. The Pepi Silverstein Memorial Scholarship, which subsidizes a student to participate in a Jewish leadership conference or trip to Israel, was awarded to Natalie Weisfeld of Houston, Texas. Weisfeld, who just completed her first year at URI, participated in the June 2013 Birthright Hillel trip.

AMY OLSON (amyolson@mail.uri.edu) is executive director of URI Hillel.

URI HILLEL: 874-2740

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# Rabbi Mordechai Rackover reflects on Jewish engagement

*Brown RISD Hillel's departing rabbi urges experimentation*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** After five years as the rabbi at the Brown RISD Hillel, as well as the associate chaplain for the Jewish community at Brown University, Rabbi Mordechai Rackover is moving on. John Landry interviewed him for his reflections on his time with students. An upcoming issue of The Voice & Herald will feature an interview with Rabbi Rackover's successor.

**BY JOHN LANDRY**

Special to The Voice & Herald

**Q. How engaged did you find students in Jewish activities and practices?**

A. Definitely not all the Jewish students, but a lot of them were. I would tell people, I'm the rabbi for a small town of about 15,000 people (the total number of students and staff at Brown and RISD) with about 1,100 Jews, of which several hundred would regularly participate in something Jewish. Brown and RISD are amazing places with a lot to offer students, but plenty of Jews still wanted to be active in a Jewish context.

In terms of how they participated, it was similar to trends we're seeing in general communities, just more so. Students don't think in terms of denominations. Most of them are on individual spiritual paths, moving from one idea to another,

which is especially easy to do in college where you're surrounded by lots of ideas and people, Jewish or otherwise, with cogent opinions. They've embraced the wonderful democratization of knowledge that we have with the Internet. But the result is sometimes a lack of a sense of authority that could lead them to sustained learning and growth. It's the usual college experience – only it seems to be more so these days.

**Q. What does that mean for them when they settle down into general communities?**

A. There's a danger that they'll never find a Jewish place to settle into. But the good news is that students are also enthusiastic about the startup culture we're seeing in American society generally. They're good at forming new groups or new mechanisms to bring Jews together and kindle their passions, and we tried to encourage that at Hillel.

I don't want to make too much of this, because Brown, in particular, is probably on the far end of student entrepreneurialism among American colleges. But, students graduating from college nowadays will be a lot better at self-organizing and using the new technologies of connectivity than older generations.



ALISA GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Rabbi Mordechai Rackover

So we have to hope that they'll come up with new Jewish groupings that capture their attention long enough for them to settle down and really grow and mature as Jews. We actually need that innovation for everyone, not just for young people, because our communities are living with outdated institutions that need to adapt.

**Q. As someone who's lived**

**here with a family, what's your sense of the wider Rhode Island Jewish community?**

A. Providence is not a big metropolitan area, so unlike New York or Washington, D. C., it doesn't have a large pool of Jews to draw from. That makes it harder to create a critical mass for whatever new groups or institutions will emerge. On the plus side, Rhode Island has a good quality of life and seems to be becoming a hospitable place for startups of all kinds, in business and nonprofits. So even with the tough economy, my hope is that you may see more young people coming here. The more the existing institutions can promote experiments in Jewish groupings, the better.

**Q. Any lessons from practices that worked well with students that might help us in the larger Jewish community?**

A. College students are in perpetual try-out mode, so we had to make programs as accessible as possible. Free attracts people. Here in Rhode Island,

we might consider giving people considering a move from out-of-state automatic free one-year membership in the JCC or a synagogue – a package of benefits for those who plan to move here and invest in our community longer term.

We had some success giving selected students a small stipend to participate in a study group of regular reading and discussion. We pitched it as an investment in their Jewish education and giving them a few hundred dollars a semester made it easier for them to take time from a campus job or other studies.

Stipends wouldn't work in a general community, but that same kind of investment pitch, particularly for younger people, might catch on if it can be organized and made accessible.

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

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### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Nancy Kirsch • [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org)  
421-4111, ext. 168

### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Nancy Kirsch

### ADVERTISING

Tricia Stearly • [tstearly@shalomri.org](mailto:tstearly@shalomri.org)  
441-1865 or 421-4111, ext. 160  
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Toby London

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Nancy Abeshaus, Arthur C. Norman



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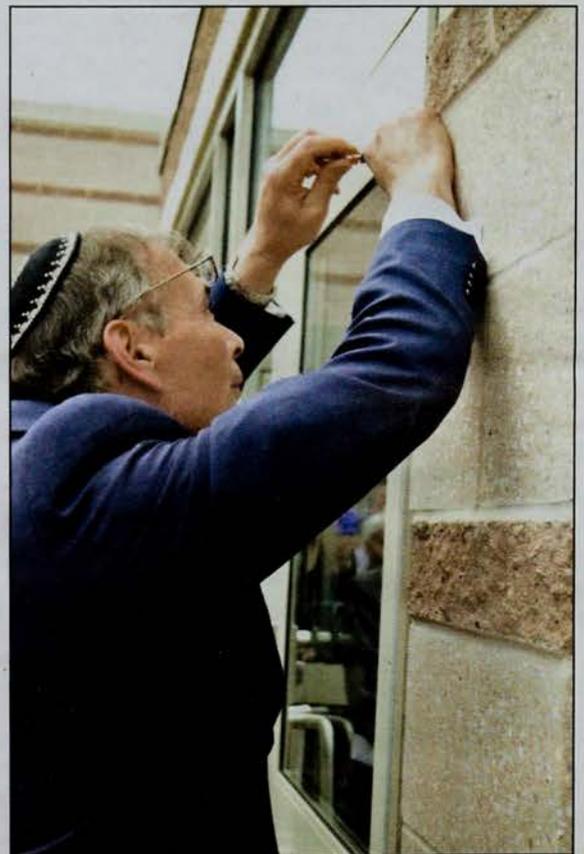
## SYNAGOGUE is first in East Greenwich



Religious school students entertain congregants and guests with Hebrew songs.



Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer and Rabbi Amy Levin are all smiles, as congregants take photographs after the dedication ceremony.



Building Committee Chair Andrew Sholes affixes the mezuzah to Torat Yisrael's new building.

### From Page 1

ceremonies.

The sanctuary's floor-to-ceiling windows, immediately behind the bimah, look out on lush, green, conservation-protected wetlands.

In his invocation, Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai, the reform synagogue in Cranston, reminded the crowd of God's instruction to Moses about building a sanctuary.

"Make me a sanctuary and I will dwell in you - God will be in you, the builders, not in it, the building."

There is a holiness, he said, to the houses of study, assembly and prayer that our people have erected throughout the ages. "May this building serve as a beacon of light and peace for the community," said Rabbi Stein, who preceded Rabbi Levin as president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.

Additional religious and civic leaders - including Rev. Bill Trench, of the East Greenwich Methodist Church; Michael B. Isaacs, East Greenwich Town Council president and Imam Farid Ansari, of the Muslim-American Da'wah Center of Rhode Island, president of the Rhode Island Council for Muslim Advancement - offered comments and commendations.

"It's not an accident that the three strains of Abrahamic faith are here today - Christians, Muslims and Jews. That's due to Rabbi Levin," said Rev. Trench. "Her voice in the state for justice has been one that we [members of East Greenwich Clergy Association] treasure."

Calling the Muslim commu-

nity's gift of a tree "a token of appreciation," Imam Ansari added, "God says to us in the Koran that we Muslims are to guard the sanctity of churches, synagogues and mosques where God's name is pronounced. Our God and your God are one and the same."

When speeches and presentations were interrupted with buzzing and feedback from the sound system, one young child's cranky, yet clearly stated, pronouncement, "I hate that sound," elicited sympathetic laughter.

In identifying dozens of challenges and obstacles associated with building a new synagogue, Andrew Sholes, building committee chair and past president, called the experience "no easy feat."

Throughout the multi-year process, Sholes said to appreciative and knowing murmurs of assent, "I told our rabbi to have faith. I knew that we would prevail."

Acknowledging the enormous scope of Torat Yisrael's project given the congregation's size, Sholes said, "The remaining members never lost their support. It was built for generations today and those to follow. We welcome all who want to rekindle Jewish learning."

The long-deferred dream is now a reality, said Susan Smoller, synagogue president. During her seven years as president, she signed the purchase agreement in 2007 to buy the East Greenwich site, participated in the 2009 groundbreaking ceremony, signed the sales agreement in 2012 to sell the Park Avenue building and participated in the June 7-9 dedi-

cation ceremonies.

"This really is the house that love built," said Smoller. "We embark on a new era - not just for Torat Yisrael now, but for future generations of Torat Yisrael." Smoller envisions the building as a hub of activity - socializing, praying, studying, eating and, most of all, sharing and communicating.

Calling himself "an Irish kid from Cranston," Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), who grew up in the Park Avenue neighborhood, spoke of the many personal connections he has had and continues to have with some congregants.

"It's not just another ceremony; it's coming home to friends and neighbors; I'm one of you today," said Reed. "This will be a community that sustains us all."

Greeted with sustained applause, Rabbi Levin posed questions to the crowd: Our youngest students learn that God is everywhere and that God cannot be seen and lacks human attributes. Why, then, does God need a house or place of prayer?

Although God is accessible to us any time and any place - and we need no intercessor to direct our prayers to God - she explained that God understands humanity's need for a house of prayer. "Were we to rely only on our personal spaces and personal prayers, we would be relegated to lives of spiritual isolation."

Reverend Don Anderson, executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, who traveled to Israel with Rabbi Levin and the imam, gave a closing benediction.

Numerous synagogue leaders were recognized and lauded for their work; many received tangible gifts as well as words of praise.

Children from the synagogue's religious school sang.

Before the crowd dispersed - some to relish the sunshine on their faces, others to enjoy a buffet accompanied by music - dozens of congregants and guests photographed the historic moment when Sholes affixed the mezuzah to the synagogue.

**MORE INFO:** 885-6600 or [toratysisrael.org](http://toratysisrael.org). The synagogue is at 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**\$5.1 MILLION:** Cost to build synagogue and associated expenses

**\$2.5 MILLION:** Mortgage on building, held by Washington Trust

**6.5 ACRES:** Size of lot  
**18,000 SQUARE FEET:** Size of new building

**120:** Approximate number of Torat Yisrael families

**1:** Number of synagogues in East Greenwich

PHOTOS | NANCY KIRSCH

## Will merger talks continue between shuls?

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – In two separate interviews, The Jewish Voice & Herald queried Rabbi Amy Levin of Torat Yisrael and Rabbi Richard Perlman of Am David about the ongoing merger discussions between the two Conservative West Bay synagogues.

Both Am David and Torat Yisrael themselves represent mergers – Am David is the merger of Temple Beth Am and Temple Beth David; Torat Yisrael is the merger of Temple Beth Israel and Temple Beth Torah.

**Q: What's been the motivation for talks about merging?**

**Levin:** Some of it has been financial; there's a sense that there's a duplication of effort between two communities, especially in Cranston. There've been different motivations at different times from different communities.

Rick and I ... have a really nice collegial relationship, but merger talks are not between clergy.

**Perlman:** This has been going on for many years ... many attempts throughout the years and way before me. Financially, it makes sense to have one Conservative synagogue in West

Bay; because of the times we live in today ... I am not sure, but I think that Torat Yisrael approached us a couple of years ago when they began to contemplate the move. We didn't pursue it; last year, we spoke about getting back into conversation to see if there's a good fit. It's not an outstanding economy and it

**"I HOPE AND pray that somehow the Jewish community will be able to get together and not only survive but to flourish and grow."**

makes sense to bring people together if it's possible.

**Q: Who, then, is engaging in these discussions?**

(Editor's note: Both Rabbis Perlman and Levin confirmed that lay leaders of the congregations are engaged in merger



Rabbi Amy Levin

conversations.)

**Q: Where do you think talks are going?**

**Perlman:** My understanding is that right now they're stalled. We were told that Torat was going to put conversations on hold as they had other things to deal with – the new building and a contract renewal for Rabbi Levin. Having said that, Am David shared its financial records with the Torat negotiation team; however, we didn't feel comfortable that Torat Yisrael has shared all its financial records. We requested such records and are still waiting on that request.

(In response to a question



Rabbi Richard Perlman

about the reputed delay, Barry Golden, Torat Yisrael's vice president, finance, told The Voice & Herald that, should a merger occur, the synagogues would issue a joint announcement together.)

**Levin:** I'm not sure; a lot of our energies have been directed toward moving. I know that we're in the process of discovery – our financial status, membership projections, programming, the schools. I don't think either congregation has a sense of urgency; I can't speak for Am David, but at Torat, it's an interesting possibility. We're interested in having these conversations ... there's great potential

for what the two synagogues could do either in merging or collaborating.

**Q: Could a merged synagogue support two rabbis?**

**Levin:** It depends on the configuration and what the rabbis are responsible for and support from community. There's lots of ... dynamics of decision-making, relationships between clergy and leadership and clergy and members, issues of how they see one another, what kind of a joint identity. It's a very complex, layered process.

**Perlman:** No, not with two senior rabbis, but with a junior rabbi and a senior rabbi.

I hope and pray that somehow the Jewish community will be able to get together and not only survive but to flourish and grow, whether through the concept of a merger or something else.

If someone has an idea that can get beyond the turf, misinformation and politics and deal with the one thing that is most important – the survival and growth of this Jewish community – I'm open to it; I believe all leaders of this Jewish community should be open to it.

AM DAVID: 463-7944

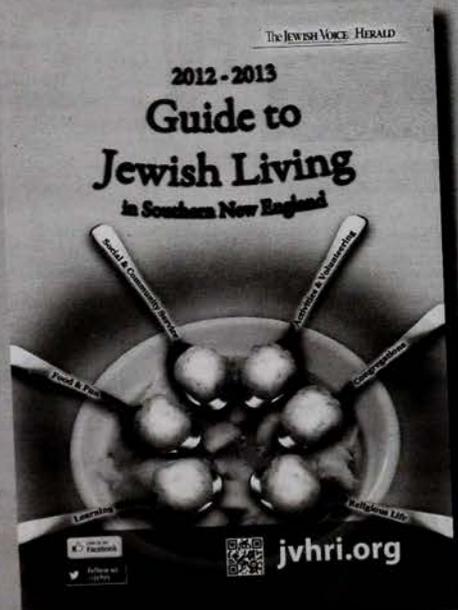
TORAT YISRAEL: 885-6600

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# Hadassah's Books on the Beach welcomes three area authors

Two novelists and a memoirist will share their stories

BY TOBY ROSSNER

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah will celebrate Hadassah's 101st birthday on Tuesday, Aug. 13, with its Third Annual Books on the Beach Author Luncheon. The event, which will be held at the Atlantic Beach Club, 55 Purgatory Road, Newport, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will feature book talks by three distinguished local authors.

The Providence-based husband-and-wife team, Hester Kaplan and Michael Stein, M.D., will present a unique program. Each author will select and read passages from the other's book and will discuss his or her choices with the audience. What it is like to have two authors, both recipients of many literary awards, living in the same house? Kaplan and Stein, who edit one another's work, have learned to be brutally honest without being hurtful.

Kaplan's newest novel, "The Tell," is a story of marriage, relationships, compulsion and cul-

ture. BookReporter.com called it "an elegant and haunting novel of love and family."

Stein's "The Rape of the Muse," a novel based on a true artwork rivalry and courtroom drama,

childhood of being in the shadow of their mother, who worked as a prostitute in their tiny apartment to make ends meet and to provide for her own lavish lifestyle. There are no flowery descriptions, no erotic adventures – it is pure and simple "this is what happened and here is how it affected me."

Debolina Raja Gupta, a critic for BookPleasures.com, wrote,

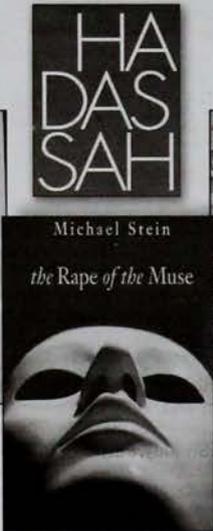
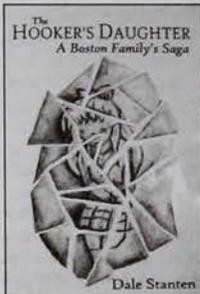
"The Hooker's Daughter" is a study in human relations and emotions."

Paid reservations of \$50 per guest must be received by July 30. Mail your check, made out to

RI Hadassah, with lunch preference (salmon or vegetarian) and table seating preferences to: RI Hadassah Author Luncheon, Judy Silverman, 50 Cindy Ann Drive, East Greenwich, RI 02818. Beach Club parking is free. Books on the Beach proceeds support Hadassah programming.

**MORE INFO:** 463-3636 or rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org.

**TOBY ROSSNER** (tobyross@cox.net) is a life member of RI Hadassah.



has been called an "exceptional novel," by the New York Journal of Books.

Boston-based Dale Stanten wrote a memoir of her childhood, "The Hooker's Daughter – A Boston Family's Saga." Reviewer Katie Hale writes, "The book is a memoir of Dale (and her sister Rowena) and their

# Fundraising event with The Edwards Twins

NARRAGANSETT – Congregation Beth David and South County Hebrew School will present The Edwards Twins, a nationally known entertainment act, at the Theater in Pier Village, Narragansett on Thursday, Aug. 1, at 6:30 p.m.

The entertainment, which includes a full buffet dinner by Amalfi Catering, a raffle

and live auction, is a benefit for the synagogue and the religious school.

The price is \$50 per person for the dinner and show; tables for 10 may be reserved.

**CONTACT NANCY CHORNEY** (789-0232 or schoenbergna@verizon.net) for reservations or more information.

# Synagogues will offer access to High Holy Day services

The Voice & Herald will not publish service schedules this year

PROVIDENCE – In a departure from past practice, The Jewish Voice & Herald will not publish the schedules of services for High Holy Days from area synagogues. Instead, we will publish only a list of synagogues' phone numbers and, where applicable, websites in our Aug. 16 issue.

Readers may then contact synagogues directly to learn more about services during the High Holy Days.

On a related note, for the second consecutive year, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island will partner with synagogues throughout the greater Rhode Island area, which will open their doors to unaffiliated community members for services during the High Holy Days.

Our Aug. 2 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald will have a complete listing of participating synagogues and additional information.



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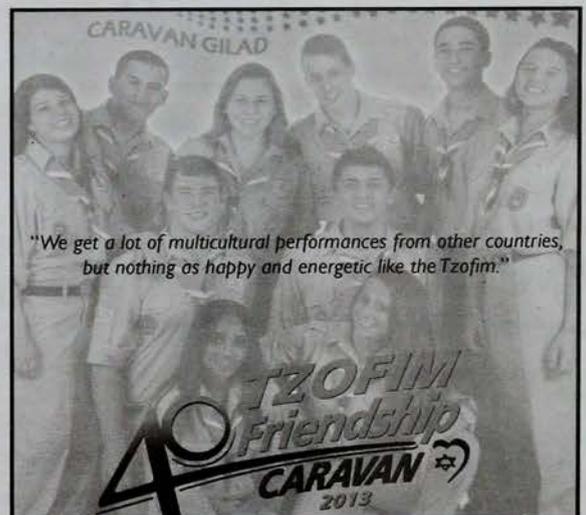
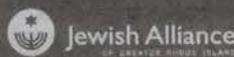
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The Alliance JCC is a division of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.



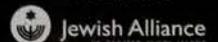
"We get a lot of multicultural performances from other countries, but nothing as happy and energetic like the Tzofim."

The Tzofim Friendship Caravan is a summer delegation of ten teenagers sent from Israel traveling across the United States and Canada bringing Israeli culture, music and dance, as well as a message of peace.

Save the Date

Wednesday August 7 Show time: 6:30pm

Alliance JCC 401 Elm Grove Ave. Providence



## INCORPORATING positive values to day school students

From Page 3

based, character-building program. ROCKS represents the values that we most promote in school: Respect and Responsibility, Caring, Own initiatives, Kindness and Sense of pride. We reinforce them by recognizing children and staff members who exhibit these qualities and give specific examples; at our ROCK wall, kids' pictures are displayed.

**Q: Can you talk about two painful experiences – filing for bankruptcy and the bus crash?** [Read <http://tinyurl.com/msm93sg> for The Jewish Voice & Herald's coverage of the crash.]

**A:** The bankruptcy and receivership was a huge challenge and accomplishment. It was handled so well internally that we didn't lose one family over it. That was huge. Externally, the people working behind the scenes did an extraordinary job. It was an incredibly difficult decision, but it gave the school a second chance to go forward with strength.

Last spring's bus accident was a traumatic experience for everyone [but] it was a testament to who we are as a community. Counselors from outside the school couldn't

say enough about the way [we] handled it. The Alliance helped and sent Jewish Family Service to help. There was collateral damage in terms of kids' fears – a lot of that has been [addressed].

**“KEEP THE FLAME burning brightly at this very special school.”**

**Q: What about money and enrollment?**

**A:** In every other way, finances are in great shape, but the one factor that needs to improve is our enrollment. That's partly the result of the economy, but we have to attract more families for whom day school education isn't necessarily where they thought they'd find their children.

We just completed a two-year self-study process [so that] we can be accredited by AISNE (Association of Independent Schools in New England); [the accreditation process] happens every 10 years.

**Q: What is the current enrollment now?**

**A:** We're at 71 [students] and we could go to 90 very comfortably without adding staff other than resource teachers. It's a moving target for next fall – we won't hit 71, but probably just under that.

**Q: Why did you decide to leave?**

**A:** I struggled with the decision. I so love the school, but the commute is really hard (Rudnick lives north of Boston, Mass.) and adds to an already very long day. It impinges my quality of life. (At the time of this interview, Rudnick, who had not identified her next career move, said that this would be her first summer vacation in years.)

**Q: Any parting regrets?**

**A:** That I haven't been able to hand over a school of 90 kids.

**Q: Can you offer any advice for Adam (Tilove, the incoming head of school)?**

**A:** Keep the flame burning brightly at this very special school and in this wonderful community. Review each day's accomplishments and be proud of that day.

Try to narrow the focus of priorities so that the job doesn't consume you; try to find balance in your life, where there's very little balance to be found.

## Free Sunday summer film series

**BARRINGTON** – As part of the “Time for Me” adult education program at Temple Habonim, three films, which offer different perspectives of Jewish life, will be shown on select Sunday evenings in July and August.

• “The Other Son” will be shown on Sunday, July 21, at 7:30 p.m. Joseph, as he prepares to join the Israeli army for his national service, discovers that he is not his parents' biological son. In fact, the hospital had accidentally switched him with Yassin, son of a Palestinian West Bank family.

As their families struggle with the startling revelation, the young men have unique insights into the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The film, released in 2012, was featured at the Cannes Film Festival and the Jerusalem and Tokyo film festivals. • “Hava Nagila” will be shown on Sunday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m. This documentary addresses the meaning of the great Jewish standard and features interviews with Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, Glen Campbell and others.

The film follows the song on its journey from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the cul-de-sacs of America to YouTube.

Released in 2012, it was featured at the New York Film Festival at Lincoln Center.

• “The Last Butterfly” will be shown on Sunday, Aug. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Stage mime Antoine Moreau (Tom Courtenay) is compelled by the Gestapo to put on a performance for the children of Terezin, a “model” concentration camp, to convince the Red Cross observers that the camp is truly what it seems.

Initially reluctant, Moreau slowly learns the true nature of the camp, including the meaning of the “transports” on which people leave. With a world-class orchestra (made up of people interned in the camp) and a cast of children, Moreau stages a show to end all shows. “The Last Butterfly” takes its title from one of the real life sketches made by a Jewish girl in Terezin showing a butterfly swooping away over the barbed wire fence to freedom. The sketch is preserved in a special museum in Prague with the legend, “Died in Auschwitz 16-10-44.”

All the films will be shown at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. The free showings include popcorn.

**TEMPLE HABONIM:** 245-6536 or [office@templehabonim.org](mailto:office@templehabonim.org).

## A young mother and a Holocaust survivor rescue one another

*An unlikely pairing leads to a longstanding friendship and a book*

By **NANCY KIRSCH**  
[nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org)

**PROVIDENCE** – “You buying?” So asked Aron Lieb, a Holocaust survivor, to Susan Kushner Resnick's invitation to have coffee together one day.

Although the two, who met by chance at a Jewish Community Center in the suburbs of Boston, Mass., never introduced themselves to one another, their conversations continued for 15 years. They ended, said Susan Kushner Resnick in a June 4 program at Laurelmead, with Aron's death.

Those conversations became memorialized in her book, “You Saved Me, Too: What a Holocaust Survivor Taught Me About Living, Dying, Loving, Fighting and Swearing in Yiddish” (Globe Pequot Press, 2012).

In an evening program sponsored by the Holocaust Education and Resource Center, Kushner Resnick spoke about Aron and the relationship she and her family developed with the Holocaust survivor.

She explained that Aron saved her by giving her life



Susan Kushner Resnick

meaning and purpose. When she first met Aron, she was the mother of an infant and struggling with post-partum depression. She, in turn, helped Aron with all manner of life's essentials – from finding him a place to live and helping him with his finances to welcoming him to her family home for simchas and holidays.

Ambivalent about being Jew-

ish and, by her own admission, not particularly knowledgeable about what was occurring during synagogue services, Kushner Resnick added that Aron was reluctant to attend synagogue services after World War II. The only time he did so, said Kushner Resnick, was to attend her daughter's bat mitzvah.

Although she said that now feels a bit more comfortable when she attends services, she sheepishly confessed that her book contains a little bit of “Jewish swearing, but not a lot. I don't understand it. If someone can tell us some Yiddish swear [words], that'd be good,” said Kushner, before she read excerpts from the book.

Her book captures her love for Aron: “I love you because you can't stop fighting. You fight your doctors and nurses ... the headache you've had since before the war, me, drugs... I love you because you make me feel like a hero, but you're the hero ... I love you because you still flirt, because you know when I need you to come back to this world ... because you still fight.”

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Jewish Alliance  
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

## CALENDAR

## Ongoing

**Alliance Kosher Senior Café.** Kosher lunch and program provided every Wednesday and Friday. Alliance, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Noon – lunch; 12:45 p.m. – program. A \$3 lunch donation requested from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 421-4111, ext. 107.

**Am David Kosher Senior Café.** Kosher lunch and program provided every weekday. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. 11:15 a.m. – program; noon – lunch. A \$3 lunch donation requested from individuals 60+ or under-60 with disabilities. Elaine or Steve, 732-0047.

## Friday | June 21

**Torat Yisrael's Beach Shabbat.** Celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat with an informal, interactive family service. Goddard Memorial State Park, 1095 Ives Road, Warwick. 6 p.m. 885-6600.

**Am David Meditation Kabbalat.** A special non-traditional Kabbalat Shabbat meditation experience; traditional Shabbat evening service follows. Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. 6:15 p.m. RabbiPerlman@cox.net.

**Shabbat Under the Stars.** Family friendly Shabbat service; children with June birthdays are recognized; treats. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 7 p.m. 331-6070.

## Saturday | June 22

**Agudas Achim Picnic for Women.** Bring lunch, chair, blanket and games. Borderland State Park, 259 Massapog Ave., North Easton, Mass. 2 – 4 p.m. \$2/per car for parking. Deb Mandell, 508-223-3585 or Sharon Friedman, 508-208-6818 or sharmar49@comcast.net.

**Giggles in the Garden.** Outdoor preschool story time. Jewish Community Day School of RI, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. 11 a.m. info@jcdsri.org.

## Tuesday | July 2

**Curious Tales of Talmud.** Six-session course decodes talmudic legends and uncovers layer within layer of insight. Congregation Beth David, 102 Kingstown Rd, Narragansett. Six Tuesdays starting July 2, 7 – 8:30 p.m. \$60 – entire course; \$13 per lesson; \$20 textbook (optional). rabbiwarwick.com or 884-7888.

Wednesday | July 10  
and  
Thursday | July 11

**Blood Drive.** Brown RISD Hillel Foundation. 80 Brown St., Providence. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. marshall\_einhorn@brown.edu.

## Monday | July 15

**Annual Golf Tournament.** Temple Beth-El hosts golf tournament; funds benefit the synagogue's religious school. Ledge-mont Country Club, 131 Brown St., Seekonk, Mass. 11:30 a.m. – registration and lunch; 1 p.m. – shotgun start; 5:30 p.m. – cocktails and dinner. \$275/golf and dinner; \$75/dinner only. info@temple-beth-el.org.

## Thursday | July 18

**Adoption Informational Meeting.** Adoptions Options holds meeting for those considering adoption and interested in hearing about available options. Jewish Family Service, 959 N. Main Street, Providence. 6 – 7 p.m. Peg Boyle, 331-5437 or peg@jfsri.org.

## Sunday | July 21

**Meet and Greet Brunch.** Fall River, Mass.-based Temple Beth El introduces Rabbi Mark Elber and Cantor Shoshana Brown to the community. Temple Beth-El, 385 High St., Fall River. Free and open to the community. 9 a.m. – services; 10 a.m. – brunch. RSVP: 508-674-3529.

**Touro Fraternal Golf Tournament.** Cranston Country Club, 69 Burlingame Road, Cranston. Noon – lunch; 1:30 p.m. – shotgun start; buffet dinner following golf. \$85/Touro member; \$85/Cranston Country Club full member; \$99/non-member. info@tourofraternal.org.

## Friday | Aug. 2

**Jump Into JORI Weekend.** Camp experience for kids includes Shabbat, Saturday and Sunday programs. Information session and tour for parents. Camp JORI, 1065 Worden's Pond Road, Wakefield. 9:45 a.m., Friday – noon, Sunday. \$175. Ronni Guttin, ronni@campjori.com.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Be sure to read about other events happening later this summer or ongoing throughout the all-too-short season in the "community" and "summer fun/summer travel" pages of this issue.

## CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Calendar items for our Aug. 2 Back to School Issue must be received by July 24. Items for our Aug. 16 Rosh Hashanah Issue must be received by Aug. 7. Send all calendar items to nkirsch@shalomri.org, subject line: "CALENDAR."



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## Amudim Dinner honors contributors to Jewish community

BY RABBI PERETZ SCHEINERMAN

Special to The Voice & Herald  
PROVIDENCE – Providence Hebrew Day School paid tribute to three individuals at its annual Amudim Dinner.

Yoni Halper, a PHDS alum, received the Alumnus Award. After working for a variety of Jewish organizations for nearly a decade, Yoni opened his own marketing and fundraising consulting firm, ALTRUCITY, and launched NextGen:Charity, a national conference on nonprofit innovation, with more than 1.5 million nonprofit professionals watching videos online. More recently, Yoni established a fundraising boot camp in New York City and continues to consult for a variety of Jewish and secular causes; he has been helpful to PHDS' fundraising initiatives.

Yoni's father, Frank Halper, CPA, has provided crucial assistance to Providence Hebrew Day School – and the Jewish Community Day School – by finding donors for Rhode Island's Corporate Tuition Tax Credit program, which provides individuals and corporations with the opportunity to receive state tax credits of 90 percent, plus a federal tax deduction, in exchange for a donation to a foundation that funds scholarships at local Jewish day schools.

At the June 12 dinner, the school also paid tribute to a longstanding member of the community, Solomon Kofman, with the Dor L'Dor (Generation to Generation) Award. Kofman, who immigrated to Rhode Island in 1950 from Paris, has been active in the community ever since. He and his late wife Pearl helped to ensure that the school would always be a place of To-



E. BRESLER

From left, Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, Providence Hebrew Day School dean; Rabbi Yosef Szendro, Amudim awardee and Dr. Marc Diamond, PHDS president, pose at the June 2 Amudim Dinner, which is sponsored by PHDS and New England Academy of Torah. Other awardees are Yoni Halper, alumnus awardee and Solomon Kofman, Dor L'Dor awardee.

rah for Orthodox Jewish children by soliciting funds door-to-door and selling clothing at thrift shops to raise money for the school. They also donated *siddurim* (prayer books) to the school.

Rabbi Yosef and Ruchama Szendro received the coveted Amudim Award. Known for his study of Talmud, Rabbi Szendro has delivered his *daf yomi*, an explanation of one page of Talmud, every morning at 5:30 for more than 10 years.

The Szendro family is recognized for their *hesed* (kindness) and outreach to Jewish families across the religious spectrum. After accepting the Amudim Award, Rabbi Szendro spoke about the crucial role that day schools play in ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people. Rabbi Szendro, noting that the school deserves to be honored, discussed the need for students to

acquire an excellent education in Torah.

Providence serves as a model for smaller communities, as it offers a full array of Torah opportunities, including a girls' high school (NEAT, New England Academy of Torah), a post-high school yeshiva (NERC, New England Rabbinical College), a community Kollel and other college and adult learning programs.

PHDS: Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, Pscheinerman@phd-school.org.

TUITION TAX CREDIT INFO: Frank Halper at 331-6851 or Larry Katz, at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, at 421-4111. Applications are due July 1.

RABBI PERETZ SCHEINERMAN is dean of PHDS and NEAT.

## Fall River synagogue invites community to meet new religious leaders

FALL RIVER, Mass. – Temple Beth El will host a "meet and greet" brunch on Sunday, July 21, to introduce the synagogue's new spiritual leaders, Rabbi Mark Elber and Cantor Shoshana Brown, to our community. The husband-and-wife team is coming to Fall River from Huntington, N.Y.

Synagogue services are at 9 a.m., the brunch, which is free and open to the community, begins at 10 a.m. RSVPs are requested.

The Conservative synagogue is at 385 High St., Fall River.

RSVP: Temple Beth El, 508-674-3529.

## One Happy Advertiser Says...

“Thank you all at The Voice & Herald for the great job you did with our ad in a recent Bar/Bat Mitzvah issue. Thanks to the ad, I got a phone call from my girlfriend's cousin to price up some menus - she recognized my picture in the ad. That's why we have this opportunity to bid for the job. Also, at least three or four people have come up to me at our synagogue to compliment me on the ad. So thank you for your help and guidance and a job well done.”



Sandy Ross  
Event Coordinator,  
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Visit our web site: [jvhri.org](http://www.jvhri.org)

# Student displays are highlights of annual academic fair

By MIRIAM ESTHER WEINER

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – With a focus this year on science, Providence Hebrew Day School's annual academic fair included projects from students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The theme of PHDS' academic fair rotates on a three-year cycle; themes focus on Judaic studies, general studies and Judaic and general studies combined. This year's general studies fair, on Wednesday, June 7, addressed the subject of science.

Parents, students, faculty and visitors viewed exhibits, many of which were interactive and engaging. The projects, which reflected the subject matter studied throughout the year, demonstrated students' knowledge and creativity.

The third and fourth grades' bubble display was particularly interesting – visitors were able to watch a video about bubbles, read what the students had learned about bubbles and blow their own bubbles.

The project by eighth-graders Rivka Golden and Sheva Taitelbaum, titled "simple machines," included pictures of various simple machines on a



PHDS

PHDS students Gabi Weisman, Chaya Kapilevich, Naftali Schochet, Shifra Shira Peromsik, Rivka Chana Flig, and Gavriel Schwartz enjoy the bubble booth at the PHDS academic fair on Wednesday, June 5.

display board that allowed visitors to lift a panel to read more about a machine.

MIRIAM ESTHER WEINER (meweiner@phdschool.org) is

principal of Providence Hebrew Day School, a Jewish day school on the East Side of Providence.

## Summer's here, but school awaits!

PROVIDENCE – Do you have great tips and techniques to handle the back-to-school transition? Are you a student, teacher, parent or administrator who has recommendations to offer?

If so, send us your ideas for re-adjusting to regular bedtimes, homework or after school activities, strategies for dealing with bullying, social dramas, etc.

We are especially interested in hearing from kids of all ages – from kindergarten through

college – about their experiences.

Please share your suggestions – whether new or tried-and-true – with us for our Aug. 2 "Back to School" issue. Yes, we know that summer has just begun, but good newspapers, like good students, must plan ahead!

CONTACT NANCY KIRSCH: 421-4111, ext. 168 or nkirsch@shalomri.org. SUBJECT LINE: "School."



## The Jewish Voice & Herald 'hits the road' this summer

PROVIDENCE – Alert readers will remember that The Jewish Voice & Herald's editor takes a vacation in July. As we won't publish again until our Aug. 2 "Back to School" issue, don't expect to receive The Jewish Voice & Herald any sooner.

We dearly appreciate that readers love the newspaper and miss it when they don't have it in their mailboxes. But, please, before you pick up the phone to query, "Where is my paper? I miss getting The Jewish Voice & Herald," remember that there is no newspaper in July.

Our Aug. 2 "Back to School" issue will be filled

with plenty of school-related information and resources, community news and ... one surprise!

Nancy Kirsch, executive editor, will be available by email during part, but not all, of July. Email her, nkirsch@shalomri.org, or call, 421-4111, ext. 168 and she will respond as soon as she is able to do so. If your call or email is truly urgent, please advise accordingly and someone will try to be in touch in the interim.

The picture, at right, depicts one of Kirsch's vacation venues this July. Enjoy your summer!



## Rhode Island Hadassah presents a Book and Author Luncheon Books on the Beach

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

11:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Atlantic Beach Club  
55 Purgatory Road, Newport

Guest Authors

Hester Kaplan, *The Tell*

"An elegant novel of love and family."

Michael Stein, MD, *The Rape of the Muse*

"A novel about artistic inspiration, hero worship and betrayal."

Dale Stanten, *The Hooker's Daughter — A Boston Family's Saga*

"A story about forgiveness, perseverance and hope."

Questions? [www.hadassah.org/rhodeisland](http://www.hadassah.org/rhodeisland);  
(401) 463-3636; [rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org](mailto:rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org)

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Reservations @ \$50 each  
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Mail this form and your check payable to RI Hadassah to:  
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

## Cede control and enjoy travel's 'travails'

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Forty-seven ... that is the number of states I've visited. The number on that counter hasn't moved in more than a decade.

Despite my best efforts, I haven't made it to Alaska yet; my plans to kayak there last summer didn't pan out. South Dakota offers Mount Rushmore and the Badlands, but North Dakota ... really? North Dakota doesn't seem jammed with tourist-worthy sites.



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

NANCY KIRSCH

As much as I love the novelty of visiting a new continent, country or city, I am not a good traveler. I pack too much of the wrong stuff. Time changes, directions and currency calculations sometimes send my math-phobic brain into unproductive overdrive.

Some of my travel experiences are reminiscent of "I Love Lucy" episodes. Years ago, a college friend and I drove from Indiana to New Orleans, La., and Mexico. Both natives of Indianapolis, Ind., we wasted a good hour or two unsuccessfully navigating our way out of ... Indianapolis. Later, after

some critically important papers blew out the window after we had crossed into Mexico, we had to retrace our steps – 30 miles of steps! – and throw ourselves on the mercy of Mexican authorities.

On another cross-country trip, I was driving in the Colorado mountains, near dusk, when my little Honda was bombarded with surprises – a sudden snowstorm and a group of runaway horses – that left me momentarily dazed.

Then there's the time that my daughter, then in middle school, and I eagerly anticipated seeing a particular Broadway show during her March vacation.

The night before we were due to take the train down to New York, I pulled out the theater ticket information to tuck safely into my suitcase. I looked and, dismayed, looked again, at the email confirming our ticket purchases. I had purchased two tickets to the show for the prior Thursday!

Like day-to-day life, travel presents opportunities for both joys and oys. I'm much better at rolling with the annoyances associated with travel than with everyday life, I think.

"We're going to have an adventure" was my standard response when our kids were young and we faced unexpected flight cancellations or missed connections.

The total opposite of a white-knuckled flier, I put complete faith in pilots; I am absolutely certain that I'm not in charge ... and don't need to be. It's liberating to turn over control to someone else.

My travels this summer – to Seattle, Wash., for an American Jewish Press Association annual meeting – and Italy (Florence, Rome and Venice) – will not add any cities, states or countries to my "travel scorecard." Nevertheless, I look forward to opportunities to learn and laugh, eat and enjoy, explore and study ... and "have an adventure" or two.

Our "Summer Fun/Summer Travel" section includes stories about past and future summer adventures. Enjoy the summer; before you know it, it'll be time for our Aug. 2 "Back to School" issue.

## The need for theological humility

What prompts such hostility and anger?

"We entered the plaza to the sounds of thousands of ultra-Orthodox men screaming insults and throwing garbage. The difference this week was that instead of the police dragging women off in handcuffs they made a barrier of blue uniforms holding back a sea of men trying to fall upon us. The angry crowd could not drown out our songs of joy at this victory."



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

So wrote Anat Hoffman, executive director of the

Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center, in the May 13 issue of "The Pluralist," her organization's online newsletter. Hoffman, who also serves as chairwoman of Women of the Wall, was reporting on the events surrounding the group's monthly morning prayer services at the Kotel, Jerusalem's Western Wall.

This particular *Rosh Hodesh* (new moon/new month) service took place on the first day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, this year corresponding to Friday, May 10.

Why was this Women of the Wall *Rosh Hodesh* service different from all of the organization's previous *Rosh Hodesh* services? What prompted such massive resistance by the ultra-Orthodox (the *haredim*)? Why did so many *haredi* men and boys – a number of them yeshiva students excused from classes for their protest – feel compelled to attack the women who had gathered together to pray according to their own non-Orthodox interpretation of Jewish custom? For what reason did *haredi* women scream at the Women of the Wall for defiling *kedushat ha-makom*, the holiness of the place – apparently blind to the actions of their sons, their brothers and their husbands who were "sanctifying" this sacred space with garbage, with spittle, with abusive language?

The answer to these questions is that this past April 25, Jerusalem District Court Judge Moshe Sobel determined that the actions of Women of the Wall did not contravene "local custom"; for the first time in 24 years, these women had the legal right to pray with *talli-*

*tot* (shawls), with tefillin (prayer phylacteries), with joyful song expressed in full female voice.

Unfortunately, Judge Sobel's decision has led to some toxic sequelae. Not long after the confrontation at the Kotel on May 10, Peggy Cidor, a board member of Women of the Wall for the past 15 years, found graffiti spray-painted on both the door and the stairwell of her apartment. The Hebrew threats translate into English as "Women of the Wall are wicked," "Peggy, your time is up," "Peggy, we know where you live."

"THE ANGRY CROWD could not drown out our songs of joy at this victory."

When more than 300 members and sympathizers of Women of the Wall came to worship on Sunday, June 9 under heavy police protection at the Kotel for *Rosh Hodesh Tammuz*, they faced hundreds, as opposed to thousands, of *haredi* hecklers. The women were able to worship without incident, although the police did prevent them from reading from the Torah scroll they had brought with them. It is still too early to know whether responsible *haredi* leaders will continue to be able to contain the more extreme and violent elements of their community. What is to be done? I find the seeds of an answer in the words of Rabbi Amy Levin, current president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island. Speaking at an interfaith/interracial panel discussion in November 2011, Levin stressed the need for what she called "theological humility" among Muslims, Christians and Jews. No one religious tradition should have the *chutzpah* to claim exclusive knowledge of who God is and what God requires of us. She agreed with her fellow panelists that each of these three "Abrahamic faiths" holds a wide range of views and that we must be careful not to judge these richly complex cultures by their most intolerant and fanatical elements.

In terms of the ongoing con-

flict over who "owns" the Kotel, I would suggest that just as theological humility is an essential requirement for serious interreligious dialogue, so, too, must theological humility lie at the core of any attempt to bring Jew and Jew closer together, to overcome the *sin'at hinnam*, the baseless hatred, which now poisons the sacred space of the Kotel. Theological humility means that no Jew or group of Jews should claim to speak for all Jews, that no Jew or group of Jews should claim to possess a monopoly on "approved ways" of responding to our individual experiences of God.

Those of us nurtured and nourished in the democratic values of tolerance and pluralism should not find it too difficult to admit that we do not have all the answers, that we cannot claim cer-



tain knowledge of life's deepest mysteries.

But what of those for whom a tolerant and pluralistic outlook is not held to be a virtue? What of those who are absolutely certain that the Torah – or more precisely, their interpretation of the Torah – is the word of God? From their perspective, who are we mere mortals to deliberately and provocatively contradict God's laws? Who are we to desecrate the Kotel by our failure to be "Torah true"?

Is theological humility ever possible for those who claim to know who God is and what God requires of us?

Where is the meeting ground between tolerance and absolute certainty? How do we begin this conversation that seems to be impossible, yet is so necessary if we Jews are to remain one people?

JAMES B. ROSENBERG (rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org) is rabbi emeritus of Temple Habonim, the Reform synagogue in Barrington.

## OUR MISSION

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

## COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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

the views of the authors; they do not represent the views of The Jewish Voice & Herald or the Alliance.

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

# Poets, payments and politics

*Visages of famous poets will adorn Israel's new shekels*

Poetry equals money. That seems like a supremely oxymoronic equation – but not in Israel.

At the end of this summer, Israel's Finance Ministry will begin to introduce four new



## REFLECTIONS OF | IN ISRAEL

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG

currency bills: 50- and 200-shekel bills in the fall; 20- and 100-shekel bills in the following spring. Nothing unusual about that – after

all, every governmental treasury does this periodically – but this four-bill makeover may be unique on the world scene. Each of the four bills will feature a national poet as its star personality! Not a politician among them.

On the face of it, this is truly strange from a couple of perspectives. First, in Israel the

true “stars” have always been political leaders – not so much because they were all sterling individuals, but because Israel is so heavily political that every other profession pales in influence. Second, poetry is almost non-existent today on the Israeli scene. Sure, there are poetry lovers here and there, but the vast majority of readers consume novels and non-fiction books, and they do so voraciously. In fact, Israel is among the world leaders in book sales per capita.

So what gives? Have the technocrats in the Finance Ministry – normally hard-nosed economists – suddenly softened? Or maybe this is actually a political decision? Since every politician is controversial, let's go for the uncontroversial poets of yesteryear? Not quite. In any case, even here there is a measure of controversy (more on that in a moment).

It turns out that each of these poets has been hugely influential in their own way: Rachel the Poet (that's what people call her – Rachel Ha'meshoreret), Saul Tchernikovsky, Leah

Goldberg and Nathan Alterman (in ascending shekel order).

Rachel's poetry has inspired, and been used as the lyrics for, dozens of highly popular mainstream songs; whereas many Israelis today have no idea who she is, they can all sing her lyrics in more modern tunes.

**“ISRAEL IS SO heavily political that every other profession pales in influence.”**

Tchernikovsky was a medical doctor, translator and poet. He edited the Hebrew terminology manual for medicine and the natural sciences. Among other works, he translated into Hebrew Homer's Iliad and Odyssey as well as Shakespeare, Molière, Goethe, Heine, Byron, Shelley, the Gilgamesh Cycle,

the Icelandic Edda – a true Renaissance man! And by the way, he also happened to be a close friend of a certain Klausner family in Jerusalem, whose son used to call him “Uncle Shaul.” You may have heard of that son's name – Amos Oz.

Goldberg not only wrote terrific poems but also authored wildly popular novels and even several children's books.

And then there's Alterman, Israel's pre-eminent journalist-poet. That sounds like another oxymoron, but he managed to not only combine two careers as a national poet and a major columnist, but also, on many occasions, penned his political column in verse, which only further raised his influential profile during the early decades of the State.

As for controversy, everyone seems to love the idea of having Israel's greatest poets on their bills (the greatest Hebrew poet of all, Chaim Nachman Bialik, already has had his visage on a bill). But there's been lots of criticism (about the fact that all four currently honored poets are Ashkenazi) claiming

that, once again, the culture of Mizrahi Jews (those who lived in the Arab world, from Yemen in the East all the way to Algeria and Tunisia in the West, with Egypt, Iraq, Iran, etc.) has been relegated to the sidelines. For several decades, this has been a significant bone of contention, even if Mizrahi culture has made major inroads in Israeli society: cuisine, popular music, even high-level business. But the sensitivity remains.

Of course, these four money bills aren't the end of the story. There are coins to be re-minted, new streets to be named, monuments to be built. Who knows – perhaps a Mizrahi poet will eventually grace what all Israelis have really been waiting for: the 500-shekel note!

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

## RHODE ISLAND'S NEW VOICES

# Fighting about egalitarianism in Israel

*Resolving internal disputes is a prelude to peace*

## STUART I. FORMAN

Special to The Voice & Herald

For anyone who loves the Jewish people, the fighting in Israel over egalitarianism is cause for great sadness. In my column, “Why the Israeli chief rabbiniate is wrong,” in the Aug. 17, 2012 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald, I tried to show how Judaism is not monolithic in theology or in practice and why there is room for pluralism within the Jewish people and the Jewish state.

As a federation president, I regularly get information from the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), which addresses various issues in Israel and around the world. I have followed with concern JFNA's reports about creating an egalitarian section at the *Kotel* (the Western Wall) and the response of Israel's chief rabbi to these efforts.

Recently, however, a new chapter came to light given the threats of violence against two chief rabbis for their positions opposing creating an egalitarian section at the *Kotel*. The Women of the Wall immediately disavowed participation in these threats. The matter re-

mind me of the recent threats to our own political leaders in this country by those who believe that sending Ricin-laced letters is an appropriate form of political dissent.

**“WE JEWS ... are our own worst enemies.”**

Having recently returned from Israel, I was struck by how difficult tolerating external dissent seems to be for everyday Israelis. It is hard, I found, for a non-Israeli (even a Jew) in Israel to criticize policies within the Jewish state. Yet, Israelis have plenty of internal dissent. In fact, tolerance of dissent is a hallmark of our journey throughout our history.

As I write this op-ed, we are studying *Parashat Korach*, the story of a rebellion of Levites and Reubenites against the authority of Moses in the desert. In the first century C.E., Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and others argued plenty – and about many topics: Who had the

right calendar? Was the apocalypse coming? Who and what was the Messiah? How they should fight Roman domination? Which texts were correct? Could gentiles join the Jewish nation without adhering to the rules of kashrut and circumcision?

Today, we have numerous sects with differing theologies and practices. Orthodox, Hasidim (with many sects of its own), Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewals, JUBUs (Jewish Buddhists), HUUUs (Secular Humanist Jews) and others all compete around practices and theologies. Perhaps we have not come so far from either Sinai or the first century.

But all of this seems devoid of spirituality. All of us are in awe of the universe, thankful for our self-conscious awareness and our hope that things can be improved. Surely, this is a grounding on which we could all agree.

We Jews have enough external detractors. We are our own worst enemies – given our difficulty with pluralism and real tolerance for dissent. Yet, pluralism and dissent are the hallmarks of a free people – and a

hallmark of the Jewish people's journey. Without those, we remain enslaved in our minds; therefore, symbolically, we have never left Egypt.

It is time for reason, tolerance and pluralism to reign in Jerusalem. Peace must start at home. If we are only children squabbling among ourselves, how could we hope to make peace with the nations? Peace

will come by honestly accommodating and respecting differences. Let's hope that it will begin at the *Kotel*.

**STUART I. FORMAN** (stuart.i.forman@gmail.com), a self-employed consultant (including, formerly, for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island) and humanities teacher, lives in Fairhaven, Mass.

## LETTERS

### Reader was moved to tears

Nancy Kirsch's column “My father's story,” in the June 7 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald moved me to tears. It made me so appreciative, once again, of the fantastic mother and father I had.

It's a wonderful tribute to Nancy that she was able to rise above her childhood, and become such a productive, intelligent, caring and successful woman. Kudos to her!

**Francey Nathan**  
Warwick

### Brutal honesty, tactful candor

Nancy's Kirsch's poignant and potent column about her father (“My father's story”) in the June 7 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald is sui generis. It is unique in the sense that she unburdened her heart and soul and did this with brutal honesty and tactful candor.

**Mel and Cindy Yoken**  
New Bedford, Mass.

## LETTERS

## Remembering Esther Williams

I want to sit shivah for Esther Williams, Hollywood's "Million Dollar Mermaid," who died earlier this month.

In the 1952 movie bio, "Million Dollar Mermaid," she portrays Annette Kellerman, who overcame polio to swim again – a perfect metaphor for the Jewish philosophy underlying the movie industry of the golden studio years.

We rise again, we dive once more into our divine destiny; there is something Hasidic about that.

Williams "Americanized" the world of myth and legend, like Miriam and like Aphrodite, beauty comes from the sea, from the element of water.

But this Queen Esther was also tough and determined. She divorced her third husband, Fernando Lamas, because he curbed her freedom and her career. She writes about it, with good humor, in her memoir. The film was mostly a post-World War II celebration of liberation and the restoration of color.

Esther Williams will remain in my mind as I swim in the pool, Narragansett Bay or the Narrow River.

**Mike Fink**  
Providence

Fink, a columnist for this paper, had a similar letter published recently in the Providence Journal.

## Military troops aren't getting the help they need

My gratitude to Nancy Kirsch and The Jewish Voice & Herald Voice for the comprehensive examination of suicide and mental health issues for military personnel and veterans, "Those in active duty face risks beyond the battlefield," in the June 7 issue.

There's even more to the story as I learned as a member of an Institute of Medicine committee that released a recent report on alcohol and drug problems in the armed forces ([http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=13441](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13441)).

Battle stress and multiple

deployments are not the only factors that account for the alarming rates of suicide and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Alcohol and drug problems, particularly binge drinking and prescription drug misuse, also increase the risk for suicide and PTSD and, regrettably, the troops aren't getting the help they need.

First, too many of them don't seek help because of the pervasive stigma of being labeled as suffering from mental illness or addiction. Second, active military personnel have few opportunities for confidential

screening, diagnosis or counseling. The combination of stigma and lack of confidentiality blocks access to the early interventions that are key to suicide prevention and the treatment of mental illness.

**David C. Lewis, M.D.**  
Providence

The writer, professor emeritus of community health and medicine, Alpert Medical School at Brown University, was a member of an Institute of Medicine committee addressing alcohol and drug problems in the military.

## Sad pleasure in Norman's poem

I just thought I would write to express my sad pleasure in reading Arthur Norman's poignant poem, "Feather," in the June 7 issue of The Jewish Voice & Herald. I am sure it resonated with others who have experienced a similar loss.

**Bob Davis**  
Marlboro, Mass.

Reader disturbed  
by columnist's assertions

Professor Sam Lehman-Wilzig's repetition of anti-ultra-Orthodox rhetoric in the June 7 issue is profoundly disturbing.

He would have us believe that only the *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) in Israel have more than 2.1 children. He suggests that they have many children to avoid work to study Torah. (Obviously studying is a reprehensible act!)

In fact, the worldwide Orthodox community is growing, not just Israel's *haredim*. The U.S. Orthodox population is also growing, despite the professor's assertion, "Israel is one of the few Western countries with a 'positive' birth rate."

This wholesale condemnation of an entire group of people is biased and derogatory.

Regardless of a parent's employment status, the stipend continues until children reach age 18. In comparing U.S. and Israeli economic data, it's clear that Israel's economy, even with

the stipend, is stronger than ours.

Israelis use the stipend to supplement their other income. The stipend is not large: A family receives each month 175 NIS (shekels) (\$43.75 U.S.) for the first child, 263 NIS for each of the second, third and fourth children and 175 NIS for the fifth child). Thus, a family of five children would receive 1,139 NIS (\$284.75) each month. In fact, Israel's poorest families get only 28 percent of their income from child stipends.

Shlomo Mor-Yosef, director general of Israel's National Insurance Institute, reports that planned cuts in stipends would put another 30,000 to 40,000 children below the poverty line. Professor Lehman-Wilzig should verify his facts and do his research before he quotes unsupported and erroneous data.

**Marilyn Shapiro**  
Providence

**BY RABBI RAPHIE  
SCHOCHET**  
Special to The Voice & Herald

After writing this piece in response to Sam Lehman-Wilzig's op-ed, "Policy changes will impact ultra-Orthodox," in the June 7 issue, I showed it to some friends who suggested that the tone was a little angry and perhaps I would be better served to tone it down.

I seriously considered doing that and then I realized, no, I really am very angry and justifiably so.

Had someone written about any other minority group in this way, the outcry from our super-sensitive community would have been deafening. To tar and feather an entire subgroup with one broad brush-stroke would and should have our always-sensitive racial antennae humming.

Yet, when it is about our own, our brothers and sisters, our children and grandchildren and certainly characterizes what would have been many of our grandparents, we do not respond. Can that be acceptable? Of course I am angry. My outrage, I hope, is your outrage; but perhaps it is difficult to respond when you really do not understand exactly who these people are and what they are all about.

Prof. Lehman-Wilzig has the unmitigated gall to imply that people have children for financial gain, and such individuals are draining the economy and leeching off society. He then follows it up with the canard that no ultra-Orthodox men work.

Let us put them into a more normal socio-economic society, wishes the professor, let us educate and pressure these

backward people into a more normal lifestyle, he opines.

The truth of the matter is that, despite growing economic pressure and the continued moral decay of the *normal* society around them, these individuals will continue to maintain their values. They will continue to have large families, despite the hardship it entails, because they be-

pushes them to attain the highest levels of scholarship and a connection to a transcendent dimension.

Their wives choose to support these ideals by sharing the financial burden and serving as the emotional rock of stability in their homes. Together, as equal partners, they stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their spouses to create homes that radiate inner peace and contentment – homes in which people are happy and gratified because they love what they have and what they are doing, homes where studying and the performance of mitzvot are primary.

While their lobbyists and government representatives may attempt to relieve their challenging economic circumstances, these families do not feel poor or deprived. Rather, they are fulfilled by their abundant love of life and of their fellow Jews, demonstrated through countless acts of selfless kindness and generosity and all of this will continue unabated.

Perhaps, some day we will all learn to appreciate these idealistic and special people for who they are. People who model the loving kindness of Abraham and Sarah, the powerful pursuit of ideas and ideals of Isaac and Rebecca and the love of family and nation of Jacob, Rachel and Leah.

Perhaps some day we can all stop slinging such derisive, polarizing and hurtful barbs and appreciate one another for all we have to offer and for who we are.

**RABBI RAPHIE SCHOCHET**  
([rabbiaphie@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiaphie@gmail.com)) is dean of Providence Community Kollel.

## Every soul is precious

Rabbi challenges Lehman-Wilzig's op-ed

**"TO TAR AND  
feather an entire  
subgroup ...  
should have  
our ... antennae  
humming."**

lieve it is a mitzvah to do so, a choice made by like-minded people around the world. They will continue to love, treasure and educate every one of those children and would not dream of giving up the fantastic privilege of raising yet another child to serve God. They will continue to eschew a materialistic lifestyle and forego material comforts for the privilege of leading a Torah-only lifestyle that he denigrates in his column.

Yes, that lifestyle is rigorous and demanding, but it is one that provides those who follow it with the pleasure of delving deeply into the well-springs of Jewish wisdom. It requires men to research, write, discuss and debate the intricacies of law, philosophy, history and Jewish practice. It

## Rhode Island's New Voices:

Our "Rhode Island's New Voices" represent op-ed style essays from people who live or have lived in the greater Rhode Island Jewish community.

Individuals are invited to submit a 500-800 word essay on an issue of interest – no holds barred, except that it can't be a promotional piece for someone's own venture

or otherwise self-serving. Although we can't guarantee that we can publish everything sent to us, we welcome receiving original submissions from readers.

**SEND ESSAY TO:**  
Nancy Kirsch, [nkirsch@shalomri.org](mailto:nkirsch@shalomri.org); **SUBJECT:**  
NEW VOICES, or call 421-4111, ext. 168.

# Israeli singers to perform in free concert

*Group engages audiences in Israeli-themed activities*

BY LARRY KATZ  
lkatz@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – Are you searching for something new and different for a lazy summer evening?

An energetic band of Israeli Scouts, “Caravan,” will arrive at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, bringing Israeli culture, music and dance, as well as a message of peace, on Wednesday, August 7.



YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The teenagers will perform in concert for our Jewish community and in other venues.

Caravan’s free concert, suitable for all ages, is open to the community and begins at 6:30 p.m.

in the Alliance JCC Social Hall. Israeli food will be available for sale at 5:30 p.m.

The Caravan is a summer delegation of 10 teens and two chaperones from Israel that travels across the United States and Canada. This group of dancers and singers follows in the footsteps of other groups who have been performing for audiences for more than 40 years.

The Caravan also offers a number of educational activities, including Israeli dance, trivia, Israel Defense Forces training, scouting activities and more. These activities take performances to the next level, giving audience members the opportunity to learn more about Israel while getting to know the individual group



COURTESY | CARAVAN

Caravan performer

members. While in Rhode Island, the teens will engage campers in camp activities at Camp JORI and the Alliance’s J-Camp. They will also perform at the senior kosher café.

Though many of the teens live in the Tel Aviv area, some are from elsewhere, including Afula, which, with the Gilboa area, is Rhode Island’s sister community in Israel.

Boy Scouts who attend the concert may be able to earn credit for their Citizenship in the World requirement.

Please join us to welcome and meet these energetic young performers.



LARRY KATZ (421-4111, ext. 179) is director of education at the Alliance.

CARAVAN ON FACEBOOK: facebook.com/CaravanGilad.

# Camp JORI receives challenge grant

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – JCamp 180, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, announced recently that Camp JORI is the recipient of a Chai Match 2 challenge grant. The challenge grant allows Camp JORI to receive up to \$18,000 in matching funds to renew camp facilities and provide operating and scholarship support.

“Camp JORI is thrilled to again partner with the Grinspoon Foundation on a substantial challenge grant. The timing couldn’t be better as we work toward our Second Century Campaign to build more cabin capacity, improve

our waterfront facilities and develop our arts, crafts and technology center,” wrote JORI President Rob Stolzman. “Harold Grinspoon’s effective philanthropy management is legendary, and Camp JORI is proud to fulfill those goals.”

JORI will have another record enrollment this summer, Stolzman said, “and we anticipate providing more than \$250,000 in campership financial aid.” With the Grinspoon grant and the matched funds, we will provide more capacity for an even better Camp JORI.”

In the past eight years, JCamp180 has contributed

more than \$11.7 million in matching grant funds to non-profit Jewish overnight summer camps throughout North America, according to the release from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Camps receiving the Chai Match 2 – 25 in all this year – have one year to raise matching funds in a two-phase matching campaign. Camps must use at least 50 percent of the overall funds raised for capital improvements.

CAMP JORI: campjori.com

JCAMP 180: JCamp180.org or 617-269-7171.

# An alchemist’s puzzle: Can you solve it?

BY NORMAN GORDON

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. – You don’t usually expect to find logic puzzles and Judaism in the same sentence, but, really, what could be more appropriate? Jewish law is a history of applying logical analysis to our sacred texts to extract their meanings. The answer to the puzzle, which appears, below, appears on page 27.

NORMAN GORDON (BLS52@aol.com) creates puzzles in Boynton Beach.

he could grow his own.

One day at exactly noon, he took a small piece of manna about the size of an olive and placed it in a large clay vessel containing a special nutrient solution that he had devised. The vessel was a very large cylinder with a height of two cubits and a radius of one cubit.

He watched as the manna grew and then split in two to form two olive-size pieces. The two pieces coalesced to form one double-size piece. A minute later, the piece had grown to form a piece with four times the volume of the original piece.

A minute later, the piece had grown and coalesced so that every minute the manna doubled in volume.

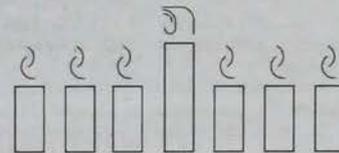
Nachman smiled at this wonderful sight. Now, he would have an endless supply of manna. He would no longer need to gather manna in the hot desert sun. Perhaps he could even sell some.

When it was precisely 2 p.m., Nachman found that the vessel was exactly full of manna. What time was the vessel half-full of manna?

(After you think you’ve figured out the answer, check out the solution on page 27.)

## An alchemist’s puzzle!

A little known legend found in a secret chapter of the Zohar tells the story of Nachman, one of the Jewish who wandered in the desert for 40 years. Nachman was an alchemist who knew many magic formulas. While everyone else was gathering manna in the desert in the hot sun, he decided to see if



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## ORTHODOX community is not of one mind

From Page 1

Sunday, June 16, in Manhattan, the three women who received ordination did not receive any formal title.

If Weiss thought that would mollify his Orthodox critics, he was wrong.

Weeks before the ceremony, the ordination was condemned by the Rabbinical Council of America, the main Modern Orthodox rabbinic association, of which Weiss himself is a member.

"We cannot accept the ordination of women as members of the Orthodox rabbinate, regardless of their title," said Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, RCA's president.

For the RCA, the problem hinges on one word: ordination.

The RCA says it supports advanced Torah study for women and their assumption of appropriate leadership roles in the Orthodox community, goals to which Weiss also subscribes. The RCA has never objected to female graduates of an advanced Talmud program at Yeshiva University, several of whom have served in quasi-rabbinic roles at Orthodox synagogues similar to those that Yeshivat Maharat graduates will fill.

But while Weiss sees ordination as a vital and historic step, to the RCA and its 1,000 members, the move represents a dramatic and potentially dangerous break from tradition, if not a violation of Jewish law.

"In many ways, I believe it sets back the slow progress that we have made in giving women positions of leadership," Goldin told JTA. "When something is done sort of arbitrarily, that there is no consensus for, that creates a counter-reaction on the other side. I believe that's

ble to male rabbis. The website of Yeshivat Maharat describes its graduates as "rabbinic leaders" and legal decision-makers.

The document awarded to graduates this month refers to their ordination - in Hebrew, *smicha* - the same terminology used for male rabbis. But Weiss

## Yeshivat Maharat

CONFIRMING ORTHODOX WOMEN AS HALAKHIC AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS

what's happening."

For years, Weiss has been agitating for women to assume leadership roles in Orthodoxy that are more or less comparable to men. In 2009, Weiss gave his protégé Sara Hurwitz the title *maharat*, a Hebrew acronym of his invention that translates as "female leader in Torah, spirituality and religious law."

Several months later, Weiss decided that *maharat* had not caught on and that Hurwitz instead would be called *rabba*, a feminized version of rabbi.

Reaction was swift. The *haredi* Orthodox Agudath Israel of America dismissed it as beyond the pale of Orthodoxy. Rumors swirled that the RCA was considering expelling Weiss, which the organization denied.

But even after Weiss conceded in early 2010 that he wouldn't ordain any more *rabbas*, he continued to use language reflecting his belief that these women performed functions compara-

ble to male rabbis. The website of Yeshivat Maharat describes its graduates as "rabbinic leaders" and legal decision-makers. The document awarded to graduates this month refers to their ordination - in Hebrew, *smicha* - the same terminology used for male rabbis. But Weiss

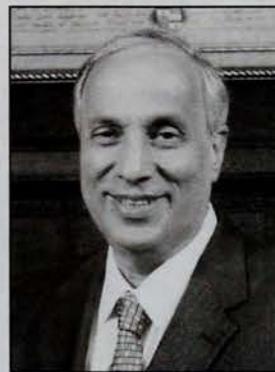
said he wasn't conferring a title, insisting that *smicha* refers only to the women's function as authorities on Jewish law and their pastoral training, not their honorific.

The decision of what to call his graduates would be left up to the women themselves and the communities they serve, he said.

"We desperately need spiritual leaders," Weiss said. "And to me it doesn't make sense to tap into only 50 percent of the Jewish community."

Hurwitz, who now serves as the dean of Yeshivat Maharat, said that offering the school's graduates ordination was a reflection of their having satisfied a course of study equal to what male rabbinical students complete.

"When I received ordination, I was able to be present for people in a different way," Hurwitz said. "People sought out my advice and my help and my hal-



YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH RABBINICAL SCHOOL

Rabbi Avi Weiss

akhic expertise because they understood what I had studied and what I can do for them."

According to Weiss, there is

has transgressed in ordaining women, but he insisted that his quibble with Weiss is about much more than semantics.

He cited the example of Conservative Judaism's decision to permit driving to synagogue on the Sabbath - a move initially made for understandable sociological reasons, but which wound up having a dramatic impact on the quality of religious life.

Goldin conceded that Weiss is not entirely without religious justification for his actions and said if it were solely up to him, he would be content to agree to disagree with Weiss.

"What the [RCA] will do in the future," Goldin said, "I cannot predict."

## Rabbinical Council of America

ועתידות ותחילת המחקר

no legal barrier to women functioning as rabbis, only sociological ones.

In a 1,500-word defense of the religious basis for female clergy provided to JTA and later published by the Times of Israel, Weiss cited various sources to show that female spiritual leaders are well within the bounds of tradition.

Goldin acknowledged that it was difficult to point to any particular religious law that Weiss

EDITOR'S NOTE: We want to know what you, our readers, think about this: Should Orthodox rabbinical schools be empowered to ordain women as rabbis?

Let us hear from you via snail mail (The Voice & Herald, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, RI 02906, email (nkirsch@shalromri.org), in an online comment to this story (posted at jvrhri.org or at Facebook.com/jvrhri).

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# Young woman prays with Women of the Wall

*Participating in a nonviolent quest toward equality*

**By RACHEL SALLOWAY**  
Special to The Voice & Herald

WAITSFIELD, Vt. – I did not know what to expect when I walked down to the Old City of Jerusalem in time for the 7 a.m. *Rosh Hodesh* (new moon/new month) service on May 10. I had no trouble finding my way through the Old City as I was surrounded by hundreds of *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) schoolgirls in uniforms heading to the same destination. With different goals in mind, we walked side-by-side.

While visiting Israel through the Gift of Israel program this past May, I had the chance to join the Women of the Wall group for their *Rosh Hodesh* service. Women of the Wall, an advocacy group fighting for equal prayer rights at the *Kotel*, works toward a goal of allowing women to be able to pray openly, wear *tallitot* (prayer shawls) and chant Torah. They hold monthly *Rosh Hodesh* services to publicize their mission and build support. Until the Jerusalem District Court ruling on April 25, women were arrested for wearing *tallitot* at the *Kotel*.

The *Rosh Hodesh* service on May 10 was the first opportunity following the ruling where Women of the Wall members and supporters could legally wear *tallitot* at the Wall.

The sheer volume of people in attendance on such an early, bright morning was staggering. Other news coverage has reported that close to 10,000 people showed up for this event. I was one of only 300 who came to pray. The prayer circle was positioned on the women's side of the Wall, about 75 feet back from the actual wall due to an overcrowding of Orthodox schoolgirls. A set of police officers held up metal gates protecting the prayer group from the outside onlookers and opponents. I pushed

my way beyond the gates and joined the egalitarian service – men and women chanting together, some wearing *tallitot*, others not.

There was a stark contrast between the behaviors of the participants inside versus those outside the gated prayer circle. Inside the gates, the singing and smiling was contagious. The service included many beautiful and traditional songs including “*Oseh Shalom*,” “*Kol Ha’olam Kullo*,” and my all-time favorite, “*Ozi v’Zimrat Yah*.” As our group sang serenely in unison, I felt proud to participate in this nonviolent quest toward equality.

“I FELT VERY proud to represent this side of the struggle.”

Meanwhile, thousands of *ha men* banded together outside the gates in an effort to disrupt the service and vocalize their opposition to women praying in such a manner at the Wall. They shouted, stomped, whistled and threw objects within our bounds. One man even climbed the gate and stuck his tongue out at our group until he was physically removed by one of the guards. Detached from the surrounding rudeness, we continued to sing and mark this monumental step in the fight for women’s rights in Israel.

To me, these contrasting behaviors exemplified the dis-



Police hold protesters back from *Kotel*.

PHOTOS | RACHEL SALLOWAY

connected views of this issue. It felt like a regurgitation of the classic debate between ancient tradition and modern views of the world; a dilemma that continues to appear again and again in my own evolution as a Jewish adult. However you feel about women partaking in religious rituals at the *Kotel*, when I observed the spiritual connection and positivity around me, as opposed to the violent and abrasive actions of the opposition, I felt very proud to represent this side of the struggle.

**RACHEL SALLOWAY** (rsalloway@gmail.com), who was raised in Barrington, is working on an organic farm in Vermont. She will begin a nurse practitioner graduate program at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in the fall.



An angry Orthodox man gestures in protest.



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SUSAN ADLER

Sugarman-Sinai's Nozzi Gerstman, left, and Ira Fleisher stand by shelves stocked with donated food.

## Food donations from Sugarman-Sinai benefit community members in need

PROVIDENCE – Thanks to Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel's first pre-Passover *hametz* challenge, the Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry received cases of kosher canned fruit, as well as cases of other foods donated in the challenge.

Ira Fleisher, managing director of Sugarman-Sinai, committed to matching whatever donations were made in the challenge, and announced his intention to make this challenge an annual event.

"This donation of kosher fruit is extremely

helpful to those in need," said Susan Adler, director of the pantry, said in a press release from Jewish Seniors Agency, which houses the food pantry. "We will be able to serve many people, thanks to this wonderful mitzvah."

The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, at 100 Niantic Ave., in Providence, is open on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. It welcomes walk-in visitors who need food assistance.

**MORE INFO:** Susan Adler, 621-5374 or [jsari.org](http://jsari.org).

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## John Kerry's culinary coup

By RON KAMPEAS

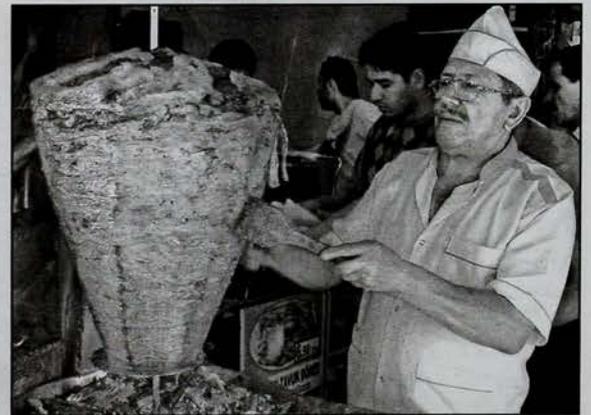
(JTA) –There's been a resurgence recently of a longtime affliction of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship: culinary anxiety.

It pretty much runs like this: Palestinians accuse Israelis of stealing their cuisine.

Israelis, nonplussed, answer, "Stealing? How is it stealing if we call it "Arab food?"

Frustrated foodies like this reporter stand on the sidelines and shout, ignored, that some of the dishes are indeed Palestinian or from the broader Arab world – and some are not (they are Turkish, Greek, Balkan, even Indian). Some even are Jewish in origin.

I've treated this before, and I won't re-rant. Bottom line, food and how one enjoys it is fungible, so get a life. But there was a nice little twist on it earlier this spring when John Kerry, U.S. secretary of state, visited the region and made an unscheduled stop in Ramallah for a tur-



WIKIMEDIA.COMMONS.ORG

### Shwarma

key shwarma.

What's telling is that a lot of Middle East experts raised their eyebrows at the choice of meat. Turkey? What manner of madness this? Shwarma is made from lamb, no?

Lurking beneath this chiding may have been repressed memories of Kerry's Philly cheesesteak fiasco on the campaign trail in 2004, when he asked for (gasp!) Swiss, not Cheez Whiz.

In this case, Kerry might have bridged a cultural divide rather than fallen into one. Shwarma, absolutely, is Palestinian. Making it from turkey, though, is an

Israeli innovation, stemming from the country's austere first decades, when lamb and beef were barely available.

This utterly sensible practice (turkey also is healthier) spread to the West Bank, and has persisted there despite the apparent collapse of any other signs of Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

A lot of folks are making fun of Kerry for his persistent optimism when it comes to reviving Israeli-Palestinian talks. But in Ramallah, he may have bitten off exactly what he could chew.

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## Seven native Israelis tempt palates in America and Great Britain

*Culinary traditions with a Mediterranean twist*

By ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN

(ISRAEL21c) – Yolam Ottolenghi, a 44-year-old native Jerusalemite first got tongues wagging for the fare at his chain of London delis. Working with Sami Tamimi, an Arab chef also born in Jerusalem, Ottolenghi introduced British palates to his fusion of eclectic culinary traditions with a decidedly Mediterranean twist.

The Jewish-Arab pair has since published two internationally bestselling cookbooks, "Ottolenghi: The Cookbook" (2008), and "Jerusalem: A Cookbook" (2012). In between, Ottolenghi put out a vegetarian coffee-table cookbook, "Plenty" – which won a Galaxy National Book Award – and writes a popular weekend food column for the Guardian.

The owner and executive chef at Philadelphia's Zahav restaurant, Michael Solomonov won a regional James Beard Award in 2011. Born in 1978 in Israel and raised mainly in the United States, Solomonov began Zahav in 2008 as a living memorial to his brother, an Israeli soldier who died in 2003.

His idea was to introduce Philadelphia diners to Israeli foods, such as hummus, made with imported Israeli ingredients. Today, the menu is more varied, with original dishes that take off on Israeli preparations.

"We crust beef cheeks with Ethiopian spice mix, braise them in Turkish coffee and then, when they're cool, cut them into cubes and put them on a skewer and grill them," said Solomonov. "It's what I'd call atypical Israeli cuisine."

World-renowned cake stylist and "Sweet Genius" emcee Ron Ben-Israel comes back to Tel Aviv at least once a year to load up on his sister's cooking. The 55-year-old baker and proprietor of the award-winning Ron Ben-Israel Cakes in Manhattan's SoHo neighborhood said that he enjoys walking the streets of his native city without getting bombarded by fans the way he does in New York.

He was trained not as a baker, but as a dancer. His first foray to North America was with the Bat Dor dance troupe 20 years ago, and he discovered a passion for making pies as a way to earn some extra cash.

Martha Stewart discovered him in 1996, and he opened his shop in 1999. "Dancers have to rehearse every day until it becomes perfect," he said. "This ... discipline helped me become a good baker."

Unlike Ben-Israel, Uri Scheft perfected his pastry at Lehmann (Breads) Bakery in Tel



These chocolate rugelach from Zucker's Bakery look eye-catching.

Aviv before opening Breads Bakery in New York City's Union Square neighborhood. Scheft offers Israeli favorites such as walnut and olive bread, challah, cheese sticks, bourekas and chocolate rugelach.

Among his non-Israeli specialties that New Yorkers will learn to love are Danish rye bread and *smorrebrod*, a Danish open-faced sandwich; Scheft was raised in a Danish-speaking household in Israel.

Perhaps helping to pave the way for Scheft, Israeli baker Zohar Zohar established Zucker Bakery in Manhattan's East Village in 2011 with her husband, Yaniv. (Her maiden name was Zohar Zucker; marrying Yaniv Zohar gave her a distinctive double name.) The bakery café has gotten glowing reviews from New York magazine, the Village Voice, the Forward, Grub Street and Time Out.

Trained in New York, she had previously worked under several Manhattan chefs. Zucker specializes in sweet treats such as *alfajores* (vanilla and lemon sandwich cookie sandwiches filled with caramel and rolled in coconut), date-clove rugelach, honey-almond fingers, and sticky buns – along with other dessert items she learned to make in the kibbutz kitchen of her Moroccan-Israeli grandmother.

Israel-born Alon Shaya was nominated as 2012's best Southern U.S. chef by the James Beard Foundation for his expertise as executive chef at the Italian restaurant Domenica in New Orleans. Born in Bat Yam in 1979 and raised in Philadelphia, Shaya was also nominated as Food & Wine's Best New Chef in his region, recognized as a "Chef to Watch" by Esquire



A pizza from Domenica

magazine and named one of StarChefs.com's 2012 Rising Stars.

His culinary approach is to add (mostly) subtle Israeli touches to the Domenica menu. However, he did introduce shakshuka, a spicy poached-egg-and-tomato Israeli dish that has become a favorite. His kosher-style Passover Seder dinner at Domenica attracts hundreds of diners for matzah ball soup, slow-roasted duck, pomegranate-roasted lamb shank and matzah baked in

the restaurant's wood-burning pizza oven.

Heading back across the pond, Honey & Co. co-owners Itamar Srulovich and Sarit Packer are reaping stellar reviews for the cuisine featured in their 25-seat restaurant in London. The married couple honed their skills in London establishments before opening Honey & Co.

The full-service café features dishes as varied as stuffed grapevine leaves, breads and jams, but Srulovich said that the desserts "are the thing we



Honey & Co. in London

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are most proud of. Our cakes are sensational. My wife is a pastry genius – one of the best pastry chefs in the world."

They source raw ingredients in many Mediterranean countries, including Israel. Their home territory inspired much of the Honey & Co. menu. "It's the food that we grew up on and wanted to eat – what we miss."

ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN is a writer and associate editor at ISRAEL21c.

## STANDING on the shoulders of giants

From Page 1

young members of the community; creating and stimulating a new generation of leaders; pursuing collective objectives and accomplishments; and embracing a new clear vision and well-defined strategies that will determine community and organizational priorities.

## Awards and recognition

In his *d'var Torah*, Rabbi Wayne Franklin of Temple Emanu-El, urged the audience of more than 150 people to consider their role in fashioning a stronger, healthier Jewish Rhode Island. What, he asked, will each of us do to support, encourage and bolster our community members?

Sharon Froehlich chaired the program, which was held on the evening of June 10, in the Alliance JCC Social Hall. Officers and board members for the Alliance, the Jewish Federation Foundation and Alliance Realty, Inc., were installed and recognized. Amy Olson, of URI Hillel, led the audience in singing both "The Star-Spangled Banner" and Israel's national anthem, "*Hatikvah*."

Lawrence Hershoff received the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award from Joan Ress Reeve, daughter of the late Joseph Ress. After citing his leadership roles with the Alliance, San Miguel School, Tech Access RI and Clark University, she added, "Larry is smart, loyal, dedicated, a perfectionist, he is all goodness."

Hershoff learned from his *zayde* (grandfather), "who taught my father the obligation to share with others. Kindness has a way of multiplying," the visibly moved Hershoff said. "We all have an obligation to do something; don't just give, but give back."

Alliance board member



Larry Hershoff, recipient of the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award, prepares to speak.

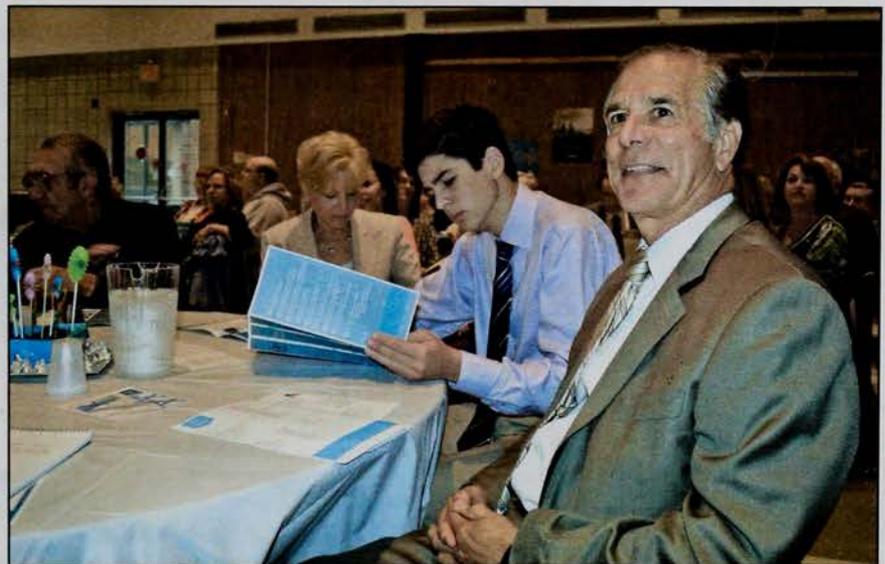
James (Jamie) Pious presented the Norman D. & Flo Tilles Community Relations Council Award to Rabbi Peter Stein, of Temple Sinai.

As a teacher, a role model and chair of the CRC's Social Justice Task Force, Rabbi Stein applies his compassion and justice to problems, Pious said.

Recently recognized by Sinai for his decade of service to the Reform synagogue in Cranston, Rabbi Stein thanked congregational and community leaders for their support. He reminded the audience that studying Torah leads one to act and then to study yet again.

"Each day we should be so fortunate as to recite 100 blessings," said the rabbi, noting that many of those blessings give us the opportunity to repair the world.

Gloria Feibish presented the Lea Eliash Memorial - Grinspoon/Steinhardt Award to Ilana Kapoch, a native Israeli who teaches Hebrew and Judaic studies at both the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island and Temple Emanu-El. Nominated for the award by



Richard Licht, right, listens to a speaker as his wife Roanne and son Jacob review annual meeting program materials.

JCDS Head of School Renee Rudnick, Kapoch was greeted with cheers and applause by a group of her young students.

## Thanking Richard Licht

Doris Feinberg, the first Alliance president, commended Richard Licht, the Alliance's outgoing chair. Not only did he nurture his four children

"J" is Jeffrey Savit, a remarkable colleague, said Feinberg, who identified two more "Js" for the evening - juggling commitments of family, Alliance and the State of Rhode Island - and joining together to celebrate joy.

When Licht took over as the Alliance's chairman, he never expected to be serving as Governor Lincoln Chafee's director of administration, yet that's precisely what happened. When professional conflicts interfered with Alliance commitments, Sharon Gaines ably fulfilled those commitments, he said. With an eye on the present - as he thanked his family, board colleagues, past presidents of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Center (agencies that merged into the Alliance), Rabbi Franklin and several Alliance key staff members - he also gave a nod to the past - as he identified leaders who did so much to make a great

Jewish community. "I can never be involved without thinking of the giants who aren't here ... I wouldn't be here if I hadn't learned from them - my uncle, Frank Licht; Max Alperin, Bob Riesman and Joe Ress."

## Alliance CEO Jeffrey Savit issues calls to action

"Change is easy, transition is hard," said Savit, who noted both the Alliance's progress in transitioning into one central, unified organization and the challenges that we, like many Jewish communities, face: limited financial resources, an aging demographic, extreme competition and an inability to achieve traction with our next generation.

"We are trapped in old ways of thinking, reacting and behaving," said Savit, "but ... current times dictate that the Alliance must continue to be bold, refocus our mission, challenge the wisdom of conventional institutionalized Judaism and anchor transformative change."

Declaring that perpetuating the "same-old, same-old is now foolhardy," Savit announced key plans, including promoting and redeploying Alliance staff members (see "Alliance announces key staff changes," page 2), creating a new Parenting Resource Center, a new preschool classroom and a new Creativity Center in a reorganization of our physical space; eradicating financial waste and operational inefficiencies; and refocusing and clarifying our Alliance strategic mission.

Savit continued, "I shall work to ensure that the Alliance will be the community catalyst to cultivate, create and support Jewish identities and trajectories across the lifespan, as well as [be] the community think tank, convener and partner to

"WE CANNOT STAND still in a world of change."

- whose names all begin with the letter "J" - but he also took his "fifth child," the Jewish Alliance, through toddlerhood. "We're now walking steadily," Feinberg said. "You joined disparate cultures and created a sense of harmony." Licht's sixth



From left, James (Jamie) Pious, an Alliance vice chair, congratulates Rabbi Peter Stein after the rabbi receives the Norman D. & Flo Tilles Community Relations Council Award.



Susan Froehlich, left, introduces Sharon Gaines to the audience.

## CHANGE is afoot at the Alliance

From Page 20

provide compelling reasons to be Jewish."

How will we get there? According to Savit, the Alliance will: be strategic and multi-dimensional, be characterized by excellence, transparency and sterling customer service; create philanthropic opportunities and program choices based on constituent wants and community priorities; partner with

**"KINDNESS HAS A way of multiplying."**

our community members with immediacy, great empathy and outstanding, value-added programming.

Recognizing that we must all take ownership of this new vi-



Doris Feinberg presents Richard Licht with a framed photograph of the signatories to Israel's Declaration of Independence.

sion, Savit encouraged members of the Jewish community to be open-minded and stay positive.

"Everything is possible to create our Rhode Island Jewish community renaissance, as long as we remain bold, op-

timistic, relationship-focused and strategically centered."

SAVIT'S FULL SPEECH, online at [jvhri.org](http://jvhri.org). Search "Jeffrey Savit delivers." ALLIANCE: 421-4111.



Rob Sherwin, an Alliance board member, and his wife Mindy braved a rainstorm to attend the annual meeting. Mark Feinstein, a new Alliance board member, is at far left.



Alliance board members Rob Stolzman and Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow (back to camera) talk after the annual meeting. The sign behind Stolzman, "Jewish Federation of Rhode Island," which hangs in the Alliance JCC lobby, represents a nod to the past.



Rabbi Barry Dolinger, left, an Alliance board member and rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom, and Rabbi Raphie Schochet of Providence Kollel talk.

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# ShelaLara offers warm welcome with its wine

*Yes, Coventry is home to a winery*

**BY NAOMI LIPSKY**

Special to The Voice & Herald

COVENTRY – Sheila Gold began making wine as a hobby, one that her son Andrew hoped would comfort her several years after the death of her husband, Dr. Benson Gold in 1996. That sense of comfort and warmth still informs all of the activities at the successful ShelaLara Winery that Gold runs with two of her sons, Andrew and Jason (Jay).

## BUSINESS PROFILE

During the week, Andrew, chief winemaker, supervises the winemaking in a large, meticulously cleaned production area. Andrew said that he works as long as the wine requires, adding, "Some nights I don't even go home."

Jay and Sheila cover sales and marketing with Dan Ribeiro, sales manager.

The winery produces classic wines such as Chardonnay and Merlot, and some limited edition vintage wines, but it is its fruit essence wines that are quite special. These have names such as "Succulent Strawberry Riesling" or "Pomegranate Wildberry." They are distinctive in flavor, low in sulfites and free of any artificial colors or flavors. When frozen, they form a slush, which is still pure wine



Jay Gold, with his mother Sheila Gold

PHOTOS | NAOMI LIPSKY

The brothers worked together to create the unique wine slush, for which the patent is pending. The formula, 18 months in the making, came about through observation and accident – "and a lot of broken machinery" at the beginning, as Andrew tells it.

The slush is so revolutionary

in the wine world that they are marketing it as "Gaspee Fruit Essence Wine Slush," a name that resonates with Rhode Islanders.

The demand among restaurants, bars and stores is growing. "Once people try our wine,"

Jay said. "They love it because it's not what they're expecting." People also do not expect to even find a winery in Coventry – so the tag line on their labels reads: "Yes – a winery in Coventry."

Three times a day on Saturday and Sunday, all three Golds host the tours and tastings, which are open to the public by reservation. Guests come from all across the country and must have their ages checked upon entering – no exceptions.

A slush is sampled, then Andrew leads visitors on a tour of the production facility, speaking knowledgeably and pas-

sionately about each step of the process.

sonately about each step of the process. Then the guests sit at tables and each receives a list of the dozen or more wines to be sampled. Andrew describes each one as it is poured and plates of cheese and crackers are served, as well as mini-pizzas from

the Original Italian Bakery in Johnston.

Sheila goes from table to table, like a mother at a bar mitzvah luncheon, making sure the guests have enough of everything and are enjoying themselves.

"She rolls out the red carpet, introduces herself to everyone," said Jay.

"If you're not hospitable, this is the wrong business to be in," says Andrew.

Jay concurred, adding, "How you treat people is the bottom line to this place." Each guest gets a souvenir wine glass and directions to make the slush; bottles of wine are available to purchase. ShelaLara began commercial operations nine years ago in a former tire factory on Valley Street in Providence. They moved to a larger building in Coventry in 2005 and have slowly been expanding both their production facilities and their space for welcoming guests.

When the Golds first began, they laboriously hand-bottled their wine in small quantities; now Andrew is the master of a bottling machine from Italy that can vacuum-pack and label 1,500 bottles an hour. Their Farmer-Winery license entitles them to sell directly to restaurants and liquor stores, and enables them to develop relationships with their clients.

Their grapes come from different sources. Like many wineries, ShelaLara has grapes grown to its specifications – in Coventry, California, New York and even Italy. The shipped grapes arrive under



Wines from ShelaLara

MAKING | 26

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on Father's Day.

~ Jill and Michael

# Travel advice from a consummate wanderer

*Don't let unexpected challenges derail your wanderlust*

**BY MIRIAM R. PLITT**  
Special to The Voice & Herald

**PAWTUCKET** – I have a friend who will not travel because of bedbugs. We'd say she's *meshugga* (crazy), yet her fear has made me a little crazy, too.

Whenever we're in a hotel, my husband hands me the flashlight and says, "Go check for bedbugs." We both laugh at our running joke.

I also think about the pleasures that travel brings – new sights, foods, cultures and people – and offer some pointers I've learned from my years of travel.

**"TRAVEL  
ALLOWS YOU  
to create  
memories and  
fulfill dreams."**

**Select the venue to fit your vacation goals**

For a totally relaxing vacation, choose an all-inclusive resort where you don't need to carry your wallet – you can charge everything to the room – or think about anything except choosing kayaking or snorkeling, for example.

On the other hand, for a religiously-themed vacation, you'll need to do some research to find a city or venue that offers enough "Jewish stuff" – museums, synagogues, architecture or food, for example.

**Pay attention to your surroundings**

Is the parking secure, lighted and/or indoors? We once stayed at a hotel in a very nice office park and the next morning when we went to our car, geese and ducks, which had invaded the parking lot, began to chase us.

**Other tips**

Before booking a hotel, one friend always asks, "How recently was the hotel remodeled?" She won't stay in a hotel unless it's been refurbished within the past five years.

You can get a sense of the hotel by how you are greeted by the concierge and the front desk people. Are they friendly and knowledgeable? Are they eager to see you?

Book a room away from the elevator; otherwise, you may hear the elevator as it travels up and down all night. Avoid staying near the air conditioning or boiler systems for the same reason.

Ask for what you want! I am allergic to feather pillows. Our travel agent specifies something other than feather for us, yet, too often, hotels give us a feather comforter and pillows. Persist and get what you want.

Finally, travel allows you to create memories and fulfill dreams – be they for business or pleasure. But, happy traveling means that you must roll with the punches (and minor



PHOTOS | MIRIAM PLITT

Miriam Plitt enjoys an Irish coffee at the Buena Vista Café in San Francisco, Calif.



A California sunset

inconveniences), so keep traveling, learning, sharing and enjoying.

**MIRIAM R. PLITT** (queen-miriammiriam@gmail.com) has most recently traveled within New York, Connecticut

and Rhode Island. She is always exploring and discovering.

## In Cape Town, colonial Jewish history and botanic wonders await

*'The fairest Cape offers a rich array of activities for visitors*

**BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER**

**CAPE TOWN**, South Africa (JTA) – Things haven't changed much since 1580, when British sailor Sir Francis Drake described this city on South Africa's southwestern coast as "the fairest Cape in the whole circumference of the earth."

Latter-day travelers seem to

agree. In 2012 alone, Cape Town was named the second-best city in the world by readers of *Condé Nast Traveller*, the favorite city worldwide in the *London Telegraph's* travel awards and the best beach destination in Africa by the *World Travel Awards*.

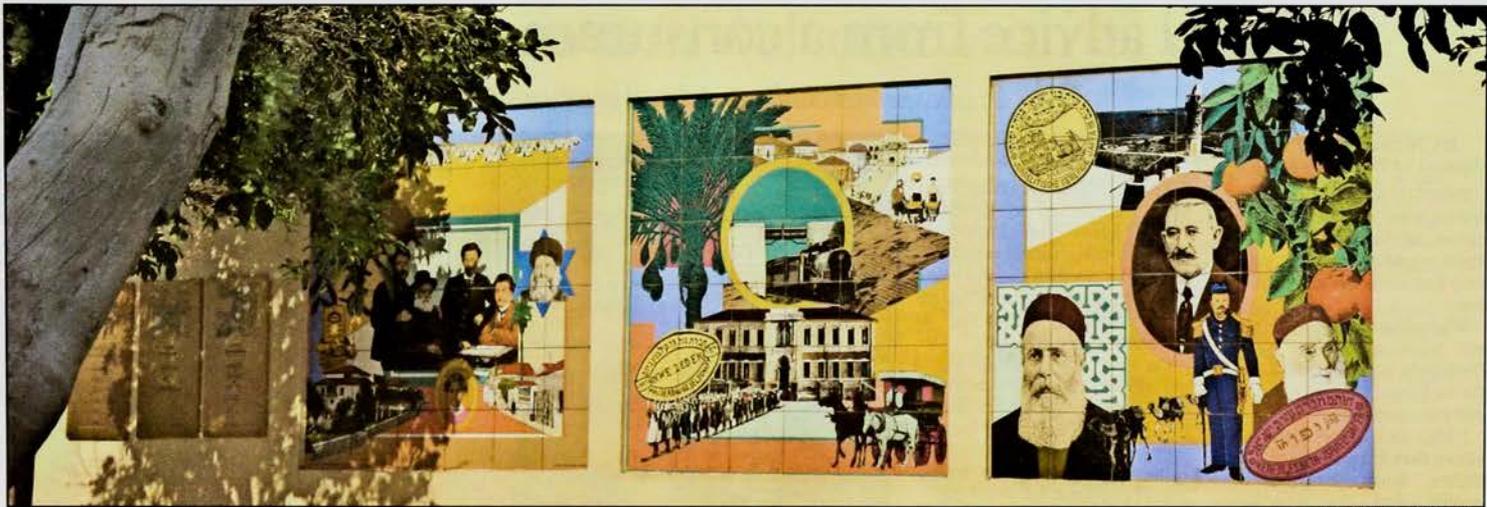
If anything is iconic of a city with roots dating back to the beginning of European settle-

ment in 1652, when it was established by the Dutch East India Company as a refreshment station for ships sailing to the spice-rich Far East – it is Table Mountain. The flat-topped peak that presides over Cape Town was named recently one of the New7Wonders of Nature. The



TABLE MOUNTAIN AERIAL CABLEWAY

The cable car to Cape Town's Table Mountain with Lion's Head Mountain in the background.



A mural on a building in Neve Tzedek

COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

## Tel Aviv tourism and tension is teeming

*Some call it 'the nonstop city'*

By BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – When the artisanal restaurant Suzanna opened here in 1995, it faced a eucalyptus grove and an abandoned building.

Suzanna is located near the end of Shabazi Street, the central thoroughfare of Tel Aviv's first neighborhood, Neve Tzedek. At the time of the restaurant's launch, the neighborhood was dilapidated, its narrow streets a haven for the homeless and the drug addicted. At its western end was an old train station that hadn't served the public since 1948.

"There were dirty streets," recalled Ilan Dardichevsky, Suzanna's manager. "It was a bit of a slum. A lot of the residents, you wouldn't call them rich."

Nearly two decades later, Neve Tzedek, rated as one of the world's top tourist destinations, is one of Tel Aviv's most luxurious neighborhoods, its narrow streets and old buildings mostly renovated and crowded with visitors. Cafés, restaurants and craft shops fill the once-abandoned streets, while a cultural center offers plays and dance performances next to a shaded park.

The abandoned train station is now a broad plaza and the pedestrian mall is popular with tourists and Tel Avivis looking for a night out.

"There's a magic in the architecture of the buildings from the beginning of the century," Dardichevsky said. "The narrow streets, the cultural establishments. It gives a feeling of freedom."

Sunbathers relax on white-sand beaches. Cyclists cruise on 60 miles of bicycle trails. Tourists and locals mingle at outdoor cafés or on the streets of old Jaffa. A booming party scene beckons young visitors.

"We took the things that were unique to the city, packaged

them and marketed them to the world," said Hila Oren, CEO of the Tel Aviv municipality's Global City Administration. "It's a flat city with a coast. It's easy to walk. The people here are very open."

Israelis have always called Tel Aviv the "nonstop city," but efforts to market that image internationally picked up steam after Mayor Ron Huldai took office in 1998. Huldai began improving basic infrastructure, which Oren called "not a popular agenda." But the improvements made the city friendlier to business – a precondition, Oren said, for transforming Tel Aviv into a tourist hot spot.

"There's no business center that's not a tourist center," she said. "When someone comes to do business in the morning, he

**"THEY WANT to know what it is like to be Tel Aviv."**

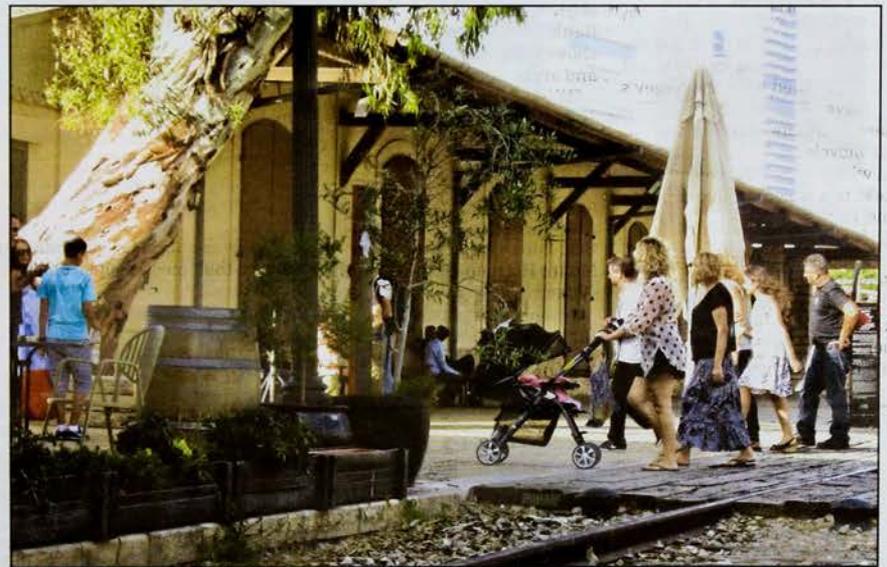
has money in the evening."

In 2003, UNESCO, the cultural body of the United Nations, declared Tel Aviv a world heritage site. Since then, the city has had a facelift.

In 2005, renovations began on the old Train Station District next to Neve Tzedek, which opened to the public in 2010.

In 2011, the Tel Aviv Art Museum opened a new wing with a theater and opera house. The same year, Tel Aviv opened Tel-O-Fun, a public bicycle-sharing program.

And starting in June, the municipality will offer free WiFi Internet access throughout the



Abandoned for six decades, the area surrounding Tel Aviv's old train station is now a pedestrian mall with shops, cafés and trendy restaurants.

BEN SALES/JTA

city.

The city also invested about \$250 million in the past two years renovating Jaffa, the ancient port city just to the south.

The city's renewal does have its drawbacks. Tel Aviv's poorer southern neighborhoods are largely devoid of the cafés, clubs and boulevards that draw tourists. Even in the center of the city, many buildings remain dirty, dilapidated or even abandoned.

Meanwhile, rising housing prices have made it more difficult for young people to remain. In 2011, frustration about the cost of living led to massive street protests that lasted throughout the summer. Protests resumed recently after the government proposed a new budget that hikes taxes and cuts benefits.

"Southern Tel Aviv does not need to be Tel Aviv's backyard, or the backyard of the whole

State of Israel," said Nitzan Horovitz, who is challenging Huldai for the mayoralty; if elected, Horovitz would be Israel's first openly gay mayor.

"Through partnership with the residents ... we can change the face of all of southern Tel Aviv."

Rothschild Boulevard – the trendy thoroughfare of cafés and restaurants that was the site of the 2011 protests – symbolizes the tensions in Tel Aviv.

At one end is Israel's national theater, Habima, which sits in front of a large plaza with a pool of water. Grass and trees flank a pedestrian walkway with a bicycle path. At the other end of the boulevard, Neve Tzedek begins.

"Today, tourists and businessmen who come to Tel Aviv want to know the real city, not the tourist center," said Alon Levy, manager of The Rothschild 71, a boutique hotel built

in the Bauhaus style. "They want to know what it is like to be Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is a diverse city, and the boulevard is diverse."

Hotels like The Rothschild 71, Oren said, characterize what attracts tourists to Tel Aviv, a city that provides a dramatic reprieve from one of the tensest regions in the world. It's one reason Israelis playfully – and sometimes derisively – refer to the city as "The State of Tel Aviv."

"When you say Israel, people think conflict. But when you say Tel Aviv, they don't connect it to conflict," Oren said. "When people talk about vacationing, they say Barcelona and Berlin, not Spain and Germany. I'm going away for a weekend in Tel Aviv, not Israel."

# Israel has a network of cycling paths

*Bike-riding tourists are lured to the Promised Land*

By BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Sprawled across a land area that comprises more than half of Israel, the Negev Desert has long been viewed as a vital national resource.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, famously wanted to make the desert bloom. Subsequent governments sought to enhance the region's appeal to tourists and develop its military potential. A massive complex of army bases is slated to open near Be'er Sheva in three years, while near the southern city of Eilat, entrepreneurs have built vast solar power fields.

But one Negev businesswoman has a different economic plan for the desert: Fill it with bike paths.

Aviva Schreiber is the co-founder of iBike, a boutique hotel geared toward cyclists and hikers located near the Negev's massive Ramon Crater. The desert climate, she says, is ideal for bicycle tourism – especially in winter, when the Negev's dry heat is a welcome change from the rain and snow that covers Europe.

"People from Berlin cry," said Schreiber, when they cycle in the Negev. "They couldn't ride a meter in the winter. They get here and they're crazy about the fact that they can ride."

Across the United States and Europe, municipalities eager to promote the environmental and health benefits of cycling have created bike share programs and paved countless miles of bike lanes. In Israel, bike paths are being blazed across the Negev and Galilee, providing not only recreational opportunities to locals but a powerful draw for foreign cycling enthusiasts.

President Shimon Peres, in May, inaugurated a 25-mile bicycle path starting at a sculpture park near the Ramon Crater. The Israeli government also is working on a trail that will take riders through Christian sites near the Sea of Galilee and another that cuts diagonally across Jerusalem.

The Binyamin Regional Council, which governs Jewish settlements in the central West Bank, will open a bike path showcasing the area's natural and archeological attractions.

Hillel Sussman, director of the Israel Bicycle Trail, says that within five years the Israeli government hopes to complete a contiguous bicycle trail parallel to the Israel Trail, the nearly 700-mile hiking path that runs north from Eilat to Mount Hermon, at the tip of the Golan Heights.

"People can get to know nature, the land," Sussman said. "If we can do it through bicycles ... that's better than motorcy-



SHAY GLITZMAN

Bikers ride a new trail in Israel's Negev desert, near Mitzpe Ramon.

cles or jeeps. It helps the environment."

Though Israel has developed official bike trails, enthusiasts say that plenty of navigable routes have long crisscrossed the country. And with snow on Mount Hermon, a desert in the South and green hills in between, Israel provides a range of landscapes to lure bicycle tourists.

The problem, bike advocates say, is that most people don't know about it.

"We haven't done enough to bring tourists here," Sussman said. "There aren't tourism packages yet."

Guests who come to iBike are shown a range of trails for biking, hiking or driving jeeps. The hotel rents bicycles and accessories, as well as offers guides and bike parking spaces. In recent weeks, Schreiber said, guests have arrived from Canada, Switzerland, France and Australia.

Still, Schreiber wishes the government would do more to promote Israeli cycling abroad.

"They need to market, market, market," she said. "Tourists are smart now. They want to come to do things that suit them. They want to be active, not just see holy places."

Bike paths in Israeli cities need more attention, said Yotam Avizohar, director of Yisrael Bishvil Ofanayim – the name means both "Israel for bicycles" and "Israel on a bicycle trail."

Avizohar notes that developing trails in old cities such as Jerusalem poses challenges because it means expanding roads and, in some cases, eliminating parking spots.

One exception is Tel Aviv, which boasts 60 miles of bicycle paths. Flat, compact and only about a century old, Tel Aviv has opened paths along its coastline and on major avenues.

The city also offers Tel-O-Fun, a bicycle-sharing program that had 30,000 foreign users in 2012. The program will have 180 stations by the end of the year, and there are plans to expand to adjacent suburbs.

But even as local and national government agencies invest more in trails, Avizohar said that Israel's best resource for expanding bicycle tourism are the amateur Israeli cycling enthusiasts who aid visitors in finding and navigating trails.

"We've found solutions, but there isn't enough information," Avizohar said. "They look at bikers not as troublemakers but as people who can provide insight."

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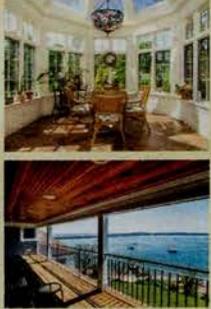


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## MAKING wine is a family affair

From Page 22

refrigeration and Andrew takes it from there. This allows the winery to label their wines as being "produced" and "bottled" by ShelaLara. All of their ingredients are kosher, the Golds explained, but they do not yet have a *hekhsher* (kosher symbol) on their bottles. They are exploring the possibility of "kosherizing" the facility in the future.

During the past two years – which brought a large increase in orders and growing name recognition – they have learned to balance inventory with rising demand. The winery, which plans to expand its distribution across the border into Massachusetts, generously donates wines for fundraising events and hosts groups from local organizations.

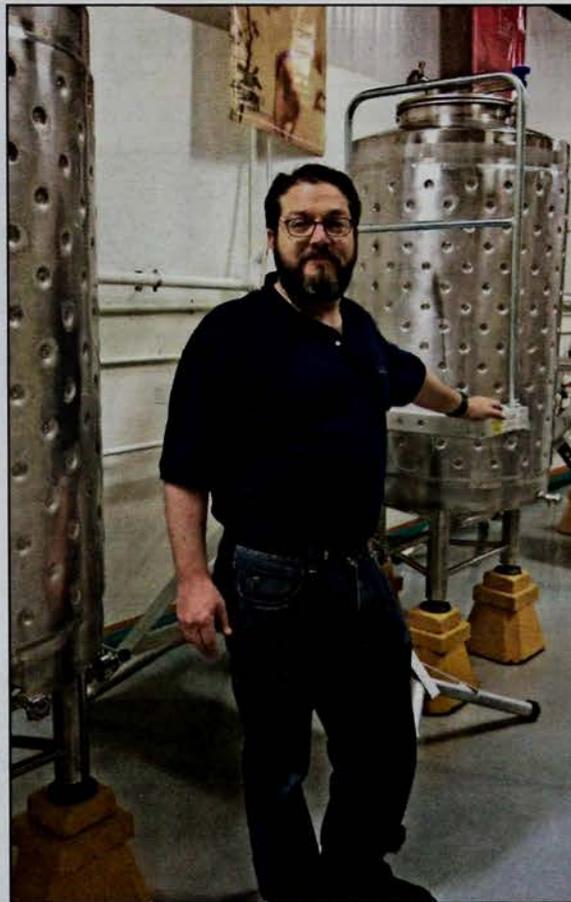
Sheila is always there, welcoming everyone. Her boys are protective of her, and proud.

Jay said, fondly, "She's a rock star. People ask for her; when she's not there, it's not the same."

**SHELALARA:** shelalara.com or 623-8606.

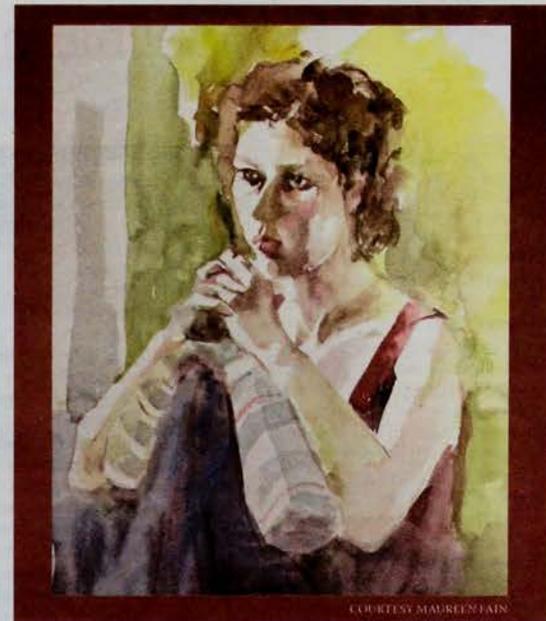
**NAOMI LIPSKY** (lipskyart@gmail.com), a Judaic artist in Johnston, is a freelance writer for The Jewish Voice & Herald.

**THIS IS ONE** of a series of



Winemaker Andy Gold

occasional articles about local businesses, some of which advertise with this paper.



COURTESY MAUREEN FAIN

This watercolor by Fain is called "Reverie."

## Israeli artist will exhibit paintings

*A fine artist, not a Fain artist*

PROVIDENCE – Maureen Fain, an Israeli watercolor artist, will exhibit her paintings at the Rhode Island Watercolor Society in Slater Memorial Park, in Pawtucket, from July 7 through Aug. 1.

After the 1 p.m. opening on July 7, Fain will give a 2 p.m. demonstration with a live model. On July 29 – 30, she will teach a workshop.

Fain has had 21 solo exhibitions, notably in Paris, the United States, Norway, South Africa, as well as in Israel. A sought-after portraitist, Fain has taught watercolor for

more than 20 years at the Israel Museum, which has her work in their collection.

Asked by The Jewish Voice & Herald if she has any connections to the many Fains who live in Rhode Island, she wrote, "We actually Googled one a few days ago – a Ben Fain – no luck ... I think the family could have been Fein or Fine or let's say Feinberg/Feinstein/Feinbach originally ... Talk about Jewish geography."

**VISIT:** maureenfainart.com or maureenfain.com.

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## The joyous 'Junior Debs'

*Celebrating a lifetime of friendships*

**By SONI SMITH MEYER**  
Special to The Voice & Herald

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A group of 75-year-old Jewish women is still getting together, even after all these years.

We grew up in the South Side and Elmwood neighborhoods of Providence and called ourselves "The Junior Debs" way back in junior high school in the early 1950s. Ever since we turned 50 – in 1988 – we get together every year or two, and meet all over the United States.

This year, we celebrated turn-

**"WE  
APPRECIATE  
and love one  
another as  
sisters."**

ing 75 with a cruise to the Caribbean aboard the Carnival "Victory" – no spouses allowed. Nine of the 10 Debs met in Miami for the 5-day cruise. It was a wonderful reunion, again, and we all so look forward to the next reunion, possibly another cruise.

The Junior Debs formed at Roger Williams Junior High School around 1951. Some of us were already good friends from Lexington Avenue Elementary School, some from Sack-



Nine of the 10 "Junior Debs" celebrate their 75th birthdays aboard a cruise ship. In front, from left, are Wilma Polofsky Walter and Reyna Cohen Katt; back row, from left, Dorothy Eisenberg Carlin, Fredda Gordon Chauvette, Harriet Diamond Adelberg, Naomi Wolk Goodell, Sondra Smith Meyer, Elaine Siegel Ades and Marian Gilbert Knapp. Rona Namerow Nachbar was unable to go on the cruise.

ett Street Elementary School and some from Broad Street Elementary School. We all formed a tight group of Jewish friends at Roger Williams and called ourselves, for reasons

unknown or unrecalled, the Junior Debs. We all transferred to Hope High School from which we graduated in January 1956.

As Junior Debs, we volunteered at various organizations,

had teen parties at our homes, formed Kozy Korner (a Jewish teens' group that held dances and parties) at Sons of Abraham Synagogue on Prairie Avenue in South Providence, and gen-

erally had great times together. After we graduated from Hope, we all went off to college, married and started families. Those of us who moved out of state saw one another from time to time when we returned to Rhode Island to visit relatives. Today, only two of the Junior Debs still live in Rhode Island.

We feel like family because we all knew each other's siblings and parents as we were growing up, and we attended Jewish summer camps (Camp JORI and Camp Centerland), Sunday schools and Hebrew schools, Girl Scouts and high school sorority functions together.

When we turned 50, one Junior Deb contacted another, and suggested we all get together to celebrate in Newport. All 13 of us agreed; it was the beginning of regular, joyous and sometimes rambunctious reunions ever since! (Three of the original Debs have died since that first reunion in 1988.)

Since then, we have vacationed at Tanglewood and Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; Sanibel Island, Fla.; Chicago, Ill.; Savannah, Ga.; Napa, Calif.; Tucson, Ariz.; San Antonio, Texas and Rhode Island.

It's like family when we get together, picking up the conversation where we left off, like we've never been away. We appreciate and love one another as sisters.

SONI SMITH MEYER (ronsoni3841@gmail.com) now lives in Sacramento.

### The alchemist's solution

Here's the answer to the puzzle on page 15: The vessel would be half-full at 1:59 p.m. Since the volume of manna doubles every minute from the 119th minute to the 120th minute, the manna would go from half filling the container to completely filling it. One minute later, it would have a volume equal to two containers.



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# Summer shopping fun in Providence

## Outdoor urban market supports local vendors

PROVIDENCE – The Providence Flea, the city's first and only upscale urban flea market, is "open for business" every Sunday through Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., rain or shine. The Providence Flea vendors will be on the Providence River Greenway at the end of South Water Street (across from The Wild Colonial Tavern, near the Point Street Bridge).

Inspired by the popular and funky urban flea

objects, housewares, antiques, collectibles, repurposed furniture, curiosities, kitsch, etc.



markets of Brooklyn, N.Y., this weekly summer event in Providence is a curated market

Shoppers who work up an appetite can indulge in treats from food trucks such as Radish Gourmet, Plouf Plouf Gastronomie, Rocket Fine Street Food, Fusion Gourmet Asian cuisine, Fancheezical, PVD Pudding Pops, Like No Udder and Joedega Coffee.

**VENDOR APPLICATIONS/MORE INFO:** providenceflea.com.



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# Stretch your mind and body

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. – The Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center will host a weeklong retreat, "Torah Yoga: Jewish Text Study and Iyengar Yoga," from July 22 – 28.

Each morning, students will participate in a full Iyengar yoga practice that is integrated with a Jewish teaching; yoga sessions are suitable for all levels of experience.

Each afternoon, participants will learn the Torah text from that morning's practice through classical *shiurim* (teacher-led Torah), group discussions, and

traditional Jewish *hevruta* (study with a partner).

Participants will examine original Hebrew texts together with their English translations. At the end of each day, the afternoon Torah study sessions will be integrated back into a series of restorative yoga postures and breath work.

No previous Torah study, yoga practice or knowledge of Hebrew is needed.

**REGISTER:** 860-824-5991 or <http://isabellafreedman.org/torahyoga>.

# Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein and a romantic comedy are on tap

WARWICK – The zanily entertaining musical, "Legally Blonde, The Musical," is Ocean State Theatre Company's (OSTC) first summer production, according to press information. The show runs from July 10 through July 28.

Later in the season, OSTC will offer a one-night only event, "Celebrating the Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein," on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Cast members from OSTC's inaugural season will reunite to sing songs from "Carousel," "Flower Drum Song," "The

Sound of Music," "South Pacific" and "The King and I."

On Thursday, Aug. 8, at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Aug. 10, at 7:30 p.m., OSTC will be the venue for the performance of "L'elisir d'amore" (The Elixir of Love) by Opera Providence.

OSTC's shows for the 2013-14 season are:

- "Les Misérables," (Oct. 2 – 27).

- "Lombardi," by Academy Award-winner Eric Simonson, is about the legendary football coach, (Nov. 6 - 24).

- Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" was in-

spired by his experiences as a young staff writer on Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows"; contains adult language, (Jan. 29 – Feb. 16).

- "The All Night Strut" is a musical celebration of the 1930s and 1940s, (Feb. 26 – March 16).

- "The Diary of Anne Frank," (March 26 – April 13).

- "42nd Street," a family-friendly musical, (April 23 – May 11).

**OCEANSTATETHEATER.ORG** or 921-6800, at 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick.

# Age brings changes to summer fun

By SAUL RICKLIN

Special to The Voice & Herald

BRISTOL – When I was much younger, my Rhode Island summer fun was a day at Goosewing Beach in Little Compton or Second Beach in Newport, my backyard pool, tennis, a picnic, a clambake, a hike in the woods, a sail on the Bay.

Now, as I near 94, those things are too hard for me, so summer fun is looking forward to a visit from family and friends, watching them enjoy my pool and spending the day with me.

SAUL RICKLIN (shub@fullchannel.net) lives in Bristol.



SAUL RICKLIN

Rowing to Walker Island from Ricklin's waterfront home in Bristol ... what could be better on a summer's day?

## THOUGHTS ON TRAVEL

"I have found out that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mark Twain

"Like all great travellers, I have seen more than I remember, and remember more than I have seen."

Benjamin Disraeli

"Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back, a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country."

Anais Nin

"But why, oh why, do the wrong people travel, when the right people stay at home?"

Noel Coward

"I love to travel, but I hate to arrive."

Albert Einstein

"If you reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, you might better stay at home."

James A. Michener

(Quotes came from [itravelnet.com](http://itravelnet.com))



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BINYAMIN TOURISM

The Kida lookout point in Binyamin allows visitors to see the Dead Sea, Jordan River and even Mount Hermon.

## Who knew ...West Bank is a tourist attraction?

*Sites offer a cocktail of religion, politics and wineries*

By BEN SALES

ALLON, West Bank (JTA) – Wearing a brown tunic and headscarf, a man who introduces himself as Eliezer invites visitors to sit on low benches covered by carpet in a make-shift Bedouin tent.

Brandishing a map of Canaan, he traces the route his master Abraham walked on his way here from Babylonia. He describes a land dispute between Abraham and his nephew, Lot, over shepherding rights. Then he leads visitors to a nearby tent for meat, wine and freshly cooked pita.

"When you say that Abraham stood here, it makes an impression on everyone," said Yair Ben-David, the tour guide playing Eliezer, Abraham's manservant in Genesis. "The view here hasn't changed. Everyone talks about it, but this is where it actually happened."

Ben-David works at Genesis Land, a somewhat hokey tourist attraction deep in the West Bank that aims to provide a taste of what life was like in biblical times. Besides hearing stories of the Jewish patriarchs and riding camels, visitors learn how to make pita, herd sheep and draw water from a well.

"We believe that Israel's unique tourism is biblical," said Ben-David, who lives in a nearby settlement. "Tel Aviv is about 100 years old. We have 3,800 years of history here."

In recent years, settlements in the West Bank have increased their efforts to attract tourists to a territory more likely to conjure images of intractable conflict than a peaceful vacation destination.

Settlers, who call the region by its biblical names, Judea and Samaria, are eager to portray it as the cradle of Jewish civilization.

Left-wing groups, meanwhile, bring visitors to West

Bank cities such as Hebron and Bethlehem to understand the ongoing costs of Israel's control of the territory.

"It's hard to separate between political and not, if you say it's the heart of the land," said Miri Maoz-Ovadia, spokesperson for the Binyamin Regional Council, where Genesis Land is located. "We bring people to show them that we're pro-settlement in Judea and Samaria. We'll say it's important to stay here for its historical implications, and security and water."

Settlement leaders do not have statistics on overall West Bank tourism, but Binyamin, the region that occupies the central swath of the West Bank, attracted more than 150,000 tourists in 2012 by

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Friday, Oct. 11, the National Archives will unveil a new exhibition, "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage."

The exhibit details the dramatic recovery of historic materials relating to the Jewish community in Iraq from a flooded basement in Saddam Hussein's intelligence headquarters, according to a press release from the National Archives.

Located in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, "Discovery and Recovery" is free and open to the public and runs through Jan. 5, 2014. The exhibit marks the first time these items have been on public display.

In both English and Arabic, the 2,000 square foot exhibit features 24 recovered items and a "behind the scenes" video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZmP0uwzEII>) of the fascinating yet painstaking preservation process. This exhibit marks the first time these items have been on public display.

The collection includes more than 2,700 Jewish books and tens of thousands of documents in Hebrew, Arabic, Judeo-Arabic and English, dating from 1540 to the 1970s. A special website to launch this fall will make these historic materials freely available to all online as they are digitized and catalogued. This work was made possible through the assistance

of the Department of State, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Center for Jewish History.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A Venetian Bible recovered from Iraq

The Jews of Iraq have a rich past, extending back to Babylonia. These materials provide a tangible link to this community that flourished there, but in the second half of the twentieth century dispersed throughout the world. Today, fewer than five Jews remain.

Display highlights

Among the key items on display are a Hebrew Bible with Commentaries from 1568 – one of the oldest books in the trove; a Babylonian Talmud from 1793; a Torah scroll fragment from Genesis – one of the 48

Torah scroll fragments found; a Zohar from 1815 – a text for the mystical and spiritual Jewish movement known as "Kabbalah"; an official 1918 letter to the Chief Rabbi regarding the allotment of sheep for Rosh Hashanah; materials from Jewish schools in Baghdad, including exam grades and a letter to the College Entrance Examination Board in Princeton regarding SAT scores and a Haggadah from 1902

Exhibit has several section

"Discovery and Recovery" includes the discovery story, which describes how these materials were found, rescued and preserved. A short film captures these heroic efforts. The text and heritage section explores Iraqi Jewish history and tradition through recovered texts, including a Torah scroll fragment, a Hebrew Bible with Commentaries from 1568 and a Babylonian Talmud from 1793.

Iraqi Jewish Life: Constancy and Change depicts the pattern of Jewish life in Iraq through recovered texts.

The National Archives, at the National Mall on Constitution Avenue at 9th St. NW, is open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

MORE INFO: 202-357-5300

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For more information contact Larry Katz at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island at 401.421.4111 ext. 179 or lkatz@shalomri.org.



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An archaeological ruin at Shiloh, a town in the West Bank where the Tabernacle stood before the First Temple was built. Shiloh now attracts Jewish and Christian tourists eager to learn about life in the biblical period.

BEN SALES | JTA

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**VALUES** come into play for visitors  
with diverse political perspectives

From Page 29

branding itself "The Land of the Bible." Guides at key sites such as Shiloh, where the Tabernacle stood before the First Temple was built in Jerusalem, say that about half of foreign tourists are Christians eager to visit religious sites.

In Samaria, north of Binyamin, a Christian group called HaYovel (Hebrew for "the Jubilee") brings groups of evangelical volunteers to work at settler vineyards to bolster the settlement enterprise.

"We have to support Israel from a biblical mandate," said Tommy Waller, the group's founder, in an interview last year. "What is Israel? These mountains are part of the covenant."

In addition to its biblical past, Binyamin is home to a wealth of hiking trails; a bike trail will open this summer. The Psagot winery, one of several in the region, doubles as a visitors' center. Archaeological ruins from the biblical period through the Crusades freckle the area.

For groups on the right, there's a split over whether, and how, to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with visitors. For some, the conflict is a topic that ought to be avoided; the region should be promoted on the same terms as any other – for its vistas, food, and cultural and recreational offerings.

"We don't hire guides based on their political knowledge," said Einat Altman, assistant to the CEO of Mishkefet, a private tour company. "Our goal is to teach the Israeli public about the themes and sites of Judea and Samaria."

But for others, tourism is an opportunity to circumvent the media and directly convey the politics underlying the settlement enterprise – especially when politicians or journalists

visit the area. Our mission is to "give our guests an objective picture of the reality here, to evaluate the situation for themselves – and to explain our position," said David Haivri, a spokesperson for the Samaria Regional Council.

**"WE DON'T HIRE guides based on their political knowledge."**

"At every stop, people say, 'Wow, I wasn't aware of that. I had a different image of the settlements and the West Bank,'" Haivri said. "People are sitting in Manhattan and Washington and talking about moving settlers around, and they haven't seen it for themselves."

Not all West Bank visitors are drawn by the area's recreational opportunities.

Haivri focuses on presenting a positive picture of the Samaria settlements to delegations of diplomats and opinion-makers, showing them organic farms, industrial zones and a medical center. The Samaria Regional Council recently opened its own "Foreign Ministry," which has hosted 60 members of parliament from across Europe since 2010.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Educa-

tion Ministry has brought thousands of children to the flash-point city of Hebron for heritage tours in the past two years. Cabinet ministers regularly bring their staffs to the area. And several liberal groups bring visitors for expressly political reasons, acquainting them with the daily lives of Palestinians and the suffering they endure because of Israel's continuing military presence.

"There's no place like Hebron that asks the question we're trying to ask, which is what should our values in society be?" said Yehuda Shaul, co-founder of Breaking the Silence, an Israeli veterans' group that advocates for an end to the occupation. "It's so people can see the other side, that it's not the same. You have to understand that this isn't good for Israel and it's not good for the Palestinians."

Breaking the Silence offers Israelis tours of Hebron and the surrounding area. The Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information, a think tank focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, offers tours of Bethlehem. An American group, Encounter, leads two-day missions for current and future American Jewish leaders to meet Palestinians and learn about their lives.

While he opposes the left-wing organizations' mission, Haivri agrees that the best way to tour the West Bank is not to sidestep its problems but to confront them. "Our strategy is not to avoid the reality around us but to work with the reality," he said. "We had a terror attack last week. We're not hiding that from our guests."

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## In pursuit of the 'holy tongue'

*A challenging camp experience*

By Varda Lev

Special to The Voice & Herald

PROVIDENCE – In September of my fifth year, my parents returned to America after living in Jerusalem for seven years. My mother, a Hebrew teacher by profession and a dedicated Hebraist, was anxious that we remember the feel of Hebrew on our tongues.

In order to keep the “holy tongue” alive in our hearts and minds, she decided that we must speak only Hebrew at home in New York, as we had done in Jerusalem.

**“IT WAS THE first of 10 summers I spent at Camp Massad.”**

My mother would chirp Hebrew words at me, which soon became foreign as I refused to answer her in anything but English. When my expression morphed from determined defiance to blatant confusion, we started speaking English at home.

When I began public school, my mother again tried to teach

me Hebrew, but my tongue had forgotten the language and was unaccustomed to the foreign movements.

When I began third grade, my mother told me that a camp, which could only accept Hebrew-speaking children, was planned for the next summer. She prepped me for the interview with Shlomo, the camp director, by barking out questions; I was expected to learn the answers – in Hebrew – during mealtimes.

As we rode the subway downtown to the interview, I repeated phrases I had committed to memory and she listened for mistakes. We met Shlomo; the interview proceeded as though he had my mother's script in his hands. The rehearsed conversation tumbled from my lips and I was accepted to Camp Massad, the country's first summer camp for Hebrew speakers.

The next summer, after my parents hugged me goodbye, I was given a seat on the bus next to a scowling boy with crossed eyes. He told me that Camp Massad threw out anyone who didn't speak Hebrew.

I envisioned being tossed out with the camp's waste bins; suddenly, summer camp became all too serious.



Geza age group campers – ages 7 – 10 – and their counselors gather at Camp Massad upon the camp's fifth anniversary, probably in 1951. Varda Lev, then a counselor at the camp, is in the back row, center. Varda told The Jewish Voice & Herald that many of these campers became well-known and well-respected scholars of Judaic studies.

I arrived to chaos, with counselors giving instructions solely in Hebrew. I began mimicking one girl, Yocheved, simply because she seemed to know what to do.

I unpacked, made my bed, went to meals and tried to participate in activities – all without speaking one word – and the first week passed in a haze.

My cover was nearly blown when Rivka, a counselor, made me name, in Hebrew, certain

objects at the lunch table. They were, fortunately, part of my limited vocabulary and I successfully stumbled through Rivka's tests, again and again.

During the second week of camp, we put on a small play with lines and stage directions entirely in Hebrew. Every camper got a part; mine consisted of one phrase: “*Hem ba'im, hem ba'im,*” meaning, “They are coming, they are coming.”

My cue to speak was painful-

ly obvious; the boy who spoke before me jabbed his elbow into my ribs when it was my time to talk.

Once, before camp came to an end, the counselors gathered us together into one cabin. After a long string of words tumbled from a counselor's mouth, everyone but me ran from the cabin and scattered in different directions as they searched for something ... what, I didn't know. I kept my eyes trained on Yocheved and blindly followed her.

She grew annoyed when I copied her yet again and snapped at me in English – telling me to stop following her.

With no idea what to do, I returned to the cabin and sulked on a cot. I felt a bulge under the blankets and found a small red ball under the covers.

When campers began straggling into the cabin, they rejoiced when they saw the ball in my lap. By finding the scavenger hunt object – the red ball – I had earned ice cream for my team.

My isolation ended and eventually I began to understand Hebrew again.

That was the first of 10 summers I spent at Camp Massad, where I sang and played and eventually loved in Hebrew.

The language and I never parted again.

VARDA LEV lives in Providence.

## JEWISH Cape Town includes museums and the country's oldest synagogue

From Page 23

top can be reached in five minutes by a cable car with a rotating circular cabin that allows for panoramic views of the city and beyond.

For a spot of retail therapy, visit the V & A Waterfront in the heart of Cape Town's harbor. Here you will find Nobel Square, boasting South Africa's four Nobel Peace Prize laureates cast in bronze, as well as the passenger terminal for Robben Island, a half-hour ferry ride away.

Today a World Heritage Site, during apartheid the island was a place of incarceration for political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela. Tours include visits to the tiny cell where he was kept for 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment.

A good place to start exploring Jewish Cape Town is the Hatfield Campus, a hive of activity that includes the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, the South African Jewish Museum and the historic Great Synagogue, home to the oldest congregation in the country. Affectionately known as the Gardens Shul due

to its position in the Company's Gardens, which was established by the early Dutch settlers to grow fresh produce for restocking ships, it is regarded as the “mother synagogue” of South Africa.

Originally built in 1863, the synagogue's present edifice was erected in 1905 to accommodate the Jews who emigrated from Eastern Europe. A masterpiece of Edwardian architecture, it is widely regarded as one of the most magnificent synagogues in the world.

The congregation's first services were held on the eve of Yom Kippur, 1841, at Helmsley Place, the home of Benjamin Norden, which today is part of the luxury Mount Nelson Hotel, a few minutes walk from the Hatfield Campus and an excellent base from which to explore the city.

To enter the Mount Nelson is to encounter a world of timeless elegance. Though situated amid the cosmopolitan city's hubbub, you would never know it once within the bounds of this nine-acre oasis with its lush gardens.

Opened in 1899 to cater exclu-

sively to the first-class passengers of the Union Castle Lines who made the sea voyage from England to the Cape, the five-star landmark still satisfies the most discerning traveler. Its Li-

**“DURING APARTHEID, THE island was a place of incarceration for political prisoners, including ... Nelson Mandela.”**

brisa Spa is the perfect antidote to a hard day's touring and features a gym, steam bath, sauna, plunge pool and treatments. The hotel's Planet Restaurant prides itself on locally inspired cuisine focusing on fresh seasonal produce.

Wending around the penin-

sula to the “other side of the mountain” – Cape Town-speak for the city's natural dividing line – one should stop in at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, acclaimed as one of the great botanic gardens of the world, now marking its centenary year. It lies at the heart of the Cape Floristic Region, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004.

An internationally known attraction is its Summer Sunset Concerts, started 21 years ago to attract more diverse audiences to the gardens. Running from the end of November until the beginning of April on Sunday evenings, they accommodate an average of 4,000 weekly spectators and have become a highlight on Cape Town's events calendar.

When you feel like a break from the city's hustle and bustle, take a 45-minute drive to the Cape Winelands, where you will find the 300-year-old Zandwijk Wine Farm. The region offers 18 official wine routes, of which Route 62 is said to be the world's longest.

Under Zandwijk's Kleine

Draken label, the estate vineyard and winery is the only producer in the country dedicated exclusively to kosher wines. Indulge in a pre-ordered kosher picnic while admiring the views. You can also enjoy a cellar tour, followed by a kosher cheese and wine tasting for which booking is essential.

The Cape Winelands region, particularly the town of Franschhoek, has been described as the culinary epicenter of the country, with the cuisine evidencing its Dutch, French Huguenot and Cape Malay influences. For an authentic African experience, take a tour of a township – areas created under apartheid to accommodate non-whites and still home to a large percentage of the city's population.

Whatever your passion – be it history, culture, nature, nightlife, shopping, or lounging on the beach – Cape Town will oblige. And with the current exchange rates hovering at around 9 rand to the dollar, the city more than lives up to its reputation. The fairest Cape, indeed.

# Coming out, a young gay man finds self-acceptance

*Looking back with pain and with humor*

By ISAAC LOBEL

NEW YORK (JTA) – For my bar mitzvah, my parents got me a laptop. For what I searched for on it, they got me a shrink.

CyberSitter informed my computer-savvy parents that their son was searching gay porn.

On the ride to my first therapy session, I stuck my head out the car window wanting to be anywhere else. We drove along northern New Jersey's winding streets to a shoddy home office.

The rabbi-turned-doctor had me sit in his living room as he lectured on what was and was not natural. The dry scent of gefilte fish filled the *ungapatchka* (overly ornate) house, his decor as convoluted as his arguments. Where there should have been DSMs – Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – a row of Babylonian Talmuds sat collecting dust.

For a month, I saw the shrink weekly. I wondered what qualified this lanky rabbinical school graduate to be offering such sessions, until it hit me: He went through it, too.

One night, pitching his theory of gay as a phase for the umpteenth time, my shrink let slip that my condition was “not uncommon to boys in our community.” I sat on my excitement, but inside I was a loose spark plug. There were others? I hoped I wasn't as alone as I'd thought.

In public, not a single “*fei-geleh*” swished across the wooded streets of my Modern Orthodox Jewish corner of New Jersey. Thanks to shul, everybody knew everybody and her

grandmother. A social circuit of Shabbat lunches kept us all abreast of each other's goings-on. There was no way of locating others like me and I, like my parents, kept my secret. Without role models, and suffering from JIG – Jewish Intermittent Guilt – my adolescence darkened beneath storm clouds of loneliness.

During high school, my parents stopped asking how my days were. They feared me. My Modern Orthodox yeshiva high school was a blend of traditionalism and selective modernity with an ambiguity that left me stuck in the closet door, neither of one world nor the next.

The 10-hour dual curriculum of Judaic and secular studies afforded me little time to socialize. Despite toilsome efforts to succeed, nothing I did overshadowed the lot life had given me. My gay “phase” grew longer. Like a forgotten houseplant, it was ugly. It was something I could not control.

When I was 15, my parents switched me to a second therapist, a tepid old man always in a three-piece suit who asked me to explain my sexuality as I saw it. As a minor, anything I said to him could be relayed to my parents. I learned to practice silence.

The girls in high school called me mysterious. I found it odd how fond they were of my reserve.

“What are you thinking about?” a few would ask in a cloud of giggles at breakfast or during a free period.

“Everything and nothing,” I would reply, pushing my nose



FACEBOOK

Isaac Lobel

further into my notes.

By December of my junior year, I wasn't the only one who noticed my budding handsomeness, reminiscent of my father's glory days. Soon I was invited to my first New Year's Eve party, an all-Jewish shindig. It was there that I met my first other gay teen. He had goofy ears and a crooked smile. He attended another local Jewish high school and told me that I gave off “vibes.” We talked in generalities, and he hugged me goodbye when no one was looking. A few weeks later we were at the movies. As “There Will Be Blood” flashed onscreen, I had my first kiss.

Soon, I had my pick of colleges and left that boy, my parents and my closet to start life anew at a Midwestern university. There, in the dappled light of academia,

I quit my hermit-like ways. I joined a gay pride group, went to lectures on queer politics and made a group of like-minded friends.

There were the others in my community. Before I knew it, I was dating a gentle, going to drag bars on the weekends and still calling my parents to fill them in on everything I'd studied that week. I never once mentioned my social life; I had

“I'M GAY ...  
Now say it slowly  
with me.”

caused them enough pain already.

“And this Judith Butler, she's a nice Jewish girl?” my mother asked during a phone call. Judith Butler was an author and queer theorist whose work I was studying.

“Not really,” I said.

I came home that winter break in bleak December. Snow was falling. I was driving with my older brother when he asked me about my plans for New Year's. “You wouldn't like it,” I told him.

“Try me,” he said.

“I'm going to a gay club,” I said, my voice cracking like a bar mitzvah boy's, “because I'm gay.”

“That makes sense,” he responded, matter of factly. “I'm going to a straight club because

I'm straight. In case you were curious, too.”

Over the next few weeks I came out to all my friends, riding the euphoria of having someone in the family on my side. But when I faced my mother and father, my excitement came crashing down. How could I tell them that my sexuality was not a phase but a person desperately seeking acknowledgement?

It took me seven years from my bar mitzvah to come out to my parents, this time not accidentally, vocalizing my identity to finally become a man.

“I'm gay,” I said in the summer of 2010, “and plan to be proud and public for a lifetime. If you don't like it, should I ever have a wedding, the two of you Negative Nancys won't be coming.”

“Now say it slowly with me,” I said, holding my mother's hand in her breezy home office. It took her two tries.

“My son is gay,” we said in shaky unison.

It felt like a step in the right direction, but for my Jewish mother it was a leap of faith.

Coming out was not a private journey. After years of therapy, I had finally found my voice; using it, I began to show my parents that they could love me without guilt. The path to self-acceptance begins and ends with the accepting of others.

ISAAC LOBEL, a student at New York's New School, is working on a collection of humorous essays.



SUSAN WOYTHALER

## Touro's leaders gather in June

Congregation Jeshuat Israel at Touro Synagogue officers and trustees, elected to the 2013-15 term, include, from left, Renee Talewsky, financial secretary; Donna Pimental, assistant vice president (holding her grandson Grayson Pimental); Bea Ross and Saul Woythaler, co-presidents; Cliff Guller, recording secretary; and standing,

from left, trustees Elie Cohen, Eileen Kominsky, Debbie Herstoff, Rosalie Goldman; Rabbi Marc Mandel; Michael Pimental, assistant treasurer (holding Ariella Pimental); Rita Slom, treasurer; trustees Sally Abbey, Bernice Schweber, Eleanor Bensen-Thal and Herbert Meister, assistant vice president. Not pictured are Karen Flippo and Paul

Tobak, vice presidents; Naftali Sab and Gail Siletnchik, assistant vice presidents and trustees David Bazarsky, Meryle Cawley, Wesley Fastiff, Inez Fenster, Mark Ladin, James Leach, Laura Pedrick, Gerald Rubin and Andrew Segal. The elections were held on June 9.

# Senators Feinstein and Wyden are on opposite ends of intelligence debate

*Jewish senators, typically frequent allies, are not aligned on data collection issue*

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Dianne Feinstein and Ron Wyden have much in common. Both longtime U.S. senators are Democrats, Jewish and fiercely independent West Coasters.

As members of the Senate Intelligence Committee since before Sept. 11, 2001, they're privy to classified materials describing the country's radical changes in intelligence gathering.

Now the two are on opposite sides of the debate about the massive information-gathering machine that the intelligence community has been developing since 9/11.

Government agencies have been collecting troves of data on the phone calls of Americans – so-called "metadata," including the length, origin and number of virtually every call in America, but not its content.

Disclosures about such efforts have reignited debate over where to draw the line between national security and individual privacy.

"It's called protecting America," Feinstein, chairwoman of the Intelligence Committee, said in a June 6 news conference, arguing that such data collection is routine.

But Wyden says the issue is protecting the rule of law, arguing that Americans don't know enough to assess whether the government is protecting or violating their rights.

"There is a significant gap between what the American people and most members of Congress believe is legal under laws like the Patriot Act and



Ron Wyden

how government agencies are interpreting the law," says a statement on Wyden's website.

The split between Feinstein and Wyden reflects the degree to which the intelligence-gathering debate is scrambling the predictable partisan positions taken on most big issues in today's Washington – in this case, prompting liberals and conservatives to line up on all sides of the issue.

Friends of both senators – Feinstein of California and Wyden of Oregon – say their strikingly opposed positions result not only from their independent spirit, but also from strong beliefs forged by pre-congressional experiences.

In 1978, Feinstein was president of the San Francisco board of supervisors when a gunman entered City Hall and shot to death Harvey Milk, a fellow supervisor and gay activist, and Mayor George Moscone. Feinstein then succeeded Moscone as mayor.

Colleagues say the murders

were formative for Feinstein, who was outraged that the killer, Dan White, claimed he was depressed and was convicted only of manslaughter. The incident continued to inform her positions after her election to the Senate in 1992, most prominently in her role advocating gun control since the Newtown, Conn., shooting last year.



Dianne Feinstein

Wyden, the child of Holocaust survivors, entered public service as a young professor of

gerontology concerned about insurance scams targeting seniors.

Wyden founded the Oregon chapter of the Gray Panthers, a social justice group focused on the rights of older Americans, in the 1970s. In 1980, he was elected to the House, and to the Senate in 1996.

"He's always been very much an independent thinker," said Bob Horenstein, director of the Portland, Ore. Jewish Community Relations Council.

Wyden and Feinstein both have reputations for walking away from their parties – and their natural constituencies – on principle.

An outspoken death penalty advocate, Feinstein has close ties to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee – neither position is particularly popular in her northern California base. But she has also endorsed the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, which calls for comprehensive peace in exchange for a return to 1967 borders, and cited Israel's use of cluster bombs in Lebanon to explain her repeated

calls to ban the export of those arms.

In 2011, Wyden unnerved his Democratic colleagues when he joined with Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), chairman of the House Budget Committee, in advocating for private options for seniors eligible for Medicare. Notably, the Gray Panthers, the organization that launched his public career, adamantly opposed the Wyden-Ryan proposal.

Wyden suggested in a lengthy response on the Huffington Post that he was not about to stop working with Republicans or anyone else if it would advance the rights of Americans.

"Because we worked together, Paul Ryan now knows more about the Medicare Guarantee and protecting seniors from unscrupulous insurance practices than he did before," Wyden said. "If that is reflected in his budget this year, as someone who has been fighting for seniors since he was 27, I think that's a step in the right direction."



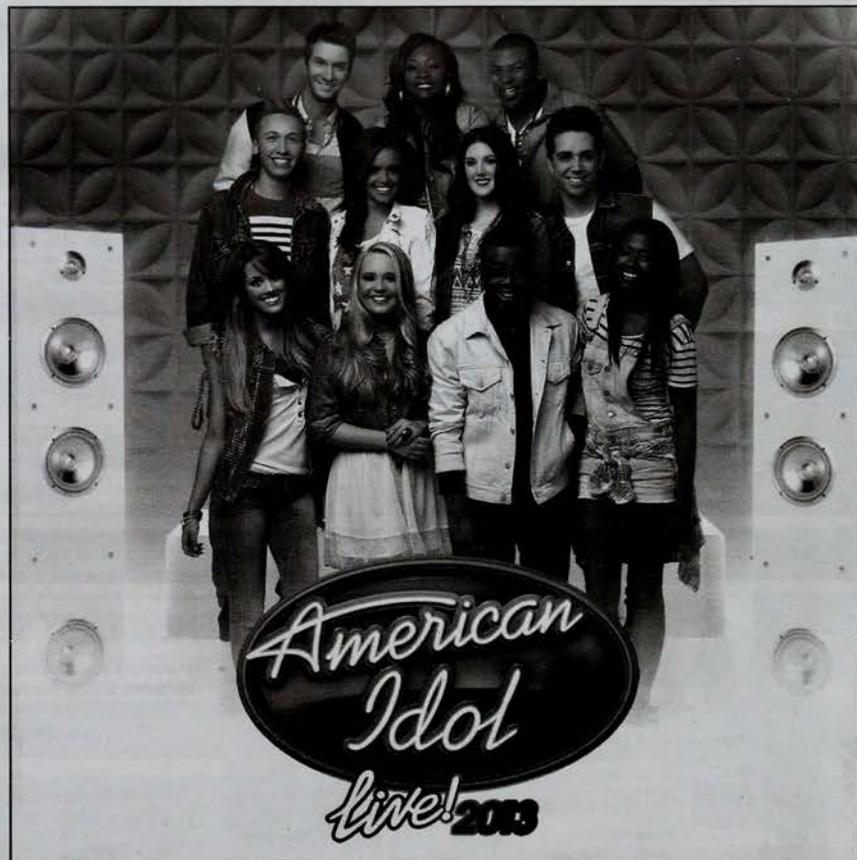
**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford wishes to announce the opening of the position of its Executive Director. Ellen Hull, the current Interim Director will be stepping down from that position in September 2013. Ellen took over as Interim after the resignation of Olga Yorish to take a position in Orlando, FL.

The Board is currently looking to re-envision this leadership position for the Federation and has taken this opportunity to assess its needs. It has decided to recruit a part time Executive Director. The ideal candidate will have an understanding and familiarity of the Greater New Bedford region and its Jewish community. The candidate would have the ability to collaborate with community partners, to manage the diversity of ideas within the Jewish community, ability to work with donors and to develop charitable giving to support the activities of the Jewish Federation, competency in the creation of a variety of events and educational opportunities that encourage community understanding and participation, serve as the spokesperson for the Federation, an understanding of budgeting and finance.

For more information or to apply for this position please contact Ellen Hull at ehull@jewishnewbedford.org. Applications should be received not later than August 15, 2013.



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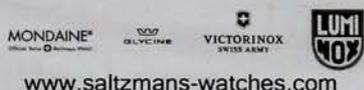


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PHOTOS | JOANN MARZILLI TAMARISK ASSISTED LIVING

Ira Fleisher, senior vice commander, Jewish War Veterans, Department of Rhode Island, escorts Mel Kahn, who carries the United States flag.

## American flag is donated to Tamarisk



Paul Barrette of the Jewish Seniors Agency speaks about the flag donation.

### BY IRA FLEISHER

Special to The Voice & Herald

WARWICK - Flag Day commemorates the birthday of the American flag. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress in the midst of the American Revolution, Flag Day is not an official holiday and, to many people, it has little meaning.

Not so for Mel Kahn. When Kahn

moved to Tamarisk, one of the first things he discovered when he moved there was that Tamarisk did not display the American flag. Why? Because it didn't own one.

Kahn, a World War II Navy veteran and a past state commander of the Jewish War Veterans, Department of Rhode Island, took it upon himself to do something about that. On Friday, June 14, Flag Day, he donated a flag to Tamarisk.

Approximately 60 people attended the dedication ceremony, hosted by the Jewish War Veterans, Dept. of RI, during which Kahn presented the flag to Paul Barrette, executive director of Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, who accepted the flag on Tamarisk's behalf. Noting how many veterans were in attendance at the ceremony, Barrette thanked them for their service to the country.

The flag is on permanent display now in Tamarisk's activities room.

IRA FLEISHER (Ira.Fleisher@Dignitymemorial.com) is senior vice commander, Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island, Department of Rhode Island.

## Kosher Senior Café seeks summer volunteers

PROVIDENCE - Summer volunteers are needed during June, July and August to help with lunch, lead a craft project or teach a senior how to use a computer.

Lunch help is needed on Wednesdays or Fridays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Those who wish to teach a new skill to seniors are needed between 1 and 2 p.m.

High school and college students, retirees or others who have time and skills to share with seniors are encouraged to volunteer.

CONTACT NEAL DROBNIS (421-4111, ext. 107 or ndrobnis@shalomri.org) to volunteer or for more information.

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## Witness to a stack of Bibles

It is widely said, and almost universally believed, that every American home possesses a Bible. Certainly, in many homes, the Bible stands



### SCIENCE & SOCIETY

STANLEY ARONSON, M.D.

quietly apart from other texts, seen more as a moral commitment than as a text to be studied; yet it is brought forth whenever the family witnesses a marriage, a birth or a death, and the names of those family members are then duly inscribed on its preface pages.

Every word in the Bible is believed by many to be divinely inspired and inerrant. Yet, with so many different revisions and translations, this prompts the skeptic to ask: "Which of the Bible's many versions?"

The canonical version of the Hebrew Bible was reputed to have been initiated by an assembly of scholars about 450 B.C.E. The process continued

until the authoritative text, sometimes called the Masoretic (meaning "traditional") text, was fashioned in about 300 C.E.

A translation of the Hebrew Bible into vernacular Greek, authorized by Ptolemy II around 330 B.C.E., employed 70 theological scholars – mainly Alexandrian Jews – who were versed in Hebrew, Aramaic and Koine Greek. Most scholars believe that 72 (rather than 70) scholars began the task, but the enduring name for this translation of Aramaic/Hebrew to Greek is the Septuagint (in Latin, *versio septuaginta interpretum*, meaning "the text of the 70 interpreters").

Later adopted by Christians, who renamed it the Old Testament, the Greek Septuagint with its Latin title became the basis for virtually all subsequent Christian translations of the Bible – whether portraying the travails of Moses, the felicities of Solomon or the adversities of Job.

Translation of the original Hebrew Scriptures directly into Latin was largely the work of Jerome (347 – 420 C.E.), the ascetic Christian scholar from Dalmatia. His work is generally

known as the Vulgate Bible. It required much subsequent revision, in particular the Chalonier revision, before it could be certified as free of doctrinal error. (The revisionist elements of "doctrinal error" changed frequently over time.)

**"EVERY WORD IN the Bible is believed by many to be divinely inspired and inerrant."**

English translations of the Bible probably began with the efforts of John Wycliffe (1328-1384) in 1380 during the reign of Richard II, the last Plantagenet king.

Another English theologian who felt that the Scriptures should be readily available in vernacular English was William Tyndale (1494-1536). Publishing English Bibles, however, was a hazardous occupation

prior to 1611.

Both Wycliffe and Tyndale were tried and convicted of heresy; Tyndale was burned at the stake, and the remains of Wycliffe – who inconveniently died of natural causes – were disinterred and duly burned.

The reign of James I, the first Stuart king of England, witnessed a new interest in making the Bible accessible to an increasingly literate Reformation public. Laurence Chaderton (1536-1639) headed a committee of English clerics, which ultimately numbered 46. After seven years' labor, the ministers brought forth in 1611 what would later be known as the Authorized (King James) Version.

The Protestant Reformation in 16th-century England prompted many Roman Catholics (called Recusants because they refused to attend Anglican services) to flee to Europe.

Many transplanted scholars settled in the French town of Douai, forming a small center of higher learning called the English College of Douai. In 1582, they published the New Testament as the first volume of the Douai Bible, which they called "The Holie Bible Faithfully Translated into English," as a central tenet of the Counter-Reformation; in 1609-10, they brought out The Douai-Rheims Bible, in two volumes directly

translated from the Latin Vulgate version.

The currently used Jewish Publication Society translation of the Hebrew Bible (the New JPS *Tanakh*) bypasses the many Greek, Koine and Latin translations, being based directly on the Masoretic texts. The *Tanakh* comprises three traditional divisions: the Teaching (Heb. Torah) – also known as the Pentateuch or Five Books of Moses; the Prophets (Heb. *Nevi'im*) and the Writings (Heb. *Ketuvim*). The term *Tanakh* is an acronym of the first letters of those three divisions (Torah, *Nevi'im*, *Ketuvim*).

The date of canonization of the 24 books of the *Tanakh* is uncertain, but the canon may have been determined as early as the date of destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans. (70 C.E.)

Its latest English translation, the culmination of three decades of collaboration by a committee of rabbis and scriptural scholars that included a Rhode Island-based rabbi, Rabbi Saul Leeman, was underwritten by the JPS and published in 1985.

STANLEY M. ARONSON, M.D. (smamd@cox.net) is a retired dean of the Brown University medical school.



### These feet belong to Selma Stanzler

PROVIDENCE – The June 7 issue invited readers to identify who was wearing two different shoes, as pictured above. Elaine Hoffman was the first of several individuals who correctly identified the individual as Selma Stanzler.

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SUSAN ADLER

Edward Adler, Colleen Messier, Claude Goldman and Manuel Saucedo participate in an arthritis exercise program.

## Exercise can bring relief to arthritis sufferers

PROVIDENCE – Colleen Messier, a certified nursing assistant, and Clayton Roth, assistant director, both at the To Life Center Adult Day Services in Providence, have been trained to teach seniors with arthritis specific exercises to alleviate their suffering. The Arthritis Association of Rhode

Island provided training.

Now, To Life Center clients can attend classes – which meet twice a week – and have the opportunity to exercise and focus on feeling better.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Contact Clayton Roth, 351-2440 or croth@jsari.org, jsari.org.

## Rockin' into senior citizen status

*V & H seeks stories by and about seniors*

By NANCY KIRSCH  
nkirsch@shalomri.org

PROVIDENCE – “OMG!” was this reporter's thought upon hearing that the Rolling Stones performed recently at Madison Square Garden in New York City. After all, Mick Jagger, lead singer for the Stones, is 69!

Is 80 the new 40? Is 60 the new 30?

Regardless of one's age, it's clear that most of today's 69-year-olds, even those who aren't rocking out at a concert, aren't rocking in a rocking chair, either – as their grandparents may have done.

We want to hear your stories for an upcoming issue about seniors. If you are a teenager who wants to know more about your grandparents' lives or a senior who has some advice – witty or wise – to share, let us hear from you:

- How are you staying vibrant and active, even as you age?

- How are you dealing with the loss of a spouse or partner?

- Have you relocated to an assisted living center, retirement community or a family member's home?

- Have you overcome physical or intellectual challenges?

- What advice would you offer the younger generation? Or, if you a member of the younger generation, what advice would you offer your elders?



MICKJAGGER.COM

Mick Jagger, in concert in June 2011

- How are your senior years different from those of your parents or grandparents?

This reporter's mother used to say, “Old age is not for sissies.” Whether you consider yourself a “sissie” or a “superstar,” we welcome your stories, reminiscences, advice and more.

**SEND STORIES AND PHOTOS** to Nancy Kirsch, nkirsch@shalomri.org, or The Jewish Voice & Herald, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906 by Aug. 30.

If you want to have “snail-mailed” pictures returned to you, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Questions? Call 421-4111, ext. 168.

## Midsummer night's dreams

*Making summer plans*

Felix Mendelssohn meant June 21 when he composed the music for the fairytale drama, “Midsummer Night's Dream.” He was referring to the season's equinox, not the midpoint; rather, the high acme of the season for lofty hopes.



SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK



PHOTOS | MIKE FINK

Mike Fink, left, and a friend enjoy the open water.

These are some of my high hopes: First of all, I invite the robins, sparrows and pigeons to visit the birdbath at the Highlands, the senior center near my East Side home, and hope that The Highlands' residents will sit on the little bench – made from the trunk of a fallen tree – to watch the birds splash and to listen to their cheery chirps and coos.

Many delays and small problems arose before the dedication took place, but it was a gala event nevertheless. Doves were released and fine wine was served as a salute and toast to the month of June. A couple of crewmen who check out the Providence River in preparation for the big WaterFire events kindly asked me aboard to join them in their quests for the nests of Canadian geese, swans and ducks who raised their broods rather late this springtime.

We found that the streaming canal was somewhat Venetian, with a city of birds crafting their homes in the leftover pilings of ruined docks at India Point – they made a perfect condominium for gulls and cormorants. The ships we passed ranged in style from cozy houseboats to charming old tugs, which were a little out-of-date, but still cute and appealing.

I had a grand time with Levi and Garry, who putt-putted along in a plain black motorboat that left from a pier near Hemenway's Restaurant and dropped me off an hour later at the Korean War statue.

I'm sort of saying goodbye to June and hello to July, but it is a seamless transition. Len Newman meets me at Seven Stars and promises we can rendezvous again in a South County café, such as Java Madness, perhaps, to discuss the design for the Holocaust Memorial Monument that we hope will join other plaques and garden statues that commemorate and interpret the wars and other tragedies that have affected citizens of Rhode Island as well as inspire and deepen our spirits onward into



This houseboat offers a 'home away from home' on the water.

the future. Building the Holocaust Memorial Monument is a major project that deeply concerns me.

I prefer to have a plan for July and August. After the height of the sunshine, the days at once begin to shrink. You want to have something to show for the tides slipping by.

**“I DRIVE ... and listen to such nostalgic words.”**

Otherwise, I like to spend time lying in a hammock, strolling the beach or floating on the surface of a lake or the sea when it is calm and at peaceful high tide. I may find a book to read from the library or a bookstore after a lazy lunch – that offers a contemplative semi-siesta. I sometimes enjoy a brief break from familiar scenery, but, of late, airports make travel rather less appealing or is it just my many moons that sap my energy and vim for voyages?

“What to make of a diminished thing?” the poet Robert Frost asked when he noticed the late egg-laying instinct of an ovenbird. How, Frost meant, does you find joy once your midsummer has passed

by?

My answer is to smile, maybe even to laugh and find pleasure in the littlest surprise

– an unexpected courtesy, an unearned kind word, the miniature mercy of the shade of a tree, the flash of a sunbeam bringing out the color of a flower or a plant's sweet scent upon a slight breeze. I ordered a supply of gorgeous music on CDs that ranges from the complete collection of the Ink Spots, with their witty, melancholy, paradoxical celebrations of pop ballads and Benny Goodman's Americanization of klezmer performances, to the tragic lyrics of such wartime plaintive refrains as “My Sister and I,” also rendered by Goodman.

Those lyrics, “The warm and lovely world we knew has been struck by a bitter frost, but my sister and I recall with a sigh the world we knew, and loved, and lost,” were written by Alex Kramer, Joan Whitney and Hu Zaret. The words, of course, refer to the “kinder” (children) who left their families and past behind for us to imagine. I drive around amid the beauties of June and listen to such nostalgic words and sounds ... as well as the music of the birds and the spheres.

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol.com) is an English professor at RISD.

## D'VAR TORAH

## Spreading the beauty of the synagogue through the world

*Houses of worship contain awe-inspiring spirituality*

## PARASHAT BALAK

Numbers 22:2-25:9

By Rabbi Peter W. Stein  
Special to The Voice & Herald

Our Torah portion contains a fascinating and fanciful description of the Moabite king Balak engaging a prophet, Balaam, to curse the Israelites. The image of God defending the people and turning Balaam's curses into blessings is so significant that one of the sages in the Talmud (*Baba Batra* 14b-15a) actually speculated that these chapters should stand as a separate book of the Torah.

This *parashah* serves as a complement to the beginning of the Exodus story. At that time, God protected and de-

fended the people by stopping Pharaoh. Now, after the many years of wandering, God once again intervenes to stop an enemy standing in the way of the Israelites' entry to their promised land.

The most familiar part of the *parashah* is when Balaam sees all of the people of Israel assembled, tribe by tribe. His words come out not as a curse but as a blessing, grand poetry that is still used in the synagogue today: "*Mah tovu ohaleykha Ya'akov, mishk'noteykha Yisra'el!*" We sing this song at the beginning of morning worship each day as well as proclaiming the words upon entering the synagogue: "How good are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel!"



RABBI PETER W. STEIN

Rabbi Peter W. Stein

This poetic liturgical phrase does not merely compliment the physical beauty of our homes or synagogues. Rather, it cele-

brates the spiritual beauty that we find in our gathering places.

I love visiting synagogues – grand spaces and simple ones alike. I am fascinated by the artistic and architectural elements – the use of stained

enezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, famous as the church once led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Each person entering the sanctuary receives a pamphlet, typical of what one might receive when arriving at any synagogue or church. It includes the order of service, announcements about upcoming events, and other routine acknowledgements and information. However, there is one additional piece of information that has stayed with me. On the reverse side of the pamphlet are blank lines, with a heading that reads, "As a result of being in church today, I will ..."

I think this is a wonderful, action-oriented perspective. With a simple substitution, imagine if we depart from our visit to the synagogue this Shabbat saying, "As a result of being in shul today, I will ..."

When we enter the synagogue, we sing the words from this portion of *Balak*: "*Mah tovu...*" How beautiful are Israel's dwelling places!"

I pray that when we depart the synagogue, we may demonstrate the beauty and the potential in the synagogue, by taking action in the community. When we do that, the beauty of the synagogue will spread throughout the world.

RABBI PETER W. STEIN (Stein@TempleSinaiRI.org), rabbi of Temple Sinai, a Reform synagogue in Cranston, is immediate past president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.

"I LOVE VISITING synagogues – grand spaces and simple ones alike."

glass, the varieties of *ner tamid* (Eternal Light) and Arks, the various carvings and paintings and sculptures. Indeed, we are blessed to have so many beautiful synagogues in the world today.

Truly, though, what I love about visiting synagogues is the feeling in the air. There's a sensation that is almost indescribable, that these are places dedicated to study and to action. However modern a synagogue may be, it is still a place where ancient teachings are brought to life and given new meaning. Synagogues induce spiritual focus, a mindfulness to reach our potential and act with love and kindness.

A few years ago, I visited Eb-

## OBITUARIES

## Max Bloom, M.D., 88

CRANSTON – Dr. Max Bloom died June 13. He was the husband of Frances (Feld) Bloom. They were married for nearly 60 years.

Born in Providence, eldest son of the late Ise and Anna (Nathanson) Bloom, he lived in Cranston for more than 50 years.

A well-known and highly sought cardiologist in private practice, he was affiliated with several hospitals in the area. He retired in 1987.

A World War II Army veteran, he served in Europe as a medic.

He was a graduate of Brown University and Yale University School of Medicine, and was a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He developed and instituted the first hospital intensive care unit in Rhode Island and helped develop, and remained an important contributor to, the cardiac care program at The Miriam Hospital.

He was also a clinical assistant professor of medicine at Brown University's medical school.

He was the father of Ira Bloom and his wife Deborah Ebner of Wilmette, Ill., Steven Bloom and his wife Marti of Needham, Mass. and the late Paul Bloom. He was the brother of Eleanor Chason and her husband Sidney of Bangor, Maine, and the late Joseph Bloom and his wife Ruth Lee; grandfather of Matthew and Samuel and grandfather (by marriage) of Laura, Hank and Alex.

Contributions may be made to one's favorite charity.

## Adrienne Z. (Zacks) Garr, 87

PROVIDENCE – Adrienne Garr died June 8. She was the



wife of Leonard P. Garr and the daughter of the late Dr. David and Rose Zacks.

After graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1948, she worked at the Supersonic Laboratory at MIT.

Besides her husband, she leaves her daughter Deborah Samet and her husband Dr. Laurence Samet, and two grandsons David and Joshua. She was the sister of the late Dr. Sumner Zacks.

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

## Lorraine S. (Fowler) Krasner, 88

CRANSTON – Lorraine Krasner died June 13. She was the wife of the late Julius Krasner and the daughter of the late Joseph and Lillian (Kline) Fowler.

She is survived by her children Michael Krasner and his wife Sheryl of Westborough, Mass.; Steven Krasner and his wife Susan Oclassen of East Greenwich and Marie Holloway of Boca Raton, Fla. She also leaves her eight grandchildren: Jennifer (Krasner) Marks; Amy, Jeffrey and Emily Krasner; Brian, Christopher, Daniel and Andrew Holloway; and two great-grandchildren, Molly and Darcy Marks. She was the sister of Evelyn Robinovitz.

A graduate of Hope High School, she was an honorary alumna of the University of Rhode Island. A resident of

Cranston for 60 years, she delivered Meals on Wheels in the city with her husband. She was a member of Temple Sinai.

Contributions may be made to the Cranston Senior Center Adult Day Services, 1070 Cranston St., Cranston, RI 02920 or to Temple Sinai Breakfast Fund, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920.

## Abraham "Bibb" Levine, 95

CRANSTON – Abraham Levine died June 17. He was the husband of Rosalind (Grosser) Levine. They were married for 65 years.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Morris and Minnie (Tolchinsky) Levine. He is survived by his daughter, Susan and her husband Steven Robinson of Sharon, Mass., and his son Joel Levine of East Providence; four grandchildren, Jennifer, Julia, Lisa and Emily and great-grandchild Atticus. He was the brother of the late Nellie Moseff and Hyman, Matthew and Samuel Levine.

He was the founder and former owner of Hudson Furs.

A five-year World War II Navy veteran serving in the Pacific, he was a member of Touro Fraternal Association, Jewish War Veterans Post #23, American Legion and the Cranston Senior Guild.

Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice. Shiva will be observed at his late residence on Thursday, June 20, from 7-9 p.m.

## OBITUARIES | 40

"I can't stop the aging process. But I can make it less stressful."

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From Page 39

**Janice S. Paull, 74**

THE VILLAGES, Fla. - Janice Paull died June 10. She was the wife of Sidney Paull for 47 years.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Marion (Sondler) Dress, she had lived in Florida for one year, previously residing in Cranston.

She was a member of Hadasah and a former member of Temple Am David.

She was the mother of Gary Paull of North Kingstown and Lauren Paull Kastner and her husband Michael of Herndon, Va. and grandmother of Matthew, Sarah and Braden.

Contributions may be made to Shriener's Hospital for Children (www.donate2shc.org).

**Muriel (Brooks) Sevin**

FALL RIVER, Mass. - Muriel Sevin died June 15. She was the wife of the late Louis Sevin. Born in Bayonne, N.J., the daughter of the late Michael and Gussie (Brushansky) Brooks, she lived in Fall River most of her life. She was a member of Temple Beth El.

She leaves her daughters Gail Sevin (Henry Myers) and Penny Shore (Mitchell) and her granddaughter Ariel Shore. She was the sister of the late Harold and Philip Brooks.

Donations may be made to Temple Beth El, the Fall River Jewish Home, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720 or the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10016.

**Sarah Cohen Shapiro, 94**

PROVIDENCE - Sarah Shapiro, a lifelong resident of Providence, died June 18. She was a homemaker and businesswoman with a flair for poetry in

English and her native Yiddish.

She was the wife of the late Emil Shapiro, sister of Leonard Cohen, mother of Sandra Shapiro and Samuel Shapiro, sister-in-law of Goldie Cohen, mother-in-law of John Kirsch and Suellen Goldstein Shapiro and grandmother of Seth Emil Shapiro.

Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, RI 02920, Home & Hospice Care of RI, 1085 N. Main St., Providence, RI 02904, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, 126 High St., Boston, MA 02110 or the charity of one's choice.

Shiva will be observed at her late residence Thursday, June 20, from 6-8 p.m., and continues Sunday and Monday, from 7-9 p.m., at the home of Sandra Shapiro and John Kirsch in Cambridge, Mass.

**Eli Shaw, 94**

WORCESTER, Mass. - Eli Shaw, of Pawtucket and Worcester, died June 15.

He leaves his wife of 41 years, Mary Shaw, of Middletown; his daughter Sharon Yaffe and her husband Alan, and his son Joel Shaw and his wife Malkie, all of Worcester; eight grandchildren, Hillary and Matt Harris of New York; Rachel Yaffe of Everett, Mass.; Dara Yaffe of Worcester; Sarala and Zelik Langsam of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Frumie Shaw, Rochie Shaw, Dinie Shaw and Levi Shaw, all of Worcester; and three great-grandchildren, Estee, Chana, and Chezy Langsam of Brooklyn. He was predeceased by four siblings and his first wife Shirley Shaw.

Born in Przytyk, Poland, he was the son of Alexander Zisel and Soroh Leah Warshawsky. He was a survivor of five concentration camps during the

Holocaust. He was liberated in January, 1945 and traveled to Italy with a friend to make a new life. He came to America in July 1950, where he settled in Providence and worked as a tailor.

Throughout his life, he remained fiercely independent. After he retired, he enjoyed taking the bus to visit his friends at his former tailor shops in downtown Providence.

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

**Abraham Singer**

TROY, N.Y. - Abraham Singer died June 13.

Born in the Polish town of Chmelnik, on Nov. 14, 1924, he, along with four siblings, survived the atrocities of the Holocaust by using his wit and unique personality.

After World War II, he made his way to Glasgow, Scotland, where he met and married Rita Lakritz and became a master watchmaker at the British Horological Institute.

The family later moved to Troy and eventually established the family business, Singer's Watchmakers & Jewelers. He retired about 10 years ago, but the business continues under his son's leadership in Albany, N.Y.

Before retiring, he helped establish Congregation Torah Ohr in Boca Raton, Fla. He held many leadership roles in Troy's Jewish community, including as president of Temple Beth El. He was a widely respected role model for many.

He is survived by his wife of almost 64 years, his children Lorraine Rappoport, L. Jeffrey Singer and Beena Levy; his sons-in-law Dr. Harvey Rappoport and Steven Levy; his grandchildren Joshua Rappoport and his wife Trina, Benjamin Rappoport and his wife Abby, Rachel Weiner and her

husband Yaron, Jaime Levy and Jacob Levy and his great-granddaughter Neomi Weiner.

**Ruth Jeannette (Mindlin) Weinberg, 97**

WEST ORANGE, N.J. - Ruth Weinberg, wife of the late Bertram Ullman Weinberg, died June 16.

The youngest of five daughters born to Max and Celia (Socolof) Mindlin, she was born in East Orange, N.J. on Aug. 27, 1915. The Mindlin sisters - Lillian Semel, Pauline Forman, Mildred Burstein and then the baby, Ruthie, followed Sadie Aaron, the eldest - were close all their lives.

When Bert Weinberg interviewed head counselors for his family's summer camp, Pocono Highland, she landed the job and a husband. Married in 1939, they had four children; the late Patricia Lee Smith (Dr. Robert), Nancy Winston (late Laurence Levine, late James V. Higgins), Max Weinberg (Rebecca) and Abby Levin (Michael).

She leaves eight grandchildren, Dr. Michelle Goncalves (Manny), Dr. Nicole Steckler (Matt), Sharon Boyd (Scott), Dan Kupperman (Justin), Ali Weinberg, Jay Weinberg, Jake Levin, Noah Levin and 11 great grandchildren, Alexa, Jack, Lina, Noa, Amanda, Sabrina, Ben, Joseph, Finn, Bryce and Layla.

She taught physical education in the Newark School System for 26 years and, with her husband, owned and operated Pocono Highland Camps in Marshall's Creek, Pa., and Laurel Lake Camp, in Tyler Hill, Pa. She was a lifelong member of Hadassah as well as Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel. Her father was one of the founding members of Sharey Tefilo in East Orange.

She traveled the world with

her son Max, drummer with the E Street Band. Members of the band always called her "Mighty Mommy" and mighty she was. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**NEWS BRIEF****Two-state solution is dead, Israeli coalition partner Bennett says**

JERUSALEM (JTA) - The two-state solution is dead, Israeli government minister Naftali Bennett, head of the coalition partner Jewish Home party, told a settlers' group.

"Never has so much time been invested in something so pointless," Bennett told a meeting of the Yesha Council in Jerusalem recently. "We need to build, build, build."

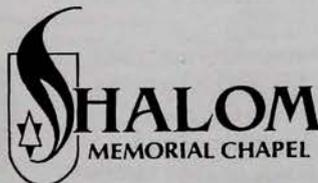
Following Bennett's remarks, Peace Now called on government minister Yair Lapid, head of Yesh Atid, to leave the government over past statements that his party would not be part of a government that is not willing to negotiate peace with the Palestinians.

### Candle Lighting Times Greater R.I. area



June 21.....	8:06
June 28.....	8:07
July 5.....	8:06
June 12.....	8:03

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## Good food, good music enjoyed by Emanu-El participants



**A TRADITIONAL ENGLISH DINNER OF FISH AND CHIPS** – Rabbi Andrea Gouze, left, Rebecca Brenner and Dan Zussman enjoy a traditional English fish and chips dinner, complete with Newcastle Ale. They were among the hundreds of people who attended “A Night in Jewish London,” the May 22 event at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, which also included a concert by London’s Zemel Choir.



**MAKING MUSIC** – Cantor Brian Mayer sings with London’s Zemel Choir and Emanu-El’s Shir Emanu-El Choir on May 22. The event was an Arts Emanu-El program for the Conservative synagogue on Providence’s East Side.

PHOTOS GERSHO N LEVINE



Jennifer Glazer, left, Blima Haldorsen, Elisheva Maldonado, Riva Steinhart, Ariela Greengart, Shani Perlumutter and Aviva Rotbard graduated from New England Academy of Torah, the girls’ Orthodox high school in Providence, on June 9.

TZIPPY SCHEINERMAN

### NEAT holds graduation ceremonies

PROVIDENCE – In her class address at New England Academy of Torah’s graduation ceremonies on June 9, Ariela Greengart described the warmth and friendship that staff members and teachers offer students as well as the friendships among students. NEAT, she said, is one big family, according to a press release from NEAT. The

members of this “family” will be dispersing, as some students will attend various seminaries in Israel next fall, one will enter university in preparation for nursing school and another will join the staff of NEAT as an assistant teacher.

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of NEAT, spoke about this particular class and its commit-

ment to *hesed* (kindness). He read a letter he received from Chaya Bouganim, in Israel, who wrote about the graduates’ significant help they offered her frail and elderly mother, who lives in Rhode Island and has been ill.

**MORE INFO:** Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, 331-5327 or phd-school.org.



Elisse Wolff, from left, Patricia Raskin, Bracha Stuart, Robin Zino, Janice Adler, Gaye Belsky-Gluck and Ruth Feder at the Chabad dinner on June 5.

CHABAD OF WEST BAY

### Jewish women are inspired at Chabad dinner

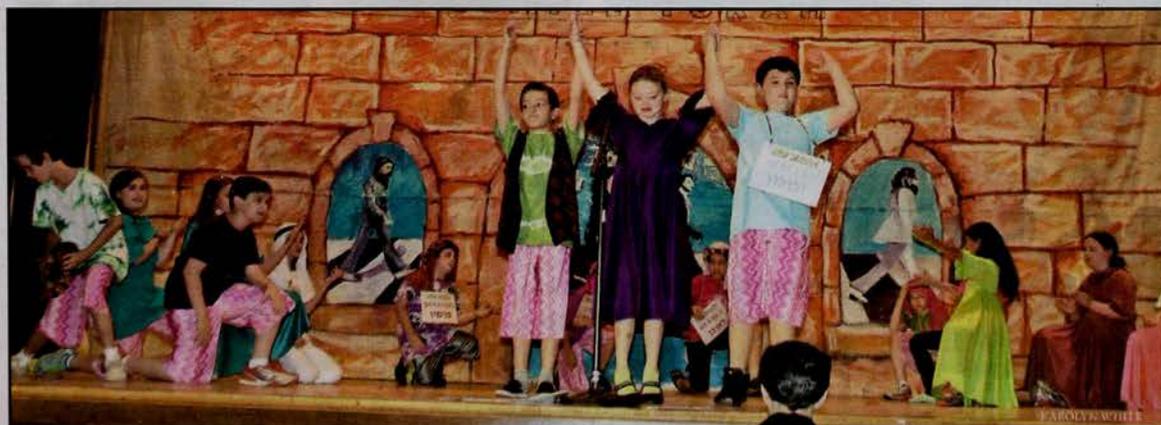
WARWICK – Some 50 Jewish women from throughout Rhode Island gathered for Chabad of West Bay’s Jewish women’s inspiration dinner.

The dinner, held on June 5, at Chabad of West Bay, included entertainment by Chavi Epstein, who inspires women to tap into their inner joy through her singing workshop. Epstein, of South Carolina, weaves songs and stories together, using inspiration from the Baal Shem

Tov, who traveled from city to city lifting the spirits of fellow Jews with song and dance.

Shoshannah Laufer, of Chabad Jewish Women of Rhode Island, organized the event. The group, which meets monthly, encourages Jewish women to unite, socialize and learn, through innovative workshops, lectures, and creative activities.

**MORE INFO:** Shoshannah Laufer, (mrslaufer@gmail.com).



### Beatles Torah musical

Fourth and fifth graders at the Jewish Community Day School perform the closing number in the school’s Beatles Torah musical on Wednesday, June 12. Front row, from left, Eli, Micah, Max, Annabelle and Reese, and back row, from left, Ruth, Annette, Noa, Daniel, Matan, Noam, Elie and Mina.

**ACHIEVEMENT** – Judy Moseley, Temple Beth-El's executive director since 2011, has become a Fellow in Temple Administration. By becoming a Fellow, she is among an elite minority of synagogue executive directors who has achieved this level of professional skill and excellence. Her project was writing an extensive safety/security manual for synagogues.

She will be officially presented as a Fellow at the National Association for Temple Administration at the organization's October conference in Dallas.



Judy Moseley



OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR ELIZABETH ROBERTS

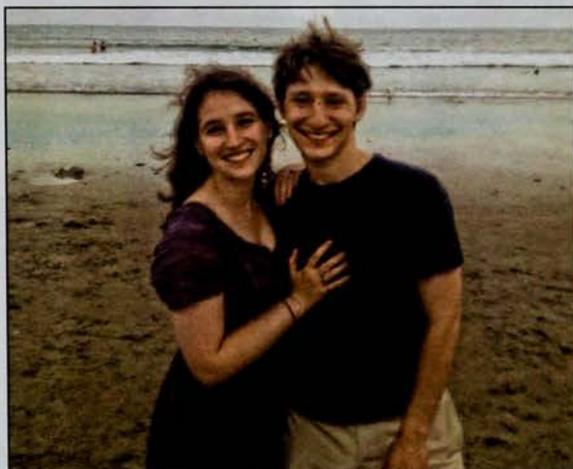
Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, left, Myra Shays and Governor Lincoln Chafee

**AWARD** – Myra Shays, founder and immediate past president of the greater Providence chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), was honored at a June 6 state-

house ceremony.

The PFLAG chapter is part of an international network of some 350 self-sustaining chapters, comprising some 200,000 people.

She had served the local PFLAG chapter as its president for 15 years. A resident of Providence, Shays is a member of Temple Habonim.



Naomi Heilweil and Jimmy Rotenberg

**WEDDING** – Jimmy Rotenberg and Naomi Heilweil were married June 2 at Brown RISD Hillel in Providence.

Jimmy is the son of Fred and Sally Rotenberg of Providence. He is also the grandson of Leonard and Ruth Rotenberg of Providence, and the late Sam

and Lenore Sherwin of Evanston, Ill.

Naomi is the daughter of Edwin and Toby Heilweil of Potomac, Md., the granddaughter of Israel and Harriet Heilweil of Princeton, N.J., and the granddaughter of the late Dorothy and Norman Zankel of Potomac, Md.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin of Temple Emanu-El of Providence and Cantor Marshal Kapell of Congregation B'nai Tzedek of Potomac officiated; Rabbi Mordechai Rackover of Brown RISD Hillel delivered a *d'var* Torah.

**Thank you Jewish Community Day School Families and Friends for helping the Parent Association raise more than \$12,000!**



Rabbi Alvan and Marcia Kaunfer, Dianne Newman, and Naomi Schorsch Stein. A celebration after their Beatles debut! A song in honor of JCDS!



Deb Page, Robyn Goldstein and Marilyn and Larry Katz. Current parents and parent Alumni rock it out in style!



Grandparents Larry and Duffy Page also joined in on the fun!

**ROCK STAR Gala**

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Current parents, Rachel and Craig Woda and Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz welcome new Head of School Adam Tilove and his wife Mami Thompson-Tilove.



Gala Co-Chairs Marisa Garber, Gaby Rothman and Auction Chair Kristin Rosler. All smiles after a successful evening!



Board member and Alumni Parents Sheila and Paul Alexander, were part of the enthusiastic community supporters who came to the Gala this year!



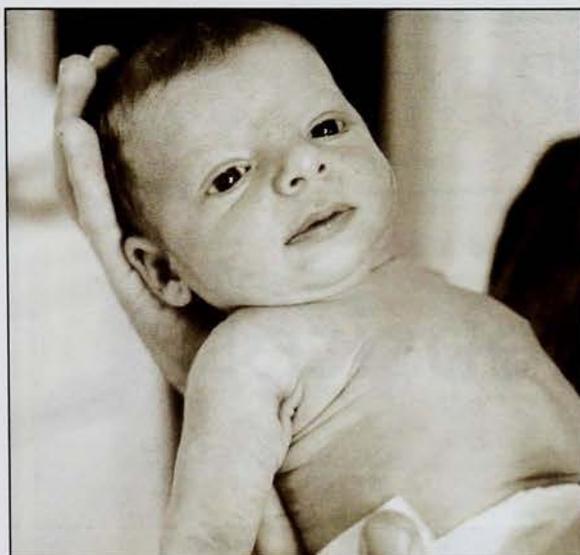
Rashmi and Jonah Licht and Deb Skolnick Einhorn and Marshall Einhorn. Parents groovin' to the music and having a blast!



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photo credit: alisa grace photography



Holden Charles Bressler

**BIRTH** – Stephanie (Steingold) and Jason Bressler proudly announce the birth of their son Holden Charles Bressler, born May 6 at 6:04 p.m., in Los Angeles, Calif.

The proud grandparents are Joyce and Larry Steingold of East Greenwich, and Sue and David Bressler of Alamo, Calif. Holden is the great-grandson of the late Anne and Charles J. Steingold of Rhode Island, the late Rebecca and Henry Mutal of Washington, Marjorie and the late Edward Bressler and the late Sylvia and Jerome Adler, all of California.



**GRADUATION** – URI Hillel student board members Rebecca Kraut, left, and Dahna Ori donned blue and white cords in honor of Hillel at their graduation from URI on May 19.



**CANCUN, MEXICO** – On a recent trip to Cancun, Alison and Brad Walter and Meredith and Adam Sinel met a very popular Mexican wrestler, who just happens to be Jewish. When he saw Alison reading her copy of The Jewish Voice & Herald, wrote Adam, "He was super excited when we told him we could possibly get his picture in a future issue [of The Voice & Herald]. He said it would be okay to print only his stage name, which is Brian Blair."

He added, "Brad and I are huge fans [of Blair]."



Margie and Bob Pelcovits

**BALZANO, ITALY** – In mid-June, Margie and Bob Pelcovits pose with The Jewish Voice & Herald in the Dolomite Mountains, near Balzano, Italy. The Providence residents, who spent several weeks in Cambridge, England, took a side trip to Balzano to meet the family of Jonas Naumann, who is engaged to their daughter Lisa. Jonas and Lisa will be married in November.



**AWARD** – Barry Z. Glucksman, 70, earned a gold medal for the 50-yard backstroke in the Rhode Island Senior Olympics on June 8 at Rhode Island College. Glucksman, of Warwick, has secondary progressive multiple sclerosis and complications from a broken hip. His therapist, Leslie Choquette, worked with him at the JCC's swimming pool for more than six months to help prepare him for the event. More than 22 friends and relatives came to cheer him on to the finish!



A. Max Kohlenberg

**AWARD** – A. Max Kohlenberg, a partner at Edwards Wildman, received the Harold B. Soloveitzik Professional Leadership Award at the Rhode Island Foundation's annual meeting on May 29.

The award was established for the Westerly attorney who exhibited an enduring commitment to philanthropy throughout his career. Kohlenberg was recognized by Rhode Island Foundation president Neil Steinberg "as a 'servant leader' for his keen ability to listen carefully, learn from what he has heard and then move his cause forward."

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